

Table of Contents

AKC News 2 President's Letter • 3 Updates • 7 Times Past • 8 Dog People • 40 Secretary's Pages

Breed Columns

Toys

- 9 Affenpinschers
- 9 Brussels Griffons
- 10 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- 11 Chinese Cresteds
- 11 Havanese
- 12 Italian Greyhounds
- 13 Japanese Chin
- 13 Maltese
- 13 Papillons
- 14 Pomeranians
- 15 Shih Tzu
- 15 Silky Terriers
- 16 Toy Fox Terriers

Non-Sporting

- 17 American Eskimo Dogs
- 17 Bichons Frises
- 18 Boston Terriers
- 18 Bulldogs
- 19 Chinese Shar-Pei
- 19 Chow Chows
- 20 Dalmatians
- 20 Finnish Spitz
- 21 French Bulldogs
- 21 Keeshonden
- 22 Lhasa Apsos
- 23 Löwchen
- 23 Poodles
- 24 Schipperkes
- 24 Shiba Inu
- 25 Tibetan Spaniels
- 26 Tibetan Terriers

Herding

- 26 Australian Shepherds
- 27 Beardies
- 28 Beacerons
- 28 Belgian Malinois
- 28 Border Collies
- 30 Bouviers des Flandres
- 30 Briards
- 31 Canaan Dogs
- 32 Cardigan Welsh Corgis
- 32 Collies
- 33 Entlebucher Mountain Dogs
- 33 German Shepherd Dogs
- 34 Icelandic Sheepdogs
- 35 Old English Sheepdogs
- 36 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- 36 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs
- 37 Pulik
- 37 Pyrenean Shepherds
- 38 Shetland Sheepdogs
- 38 Swedish Vallhunds

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

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working
January, April, July,
and October

Hounds and Terriers
February, May, August,
and November

Toys, Non-Sporting,
and Herding
March, June, September,
and December

The sport of obedience is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Guests at the AKC National Obedience Invitational (NOI) will be treated to a special DVD presentation, *A Walk Down Memory Lane*, but I'd like to highlight some of obedience's greatest hits here.

Helen Whitehouse Walker devised the first obedience "test" in Mt. Kisco, New York, in 1933 to show that her Poodles were more than just their haircut. She borrowed the idea from England's Associated Sheep, Police, and Army Dog Society, which had developed competitive tests for dogs.

Eight dogs participated in this first test, including two Labrador Retrievers, three Poodles, two English Springer Spaniels, and one German Shepherd Dog.

After the 1933 test, the first AKC-licensed obedience trial took place in 1936. At that time, there was only one obedience class and the exercises were heeling on- and off-leash, sitting for two minutes and lying down for five minutes while the owner went out of sight, a drop on recall, retrieving a two-pound dumbbell, and retrieving another slightly lighter dumbbell over a 42-inch jump (both regardless of breed size).

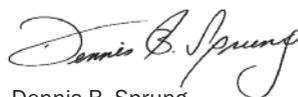
Obedience has come a long way since then! This year, approximately 130,000 entries will have been made in 2,573 events across the country. We grew to three classes—Novice, Open, and Utility—although the exercises have not been altered much over time. Over the years, we've added additional classes such as Graduate Novice and Open, Versatility, and Beginner Novice.

Instead of the eight sporting and working dogs who competed in the original test, we have breeds of all shapes of sizes competing in today's trials. For the first time this year, the NOI will feature an all-American dog (who is also the first mixed-breed to earn an Obedience Trial Championship) as well as the inaugural AKC National Juniors Obedience Competition to welcome young people into the sport.

Despite these developments, obedience still remains at its core a way for owners of all ages to forge a deeper relationship with their dog. Obedience is not only the foundation for all dog sports—from the conformation stand-stay to the control of a fast agility dog—but also key to creating a well-mannered, healthy, and happy pet who is a joy to be around.

Happy anniversary, obedience!

Sincerely,



Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO



2010 AKC National Obedience Champion Buoy

EDITED BY BUD BOCCONE

Orlando Magic

AKC/Eukanuba returns to Florida with record-breaking entry.



In 2010, Jean Fournier chose the Australian Shepherd Reckon as her BIS. This year? Tune in and find out.

A record 3,938 dogs will compete for more than \$225,000 in cash prizes at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, December 17 and 18, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

The 11th annual conformation show is held in conjunction with the AKC Agility Invitational and the AKC National Obedience Invitational, with entries of 592 and 146 respectively. With Juniors events (159 conformation, 47 obedience, and 50 agility entries) and the Eukanuba World Challenge (44 participants), it adds up to another record-breaking number: a combined entry of 4,976.

“We’re thrilled to welcome everyone to the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. Not only is it the largest invitation-only dog show in our history, but it is the largest dog show in the country this year,” show chairman Ron Menaker says. “This unique event enables AKC to reach out to the public in unprecedented ways to promote the sport and educate families about dogs.”

Among the 173 breeds entered, the largest entries are Boston Terriers (64), Vizslas (61), Rhodesian Ridgebacks (57), French Bulldogs (57), and Labrador Retrievers (56). Total entries by group: 637 Sporting, 526 Hound, 605 Working, 441 Terrier, 527 Toy, 468 Non-Sporting, 491 Herding, and 68 Miscellaneous.

This year marks the National Championship’s return to Orlando for the first time since 2002, when Connie Barton put up the Kerry Blue Terrier Mick as her Best in Show. The Convention Center will host the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay, Brevard Kennel Club, and Central Florida Kennel Club shows in the three days leading up to the National Championship, for five full days of dog shows.

Event Notebook

BIS owner receives \$50,000, BIS breeder \$15,000, Best Bred-by \$15,000 ... Late changes to the judges panel: Breeder-judge Zena Thorn Andrews replaces Tamas Jakkel in the longhaired Dachshund ring; Carla M.S. Molinari will assume Sari Brewster Tietjen’s entire assignment ... Lots of lively dog talk at [facebook.com/aenc](https://www.facebook.com/aenc); visit akc.org for same-day streaming video of all regular and Bred-by groups, and evening events ... Dogs from all 14 AKC Miscellaneous class breeds are entered ... Polly Smith will judge BIS, and James Reynolds judges Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show; the 1,328 Bred-by dogs are 35 percent of the total entry ... Broadcast airs on ABC, Saturday, February 4.

LISA CROFFELLIOTT ©AKC

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This month, the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship is offering two new competitions just for juniors: the AKC Juniors Agility Competition and the AKC National Obedience Juniors Competition. I'm pleased to announce that more than 100 junior handlers have entered these inaugural events.

We wish them all the best of luck, and we encourage you to stop by the Agility and Obedience rings on the morning of Friday, December 16 (Agility), and Saturday, December 17 (Obedience), to cheer on the future of our companion sports.

Juniors participating in the AKC Juniors Agility Competition will be running both Standard and Jumpers with Weaves courses in either the Junior Excellent or Superior Classes, depending on whether they've achieved an agility title. The junior obedience entrants will compete in three age divisions in Beginner Novice and/or Novice classes twice, based on their AKC obedience accomplishments.

We have some very accomplished juniors entered. Three of the agility juniors

competing have also qualified for the AKC Agility Invitational and will run their dogs in that competition over the weekend.

Several obedience juniors will exhibit multiple dogs, and one junior will compete in all three events—Junior Showmanship, the AKC Juniors Agility Competition, and the AKC National Obedience Juniors Competition.

Like Fine Wine

In a year of firsts, the National Championship introduces its first Veterans class. We have invited our "older stars" who made a mark in the show world during their careers. Dogs competing in Veterans have won either all-breed Bests in Show or national specialties, or were once ranked in the top five of their breed. Many are former National Championship entries. At least one of our veterans competed at the inaugural event in 2001 and will have some progeny exhibited at the show as well.

Finally, we hope you'll support the

"Stop by the agility and obedience rings on Friday and Saturday to cheer on the future of our companion sports."

AKC Canine Partners competing for the first time at the Agility Invitational and the National Obedience Invitational. They'll be in the rings Saturday and Sunday.

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando. Stay tuned to akc.org/invitational for the latest updates.

Sincerely,



Ron Menaker
Chairman

NEW ACQUISITION

New to the AKC collection is this painting of Whippet Ch. Sporting Fields Bahama Sands, from the Sporting Fields kennel of Debbie Butt. The oil-on-canvas portrait by Laura Ellis commemorates Butt's 2010 AKC Breeder of the Year Award.

To schedule a group tour of the art collection at AKC headquarters in New York, call 212-696-8234.



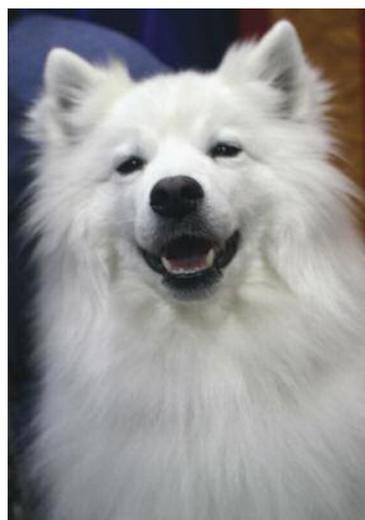
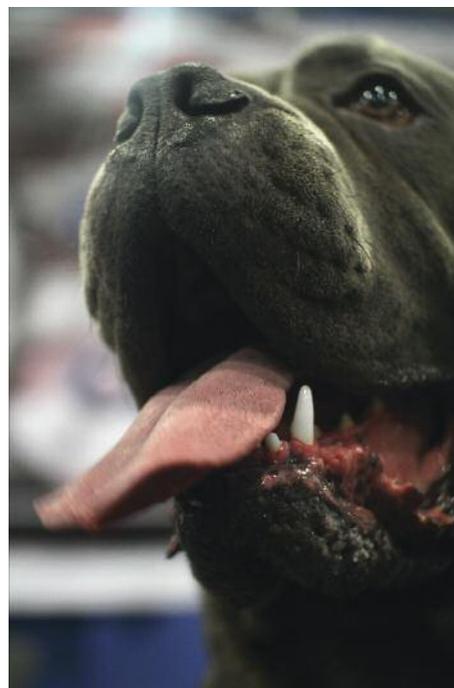
Welcome to the Clubs

The AKC and The International Cat Association hosted more than 40,000 animal lovers of all ages at the annual AKC Meet the Breeds expo, held on November 19 and 20, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York.

A hundred vendors and round-the-clock action in demonstration ring helped make the event an unqualified hit, but the

backbone of Meet the Breeds was, as always, the club volunteers representing some 210 dog and cat breeds who manned the booths, answered questions, and made their breeds available for hugs, kisses, and belly rubs.

Bragging rights for the upcoming year go to the Saluki Club of America members, who won the blue ribbon for Best Booth in Show.



For a list of event sponsors, visit meetthebreeds.com

Group Realignment: One Step Away

The American Kennel Club Board of Directors has voted to accept and approve the report of the Group Realignment Committee. The rule changes necessary to implement going from 7 to 11 groups will be read at this month's Delegate Meeting, for a vote in March 2011. The final decision on assigning breeds rests with the Board, who will consider the input of parent clubs. If adopted, the changes would be effective in 2015.

To read more, including the committee's proposal and FAQs, visit akc.org and search "group realignment."

New Puppy Class

The new Four-to-Six Month Puppy class will be open to dogs at least 4 months of age but under 6 months on the day of the event. Classes will be offered for AKC-recognized breeds and varieties as well as Miscellaneous and FSS breeds. Professional handlers are not permitted to exhibit in this class.

Entrants in the Four-to-Six Month Puppy class will compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. Group and Best in Show Puppy competition will also be offered.

Four-to-Six Month Puppy competition will take place in a separate ring from the regular class judging in order to avoid delays in the judging of regular classes. Classes will not be divided by sex in this competition.

Certificate of Merit points can be earned in the Four-to-Six Month Puppy class at a regular all-breed or specialty show, at an Open Show and in Miscellaneous classes.



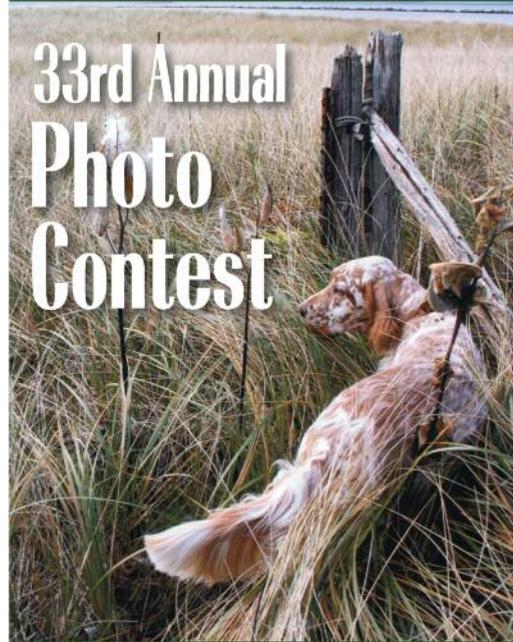
CHF Announces 2012 Grants

The AKC Canine Health Foundation is committing more than \$1.5 million in 2012 on research grants.

The CHF approved 21 OAK grants to 14 research institutions and universities for projects covering cataracts, carcinoma, dermatitis, epilepsy, liver disease, lymphoma, melanoma, and osteosarcoma.

The coming year's grants cover research of diseases affecting all dogs and such specific breeds as Australian Shepherds, Bassett Hounds, Greyhounds, Havanese, Irish Wolfhounds, Scottish Terriers, Shetland Sheepdogs, and West Highland White Terriers.

For descriptions of the 21 grants, visit akchf.org.



Think your dog has that certain "star quality"?

Are you an accomplished shutterbug (or aspiring to be one)?

Then we invite you to enter our 33rd Annual Photo Contest. It can be an elegant portrait, a lively action shot, or just an image of your dog expressing himself—creativity, quality, and originality are the only parameters. Well, there are a few rules, too. So start snapping!

DEADLINE: Entries must postmarked by January 31, 2012, and received no later than February 7, 2012.

PRIZES

- First Place **\$500**
- Second Place **\$250**
- Third Place **\$150**

SEND ENTRIES TO

AKC Family Dog Photo Contest
260 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016
or
photocontest@akc.org

RULES

Visit akc.org, search "photo contest rules."

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES/STOCKPHOTO.COM @MEHMET SALIH GULER



The Romantic Breed Columnist

Through the 1920s and early '30s, a debate raged among Russian Wolfhound fanciers: Keep the breed name, or change it to "Borzoi"? Louis Murr, *GAZETTE* breed columnist and leading "Wolfhound" advocate, insisted that "any sane breeder can see why the name Russian wolfhound should be retained." In his November 1928 column, Murr invited fellow fancier Dr. M.W.Thewlis to state the case.

There seems to be a tendency in some places to discard the name "Russian wolfhound" and to accept the term *borzoi*. Personally, I believe that it is a great mistake to use the word *borzoi* in place of "Russian wolfhound," and I hope that the club will always adhere to the title "Russian wolfhound."

Borzoi in Russian means swift ... The word *swift* means but little as far as Russian wolfhounds are concerned as it is only one of the qualities of the breed. There are other qualities quite as obvious, and there are other breeds which are swifter in the race. Greyhounds are "borzoi" since they are even swifter than Russian wolfhounds. If one word like *swift* designates a breed, why not look up some word for *long ears* and tack it on bloodhounds?

The name "Russian wolfhound," on the other hand, spells romance and exactly fits the breed. It describes the dog as a hunter of wolves and refers to the country from which it came and where it was used for hunting. To say "Russian wolfhound" brings to mind an actual picture of life in Russia, and we can easily imagine how these animals appeared in the hunt.

Etymologically, "Russian wolfhound" is correct, and this name should be retained. "Borzoi" means nothing to the average mind; even if it did, why take the romance out of the breed? —M.W.T.

The romance ended in 1936, when the AKC accepted Borzoi as the official breed name. Now, on to the next controversy: Is the plural form "Borzoi" or "Borzois"? —**Bud Boccone; bjb@akc.org**

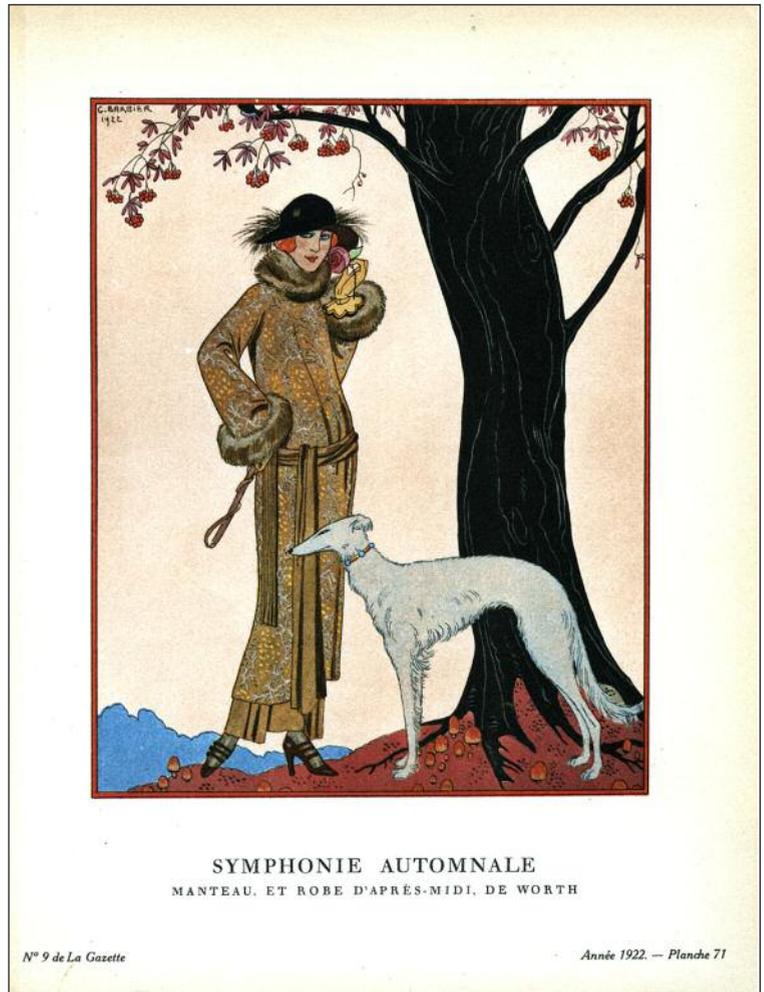
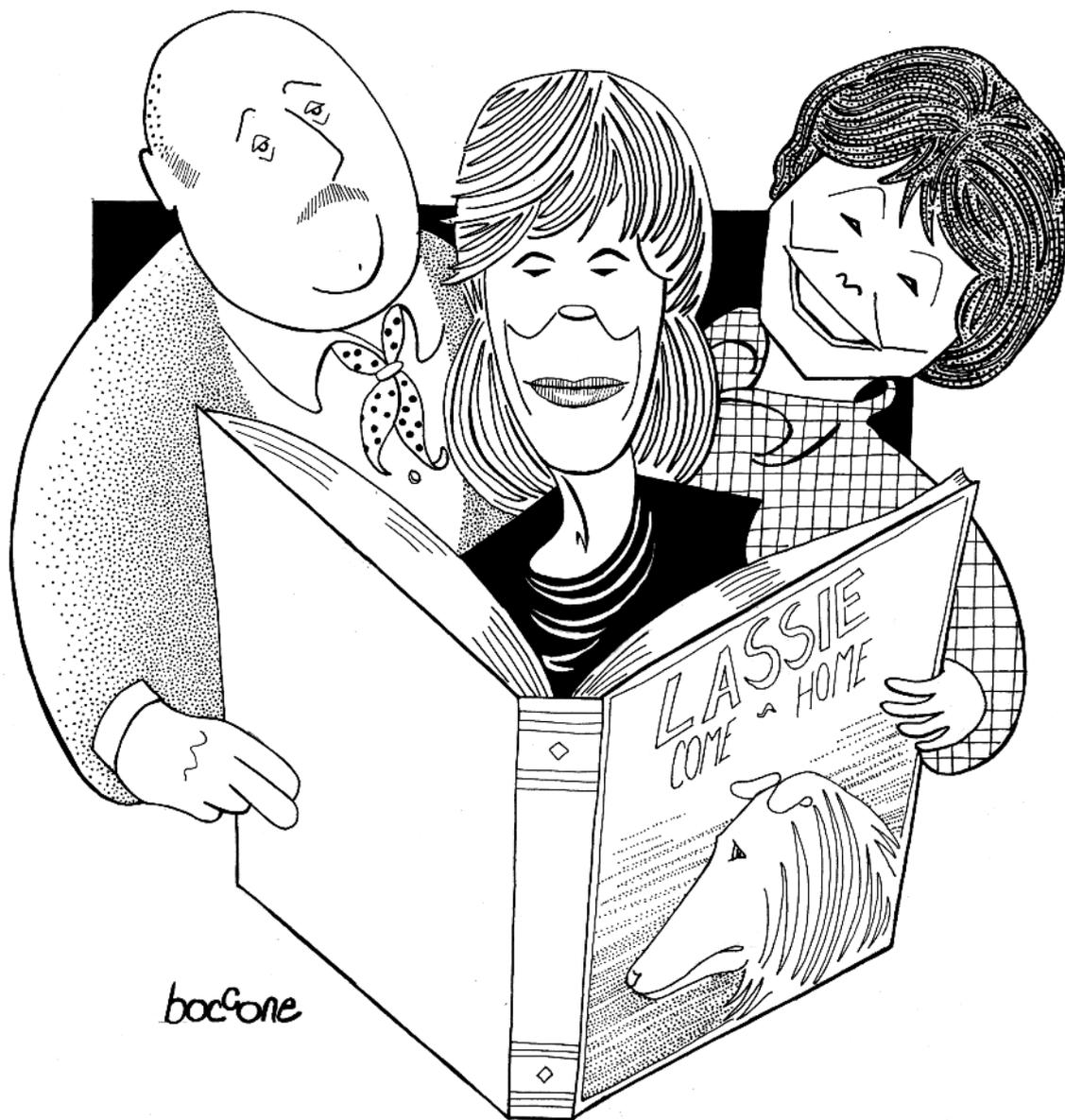


ILLUSTRATION LA GAZETTE. GEORGE BARBIER, 1922



Bestsellers

Shopping for a good book to place beneath your favorite fancier's Christmas tree? Chances are you've encountered the works of these prolific dog writers: **Stanley Coren**, whose *The Intelligence of Dogs* has seen 16 printings and translations into 26 languages; **Susan Conant**, writer of 19 *Dog Lover's* mystery novels; and author of the always-in-print *The Other End of the Leash*, animal behaviorist **Patricia McConnell**.

Breed Columns Index

Toy Group

- 9 Affenpinschers
- 9 Brussels Griffons
- 10 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- 11 Chinese Cresteds
- 11 Havanese
- 12 Italian Greyhounds
- 13 Japanese Chin
- 13 Maltese
- 13 Papillons
- 14 Pomeranians
- 15 Shih Tzu
- 15 Silky Terriers
- 16 Toy Fox Terriers

Non-Sporting Group

- 17 American Eskimo Dogs
- 17 Bichons Frises
- 18 Boston Terriers
- 18 Bulldogs
- 19 Chinese Shar-Pei
- 19 Chow Chows
- 20 Dalmatians
- 20 Finnish Spitz
- 21 French Bulldogs
- 21 Keeshonden
- 22 Lhasa Apsos
- 23 Löwchen
- 23 Poodles
- 24 Schipperkes
- 24 Shiba Inu
- 25 Tibetan Spaniels
- 26 Tibetan Terriers

Herding Group

- 26 Australian Shepherds
- 27 Beardies
- 28 Beaceros
- 28 Belgian Malinois
- 28 Border Collies
- 30 Bouviers des Flandres
- 30 Briards
- 31 Canaan Dogs
- 32 Cardigan Welsh Corgis
- 32 Collies
- 33 Entlebucher Mountain Dogs
- 33 German Shepherd Dogs
- 34 Icelandic Sheepdogs
- 35 Old English Sheepdogs
- 36 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- 36 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs
- 37 Pulik
- 37 Pyrenean Shepherds
- 38 Shetland Sheepdogs
- 38 Swedish Vallhunds

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

The breed columns are a time-honored feature of the AKC GAZETTE. Each columnist is appointed by a breed's national parent club, which preserves the breed's standard and helps to educate breeders, judges, and the public about the breed's history, function, and possible health issues. A national parent club comprises dedicated breeders and fanciers, and it represents many years of collective experience in the breed. Columnists are asked to write about topics of interest to the fancy in general as well as those of specific interest to judges and devotees of the breed. The breed columns rotate by group so that each breed's column can appear four times a year.

toys

Affenpinschers

Read All About It!

The Affenpinscher Club of America (ACA) has produced its first-ever illustrated breed standard. This was the dream of many but most especially the ACA's recent past president, Jackie Stacy. The original breed standard was approved in 1936. It was revised in 1990 and then replaced by the latest version approved in July 2000.

The AKC first recognized the Affenpinscher in 1939. The ACA was founded in 1965. Our little dog has not changed much in those years. It is still the lovable, no fear, little monkey dog. The only major change has been to leave undocked, natural ears and tails.

As is usual, a committee was formed of four members led by ACA president Jude Daley. It set about putting into more descriptive narrative the Affen breed standard. Trying to find a description for breed-standard sentences such as "The Affen carries itself with comic seriousness," "The Affen has a mane or cape," and "a neat but shaggy appearance" took some doing.

ACA members were asked for photos to give to the artist, including photos that illustrated correct profile, head, ear-set and, so on.

I was privileged to be a member of this committee. We met often at a wi-fi café that was midway distance for the members to drive. We viewed a collection of other illustrated breed standards, both U.S. and foreign to help us decide the design, size, and content of the publication. We shuffled through hundreds of

photos and generally had a fine time getting to appreciate our own breed even more.

The artwork took time, then the production. But now, two years later, the first issues of the *Affenpinscher Illustrated Breed Standard* were handed to members at the recent Affenpinscher National in Greeley, Colorado.

Plans are to let the ACA Ways and Means committee decide how to sell the original artwork to help defray the cost of the publication. The *Illustrated Standard* booklet will be sent to all Affenpinscher judges and is available at Affenpinscher.org.

—Nancy Baybutt;
SiennaGoldAffens@comcast.net

Brussels Griffons

Reflections

After three years of circumstances that prevented me from breeding even one litter, I now have two. I find that the three-year hiatus, during which time I retired from my dog-supporting career and have done a bit more judging, has given me some insights and observations to share. For those readers unfamiliar with Brussels Griffons, rest assured I am not raising a dozen babies. Griff litters are small, averaging 3.5 puppies a litter. In this case, there is one litter of three and one litter of two.

The AKC requires a judge starting out to judge their own breed to ideally have bred and raised at least five litters. Watching these puppies day by day reinforces the validity of that requirement. Structures, and consequently movement,

change as they mature. Being able to sit at length and observe the litters, which are three weeks apart in age, get on their feet, begin to move, and then rapidly become little tornadoes storming around the yard in hot pursuit of the leader with the twig, provides advanced education in structure and movement. What fun to discover a side gait with purpose, reach, and drive typical of the breed! And what a disappointment to have one come joyfully to you looking like an eggbeater.

Then there's the evaluation of breed type. What Griff breeder hasn't wished they could put Fido's head on Gizmo's body, or Fifi's coat on Sprout? So for future breeding the question becomes, can I live with that body if I keep the dramatic head? Or should I go for the cobby body, feeling I can breed a better head next time around? Most Brussels Griffon breeders would say that the head is easier to improve upon than the fronts, rears, and toplines. This may be true in generalities, but in specifics, there are head faults that are just as difficult to breed out as the structural issues—light eyes, for example, or wry mouths. Once accepted into a breeding program, they are there for generations to come.

I was happy to discover I had not lost the knack for telling a rough-coated puppy from a smooth-coated puppy early on. However, I confess the process is easier if there are both coats in the same litter, which was the case in both of mine. It is logical to look for beard growth to determine whether the puppy is rough or smooth, but one can tell much sooner by looking at the feet. Hair growing over the toenails is most certainly a rough coat, and the task is admittedly simpler if there are both coats for comparison.

Just as in human families, the siblings develop differently despite equal parentage and experiences, and it's such fun to discover the emerging traits. The troublemakers made themselves known first—in this case the smooth girls. There was a smooth girl in each litter. Then there is the noisy one, the snuggler, and the one that cares not if he dances in

his, or anyone else's, mess. We can't keep them all, and so the weeks of observation eventually lead to deciding who stays and who goes, and in some cases, who goes to a show home and who goes to a pet home. That's where I am now—and that's another column.

Anne K. Catterson;
annecatt@gmail.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Our Book of Days

What's in a calendar? Well, it all depends on whose calendar you cite. The American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club calendar is now in its sixth year, and are we proud? You bet!

First and foremost, 100 percent of its profits are sent to our Health and Rescue Trusts. No one involved in its production earns a nickel. The Club fronts the printing costs (thank you, ACKCSC) and the buyers make us a success. We now print 500 calendars, and even in this economy we sell out. After doing the math, we give about \$4,000 yearly to our Trusts.

Many have asked us who can submit photos. The answer: anyone! No one is required to belong to any club or organization, and we accept photos from all around the world. We have published pictures from as far as New Zealand, Australia, and Finland, although the majority come from the United States and Canada.

As anyone who knows us will tell you, we are extremely picky about our final selections. Our theme for some time has been "Beautiful Dogs in Beautiful Settings," and that is what we want. No people or other animal species. Someday we may change our philosophy, but so far we think it works for us.

Almost all photos are now submitted digitally, with very few via other media. We try to do a good job of letting people know that we print horizontally at 8 by 10 inches—so we need very high-resolution, horizontal photos that will allow us excellent-quality print reproduction. What you see on your com-

puter monitor is *not* what you necessarily will see in print. If the file is too small, the photo will *pixelate* when enlarged—not a good look.

As to *who* does the decision-making, I acknowledge that these are very subjective choices made by myself and Joanne Opel, who is the technical brains of the outfit, and wields a QuarkXPress software program with ease. We whittle the hundreds and hundreds of submissions down to about 25, talk endlessly to each other about the finalists, lament all the chair and table legs we see, and show our choices to many of our Cavalier friends to solicit their opinions. We do take care to have all four colors published, and for some reason tricolors are under-represented in submissions—so take lots of tri photos for 2013!

All we want are those very special photos that move us—interesting light or landscapes, but most especially the dogs themselves who immediately engage the viewer and bring us to tears or smiles. Those photos can be had in the Himalayas or in your own backyard. Expression is everything, and the less posing the better. We fill in many of our smaller spaces with photos that did not quite make the "month" for one reason or another, but were deemed worthy in other respects. We include photos of the big winners of the prior year, show dates for our member clubs, and apt literary quotations that we research to illustrate each monthly image.

If anyone has questions, or would like to discuss our calendar in terms of an individual breed club, please let me know. Information about this year's effort is available online at ackcsc.org.

—Stephanie Abraham;
landmarks.properties@snet.net

Chihuahuas

A Dog With Heart—The "X Factor"

In celebration of the holiday season, let's be thankful for the "gift of love" we receive every day from these little dogs called Chihuahuas.

Most of us have owned other breeds,

but in time we finally found our way to this fabulous little creature known as the Chihuahua. Once owned by one of these little dogs, you will never be without one in your home. The more the merrier!

It was proven that the world's fastest racehorse, Secretariat, had a heart significantly larger than that of the average horse. He passed this trait to his offspring, and it became known as the "X factor." Today we call this having "heart." Although Secretariat's heart was not weighed at the time of his death, the hearts of his offspring later measured to be more than twice the size of the average horse's.

It is the nature of all dogs to love and bring joy to their family's lives. Chihuahuas, although they are the smallest of dogs, resemble the great horse Secretariat in that they too have the biggest "heart." They were developed for companionship, and these little dogs take their job seriously.

At Christmas our Chihuahuas are the theme of our cards as they pose proudly for the camera, donning a red hat with a white, fluffy ball, knowing that ball will soon be their play-toy. They generously offer to help wrap Christmas gifts and decorate the tree. They especially enjoy helping to take down the tree, even if it's not quite yet time.

They possess such angelic little faces, surely they must be angels sent from above. We reward these big-hearted little dogs with jewelry, fur coats, velvet bedding, and just about anything their hearts desire. We let them eat with us, sleep with us, and go out on the town with us.

Their diminutive size makes us feel protective toward them, and macho men have been known to turn into baby-talking boys in their presence. Their "mommies" keep them in their every thought as if they were one of their own children. Talk about "man's (or woman's) best friend!"

These little dogs are so in tune with to our thoughts, we sometimes think they must possess a human gene. They appear to feel our feelings, and at times when we are sad, you can literally see

tears running down their faces. We immediately cheer up because we don't want our little dogs to be sad. They know exactly how to make us laugh with their fun-loving antics and always just when we need a heartfelt smile. When these "energized" angels find a sunny spot, they may lie there for hours, absorbing the sun as if they were recharging their batteries. Surely this gives them their special ability to spread sunshine in every room in the house.

The Chihuahua is the ultimate in giving and receiving love. Could they, too, possess that "X factor"?

Christmas is a time to remember others by showing our love through giving and receiving. Every day is Christmas in a Chihuahua's heart.

Merry Christmas, everyone! —
Virginia (Jenny) Hauber;
wynjynchis@yahoo.com

Chinese Cresteds

The Size Issue

I recently had the pleasure of presenting a seminar on Chinese Cresteds for a group of aspiring judges. The seminar was scheduled for 7:00 A.M., so I knew these students were serious. As I worked through the material, I was impressed with their knowledge of structure and movement and how quickly they seemed to be picking up the subtle nuances that make "Crestedness." I was excited to have such a stellar group of individuals who would, undoubtedly, be judging our breed in the near future.

Following the seminar, we adjourned to the ring where Cresteds were being judged. I was increasingly impressed by the insightful questions that were asked and the ability that these folks had to pick out the superior dogs. The one thing that seemed to bother them most surprised me: size. They were very concerned about being able to choose dogs that were consistent with our standard of 11–13 inches. They argued about which dogs were the right size. They were confused (as many of us are from time to time) by the statement "Dogs that are slightly larger or smaller may be given full consideration."

These students of the breed tended to view the dogs as larger than they actually were. The 11-inch dogs seemed right to them. The 12-inch dogs were a little big. And the -inch, or slightly larger, threw them for a loop. For them, these were obviously too big. Many of these dogs were ones I knew and have had my hands on, so I knew they were within our standard. I counseled these very knowledgeable judging candidates to do more hands-on training and learn to estimate size more accurately—which I know they will do. I look forward to watching them judge.

The point here is, if this group of people who were obviously well informed and knowledgeable about our breed still had trouble with the size issue, what about would-be judges who are less competent? Obviously, more education is necessary on this area of our standard. I suggest more hands-on experience, both in seminars and as part of the students' individual study. Most exhibitors are only too happy to let you go over their dogs.

I think size, in our breed, confounds many judges because we have such a discrepancy in our non-disqualifying limits. How much is *slightly*? A quarter of an inch? An inch? The judge gets to make that decision, within reason. I think the more important words from our standard that we should focus on are *fine-boned, elegant and graceful*. To me, these characteristics are more important than the actual height of the dog—again, within reason. I would much rather have a dog who is 10 inches or 14 inches that has appropriate bone and is structurally sound and can move, than a 12-inch dog that doesn't have much else going for him.

Sue Klinckhardt-Gardner;
Tamoshire@qnet.com

Havanese

Our guest columnist this month is Stanley Kovak, chair of the Health Survey subcommittee of the HCA Health Committee. He is a practicing physician and Havanese owner and breeder. He shows his dogs himself. He lives near Chicago and also

in Naples Florida with his wife and children.

Havanese Health Survey 2011

The Havanese Club of America initiated a questionnaire earlier this summer called the Preliminary Havanese Health Questionnaire for 2011. This initial questionnaire was a web-based survey presenting questions to individuals (owners, handlers, and breeders) to help formulate a future survey called the Havanese Health Survey of 2011.

The last health survey sanctioned by the HCA was implemented in 2004. This survey was a moderate-sized survey that asked specific questions and gave interesting answers. The purpose of our new survey is to build onto the existing 2004 survey and to see if we can determine the direction of Havanese health as a whole. The Havanese do have some specific problems which are more common to the breed, but no one is exactly certain of the prevalence or incidence of these conditions. The Havanese Health Survey of 2011 hopes to determine if there are specific diseases among the breed which were common in 2004 and/or have since changed since 2004. Understanding the illnesses which are present today, how the scope of the diseases has changed since 2004 and evaluating the changes in breeding practices since 2004 will help guide the HCA to making health suggestions for the Havanese Community. The ultimate goal of the Havanese Health Survey of 2011 is to help breeders continue to breed a healthier and happier Havanese dog along with showing the public how dedicated the Havanese Community is toward our breed.

The initial questionnaire ran for slightly more than two months, so as to allow as many individuals to participate as possible. It was a web-based questionnaire for maximum efficiency. Multiple questions were asked about the health of the Havanese along with questions regarding the type of questions the Havanese community would like to see on the health survey along with the format and direction of the

questions. Dr. Jean Dodds and Dr. Elsa Sell monitored this preliminary questionnaire. All information collected was anonymous and will be kept by both doctors. At present, Dodds and Sell are evaluating this data.

The next step in the health-survey process is to develop the Havanese Health Survey of 2011. This survey will also be Internet based, but the plan is for forms to be mailed to individuals who do not have access to the Internet. The reason for using primarily the Internet are both cost and minimizing error in data entry that can happen when hard copy form data are transferred to an electronic database. We have limited funding for this project and the Internet is the best solution. We hope this survey will propagate throughout the Havanese community with those initially partaking in the survey forwarding the link or questions onto other individuals and so on. The goal is to have a survey showing a large cross-section of the Havanese breed. All Havanese people, breeders, owners, and handlers, from all parts of the world, are welcome and encouraged to participate. The success of the survey depends on the input of as many people as possible.

Once this project is completed, we know it will be of great benefit to our breed by documentation of frequency and severity of health problems along with causes of mortality. The Havanese Club of America and sister clubs across the world can use this data to help preserve and protect the Havanese breed. —S.K.

Thank you, Stanley! —Joan Ambrose;
joanjambrose@yahoo.com

Italian Greyhounds Breeder Referrals

I've been doing breeder referrals for the IGCA almost as long as I can remember. It's an interesting but sometimes frustrating job. Over the years it has changed quite a bit, partly because IGs have become more popular. Much of the change is due to the Internet, which has affected everyone's life—even those who don't actively use it. For example, people

tend to not read books or magazines anymore (present company and faithful readers excepted, of course).

"Research" on most subjects is likely to be done online. It can be faster that way, but the downside is that there is very little that can be done to confirm the validity of the information. Nearly anyone can post something on the Internet, and if it's done in a reasonably professional manner, it will look like the gospel truth. Fortunately, intelligent people have begun to realize this and back up what they see on the 'net by continuing their research the old-fashioned way. I believe because of this, the number-one question asked by people interested in IGs has gone from simple things like "Are they hard to housebreak?" to the more complex.

Currently, what is asked most frequently is, "Are they as fragile as they look?"

My response is that IGs should look refined and delicate, even a tad fragile; but they should only *look* that way.

That said, some bloodlines do have a bone-density problem, although not as prevalent now as 25 or 30 years ago. One must consider the way these dogs are built. Even with good bone there is considerably more chance of a fracture than there would be for a short legged breed (most of which have their own problems).

Healthy IGs can safely jump off a bed or couch or even off the tall back of a couch providing there are no other factors involved. Being pushed off by other dogs or rolling off in their sleep (as one of mine did before we built a platform behind our sofa) is another story.

Hard, slippery floors (hardwood or other smooth material) are an additional hazard. Most importantly, many IGs don't develop a brain as baby puppies and youngsters can be overly enthusiastic about virtually flying around the house, jumping without thought and barely looking down to spot the landing site from any location they have been able to reach. This activity can be controlled, however, with supervision and basic planning.

One good reason to acquire a dog from a knowledgeable and responsible breeder is that the breeder can check out the new home and make sensible suggestions for “IG-proofing” it. IGs are “three-dimensional” pets, moving almost as freely up and down as on ground level, which must be considered in order to keep them safe.

Another change is that we will answer IG questions via e-mail but no longer disseminate breeder information that way. The increasing number of animal rights-inspired, dog-unfriendly laws and methods to enforce them has made that necessary. Some inquirers are annoyed having to use snail-mail or the telephone, but to my way of thinking, I wouldn't want to sell a puppy to someone who doesn't understand. And I hope no one else would want to, either. —*Lilian S. Barber; iggyilil@earthlink.net*

Japanese Chin An In-depth View of the Standard PART TWO

The second sentence that I will discuss under the General Appearance section of the Japanese Chin standard reads, “It is light and stylish in action.”

The Japanese Chin breed standard does not go into great detail on the light and stylish action of the Japanese Chin as much as gait is discussed in the standards of some other breeds, but one should assume that soundness in structure should be foremost.

It is with utter shock that I still hear exhibitors of this breed say that they are a toy thus they do not need to move. True, they do not have to move to work other than getting on a soft pillow or at your side on the couch, but they should be free of debilitating pain and constant wear and tear on their bones and joints, and this can only be accomplished through good structure.

In order to have a light and stylish action, one must not have patellas so loose as to cross over in the rear, which can cause rolling or stumbling. Neither should such straight shoulders cause a stilted and marching gait. The Chin should move fluidly without obstruc-

tion of its movement and should flow so that the dog does not have to work at walking or gaiting.

The words *lively* and *stylish* are in several toy-breed standards, but nothing moves like a well-structured Japanese Chin. The flowing, silky coat waving behind the movement enhances such structure, the front legs can reach with well-angled shoulders, and the rear can drive with good bend of stifle and short hocks.

Lively shows in the face of the Chin as he moves across the floor. His face is lit up and his head is held high—he is of royalty, and nothing should stand in the way of this picture.

Stylish shows in the swishing of the coat and tail and it hangs over the hip and flows behind the little dog, and this shows fashionable elegance as only the Japanese Chin can. It is not “jaunty” like the Pug, “rolling” like the Pekingese, or “hackney-like” as in the Miniature Pinscher. A Chin should not be shown at a run or hurried as to look like a Maltese, but rather, at good gait to show off the topline and curve of the neck.

The Japanese Chin is full of life and energy. He is ready for action and excited with his handler. He is comfortable in his own skin, and this should be seen in his gait. He is full of spirit and animation, and this should be seen in his eyes. With the combination of sound construction and good spirit one then easily can understand the idea of “light and stylish in action.” —*Carla Jo Ryan; carlaryan@bellsouth.net*

Maltese Looking Ahead

It was an honor to be the columnist for the last printed AKC GAZETTE. Now as we venture forward with technology, it is indeed an honor to be the first Maltese columnist for the Worldwide Web as well. Since there is a bigger audience, more ideas will be able to be addressed.

First of all, for those that are reading this on the other side of the globe, our AKC parent club is the American Maltese Association. Our website is

americanmaltese.org. There is information on our website relating to our breed, our specialties, our club officials, and other interesting facts. Our AKC standard is there as well and I encourage everyone to read it, whether it be for the first time, or the hundredth time. Our standard is the blueprint for our breed.

An interesting question was asked in another U.S. publication recently about foreign judges at our U.S. shows. It was interesting to how different people felt about being judged by foreign judges. The one fact remains that when in our country, we judge by our AKC standard. Our standard is different than many of the other countries, including Europe, as we have smaller dogs here.

Now that the Web is so viral with clips of dog shows all over the world, and with pictures of dogs from many countries, I think the biggest difference of all is size. The dogs are much bigger in most other countries; they are the size of our Shih Tzu. The AKC standard says our Maltese should be under seven pounds with four to six pounds ideal. Overall quality, however, is to be favored over size.

Our 2012 national-specialty plans are quickly forming, with the Californians. It will be in the San Diego area in May—look for specific dates on our website. In December, Orlando, Florida, will host the AKC/Eukanuba show with a big bang, including Meet the Breeds as well as international competition. Several Florida shows will precede the event.

Happy holidays and happy new year to Maltese people all over the world!

If any of our new readers have any ideas or questions they would like discussed in future columns, please let me know. —*Daryl Martin; daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net*

Papillons Papillon Movement

I believe one of the possible reasons for the lack of specific details describing movement in our breed standard is that our breed anatomically is rather ordinary. A Papillon does not have any skeletal abnormalities or

exaggerations of movement like other toy breeds, such as Pokes or Min Pins, which need to be explained. Despite its small size, our breed is rather normal, beautifully balanced and when given a reasonable amount of exercise, is made to move well. Since any good judge or breeder should know movement, it is the details of type and the finer points of our breed which are emphasized in the standard.

Many standards describe breeds according to their purpose. Papillons, however, were originally bred to be a lapdog, adored and pampered, not having a specific purpose for their design, like some sporting breeds to flush game, or terriers to burrow and catch critters.

Under "General Appearance," the breed is described as a *small, friendly, elegant toy dog of fine-boned structure, light, dainty and of lively action*. It goes on to say, *free, quick, easy and graceful*. These characteristics emphasize the refinement of the breed because they are fine boned and dainty, which is repeatedly mentioned throughout the standard. Papillons, with their inquisitive nature and keen mind, keep active in their *joie de vivre*. However, do not misconstrue to think a Papillon should not be equipped to move well.

If you read in the standard of how the breed should be constructed, and understand its proportions, you should be able to visualize how a well-balanced Papillon should move. The standard describes what the forequarters should be: *Shoulders well developed and laid back to allow freedom of movement. Forelegs slender, fine-boned and must be straight. Front feet thin and elongated (hare-like), pointing neither in nor out*. It also specifies what the movement should not be: *not padded-footed, or stiff in hip*. Movement should be fluid and not constricted. Papillon upper arm length, which is not short, must be in balance with their shoulder blades and be adequately laid back to allow their forelegs to reach well forward and back, giving it the freedom and lightness of movement.

In describing the rear, *The hindquarters are well developed and well angu-*

lated. The hind legs are slender, fine-boned, and parallel when viewed from behind. Hocks inclined neither in nor out ... Hind feet thin and elongated (hare-like), pointing neither in nor out.

The upper thigh bones, the tibias, and the lower bones, the fibulas, should meet at the joint of the stifle. When the dog stands, the stifles should be of sufficient length. Too long and the dog will not have control of its hocks, and too short, the dog will not be able to drive well with their hind legs. To move well, a Papillon should be well balanced with a front and rear assembly that has matching angulation.

Their proportion, which is rectangular in shape, not square, is also described, *slightly longer than the height at withers. It is not a cobby dog*. Having the proper balance and proportion, along with a length of leg, help add to the elegance of the breed. Ideally, a Papillon should have good reach and drive, cover ground well, be fine boned and dainty, and still exude its beautiful type. —Roseann Fucillo; cilloette@yahoo.com

Pomeranians

Placing and Selling Little Pom Treasures

The following will, I'm sure, apply to many other breeds as well. I have found this to be a fun and friendly discussion, but sometimes it can progress into firm, opinionated exchanges. The old adage "There are two sides to every story" is clearly applicable here.

Premise number one: It is more rewarding and successful to place a Pom puppy into a primarily pet-type home. This doesn't always imply the negative "pet type" description of a dog, but rather can be for a lovely puppy, well-bred and fitting the standard in appearance, who is going to someone who has no desire to work toward the show ring but simply wants a pretty, happy little family pet.

Premise number two: Equally rewarding and successful can be selling or placing a Pom puppy to a primarily show home. This implies placing an

above average, promising youngster with someone who wishes to show the dog later, hoping for the required appearance and quality. These purchasers usually recognize that breeders are experienced, have a keen eye for quality and a background of success with such little Poms, and wish to be fair and honest. The breeder also wants and hopes for the dog to become just what the new owner wishes it to be.

Both the above positions are reasonable. Over our many years with the breed, we usually find the first situation to be the happiest. While we have never bred superfluous numbers of puppies to sell, we have had puppies go to both types of homes, pet and show. Our personal experience has been wonderful, resulting in associations with dear, special people who become lifelong friends. These people send us pictures and write love notes about the pleasure of having one of our Poms, sometimes purchasing others after losing a beloved pet and always referring good folks to us. What a great feeling!

Bear in mind that quite a number of these little kids do develop to be of great show quality, just a little "plus," but they never enter a show ring, and other people choose not to. It is unimportant to them. Actually, it is not real important to *us* either!

Conversely, many little dogs, while placed in a show home, very promising, very beautiful and exciting, can develop some little problem or fault as they mature, or they may not be what we would consider show prospects, resulting in some owners being a bit disappointed in the result. They may love the dog but feel they have been misled or misunderstood. Unfortunately, a few get upset and request a refund or replacement for the show dog that wasn't.

On the other side of the coin, we have placed many show types to those who have shown and had great success, finished championships to our credit, and are delighted!

The disappointments are few, but once in a while a person gets a bit testy with their breeders. We consider

this a relatively unfair position. Pom people are probably the grandest folks on earth, with unlimited attributes, but we are not soothsayers, psychics, or magicians! Most of us do not use words like *guaranteed* or *full warranty provided*. A Pom baby is not an automobile or a household appliance, but a tiny little one who will grow up in his own time, and in his own way.

Recognizing this, our opinion is just that—an opinion, based on a breeder's experience and knowledge. Reputable breeders will sometimes choose to make some type of restitution if a person is dissatisfied, out of respect for the relationship with the person.

Thankfully, it seldom occurs, even though occasionally an owner may be a bit unhappy with how a puppy turns out. Most Pom people will just say, "OK, we might never show or breed little Foxy—but we love her so, it really doesn't matter."

Reputable breeders who place or sell Poms will agree that the selling of these little guys is not the fun part! A bit of money from selling a little Pom can be helpful toward vet bills and purchasing dog-care necessities, I personally feel the income from selling a little puppy will only help in a small way toward these expenses. I love my husband's response when someone says, "Gee, you must make lots of money with your little dogs." He has a perfect answer: "If you choose to breed and show fine dogs, you don't make money—you spend money!" Well said, Mr. Baker.

By and large, the happiness breeders experience over the years feels splendid. Years of breeding, bringing into the world, caring for babies, working, cleaning, having sleepless nights, and on and on cannot be offset by selling a puppy!

I hold to my position: The selling of little Poms, whether for show or as a pet, is never to us the fun part—just a necessary, but usually happy part. —*Olga Baker;*
jeribeth1@gmail.com

Shih Tzu Breeder-Education Symposium PART FOUR

This is the final article in a four-part series based on the breeder-education seminar held during the 2010 ASTC National Specialty in St. Louis. The presenters at the fourth station, on overall balance and movement, were Joe Walton and David Ritchkoff.

First you must train your eye to recognize that the Shih Tzu is a rectangular dog. The length from withers to root of tail is slightly longer than the height from withers to ground. There has, of course, been frequent disagreement about exactly what "slightly" means!

Nevertheless, the correctly balanced Shih Tzu is *never* a square dog like the Poodle. It should not be so high-stationed as to appear leggy, nor so low-stationed as to appear dumpy or squatty.

Many things can create optical illusions that hinder efforts to determine which Shih Tzu has the most correct overall balance.

A solid-colored dog will appear longer than a particolored one.

A wide white shawl automatically shortens the dog visually, as a wide blaze broadens the head. A high-set, arched tail makes the back appear shorter than a tightly curled or flat one.

A too-loose tail on a teething puppy will probably tighten, while a tight tail will remain tight.

A young Shih Tzu can appear out at the elbow when the coat breaks at that point. This demonstrates how essential it is to physically examine the dog under the hair to determine whether or not it is correct.

Skillful grooming can also visually alter the appearance of a dog. The towering topknot is the most notable example. However, skillful groomers often thin out the hair on the neck to visually elongate it, trim closer to the inside of the feet to create the illusion of a wider front or rear, and so on. Many deep stops, well-cushioned muzzles, and short noses are created by hair alone. One way to help train your eye

when observing dogs in the show ring is to look at topline, rather than top-knots.

Front and rear angulation should be balanced. In the ring, if not in a breeding program, it is better to have a dog that is equally steep in shoulder and pelvis than one that is well angulated at one end and steep at the other. The former will move more effortlessly than the latter.

In any case, the front and rear angulation of a dog that bounces when moving cannot be correct, nor can one with a sloping topline. An individual Shih Tzu might well move at a natural speed consistent with a very fast walk. However, the Shih Tzu should *never* be raced or strung up.

Our standard calls for a weight range of 9 to 16 pounds, and a height of 9 to 11 inches. Whatever its size or weight, the Shih Tzu is supposed to be sturdy and solid. Nevertheless, depending on the amount of bone and coat, one Shih Tzu could easily weigh twice as much of another even though they appear to be of similar size. A fine-boned, slab-sided dog, especially one with a dense, wooly undercoat, can appear much larger than it actually is. Once again, always use your hands as well as your eyes to determine what is correct and what is illusion.

—*Jo Ann White;* joawhite@juno.com

Silky Terriers Responsible Breeders

We are generally so excited and looking forward to the next litter and what may be. How long do we have responsibility for the bitch and puppies? Is it until we find them that wonderful home? That seems reasonable.

We do their tails and dew claws, we feed and clean up after them, we give them all their inoculations or at least as many as are due until they go to their new homes. We pass the joyful anticipation and hope on to the new owners. We try to make sure that home is all it should be for our charges.

Of course, we have done our homework and checked the references of the

prospective owners. We have interviewed the complete family to ensure no one is against getting a dog or does not “mesh” with the dog if possible. If long distance and we wish to ship, we have some extended conversations with the family and then it is even more important to check more references and at least one of those should be their veterinarian.

The contract is completed, shot record is provided, all the boring details. We hopefully have done everything to ensure the home is as appropriate as possible and the new owners will have no surprises. We have to take care of many details to ensure the exchange will go well.

Next would be checking in with the new owner a week or two later is done and any questions answered. They always seem to have them and often do not want to “bother” the breeder—you.

Then the part that makes it all seem worthwhile, a call in a month or so telling you how wonderful everything is going and how delighted they are with the puppy. But they often have that grooming question or feeding or housetraining question as well.

Wow, it has gone well and all that work has paid off: A puppy has a great home and is fitting in well. If a show dog, then you get a call in a few months about how well it is doing at shows or you get the chance to see it in your own area. All is well. This is time to relax; you have found that puppy a great home. You still may be getting calls and answering grooming, training, or show questions, but all is well. Your responsibility is over—or is it?

How do you feel or what do you do if you get a call in five or eight years about this dog and there are problems. A health issue has come up, or a family crisis, and they feel they no longer can give this dog a home.

What do you do now? Do you give them the phone number of Silky Rescue? Do you tell them to advertise in the local paper? Do you tell them to take the dog to the shelter? Put the dog down? I have heard of all of those things happening. I know, it has not

happened to you. I have had it happen.

There was a 9-year-old neutered male, a wonderful little dog. The family was moving and said they could not take the dog. My contract says I must be contacted if they are unable to keep the dog. I handled the situation and the dog is in a new home with two retired ladies, a great home for a retired gentleman.

It is my opinion a breeder is a mentor and, more important, is responsible for life for any animal that the breeder causes to be born. I believe if someone with one of my dogs is unable to keep it, I will assist or do the rehoming, or the dog will come back and live with me.

Any dog I cause to be born is my responsibility for life. That is one reason I do not breed a lot and am very cautious on where I allow my dogs to go. And that in a lot of ways includes the puppies sired by my males. That’s because if a dog I caused to be born does not find the right home or comes back, it will live with me—and I only have room for a few, so I have to limit breeding.

Maybe I take the puppies I cause to be born too seriously, but that is my philosophy and what I feel should be done. So, I do need to have room for any dog that may come back.

How many do I breed? Not that many since I only have a moderate amount of room and time to care for them. That is my definition of a breeder: time, space, and taking responsibility—oh yes, and mentoring.

—Vicki Bratton; Tumbelle@nwi.net

Toy Fox Terriers Working Together

As I write this, fall has arrived, and with it, kids are going back to school, and the dog shows are starting up in earnest. Majors are being worked out between Toy Fox Terrier owners, and it’s great to see people working together.

Speaking of which, the vote on our national club’s standard revision has brought in more than 120 votes out of 163 total members—truly a phenomenal response! It really doesn’t matter

whether or not this revision is approved, it’s great to see members taking the time to send in their vote. If we had this response when having a fundraiser, auction, or trophy donations, this club might have enough money to do even greater things! It also might provide us with workers and volunteers who we have asked for so often.

It seems everything is moving at a breakneck speed—and part of this is because of the Internet. Tweepers, Facebook members, the “cloud” computing—where will it all end?

One thing I would caution everyone to beware of is the unsubstantiated stories circulating on the Internet—whether it’s about a person or an event—please check it out carefully before taking it to heart. It seems some people would like to see everyone replaced as ATFTC officers and board members—for no reason other than personal antipathy!

This club is in the best shape it’s ever been in—our treasury is getting better all the time, our membership is growing, and we have a group of people that love the breed and are working for its best interests. We do need people to step up and help with advertising, trophies, rescue and the like—but frankly, given the attacks by a disconcerted few, who wants that aggravation? I would plead, like Rodney King, “Please, can’t we all get along?” But it seems some would rather attack than work together.

We have a new election coming up, along with a competent nominated slate—I’m sure there will be some write-ins, and they will have the same chance as those nominated. I just hope everyone cares enough to cast their vote, because this is the democratic way!

My Toy Fox are lazing about on the porch, in the sun—eyes closed, totally unaware of all the machinations going on in their club. They really couldn’t care less—as long as they have plenty of fresh water to drink, their supper every night, and a place on the bed next to me, they are content. Would wish that we could be as relaxed as they are! —Dorothy Kendall; orlane@fast.net

American Eskimo Dogs

Correct Eskies Come in All Three Sizes

The American Eskimo Dog comes in three sizes—toy, miniature, and standard. I am sorry to say that it is more and more my experience that judges are forgetting this. This article concerns a couple of instances I can relate to because I was there; they are not heresay. I think the situations say a lot about what is going on in our breed today.

An exhibitor attended a show where there were 11 American Eskimos entered. Ten of those exhibits were either miniatures or toys. The other entry, a bitch measuring 16 inches, was the only standard. This is not big for that size division, according to the breed standard. Miniatures go up to and including 15 inches.

The standard bitch was in a class of four, and she placed fourth. I am not implying that she was better or worse than the other three exhibits. But as the exhibitor with the standard bitch started to leave the ring, the judge stopped the exhibitor.

The judge then said, "There is nothing wrong with your bitch, she is a very nice bitch, but today I just had to go with small."

The exhibitor then said, "You should never sacrifice quality for quantity."

The judge said, "I know, but ..." and shrugged.

What does this tell our exhibitors, especially the new ones? What message did this judge send to this exhibitor?

Months later, another show came along where all of the class exhibits were miniatures and toys. Once again, there was only one standard entry, and the dog was totally ignored by the judge.

When speaking with a judge who was being mentored for the breed, the judge said that the AKC preaches to them to be consistent, and putting up the standard, even if it was the best dog, would have been inconsistent, as all of the other class exhibits were miniatures

and toys.

Once again, what message is being sent in this case to exhibitors with standards? I do not feel that it is a good message.

The breed standard says there should be no preference for size as long as the dog conforms to the breed standard. Of course, this does not happen if all of the exhibits are standards, but that is seldom. This happens even when the exhibits are equally divided.

I do not want to believe that the AKC is encouraging judges of the breed to put up the smaller sizes, but it certainly seems that way.

With regard to the standards who are winning with professional handlers, that is in itself an entirely different topic and should be left for another time. —
Debbie Mitchell; Eskie18@earthlink.net

Bichons Frises

Before launching into the main topic of this month's column, please note the following corrected information to our report in the last issue regarding the Bichon Frise Club of America's May 2011 national specialty.

The Breeder Sweepstakes has grown in popularity every year. It is well entered and such fun to watch. This was a great idea, and a boost to entries for sure! Best in Breeder Sweepstakes was Ch. Belle Creeks Flight to Déjà Vu, owned and bred by L. Carlson, L. Letsche, and K. Matlock. Best of Opposite Sex was Risgae Catch the Rainbow, bred by Rick Day and Ginger Bruton and owned by V. and L. Philpot and Rick Day.

Now, on to our main topic ...

Arguments for and Against Early Spay/Neuter

Being an advocate for spay/neuter, I hesitate to even bring this subject up. I do feel, however, there has been an overzealousness among the dog community and veterinarians to "get this done, do it early, and there you go!"

Let's be honest: The reason for early spaying and neutering is to limit the

population of the canine species. It has very little to do with health considerations, no matter what you have been told. For these to be performed at too early of an age actually can be detrimental, some experts believe. Some of the adverse effects that have been observed are as follows.

In males:

- Delay of growth-plate closure when neutered prior to 7 weeks of age; lesser effect when neutered prior to 7 months of age; no effect when neutered after achieving full height.

- More likely to develop lower urinary tract neoplasm.

- Increased risk of developing cardiac hemangiosarcoma by factor of 1.6; this is a common cancer in medium to large breeds and has a poor prognosis.

- Significantly elevated risk of diabetes.

- Three times greater risk of hypothyroidism (low FT3, which responds to TSH).

- Increases the risk of geriatric cognitive impairment.

- Triples the risk of obesity and the many health issues associated with overweight dogs.

- 3.8 times greater risk of osteosarcomas when neutered prior to maturity.

- Increased risk of orthopedic disorders.

- Increased risk of adverse reactions to vaccines.

Further case studies show some adverse effects of early spaying of females (prior to 7 months of age), including:

- Delay of growth-plate closure delayed when bitch is spayed at less than 7 week; lesser effect when neutered at less than 7 months; no effect when spayed after achieving full height.

- Vulvar development less mature when neutered prior to 7 months.

- Increases risk of chronic or recurring vaginal and urinary tract infections by a factor of 3 to 4.

- Causes urinary incontinence in 4 percent to 20 percent of bitches.

- Two times more likely to become

obese.

- Triples risk of developing hypothyroidism.
- Results in significantly shorter vagina.
- Distance from cranial pubic bone and internal urethral orifice is shorter.
- More likely to develop lower urinary tract neoplasm.
- Increased risk of cranial cruciate ligament injury.
- High risk of hypothyroid (low FT3 which responds to TSH).
- Increased risk of cardiac tumors, hemangiosarcomas, and thyroid carcinoma.
- Decreased smooth muscle mass and connective tissue.
- Increased risk of acute fatal pancreatitis.
- Increased osteoblasts in bone.
- Increases the risk of orthopedic disorders.
- Increases the risk of adverse reactions to vaccines.

There are, however, also health benefits of spaying and neutering, including:

- Decreased risk of mammary tumors if bitch was thin 9 to 12 months of age prior to spaying.
- No risk of pyometra infection in spayed bitches.
- No risk of false-pregnancy syndrome in spayed bitches
- Less likely to develop perianal fistula in spayed bitches.
- Lowest risk of leukemia in neutered males.
- Reduces the risk of noncancerous prostate disorders in males.
- No risk of testicular cancer, and no change in risk to prostatic carcinoma (nontesticular androgen implicated).

To be continued next time. —*Donna Jones; bichons@bellsouth.net*

Boston Terriers Your First Westminster

Planning ahead will make your trip an easier experience. If the adventure includes being brave enough to travel with a dog on airplane, please read this column!

You are going to a benched dog show, which is very different from all-

breed shows. On show day, the dogs are checked into their assigned benching areas. The bench has three solid sides, and the only airflow is in front and on top of the dog's wire cage. I'm not going over all the rules that can be obtained from the WKC or the AKC. The aim of this column is to help you plan for a good time.

Before leaving home, make reservations at a hotel near Madison Square Garden that has a place to exercise dogs.

Remember, the most important thing is to keep your dog comfortable so as not to get stressed out. It often snows this time of year, or your visit might entail walking a dog in New York in freezing rain. It's fun! Pick a hotel that has a potty basement area.

You will need two wire cages—one for the room and for the New York Boston Terrier Specialty show, and the other for the your dog's bench in the Garden. Make sure the cages can be folded down. Find out the hotel's street address, and five days ahead you can ship all your needs for the trip in UPS packages. Make sure to inform the hotel to hold the packages for your arrival. Cages, grooming equipment, dog food, water, drinks, people food and snacks, and anything else sent to the hotel will be something that won't have to be handled at the airport and will cost less money.

When leaving New York, send any new purchases or other items back home via UPS and make your life easier. It's hard enough to handle a dog without having a lot of baggage to deal with.

Be respectful to the hotel that has allowed your dog to stay here. Lay plastic on the floor where the dog's crate will go. Make a sign to go on the outside of your room door so the maids and others will know if you're there or not. Someone knocking on a door when no one is there can cause the dogs in a room to get upset and start barking, which may cause a problem.

To make life simple, ask a few days ahead what time of the day you can take you dog cage and equipment over

to the Garden. On the day of the show, all you will have to worry about is your admission pass and dog. Be sure to bring two cordless fans for the cage. You will need to wear a short-sleeve sweater but also bring a heavy coat—it will be cold outside and very warm inside.

Carry a small cooler with water, ice, and drinks. There are no chairs allowed, and the dog's identification has to go on the cage. Make sure people don't linger in front of cage or pile lots of stuff on top of it. Bostons have short noses and need to have airflow. Bring a nice thick, soft pad to go inside the cage. Have a large picture of the dog and maybe a brag book—this will please spectators and also allow the dog to rest.

Remember, it can be very stressful dealing with so much going on, so "be prepared" for the worst things that could happen, and most of the time things will go smoothly. —

Patricia Johnson;
patsgrooming@aol.com

Bulldogs For the Good of the Breed

It does not seem possible that when you read this column, we will be in the holiday season and approaching the new year. The national show will be over, and the results will be in the *Bulldogger*. At this time we thank Robert Rodenski for his leadership these past two years and welcome Harold McDermott as our new national-club president for 2012–2013. Mr. McDermott brings experience to the office. He served as treasurer when Robert Newcomb was president. Mr. Newcomb now serves as AKC delegate for the Bulldog Club of America.

As we begin a new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and look forward to the future.

We must continue to strive for our breed. We must work for the betterment of the breed.

We must work hard to discourage promiscuous breeding of any kind.

We must think not just about today

but for the future, because what we do today impacts the future

We are fortunate to be part of the hobby of showing and breeding dogs. It is a hobby that centers on living things that require constant care, love, and work. The dogs and their needs are paramount.

I have spent most of my lifetime involved in dogs. I can honestly say that almost all of my friends are people whom I met because of my involvement with the dogs and dog clubs. So to the newcomer I say, enjoy your dogs, and have the fun of participating in the dog game and meeting new people who share a common interest.

Above all, do not become discouraged if at first you don't succeed in your efforts to show your dog. Learn to be objective about your own dogs and those of your competition.

Being objective means not allowing your feelings toward the owner of a particular dog to affect how you view the dog. As an example of what I have said, let me relate an experience I had several years ago, when I judged a sweepstakes.

I gave the win to a pup who in my opinion was the best one there and who did go on to do a lot of winning as an adult—but that is not the point of the story.

When I chose the winner, a woman approached me whom I knew was not on good terms with the people whose dog I had put up. She came over to me and said, "I may not like the people, but I want to tell you that you did the right thing. He is a good dog."

I will always remember that moment. It is a good example of what I mean about being objective and separating our feelings about how we feel about people from how we view their dogs.

Now it is that time of year to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Best of luck to you all, and if you are beaten, may it be by a better dog. See you in February. —*Amelia Averill; BoatswainA@aol.com*

Chinese Shar-Pei

Our thanks to Jocelyn Barker, director of the CSPCA

Futurity/Maturity program, for this guest column.

CSPCA Futurity/Maturity Program

The Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America (CSPCA), like many parent clubs, has developed activities to encourage membership and active participation in the life and work of the club. In fact, most of these programs have been "borrowed" from other organizations, and we must first thank those sources for sharing their experience and knowledge with us and with other parent clubs.

One of the most successful programs we have borrowed has led to our CSPCA Futurity/Maturity program. In the mid 1980s, when our club was still an independent rare-breed organization, three separate attempts were made to create a nomination-based program to recognize high-quality breeding programs. Sadly, each of these attempts failed, due in large measure to a lack of understanding of how much organization and planning would be required to even get such a program off the ground.

Fortunately for the CSPCA, members Bert and Ann Hickman and Barbara Byse, MD, agreed to make another attempt at creating such a program in the early 1990s, just as the Shar-Pei attained full AKC recognition.

The Futurity committee began by contacting other parent clubs known to have successful programs and asked for guidance, and several clubs offered extensive assistance. When the program was presented to the CSPCA's board of directors for consideration as a club program, the board members were astounded at the level of detail and the thought that had gone into its development. The Futurity program was immediately approved and announced to the general membership.

After a couple of tense weeks, the CSPCA shared a collective sigh of relief as nomination forms began to arrive in the hands of the program's director, Ann Hickman, the membership was supporting the plan! The support of

members was an area of significant concern because participation entailed that each litter must be nominated before the whelping, and then the individual puppies nominated prior to competition. In other words, the extended wait between conception and competition was as long as 12 months, so the club was asking the membership to indicate faith in the future—the future of not only their puppies, but also of an untried program.

Thanks to the extensive advice and the knowledgeable design-work that went into creation of the program, it worked wonderfully well. After the first successful Futurity competition was held, the Maturity part of the program was added, to give breeders further opportunity to showcase their Shar-Pei breeding programs.

Our Futurity/Maturity program has operated continuously since 1993. The originators stepped down from operation in 2003 and transferred the program to the current staff. We are proud that it has continued to have the support of our club members as the numbers of litters and dogs registered has risen and fallen over the years. Breeders remain committed to and supportive of the program, whatever the number of litters they breed, and the program has improved the quality of Shar-Pei being exhibited.

More information will be shared in the March 2012 column. If your club is interested in the particulars of the CSPCA's Futurity/Maturity program, please contact our director, Jocelyn Barker, at mjbarker53@hotmail.com. — J.B.

Thank you, Jocelyn. —*Jo Ann Redditt; orientpubl@aol.com*

Chow Chows The Perfect Home

As Chow Chow breeders, we were always determined that each puppy or retired champion go to "the perfect home." Through the years, we have been very fortunate with each placement. The following letter is one of the many heartwarming notes that we have received.

“She is the best dog, ever! We really love her and are quite sure she loves us. It is now *her* house, her yard, her old Chow buddy Barkley, her family. She has inherited an aversion to closed doors—all doors have to be open, all the time, so she can see what is going on everywhere. Including the front door, when we are home. She has found the spots where she can see everything in the house and yard, and parks herself there.

“We might not have mentioned that our initial fears of her not eating were overblown. She is now on a diet. I have asked the neighbors on both sides of us to stop feeding her. The grandkids from next door have gone home from their summer vacation, so that will help. I think she was having lunch with them every day. The elderly neighbors are instructed one biscuit a day—no matter how big her eyes get. My ‘treat’ budget each month hovers around \$200—I’m clearly at fault too. The vet suggested baby carrots to feed her to fill up, and she seems to like them.

“Wherever we are, she is. She really supervises my husband and our 14-year-old Chow—quite adamant that they keep to their schedules. If my husband takes too long in the shower at night, she lets him know by banging in and out of the bathroom. When he finally emerges, she escorts him down the hall to the family room.

“She is so cute ... she lowers her head, her ears stick out sideways, and she keeps right on top of him. She escorts our old Chow out the dog-door when it is time to go to bed so that he can potty. She stands right next to him to supervise, then herds him back in the house and down the hall to bed.

“The elderly couple next door had their daughter and son-in-law stay last weekend, along with their 4-year-old Lab and a 9-month-old Lab. We let the puppy in our yard, and she and they chased each other for about an hour. That night she was snoring like you wouldn’t believe. She was exhausted!

“We are so wild about her, I can’t tell you. Like I said, the best dog ever. I grew my fingernails out a little longer

so I can scratch her through her very thick coat. Her hair is like black velvet, so thick and shiny.”

We hope that most Chow Chows can enjoy a wonderful family relationship and bring joy to their people. —
Linda Love Banghart;
Lkendr4300@aol.com

Dalmatians Attrition

In a recent GAZETTE article written by longtime successful dog woman Helen Lee James, she makes an observation regarding the state of our sport.

She says, “At the moment our sport is undergoing a serious threat from new people coming in and quickly going out.”

She attributes this phenomenon to the lack of mentoring by experienced breeders and judges. It is said that the average newcomer in the sport stays for about five years and then quits.

This got me thinking. As one who enjoys chatting with newbies at ringside or elsewhere, I think Mrs. James is probably right ... and wrong.

What are the odds that the same few dogs win at shows—no matter who is judging, or where in the country they are, or how big or small the show is? Since the law of averages dictates that this is not likely, what is the explanation for this?

What about the sheer coincidence of the major winners at each show also being the very people we see in the splashy, full-color ads in the dog magazines, week after week? Or maybe it’s not such a coincidence at all. Rarely does an owner-handler advance through the groups and bring home the red, white, and blue.

Is there any possibility that the newcomers are noticing these puzzling coincidences and getting an overwhelming feeling of futility, and given the rising costs of everything, are taking the high road? Even the most talented and experienced owner-handlers are at a major disadvantage in our sport, and that’s a real shame.

I would be the last person to criticize

or lessen the value of the contribution that professional handlers make to our sport. They are doing the job they are paid to do. I blame the judges for the futility the newcomer feels, and the AKC for turning a blind eye to bad judging.

Of course the pro has more experience in presenting an exhibit, accentuating its virtues and minimizing its faults. But the experienced judge can see the worth of an exhibit even if it’s not presented like a pro would present it—can’t he?

The judge’s responsibility is to point to the dog who most exhibits an adherence to the breed standard. All too often, this is not what is happening in rings across America today.

Judges should be reminded that all of the dogs handled by the pros were bred by someone who knew what they were doing, and often by those who choose to remain obscure and who never enter the ring.

Maybe we should endeavor to boycott those judges who consistently judge badly. Not only does this result in a lot of mediocre champions, but it also causes the newcomers to go away discouraged. This is very harmful to our sport. —*Sharon Boyd;*
Cotndale@aol.com.

Finnish Spitz The Red Spitz of Finland

Several lovely spitz breeds are native to Finland. One is all red and is Finland’s national dog. It is known in the United States and in other English-speaking countries as the Finnish Spitz.

The Finnish Spitz is one of the few all-red breeds in the world. Even though the breed standard in Finland and in most, if not all, other countries allows white on toes and a small spot or stripe of white on chest, one will not likely see a Finnish Spitz with any white in a show ring in Finland. The intent of the Finns to eliminate all white from the breed is reflected in the dogs they show. At ringside at national specialties and at local shows in various parts of Finland, I never saw a Finnish Spitz with any visible white.

According to general information, in earlier times there was quite a lot of white on the feet, legs, chest, and underbelly of the forebearers of today's national dog of Finland.

Although the Finns have had great success in reducing the amount of white, the occasional appearance of a spot or stripe of white on chest and a bit of white on toes persists. The intent of the Finns to eliminate all white is quite evident in general conversation about the breed. For example, a long-time breeder lamented to me that their century-long effort to breed out all white had not been a complete success.

The Red Spitz appears to have a special place in Finnish culture. It has not been my appraisal that the Finns are obsessed with the color red; rather, that they consciously or subconsciously recognize the vital role that the little red dog with the pointed ears has played throughout the centuries in Finnish life. After all, much of Finland's way of life is strongly influenced by its historic hunting culture.

In earlier days, a Finn's livelihood for himself and his family was dependent upon his hunting success in dense forests, and his hunting success was dependent upon the game-finding expertise of his dog. The primary dog used was an all-game hunter with a brownish, red-gold coat.

His color greatly enhanced his hunting ability because it blended with the browns, reds, and golds of the forest during the autumn, when storing meat for the winter was crucial to survival. The similarity of the dog's color to the colors of autumn allowed it to search almost without detection by the game being hunted. Thus the ancestors of today's national dog played a vital role in the way of life of early-day Finland.

Today, when hunting is primarily for sport rather than for necessity, the red dog who has played such an important role in the Finns' way of life throughout the centuries still holds a special place in Finnish culture. His color seems almost sacred.

The American Kennel Club's breed standard for the Finnish Spitz places

much emphasis upon various aspects of the dog's color. Both the specifics and the intent of this emphasis on color should be highly regarded by breeders, by exhibitors, and by judges in the show ring. After all, the Finnish Spitz is red-gold by purpose. —*Dr. Tom T. Walker; tommarg@onr.com*

French Bulldogs Flying Frenchies

The French Bulldog breed column in the October 1950 AKC GAZETTE began with the following sad story.

"Little 'Popsy Welch' is dead. He died being shipped from Boston to Bar Harbor. Many Frenchies have been successfully shipped by air—but we have had several fatalities this year.

"It behooves one when shipping a dog—especially a short-nosed dog that may have trouble with its breathing if excited—to place him in the crate as near departure time as possible and explain to the person in attendance just what to do in case the dog becomes overheated or excited or frightened.

"French Bulldogs are usually house-pets or are raised in a home in small numbers and become frightened if subjected to some unusual experience, especially when separated from the humans to whom they are accustomed. Special instruction to the attendant or written suggestions for the care of the dog to be shipped, together with his call name pasted to his crate, will make for a happier little traveling dog.

"Sometimes a favorite toy, a familiar bone, or a discarded piece of apparel of his favorite human placed in the crate with the dog will make him feel less deserted.

"'Popsy Welch' was 8-year-old La France Ricco, owned by Dr. James Mitchell of Bar Harbor and Washington. Dr. Mitchell writes: 'I have not been without a Frenchy since 1893, when I was a first-year medical student at Johns Hopkins Hospital and called my first French Bulldog "Popsy Welch" after Dr. William Welch, dean of the medical school and known to all as Popsy Welch. I just could not get along without a French Bulldog.'"

In 2011, 61 years later, it's still dangerous to fly Frenchies. The U.S. Department of Transportation's data showed that between May 2005 and May 2010, brachycephalic breeds represented about half of all in-flight deaths of dogs. Most airlines will not ship dogs at all in warm weather, and some will allow brachycephalic breeds to fly in only the passenger cabin.

Flying Frenchies is dangerous in all weather, however, because it's not just high temperature that represents a threat. First, cargo holds are generally pressurized to about 8,000 feet of altitude, so that the oxygen level is very low, and this can cause a dog to breathe harder.

Additionally, *anything* that makes a Frenchie breathe hard—such as stress, pain, anxiety, excitement, exercise, or heat—creates problems in the airway. When a Frenchie pants strenuously for any of those reasons, the extra effort required to move air through the brachycephalic airway causes the tissues lining it to become inflamed and swollen, further obstructing airflow.

The thick, foamy saliva produced with this sort of labored breathing can further clog up the throat, and the dog becomes more and more agitated as he struggles to breathe, creating a vicious circle: Increased demand for air causes panting, which causes irritation, which causes swelling, which causes even more strenuous panting, which further irritates and compromises the airway. Too often the result is death.

The moral of the story: Shipping a Frenchie by air, provided you can find an airline that will do it, is to risk killing the dog. —*Jan Grebe; greebeez@aol.com*

Keeshonden Keeshond Therapy Work

Every breed has that special task, skill, or purpose at which they excel. For our breed, the place where they truly excel has been as a companion to adults, families, and children. From their instinctive kindness and understanding to their soft coat, the Keeshond is a natural

friend and comfort—so it is not much of a stretch from there to being an outstanding dog for therapy-response work.

Many Keeshonden now participate in therapy work, and we appreciate them and their handlers and all they do for their communities. Following are a few who have some special stories to tell.

Cindy Ehler's Tikva was the only Keeshond to be part of the 9/11 relief efforts. She was part of a four-dog therapy team that responded from Oregon, and she is the only one still living.

Tikva has been serving as a crisis-response dog for over a decade. She has received multiple awards, including the Pacific Chapter Red Cross Hero Dog Award, AKC ACE honorable mention, and even an award from the Westchester cat show, for rescuing a cat from a building across from the Towers.

But what she will always be best known for is her work on 9/11. I first heard about Tikva in the week following the disaster.

Dr. Cindy Otto is a veterinarian who was at that time working at the University of Pennsylvania. She was a volunteer search-and-rescue worker and provided veterinary support to the dogs working the 9/11 site. We were in touch daily as she relayed the needs of the dogs and their handlers at Ground Zero while the AKC Canine Health Foundation coordinated raising funds and seeking grants for follow-up health care.

One day Cindy said, "There is a Keeshond here working as a therapy dog for the workers." I asked her to tell me more, and she said, "She is amazing. Working with her, this is the first time we have seen any of the workers smile." Tikva provided to the workers the same "therapy" that we receive every day living with our wonderful Keeshonden.

The KCA board voted to sponsor Cindy and Tikva and their trip to the 9/11 memorial ceremony. Of the approximately 300 dogs who had worked the site, 12 survive. Prior to the ceremony, current search-and-rescue

dog teams of New York City lined the parade route to honor the surviving dogs attending. We can all be proud of our breed, our club, and Cindy and Tikva for all the work they have done over the years—and the work they are still doing to support people in crises.

The first Keeshond to hold the new therapy-dog title is RuttKay Autumn Bronze, VCD1, CDX, RE, OF, OAJ, THD, TD1, AOV.

As is evidenced by the titles after her name, Autumn is an also an accomplished obedience, rally, and agility competitor. She is owned and loved by Daisy Kramer of Enola, Pennsylvania, and was bred by L. Mae Evans, of RuttKay Keeshond.

Autumn and Daisy participate in a number of therapy activities including visits to nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, and local parades as part of her activities with her local therapy group. Autumn also attends elementary school once a week for an hour while second graders read to her. She has earned the TDI/AOV title, which means she has made 150 therapy-dog visits. She needs only 19 more to earn her TDI/RVA, Therapy Dog International Remarkable Volunteer Achievement.

Daisy says, "Autumn and I enjoy bringing the love and healing power of a dog to hundreds of people every year and are encouraged by the recognition given by the American Kennel Club in awarding the THD title to us."

Rainkees Time to Buy Bonds, RD, CGC is another Keeshond who holds the new title. Owned by Kathy Gray, of Beaverton, Oregon, "Bonnie" works with the Beaverton Police Activities League, reading with at-risk children. Bonnie works with both Kathy and her daughter Sami, who was only 15 when she began attending classes and therapy sessions with Bonnie. Now that Sami is 16 and can drive, Sami and Bonnie can make visits as a team.

Kathy says, "Bonnie has an amazing, loving, and—some would say—some-what needy personality. Together we have had many unique opportunities through our therapy work. Bonnie just turned 8, and we plan to continue our

therapy work for a very long time." —
Debbie Lynch; dlnpoconsult@gmail.com

Lhasa Apsos

Our guest columnist is Marilyn M. Miller.

Rally Good Time

Rally has become a popular sport. The first AKC rally rings were set up January 1, 2005. That year, there were 1,065 trials with 74,521 entries. In 2010, there were 2,118 trials with 80,530 entries.

There are three levels of rally.

Rally Novice is done on-lead, which must be loose.

Rally Advanced is off-lead, with one jump. A bar, high, or broad jump may be used. Food bowls or dog toys may be added around the figure-eight exercise.

Rally Excellent is off-lead, with two jumps and an "honor station." Here the dog must assume a sit or down-stay for the duration of the next dog's run of the course. There are 50 registered rally AKC signs. Signs are placed on the course so as to be on the handler's right.

The RAE title (Rally/Advanced Excellent) is for the ambitious. The dog must qualify in Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent on the same day 10 times. Moonpye's Luckee Fella, CD, was the first Lhasa to achieve this title in August 2009.

Rally signs are placed on the floor in numerical order. The signs include descriptions and directional arrows of the exercise.

If an exercise is done incorrectly or skipped, it may be repeated with a three-point penalty. If the dog bumps into the handler there is a penalty, but a perfect heel position is not required.

Before the start of each class, handlers may do walk-throughs of the course to familiarize themselves with the course. A map of the course is also available.

Rally was designed for the regular pet owner, but it is also challenging for handlers who enjoy higher levels of competition.

Some judges have said rally is a step-

ping-stone to regular obedience. That may be, but three of my four Lhasas with rally titles had previously earned their CD title and Canine Good Citizen certification.

Many of the commands are the same, such as sit, stay, stand, down, front, and finish. Double commands are allowed (verbal and hand signals). It is not easy. You have to be aware of your dog, read the signs correctly, and keep the numbered signs in order.

The great part about rally is that you can talk to your dog and encourage her along the course. Teamwork is important between dog and handler.

When a run is over, the handler must have at least 70 points out of 100 to qualify for a leg. Three legs under two different judges are required for any title.

Rally is open to AKC-registered dogs who are at least 6 months old. Two of my Lhasas earned their Rally Novice titles at age 11!

The ALAC holds rally trials at its national specialties. I have shown my Lhasas in rally for six years, yet I've seen only one other Lhasa in the ring. My trainer has never had other Lhasas in her classes. Where are all the Lhasa people? These are smart dogs who like to perform.

From January 1, 2005, through June 30 of this year, the AKC has recorded 105 rally titles for Lhasa Apsos. I would like to hear from some Lhasa people who show in other parts of the country. —M.M.

Thank you, Marilyn. Contact her at mmoonpye@gmail.com. —Cassandra de la Rosa; drcas@msn.com

Löwchen

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?

We've all heard the old saying, "There's no perfect dog." And that is certainly true. But is there a perfect breed? Now that's another question. Do I have an answer? No, but I have to admit that the Löwchen comes pretty darn close.

So what's so great about them? Let's take a look!

The Good. Löwchen are small, portable, and cute to a fault, with uplifting personalities. They are adaptable to the nth degree, agile, smart, and intuitive—all of these adjectives scream *Löwchen!* Plus, they have this very special way about them: They seem to know what is expected or needed from them, sometimes even before their owner does. Then there is their soundness. Alice nailed it right on the head in her last column—they are bombproof, both physically and mentally. Would that we humans could be so lucky.

The Bad. Oh, my, can Löwchen be bad! But in their case it isn't "bad" bad, it's just naughty.

Naughty as in playing keep-away when you try to pick them up (and, boy, are they quick).

Naughty as in deciding to "forget" their lead-breaking during a romp in the park by giving a show of how well they can walk on only two legs.

Naughty as in always having to have the last bark when told to be quiet (they "woof it down" gradually, but they simply must have that last bark).

Naughty as in doing *anything* silly when told to do something they don't want to do. (P.S.—A Löwchen's definition of "anything" is very broad indeed!)

The Ugly? Well, I can't think of anything ugly about Löwchen, period. They do need grooming, but they are not "ugly" about it at all. As a matter of fact, most Löwchen simply adore being brushed and fussed over. They are of little square footage and their coat texture is not at all difficult to bathe and blow-dry. And the added bonus is the way they simply prance around when they are all done!

OK, so we are agreed that Löwchen are not ugly at all—but maybe some people find them a little odd-looking? The requisite lion trim can cause more than one lifted eyebrow. (Shoot, you should see some of the looks I get when I take Joanie out of her Sherpa bag to go through airport security—she's gotten a laugh out of more than one TSA agent!) I know for a fact that

some folks don't particularly care for the traditional clip, but personally, I love it! I see it as a beautiful and defining characteristic of the Löwchen. While form truly does follow function, form follows tradition as well. And we will explore that topic in our next column. (This is a heads-up, folks, so stay tuned!)

Is this the perfect breed? To some, yes; to others, no. But one thing is for sure: No one who has ever spent one-on-one time with a Löwchen will ever doubt their elegance, their intelligence, or their ability to make life fun!

Note: Many thanks to departing LCA columnist Alice Bixler for sharing her wonderful thoughts about the breed over the years. Alice, you will be a hard act to follow! —Dana Read; otakalhasas@aol.com

Poodles

The Value of a Good Show Chair: Carlson's Legacy

Those who have attended the Poodle Club of America national during recent years have usually been impressed—not only by the glamor of the show, but also by the clockwork precision with which this event has been run year after year.

Those not directly involved in the operation find it impossible to grasp the complexities that running a show of this magnitude entails and the number of people involved in making this show the success it has become. In the context of national specialties, it's no wonder PCA's event has been called "the greatest show on earth."

Although there are numerous people who have contributed to the success of our national during the last two decades, the name that comes to mind as having been mostly responsible for elevating the PCA national to the height it now enjoys is that of Glenna Carlson.

Unfortunately, Glenna passed away on the third of September last. The timing of her passing was unexpected in spite of her declining health.

Glenna was first appointed show chair during 1993 and served in this capacity for four or five years during

the 1990s. She then served in the same position for the decade ending with the 2010 show, a period during which the national flourished in spite of numerous challenges.

During her tenure, the national was moved from the outdoor location at Ludwig's Corner, Pennsylvania, to the striking indoor facility at Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and then to the current arena at Salisbury, Maryland. Under Glenna's leadership, the moves went without a hitch.

Glenna's personality was reflected in her management style. She was an intelligent, result-oriented, fair but tough lady who developed an efficient, smooth-running organization. She expected everyone to perform their jobs well but was always prepared to handle the eventualities when things went awry.

Micromanagement was not in Glenna's vocabulary. She never expected of others more than she would demand of herself.

Glenna was resourceful and progressive and always seized opportunities to make the shows more profitable or to enhance their "wow" factor: She came up with the idea to charge spectators for preferred seating and proposed the use of streaming video that allowed judging to be watched on screens placed all over the arena—and made available via subscription all over the world.

As a breeder, Glenna developed a prominent line of standard Poodles under the Ascot prefix, which included several group and Best in Show winners. Her bitch Ch. Ascot Easy Does It, was the Best in Show winner at the Poodle Club of America's 1990 national.

During 2006, Glenna was elected to the PCA Board of Directors as standard representative running from the floor, at a time when it was the opinion of some that the show chair should not hold a seat on the board. She later became first vice president, a position she held until 2010, and during her time on the board she consistently respected the rules of the club and

argued against those who used their positions to advance their personal agendas.

The PCA has suffered a great loss, but it is lucky to have someone with the expertise and stature of Dennis McCoy to carry on as show chair. — Luis Aizcorbe; aizcorbel@bellsouth.net

Schipperkes

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Charles Harris, a breeder from Michigan, regarding his trip to France where he attended and participated in the Nationale d'Élevage, which is that country's equivalent to our national specialty.

His insights and comments were interesting, and I thought many of you would enjoy hearing about the experience.

Comments on the Nationale d'Élevage

This was your second time to attend this event, correct?

Yes. I attended in 2009, and now again in 2011.

What was the entry like in numbers?

Sixty Schips total. I brought two from the U.S. (a dog and a bitch), and there were seven from Finland. The rest were French.

First, describe some aspects of the handling and ring procedures that are different from here in the U.S.

That was one change from the first time I was there. The judge no longer put the dogs on a table for examination. The judge squatted down to visually examine the dogs. They do count teeth.

The judge allowed double-handling, and in fact he even requested for other people to enter the ring and call the dog so that he could see the animal's expression. No one would ever get on his or her knee to present a Schipperke.

The exhibition of dogs was very informal, both in manner and in dress.

So tell me, what were some of the differences between the French and American Schips?

Well, of course they have a different standard.

[They use the FCI standard, which is true of most European countries—if

you are interested, feel free to visit Mr. Harris's website, renjenschipperkes.com, where he has some of the Belgian standards for the Schipperke available for education and comparison.]

As a note of interest, in France Schipperkes are judged at this show and most others along with the other Belgian shepherding breeds.

In a very broad generalization their dogs tend to have more leg, and be lighter in body. French Schips are typically lighter in bone than ours also. Our dogs are more "cobby."

What about coats?

The French dogs are very dark. Their coats are very black! They tend to be harsher in texture than the American dogs'. As is true here, the pattern is more or less distinguished. I noticed some of the dogs which I felt possessed a bit nicer pattern or a bit more quantity of coats do go back on American stock.

What about tails?

The French still allow docking. However, per FCI, any sort of tail is allowable. My guess would be that about 70 percent or more of the dogs at this show were docked.

Valkohampaan Juanita, in 2005, is the only Schipperke with a tail to be Best of Breed at this national show.

Interesting ... on the dogs with tails, did you see more of the curled spitz tail, or the hanging shepherd tail?

Curled spitz type.

Do they allow "colored" Schips to be exhibited? And or/did you see any while in France?

Black is the only acceptable color in France.

As we had much more to discuss this interview continues in the next column. Merry Schipmas to all, and stay tuned for the rest of the story! —Virginia Larioza; raffineeskips@cac.net

Shiba Inu Interview: Dr. Jean Dodds

The book *The Canine Thyroid Epidemic*, by Jean Dodds, DVM, created some buzz on the Shiba Inu discussion lists when first published. Dodds is a consultant in clinical pathology through Hemopet/Hemolife,

teaching animal–health care professionals, companion animal fanciers, and pet owners about hematology, blood-banking, immunology, endocrinology, nutrition, and holistic medicine.

Following are some questions about the Shiba Inu and thyroid malfunction and her responses.

Are you seeing an increase in the number of Shibas being diagnosed with hypothyroidism?

Yes.

Is the breed becoming higher-risk?

It's certainly at medium risk, but you don't want things to get worse!

Is all hypothyroidism inherited?

If you add thyroiditis–positive cases to those with familial hypothyroidism (which runs in families), then it's more than 90 percent.

If not inherited, what might cause the condition to develop? It could be from overvaccination, chemical exposures, nutritional excesses (such as kelp over-feeding), or deficiencies.

Should a Shiba who has low thyroid ever be bred? The condition can be passed on to some offspring. It depends upon whether or not the individuals have elevated thyroid autoantibodies. Also to be considered is whether they have desirable breed type and temperament.

Are any of the possible symptoms more common in Shibas/northern breeds that alert owners to have the dog tested?

Not really, although temperament is a biggie in all the Japanese breeds.

Is there any difference in the treatment plan for a northern breed versus that for any other breed, or between a spayed or neutered dog versus those intact?

No, although recent cumulative data say that spayed females are at higher risk than intact females. This is controversial, as so many young and middle-aged adult female dogs are spayed these days.

At what age is a Shiba most likely to develop hypothyroidism?

At 1.5 to 2.5 years in one “cluster, and 3 to 6 years in the second “cluster.”

Is there anything that can be done nutritionally to stack the deck in favor of a Shiba not developing hypothyroidism, or to help normalize a dog who already has it?

Yes. First is to not overdo adding

kelp to the diet—too much iodine suppresses thyroid activity and even promotes thyroiditis. So, both too little and too much iodine are important, as are copper, selenium, zinc, and vitamin E.

Do you see any connection between feeding raw versus kibble and hypothyroidism?

Yes, raw diets are best, followed by home-cooked, then grain-free, then the rest.

Do you recommend that all Shibas be tested? If so, what would be the optimal age for initial testing?

Yes. Start at puberty in males (10 to 14 months) and in the anestrus after the first maiden heat in females [that is, 12 to 16 weeks after the onset of this heat]. Then, with females, annually until age 6, always in anestrus in between heats. Breed, if normal, after age 3 or at least after two or three normal tests.

Are there any points you want to be sure people are aware of that we can include in the article?

Just that thyroid supplements need to be given twice daily to match the 12 to 16–hour half-life of thyroxine, and that this medication should always be given at least an hour before or three hours after meals and treats containing calcium and soy—as these foods bind to thyroxine and impair its absorption.

Mary Engstrom and I thank you very much for your consideration.

My pleasure! —*Patricia Doescher;*
hi_jinx@itis.com

Tibetan Spaniels For Better or Worse

I doubt that my spouse had any idea what was in store for him when we recited our wedding vows. There were no dogs in our life then. He was supportive when I began in the sport, but he had no interest in being a participant.

He's come a long way since then, as he will now take care of the dogs in my absence, has attended more than one dog show (three), and learned not to stick his hands or any other body parts within a five-foot range of two angry dogs. So in other words, he's become moderately adept in the position of unpaid kennel help.

One Friday evening, he volunteered

to go scoop the dog yards while I prepared dinner for us and the dogs. Ten minutes later, he came into the house with a ripped shirt and blood spouting out of his chest from a wound over his heart, with a face drained of all color.

I guided him into a chair and took a look at the wound and asked, “What in doG's name did you do?”

I decided that ice and hydrogen peroxide were in order. As I dashed to get them, I was thinking, *I've knocked out a capped front tooth during a dog breeding, broken my arm falling on the ice in the parking lot loading into a show, and have had countless black-and-blue marks, broken nails, and crunched toes and fingers, but did I hear him right? He fell on the handle of the pooper-scooper, and it broke in half and stabbed him in the chest?!*

Ten minutes later, I'm looking at a giant hematoma that is growing by the second. Forget dinner, forget dog food, we are going to the hospital—*now*.

I suspect that many dog people are well acquainted with emergency-room personnel and protocol. Broken ankles, arms, and shoulders along with the occasional dog bite, strained back, knocked-out teeth, and black eyes are common among members of the fancy. These war wounds are badges of honor earned while in the pursuit of lofty goals. But falling on a pooper-scooper while scooping dog poop—the lowest job on the totem pole—is one for the record books.

The third person in our emergency-room chain of command that night was the physicians' assistant who had removed a crochet hook from my finger about six months prior. She was the first person in the ER not to give me that accusatory look one receives when you bring your spouse into the ER with a pooper-scooper wound.

When the doctor did her exam she said X-rays and a CT scan are needed and suggests overnight stay. She says I can come get him in the morning.

I reply, “Good thing I don't have a dog show tomorrow.”

Again that look from the doctor, and out of my mouth comes, “Well I have the plotline for my first dog mystery—

the murder weapon is a pooper-scooper in the ex-pen.” Hubby laughs, and the ER personnel look at him like *you poor man*.

End result was another two sets of X-rays, two CT scans, a visit to a cardiothoracic surgeon, and a six-thousand-dollar hospital bill. Very expensive for unpaid kennel help. —*Dianne Tyree, Brookline; di24kk9s@wexfordgold.com*

Tibetan Terriers To Clip or Not to Clip

It's a red-letter day and before you sits, in glorious, full coat that took huge amounts of time to nurture, your brand-new champion. What next? Is this Tibetan Terrier going to be one you take onto the new Grand Champion level? Or is she going to be the mother of your next litter? In today's show world, the grand championship has added a new dimension, a new option.

The long, flowing coat is one factor that first attracted most of us to the breed. Like many, we chose to keep our first Tibetan Terrier in coat long after she

finished her championship. In fact, she raised two litters in full coat. Ori lived for nearly 18 years, and she spent nearly half of that time in long coat.

I'm not sure if clipping is harder for the dog or for the owner. Every time I retire a champion, it takes great determination to make that first cut.

I've had many a Tibetan Terrier look at me in horror when the first locks fell onto the table. Then, more often than not, when the haircut is completed and the dog is off the table, he gives himself a good shake and goes skipping off to play. I'm convinced that if he could jump and click his heels he would. The reaction of the rest of the pack always fascinates me. A newly shorn pack member is always checked out from stem to stern to confirm *different hairdo, same dog*.

I'm always somewhat amused when new Tibetan Terriers owners tell me that they are going to keep their new companion in full coat. Most owners do rather well with their pup until that pup begins the transition from puppy to adult coat. When their beloved puppy begins to mat

faster than they can brush, the local groomer gets an SOS call.

Breeders, too, can become overwhelmed. Keeping even a small pack of Tibetan Terriers in full coat can be a full-time job, with weekly bathing and drying for each. As beautiful as the long coat is, practicality dictates keeping at least some of our retired champions groomed in a puppy clip.

A Tibetan Terrier mother is so much easier to deal with when cut down. Just imagine what a litter of six puppies can do to a full adult coat, with 12 little feet pawing away while they nurse. Then, of course, there is also the danger of a puppy getting caught in or strangled by the long hair.

Kudos to our 2012 nationals committee. For the first time, our national will include sweepstakes classes for cut-down Tibetan Terriers.

What great fun that will be for exhibitors and their retirees, and what a great opportunity for prospective judges to get a good look at what is under all that glorious hair. —*Margie Wikerd; bluvali@verizon.net*

Australian Shepherds MVA: Most Versatile Aussie

The hallmark of Australian Shepherds is versatility. They are not only to be found on ranches and farms, herding livestock of all kinds, but they also appear at children's homes and senior centers doing therapy work, walk side by side with the blind as guide dogs, assist the physically handicapped as utility dogs, act as "ears" to the hearing-impaired, sleuth for criminals and contraband as police and narcotics dogs, risk their lives and well-being around the world on search-and-rescue missions, supply amusement as rodeo and circus performers, and even show up for work in places like Alaska, where some serve as sled dogs. On top of all that, they warm our hearts as loving and loyal companions!

It is not surprising, then, that the Aussie can be found competing in a wide variety of events in the show world. At the national specialty, these wide-ranging talents are displayed in the Most Versatile Aussie competition (MVA), an event that produces the Aussie and handler who do the best overall in all of the competitions offered at the show: herding, conformation, obedience, rally, agility, and (sometimes) tracking.

With the exception of conformation, dogs are entered in the regular events, and scores are based on actual accomplishments in the ring. Bonus points are awarded to dogs who successfully vie at advanced levels, ensuring that the most skilled dogs and handlers are not unfairly outdone by novices accumulating easier tallies.

All of the MVA competitors have to

enter the herding trial, because the Aussie is after all a herding breed. Furthermore, a qualifying score must be obtained in herding or the team is automatically out of the running for an award.

Participation in conformation is also required because, of course, a dog with the best conformation is most likely to be able to fulfill its function. This is the only part of the competition where the competitors do not compete against each other in the regular show ring. Instead, they go into the ring together as one class and are evaluated by a judge specially chosen by the national-specialty committee.

The judge has a score sheet for each dog and (going by the breed standard) gives points in three categories: appearance, movement, and structure. A score of 100 overall is perfect. The conforma-

tion result has sometimes meant the difference between winning and losing, so in the last couple of years, competitors have taken to engaging experienced breed handlers to show their dogs!

Finally, entrants must earn a qualifying score in at least one of the performance events offered—that is, agility, obedience, rally, or tracking. In practice, competition is so intense that competitors enter everything.

One might think that participation across such a wide spectrum would result in teams that are adequate at everything, but excellent at nothing. The opposite is the case. MVA competitors frequently earn Highs in Trial and earn top conformation rosettes. Again, the competition is so intense and well matched that failure to excel means failure to win.

The United States Australian Shepherd Association (USASA) recognizes the achievement of successfully finishing this event. For the club, completing the MVA competition without disqualifying is like completing the decathlon at the Olympics, even if one doesn't win. The MVA winner is given trophies and a rosette equivalent to what is awarded the Best of Breed winner in conformation. Second- through fourth-place finishers also receive high honors, while all others receive qualifying rosettes. To underscore the accomplishment of winning—or even finishing, the MVA awards are now presented at the club's annual banquet, thus showcasing what is the essence of the Australian Shepherd: versatility! — *Stevens Parr, Stevens.Parr@gmail.com*

Bearded Collies

Hairy Houdini

“This is the finest crate made,” said the vendor, smacking his hand on top. “If your dog can get out of it, we’ll give it to you for free.” At those words, we came to a screeching halt, and my friend and I grinned at each other. “Will you put that in writing?” I queried. The vendor went on to extol the virtues of this sturdy crate, but he backed off when I again

suggested I’d like to see his offer in black and white. Maybe it was because I radiated confidence, absolutely certain I could get a brand-new crate if he followed through. Because I knew there was no crate made that Brit couldn’t open. My brown Bearded boy had proved that, time and time again. Brit never destroyed a crate during his escapes; he simply studied how they worked, calculated how to tackle the job, and went to it.

From time to time, there’s a Bearded who definitely ranks as an escape artist, but I doubt there’s ever been a hairy Houdini whose escapades can top those of Brit. He first displayed his talent with one of the early fold-up, wire airline crates.

I came back to my van to find the crate on its side and Brit roaming around free. Initially, I thought it was just an accident—until it happened again, and again. Brit had deduced that turning the crate on its side took the pressure off the latch, and it slipped out easily.

His next crate had a spring-loaded latch, which Brit ignored. The top of the crate flipped over and fastened in place by means of two metal loops which hooked over the side. Duck soup! Brit merely pulled the side of the crate inward until the loops released and out he went through the top. Who needs a door? Then I acquired a Vari-Kennel for him; no problem. He started bumping and bumping until a couple of the bolts that held the two halves together came unscrewed. Squeezing through the opening, he was free once again. And so it went.

It wasn’t just crates. Brit felt any enclosure was a challenge. We worked all afternoon putting up his first run when he was just a pup of 5 months. Satisfied with the job, we put him in and walked off. We were only about 10 feet away when we realized Brit was bounding along beside us. So much for that run! The next run we constructed was taller, stronger, and big enough to contain the gang.

Forever embedded in my memory was the day I came home from work

wearing a white linen suit to be joyously greeted by five muddy Beardedies following Brit through a hole he had dug under the fence. I dove back into my car, slammed the door, and leaned on the horn. *Help!*

A professional fencing company was called in to put up a proper run. I explained that one of my dogs was an escape artist. As the fence man packed up his equipment, he looked proudly at his work and said smugly, “No dog is going to get out of that.”

Brit climbed out and was standing beside me before the truck was out of sight.

Eventually, we installed a run we felt suited his talents. It was constructed of six-foot-high heavy chain-link, which was cemented into concrete blocks on three sides. The fourth was firmly attached to a kennel building. Heavy wire had been laid on the ground and covered with gravel to prevent him from digging out, and the top of the run was covered in sturdy wire fencing attached to the chain-link.

He escaped, of course.

One day my son reported, “Mom, Brit’s running around on the roof (of the kennel building).” Brit managed by climbing to the top of the fence and holding on while using his teeth and paws to undo the fastenings that connected the wire top to the chain-link. Once the opening was big enough and he didn’t need a lot of space, he crawled through.

The odd part was that Brit never went anywhere after escaping. Usually, he’d show up at the front door or wherever I happened to be with this *hey-look-what-I-did* expression.

And so it went for the 14 years of his life. When he died, we lived in a house in the country, where a fence separated the yard from the surrounding fields. I asked my son if he would dig a grave for Brit.

I went out to run some errands and suggested he shovel out a spot just inside the corner of the fence. When I returned, I found Kell had dug the grave outside the fence and asked why.

“I couldn’t do that to him,” he told

me. "All his life, Brit never wanted to be fenced in, so I just couldn't put him inside a fence in death." —*Alice Bixler, alicejb@att.net*

Beaucerons Breed Health

The Beauceron has the reputation of being a sound breed with few health issues. Being historically used for farm work, these dogs were bred when needed for their strength, endurance, and soundness.

World War I depleted the Beauceron population, as many dogs were lost while serving on the battlefields carrying messages, searching for the wounded, and helping recover them.

Peacetime gave Beauceron devotees the opportunity to rebuild the breed—slowly at first, but at a more active pace in the late 1990s, type and temperament were the main preoccupations of breeders. Producing a dog with a perfect conformation and temperament is a daunting challenge for any breeder, but it becomes even more so when you add breeding for health. There are a few conditions present in the breed to be aware of.

Since the Beauceron is a large breed, hip dysplasia is a concern. According to OFA, 13.9 percent of the Beaucerons tested have abnormal hip ratings, while 4.8 percent show abnormal elbow ratings. In some cases, relatively young dogs have required surgery.

A troubling ailment present in the breed is dilated cardiomyopathy, or DCM. Given the breed's relatively small U.S. gene pool, this is particularly worrisome. The disease, believed to be a hereditary condition known to affect mostly—but not exclusively—males, has an occult phase and is often detected after a dog is well past puppyhood.

A Beauceron suffering from DCM is capable of performing brilliantly in his field for a few years, making the discovery of the disease an incredibly crushing blow to the masters and the Beauceron community. Unfortunately, there is no cure for DCM; it can only be managed with the joint efforts of

the owners and their veterinarians. Some Beaucerons in the United States have been known to live for years under the careful and sustained care of their owners. The best cure is prevention. At minimum, only thoroughly screened animals whose parents are clear of the disease should be used for breeding. The most definite diagnostic tool for DCM is the echocardiogram, an ultrasound evaluation of the heart. It is accurate and thorough but expensive. Auscultation alone is not adequate to deliver a comprehensive diagnosis.

Also reported in the Beauceron are cases of lymphosarcoma and mast-cell tumors, thyroid malfunction, heart murmur, and allergies. Statistics on these ailments are not known, and information on these conditions is confidential.

The breed's health data still is fragmented, but it is being steadily compiled through the sustained efforts of Beauceron people and with the support of the American Beauceron Club. Responsible breeders and owners contribute blood samples of their dogs to ensure the success of research aimed at finding markers for specific ailments. Clinical data collection and DNA testing allow the AKC-sponsored Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) to address pressing health issues and supply answers to all concerned dog lovers.

All living creatures are affected by their environment; pollution takes its toll and brings on a variety of diseases. Advances in research and veterinary sciences supported by the involvement of breed clubs, the concern of ethical breeders, and the awareness of owners have brought forth answers to some prevailing illnesses affecting dogs in general and some breeds in particular.

On a much smaller scale, anyone looking into acquiring a Beauceron needs to look beyond the correct conformation, the balanced temperament, and the impressive titles of the sire and dam. Whether one plans to buy a dog in the United States or abroad, enquiring about the health background of the parents and siblings ultimately con-

tributes to the general welfare of the breed. —*Claudia Batson, Claudia.batson@hotmail.com*

Belgian Malinois Surviving a Natural Disaster

Having survived a major blizzard that hit the East Coast the day after Christmas last year ("survived" in the sense that I slid into another car in an unsalted parking lot while rushing out to stock up on Diet Pepsi, and my insurance went up \$300, but otherwise I made it through all right) as well as an "earthquake" this summer (OK, one that consisted of not much more than a large truck driving down your street) and having been hit pretty hard by Hurricane Irene in August, I figure I'm now officially entitled to start dispensing wisdom on making it through natural disasters with your Malinois.

I have several pieces of advice.

First of all, consider moving to Utah, or perhaps northern Arizona or New Mexico. I haven't finished my research, but if you google "major natural disaster in the U.S.," you don't get the names of any of these states coming up. Maybe they have other problems I'm not aware of. But I'll bet they don't get four feet of water in their street and their house completely surrounded by a lake that comes within five feet of the door. With the power out. And the sump pumps not working.

Secondly, consider having a co-owner or friend who lives close enough so that you can get to them in an emergency but far enough away so that they probably don't have exactly the same disaster that you do at the same time.

This allowed me to dump one of my dogs on Donna Miner in Connecticut before Hurricane Irene—although she lost power for 41 hours and has more dogs than me. Still, it was one less problem for me, and I assuaged my conscience with the thought that she didn't get any flooding. (It was actually a coincidence that the dog happened to be at Donna's that week, but his absence when all the doors in the

house were open and people were running back and forth from the outside was more than a small blessing.)

Thirdly, consider your dog's needs ahead of and during the disaster. For example, although we had plenty of dog food in the house, we had forgotten that our rescue Mal Callie is obsessive-compulsive about only pottying under ideal conditions.

When the water got within five feet of the house, we realized that she hadn't pottied in 12 hours and wasn't going to go off the porch to do so. So I had to get my kayak and row her to higher ground. On the upside, my husband took a picture of us that I later submitted to a photo contest and won.

My fourth piece of advice is one that I have been suggesting to my husband since the last flood when the power did *not* go out, and that is "get a generator."

I know. You are thinking they are big and heavy and expensive, and it will sit in your garage for 15 years and you might never even use it. That's why we didn't get one. But if and when you ever need it, you are going to *really* need it, and you don't want to be on the phone like we were trying to find a Home Depot that still has one within 200 miles.

That, of course, was before our phone line went out.

If you have a land-line, you should, of course, have an "old-fashioned," nonelectric phone somewhere that you can connect when the power goes out. But when the telephone lines go down too, you will be left only with your cell phone. You should charge up everything in your house in advance of any disaster you have warning about—especially your cell phone and anything else you use for communication. Did I also mention you should buy a generator? We have two now, which I figure means we won't need one for at least 30 years. Pretty good insurance, if you ask me.

Finally, keep your sense of humor. Everything that's not living can be replaced or let go. That includes all my husband's photos for the last 30 years that he had, for some reason, stored in a

large plastic container in the basement. (Water seeps under lids.) A lot of these were photos of our dogs of yesteryear. Yes, it was very sad to lose the photos. But those dogs and people and places are gone. The important thing is to cherish and be thankful that those whom we have now are safe and with us still. —Nancy Bennett; nancyb@ignet.com

Belgian Tervuren Hurricane Irene

As I write this column, the power has still not been fully restored from Hurricane Irene nine days ago.

While most of the populated areas had electricity within a day or two, the more rural areas and those places affected by the record flooding are still in the dark.

This hurricane was not a surprise; in fact the airwaves were saturated with coverage. Yet in speaking with people (relatives included) I found that many of them waited till the last minute to get ready. I cannot understand what would cause someone to procrastinate till the night before—particularly someone who has animals who are wholly dependent on them.

My son is an Eagle Scout, and after chauffeuring him to their events over the years, the mantra "Be Prepared" is now ingrained in our family. As soon as it was definite that the storm would take a northerly track, I began my own preparations.

I located all my flashlights and made certain that I had extra batteries. I filled my car with gasoline and bought enough dog food to last a couple weeks. Since my home is supplied by well water, and the well pump doesn't work in a power outage, I purchased gallons of spring water to have on hand. I stocked up on the usual emergency supplies, such as bread and nonperishable food.

I did all this on Wednesday (the storm hit here on Sunday) and was very thankful that I did. By Friday the grocery stores ran out of water and bread, and the gas stations in many areas ran out of fuel. Folks were driving

from store to store trying to find batteries, and there were lines in the hardware stores of people attempting to buy generators.

While the storm had severely weakened by the time it reached Connecticut, it was still strong enough to cause widespread damage. Some towns in the eastern part of the state are still mostly out of power a full week after the storm.

In some areas, tap water was declared unsafe and people were instructed to boil it before using. In other areas cell towers were affected, and residents have no phone service as well as no electricity. This storm really brought home the fact that being prepared is a necessity and people need to rely on themselves to get ready.

In my own area half of my town lost power; I was one of the lucky bunch. But we did lose cable service so that for three days we were without Internet, TV, or landline telephone at our house.

It was dangerous to venture out for days. Traffic lights were out, and people were not driving cautiously through them. There were many road closures due to downed trees and power lines. One end of my own road had several trees down and caught in utility wires; it took five days before the mess was cleared away and that section reopened.

Though it all the dogs were just fine. The younger ones didn't seem to seem to care about the impending weather, though the older ones seemed to react to the atmospheric pressure changes. The wise ones hung around the back steps and wanted to come right back into the house.

During the storm everyone was kept inside, and I did not let them back out until I had inspected every foot of fence-line. I also looked up at the trees near the yard to be certain that there were no branches ready to fall.

Once all was verified as safe, the dogs were allowed to go out for brief periods; I walked the fence-line each time before they were allowed out.

We did not resume our normal schedule until the day after the storm because I was waiting for all the high

winds to cease.

Until the next storm, be prepared. —
Kate Bouffard; tervline@aol.com

Border Collies The Gift of Work

The perfect gift is something that the recipient really wants, not what the giver thinks is best. You might think that special treats, toys, or chewies are what your dog wants. Some dogs may agree with that. Your Border Collie will probably enjoy all of those, but what he really wants is work. For most Border Collies, the more work, the better!

Ideally, a Border Collie regularly gets a mix of physical and mental work. If you have a young dog, this is relatively easy to do because he's learning foundation skills for all of his future activities. Give your young dog as much work as he wants while being mindful of his undeveloped body and mind.

If your dog is a young adult, you may be concentrating in one venue. While honing his skills there, consider adding in foundation work for something else. No matter how much your dog loves doing something, if you do it full-time all year round it can get dull and uninteresting. Add some variety to keep your dog challenged.

If you have a mature dog who may be retired or semiretired, consider teaching something new—not just a trick or a game, but something where you care about the outcome. Most of us tend to work with a more focused, intent mind-set if we have a tangible goal. Our dogs pick up on that, and Border Collies respond very well to a sense of purpose.

If you aren't interested in trying a new venue, add a new twist to an old venue. My oldest BC loves children, and I've let the young daughter of a friend do some of his agility-training exercises with him. He has a great time and it's also a proof for him, where he has to step up and really focus on the task since his young handler is a complete beginner.

This holiday season, give your Border Collie the best gift ever—give

him work! —Terri Clingerman,
tacdogs315@gmail.com

Bouvier des Flandres Mistakes Are Discoveries

I overheard a hair-salon owner tell a pupil, "Mistakes are discoveries." I'm thankful my hair was not part of the discovery process. But it made me recall a grooming sheet that concluded with the phrase "Mistakes are made by those who try." By never trying, you certainly avoid mistakes but will miss the "discovery."

Mistakes in dogs can range from keeping the wrong puppy or choosing the wrong stud dog to grooming mistakes. First step is to admit that you made the mistake—not the stud-dog owner, not the dog. Don't let embarrassment stop you. Many times, people are too busy correcting their mistakes to notice or remember yours.

The key is do not feel guilty, learn from the mistake, and don't repeat it. Most people retain the knowledge gained from correcting the mistake that is part of the learning process.

Scott Berkun is a writer and speaker. In his 2005 essay on his website "How to Learn From Your Mistakes," he introduces categories, steps, and strategies to understand and progress beyond mistakes. Here are his mistake categories. I have provided relevant true-life examples.

- Stupid: Absurdly dumb things that just happen. Example: positioning your obedience-trained Bouvier in a conformation ring so that he jumps into the judge in the adjacent ring.

- Simple: Mistakes that are avoidable but your sequence of decisions made inevitable. Example: not testing the alarm clock to be sure that it works and you make the ring time.

The stupid and simple mistakes are easily remedied, but the next two categories need more work to overcome.

- Involved: Mistakes that are understood but require effort to prevent. Example: always miscalculating the time needed to arrive at the show, and never testing the alarm.

- Complex: Mistakes that have com-

plicated causes and no obvious way to avoid next time. Example: car problems on the way to the show.

Involved mistakes may be the result of either habit or nature and often repeated. Complex mistakes eventually break down into smaller mistakes—a cause-and-effect scenario. Avoiding these mistakes often requires seeking advice and help from your friends and mentors. Don't discount how valuable enemies will be in pointing out your mistakes.

People not prepared to make mistakes and often just give up. Challenging goals have more frequent and difficult setbacks requiring a greater ability to overcome and learn from your mistakes.

Here are Scott's suggestions for successful mistakes supporting the statement, "Mistakes are made by those who try."

1. Putting yourself in situations where you can make interesting mistakes
2. Having the self-confidence to admit to them
3. Being courageous about making changes

So don't fail to make mistakes. Coat will grow. That unsuccessful litter of puppies will be placed as wonderful loving pets. And know that, unlike baseball, there is no error board at dog shows. And those mistakes are often the best and funniest stories, a sign that you have accepted the mistake as a unique learning experience. —Jeannette Nieder

Briards Breaking Up

Few things are as scary as a dogfight, especially if one of the dogs is yours.

Even the most congenial canines can get involved in a brawl. Standing at ringside some years ago, I was holding the lead attached to Syd, one of the most easygoing Saint Bernards who ever lived. Syd was semi-somnambulist while awaiting his turn when a German Shepherd Dog came out of the next ring and for no apparent reason attacked the snoozing Saint. (A sore

loser, perhaps.)

As amiable as he was, Syd wasn't about to take that lying down, and he roared to retaliate. Fortunately, both dogs were on lead, and someone jumped in to help me hold Syd back, since he outweighed me by about 60 pounds. No harm done.

The most important thing to remember when it comes to breaking up a dogfight is not to get bitten. An acquaintance once told me about sticking her knee between two Rotties who were going at it. This is not recommended. She still has the scars.

Never, ever put your hands (or your knees or face) anywhere around the combatants' heads. In the rage of battle, dogs will bite without realizing it's not their opponent they're chomping.

Ask any dog person and they'll tell you how they've broken up a fight. One friend swears a shot of hairspray at the dogs' faces will temporarily dissuade them. Another favors dumping a bucket of water or using a hose on the pugilists. That's assuming you have hair spray, a bucket full of water or a hose handy at the time.

Once I broke up a battle between two of my Löwchen by throwing a heavy blanket over them. When they couldn't see each other, I was able to separate them.

Perhaps the most logical suggestion was put forth in an article in a British magazine. The author advised approaching from the rear, grabbing the dominant dog by the tail at its base, lifting the rear off the ground, and moving it slowly in an arc so the front paws continue scrabbling to get a grip.

In the case of a tailless dog, the suggestion was to grab the top dog under both thighs where they join the body and lift. Raising the rear disables the dog's drive and the power that propels him forward. If there's someone else at hand who can do the same with the other dog, the move should be doubly successful.

A suggestion about one of the most innovative means of breaking up a dog fight came from a gentleman who was sitting in the shade of a large tree,

cleaning his rifle, when two of his hunting dogs started mixing it up. Thinking to divert their attention, he loaded the rifle and fired a shot into the air.

The bullet hit a rotting branch above his head, and a moment later it came crashing down on him, knocking him unconscious. When he came to, the two dogs were standing over him, staring down into his face and wondering what dad was doing on the ground, their differences forgotten. True, it broke up the fight, but this method definitely has its drawbacks.

Then there's the story related to me by a judge from New Zealand. His wife was on the way to the ring with her toy Poodle when she came upon two Rotties feuding. Though both were on lead, the handlers couldn't get one dog to relinquish his grip on the other. Handing the toy Poodle to a bystander, Mrs. Smith stooped down slightly behind the overpowering dog and reached out and gave him a tweak. The dog yelped and released his adversary. Mrs. Smith collected her Poodle and continued on to the ring.

The encounter was written up in a New Zealand dog magazine, concluding, "We won't divulge what portion of the Rottie's anatomy Mrs. Smith tweaked, but it's been said she did an excellent job of conducting the *Nutcracker Suite*." —*Alice Bixler*, alicejb@att.net

Canaan Dogs Aloof Breed as Therapy Dogs

Canaan Dogs are an ancient breed, and until recent times were honed by natural selection for desert survival. The modern-day dog fancier, even the average Canaan Dog owner, does not always think of Canaans as therapy dogs due to their natural instinctive behaviors of being aloof with strangers, reactive to their environment, and in some dogs, sound-sensitive.

What are the qualities of a typical aloof Canaan Dog that would allow it to be eligible for certification as a therapy dog? A recent survey of Canaan therapy dog owners revealed that, pri-

marily, it is the nontypical Canaan trait of wanting to meet people that enable them to become therapy dogs.

The most important aspects when considering any dog for therapy work is that the dog must not be easily startled by wheelchairs and walkers; must be very friendly with people and children who may wave something suddenly or envelope them in a spontaneous hug; must not be affected by IV poles, beeping monitors, or clanking carts; and must not be easily distracted by or show a strong aggressive or play response toward other therapy dogs present.

While the natural inclination of wariness of strangers and reactivity to their surroundings is present in the breed, there are some exceptions to those traits in the Canaan Dogs certified as therapy dogs since the 1960s, including Maccabee, a spry, 14-year-old female owned by Ken and Carrie Cabrera, who on July 14 became the first Canaan Dog, and one of the first dogs in the United States, to earn the AKC Therapy Dog (THD) title.

Canaan Dog owners who are training their dogs for therapy work follow the same training path as any Canaan Dog owner—socialization and basic obedience. Canaans must be socialized as much as possible to adults and children, animals, and various environments from early age, if possible, no matter what their future life, whether as show dog, pet, or therapy dog.

Obedience training is also a mandatory obligation on the owner's part, but because the Canaan Dog is an independent, thinking breed, the owner must keep repetitive exercises to a minimum or the dog will easily become bored.

The Canaan Dog owner must also consider the therapy venue and clientele, as some dogs do well in quiet nursing homes while others are happy in a bustling hospital setting, and some dogs prefer adults rather than children and vice-versa.

The owner must also evaluate their own personality, as therapy work, though rewarding, can be emotionally

and physically tiring sometimes for both handler and dog. As a Canaan Dog is highly tuned to its surroundings and its owner's nonverbal cues, it is important that the owner be aware of those same environs and act calmly in any given situation.

Most Canaan therapy dogs usually visit assisted-living facilities; Alzheimer's units, where the residents may not remember that morning's meal but recognize the dog who visits them weekly; local hospitals; adult day-care centers or private residences where the dogs demonstrate tricks or obedience commands; or speech clinics or libraries where the Canaan Dogs act as nonverbal reading partners. These wonderful dogs, exceptions to the breed's traditional aloof personality, are a credit to the Canaan Dog community.

Many thanks to the following past and present Canaan therapy dogs and their owners for their contributions to their communities and to this column: Laura Alton and Jetta, Sally Armstrong and Ellafritz, Lee Boyd and Keely and Flynn, Ken and Carrie Cabrera and Maccabee (THD), Alla Geretz and Mira, Denise Gordon and Wolf, and Amanda Pough and Peter. —*Denise A. Gordon*; desertstarcanaans@yahoo.com

Cardigan Welsh Corgis Cardification

I invited a puppy buyer to accompany me to the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America's national specialty last April. We had corresponded a great deal and hit it off, so I felt comfortable inviting her along on the two-day drive.

My new friend had been in Collies and Shelties for years but decided she wanted a Cardi. By the time she contacted me, she'd already begun her breed research. The trip to the national was to allow her to see a cross-section of the breed to further her education.

My friend helped me a great deal with my two class bitches on the road, and then at the national. Because our dogs are so versatile, the breed's national lasts eight days to fit in all the perform-

ance events in addition to conformation, so my friend had a chance to observe hundreds of Cardigans over more than a week.

As we headed home afterwards, I asked for her honest opinion. I wondered, what did she think of Cardigans, now that she'd seen so many?

Her answer: "I adore them."

Many people, exhibitors and companion homes alike, discover just how special the breed is. I call it "Cardifying," or the "Cardification" of someone; an act whereby an introduction to the breed often results in new owners reacting the same way my friend did. They fall in love.

Cardis are addictive. We say, "Cardigans are like potato chips; you can't have just one!"

A friend who's been breeding Labs for over 30 years saw one of my dogs at a show and said that if I ever had a blue girl like him, she wanted her. Later she waffled on whether it was a good thing to commit to a Cardi puppy, but when my next litter contained a lovely blue girl, my friend agreed to take her.

When she saw the 8-week-old blue baby, she fell in love on the spot. As time went on, she fell more deeply in love. Her Lab friends fell in love as well with the blue baby and threatened to kidnap her. And when the girl was old enough to be bred, even though my friend really hadn't planned on breeding her, she was bred. My friend wasn't going to keep a puppy, however.

She kept two.

What we in Cardis love to hear is the wonderment in voices when someone from another breed marvels at what their Cardigan is like. They feel the magic. This happens to professional handlers as well. Several have started breeding Cardigans after taking one on the road.

They are goofy dogs who make you laugh ... serious dogs who think through challenges ... happy dogs who want nothing more in life than to be with their humans. These are dogs who can herd, smoke through an agility course, track, win HITs in obedience, and go BIS in the conformation ring.

But most of all, they are magic. —
Jennifer Roberson, cheysuli.com

Collies What I've Learned from Being in Dogs

When asked, I will happily share what I know, but unsolicited advice is usually unappreciated or misunderstood. Request advice when necessary, but don't abuse the privilege, and prove worthy of the information. It's frustrating to share hard-earned knowledge and then have it taken for granted or ignored.

As our friendships develop, familiarity seems to give some folks the idea that it's OK for them to be overly critical or judgmental. "Don't take this the wrong way" is usually a precursor to unasked-for criticism. In other words, don't point out a person or a dog's faults unless asked!

Even longstanding friendships can fade for want of care and feeding. In dogs our friendships often begin with a mentor relationship, but as the student grows and wants to be considered equal, the mentor is unable to relate. Or the student takes advantage of the mentor and neglects to figure out how to give back. Generally, you don't hear people say they're sorry much anymore when they are wrong—or they don't even think they are wrong. A few more apologies all around wouldn't cost that much and would mend a lot of fences.

Doing things with your dog is not only fun but rewarding for both. Dog shows and performance trials are fun, especially when you win, but the thrill is short lived. If the motivation is only to win, then the sole fix is to win again.

Participating in different venues that involve doing something *with* our dogs expands our learning and enjoyment. Community outreach, for example, like hanging out on a Friday night on the downtown mall with club members and our dogs to promote responsible dog ownership, has fringe benefits. When a child says goodbye after petting the dogs and then suddenly runs back to throw her arms around a Collie and hug him goodbye again, it pulls an

extra heartstring.

No dog wants to be a number in a kennel. Keeping a dog (or two or three) until it grows old and dies is expensive, time consuming, and heartbreaking, but nothing replaces the memories of that life together.

Attending seminars and clinics, and meeting new people widens our horizons and keeps us fresh. Talk to someone new, sit with someone you normally wouldn't; open up and share your joys, sorrows, and accomplishments and ideas. For every new experience, we create new opportunities.

Don't say anything on the Internet or in an e-mail that you wouldn't say in person. If it's an emotional issue, put the e-mail away for a day or two, and you will be surprised how often you end up deleting it. Or show it to someone else and ask him to critique it for any negative personal comments.

Finally, truthfulness in the fullest sense of the word, without rancor or hidden agendas, will only serve us. Withholding information is as duplicitous as an actual lie.

We are our dogs' advocates. Sometimes we have to be advocates for dogs that are neglected or abused. It might take courage to speak up or take action, but if we don't do it, who will? If our goal is truly the betterment of the breed, then we are all in this together. —*Marianne Sullivan*, mill-knock@embarqmail.com

Entlebucher Mountain Dogs

A Long Journey

As I stood waiting to welcome our participants to Entlefest 2011, I couldn't help but contemplate the 14 years that had led us to this long-awaited day.

Our first "Entlefest" was held in St. Helens, Oregon, in 1998. We had gathered to meet each other, discuss the future of the Entlebucher breed in North America, and form the National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association (NEMDA). Our numbers were small (six breeders and 13 Entles), but we had a grand time. We

played with the dogs, and AKC/CKC judge David Denis gave us a drafting demo and evaluated each of our dogs. He was brutal but kind; his goal was to teach us as much as he could about a breed in which most of us had only seen our own dogs.

We left Oregon promising each other this would be an annual event!

We have held past Entlefest in Utah, Oregon, California, Ohio, Nevada, and Pennsylvania, and each year added more fun and more education. Our first Entlefest Match was held in Ohio in 2002. That little match is one of my fondest memories. We cheered for each other and laughed until we cried. Our judge, Debbie Dayton had ordered four rosettes for us: Best of Match, Best of Opposite, Winners Dog, and Winners Bitch.

Once the show was over, the winners posed for photos, and the one I will always remember is the Winners Dog's whole "family"—all 11 of them, standing behind him in their matching Entlefest T-shirts proudly holding his ribbon as the moment was preserved forever.

In 2007 we made the decision to approach the AKC and start the process of full AKC recognition. On January 1 the Entlebucher became part of the AKC Herding Group. Entlefest 2011 was NEMDA's first "official" AKC national specialty, held September 8–11 at Farmington, Utah.

The first day of Entlefest is for the breeders, and we had a workshop on "Optimizing Conception: Whelping and Puppy Care" presented by Carl Pew, DVM, followed by our breeder's dinner and roundtable discussion. Friday was our "Entlebucher University," and a day filled with Workshops highlighting performance, health, and handling.

Saturday was our first "official" AKC specialty show and trial, and we are proud to announce the following wins:

Specialty Puppy Sweepstakes Winner, Ursula von Adhem; Best of Opposite, Imzadi Data von Eagleheart.

Best of Specialty Winner, Grand Champion Jumanji v. Brunswick; Best of Opposite, Natessah von Adhem. Winners Dog, Moses of Surfside; Winners Bitch, Tali von Adhem. Select, Champion Queso von Adhem.

High in Trial were Norman from Balihara Ranch in obedience and Imzadi Data von Eagleheart in Rally.

Fourteen years of growth, learning, and Entlefest have flown like the wind, but as I watched with misty eyes as 9-year-old Alex Devey took the leash of Bronte of Wildhorn and ran into the ring with her by his side, I realized that our future is as bright as the sun. —*Jan Vincent*; bvincent@xmission.com

German Shepherd Dogs

The following is by Joan R. Coates, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM—Neurology, Associate Professor Veterinary Neurology/Neurosurgery, the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

DNA Test for Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)

We have discovered a gene which is a major risk factor for degenerative myelopathy (DM). In that gene, the DNA occurs in two possible forms (or alleles). The "G" allele is the predominant form in dog breeds in which DM seldom or never occurs; you can think of it as the "Good" allele. The "A" allele is more frequent in dog breeds for which DM is a common problem; you can think of it as the "Affected" allele.

Summary: "A" allele is associated with DM; "G" allele is not associated with DM.

Since an individual dog inherits two alleles (one from the sire and one from the dam), there are three possible test results: two "A" alleles; one "A" and one "G" allele; and, two "G" alleles. Summary: Test results can be A/A, A/G, or G/G.

In the five breeds we studied so far (Boxer, Chesapeake Bay Retriever,

German Shepherd Dog, Pembroke Welsh Corgi, and Rhodesian Ridgeback), dogs with test results of A/G and G/G have never been confirmed to have DM. Essentially all dogs with DM have the A/A test result. Nonetheless, many of the dogs with an A/A test result have not shown symptoms of DM. Dogs with DM can begin showing signs of disease at 8 years of age, but some do not show symptoms until they are as old as 15. Thus, some of the dogs who have tested A/A and are now normal may still develop signs of DM as they age. We have, however, found a few 15-year-old dogs that tested A/A and are not showing the clinical symptoms of DM. Unfortunately, at this point we do not have a good estimate of what percent of the dogs with the A/A test result will develop DM within their life span.

Summary: Dogs that test A/G or G/G are very unlikely to develop DM. Dogs that test A/A are much more likely to develop DM. Our research will now focus on how many A/A dogs can survive to old age without developing DM and why.

The “A” allele is very common in some breeds. In these breeds, an overly aggressive breeding program to eliminate the dogs testing A/A or A/G might be devastating to the breed as a whole because it would eliminate a large fraction of the high quality dogs that would otherwise contribute desirable qualities to the breed.

Nonetheless, DM should be taken seriously. It is a fatal disease with devastating consequences for the dogs and a very unpleasant experience for the owners who care for them.

Thus, a realistic approach when considering which dogs to select for breeding would be to consider dogs with the A/A or A/G test result to have a fault, just as a poor top-line or imperfect gait would be considered faults. Dogs that test A/A should be considered to have a worse fault than those that test A/G. Dog breeders could then continue to do what con-

scientious breeders have always done: make their selections for breeding stock in light of all of the dogs’ good points and all of the dogs’ faults. Using this approach over many generations should substantially reduce the prevalence of DM while continuing to maintain or improve those qualities that have contributed to the various dog breeds.

Summary: We recommend that dog breeders take into consideration the DM test results as they plan their breeding programs, but they should not overemphasize this test result. Instead, the test result is one factor among many in a balanced breeding program. —Joan R. Coates, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM–Neurology.

For more information, please visit caninegeneticdiseases.net/DM/ancmntDM.htm. —Helen Gleason; helengleason@yahoo.com

Icelandic Sheepdogs

The Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America (ISAA), the AKC parent club for the breed, held its national over the July Fourth weekend in Mt. Vernon, Washington. The ISAA invited two international judges to provide educational seminars and to judge. This was the first trip to the United States for one of those judges, Drs. Wilma Roem, who judged the B group. She was asked to share her impressions of the national, which follow.

Strength in this Growing Population

“I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of several dogs, and some were excellent. While not all were excellent, of course, it was encouraging to see such strength in this growing population.

“I see that you have varied, healthy breeding stock available here from a number of lines and countries. This is an extremely important factor in developing future generations of dogs that meet the breed standard for type, temperament, working ability and health, while maintaining genetic

diversity, which is our goal.

“One of my favorite discoveries was finding the stud list on the ISAA website. It includes a summary of the number of litters and puppies that the stud already has and this is very exciting. I would like to implement this someday at home on our club’s site in the Netherlands.

“When participants asked what could be improved, one simple matter of grooming or preparation often stood out. People should remember that this is a working breed from a harsh climate. The coat of the Icelandic Sheepdog should be able to protect the dog from rain, wind, and cold. Therefore, I look for an outer coat with harsh hairs that cover the dogs like a rain/windbreaker and a soft undercoat that keeps them warm.

“Such a coat does not need to be washed; some brushing alone will keep it in the best shape. Washing destroys the protective properties, opening up the outer coat so the rain will get through. As a judge, I want to be able to see that the coat is really protecting the dog. Therefore, dogs that have been recently washed will be marked down in the evaluation.

“I want to thank the ISAA for the invitation to come to the USA. It has been such a great pleasure to judge at the ISAA national and to have the opportunity to provide educational seminars on genetic diversity and color. It was an incredible experience, seeing the dogs and meeting the people that are doing such great work to promote and protect the breed in this country. While we have met each other during ISIC (Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation) meetings previously and talked about the breed a great deal, I am so pleased to have been able to see with my own eyes what wonderful work the ISAA is doing for the breed. I am so impressed by the fantastic results I have seen this weekend.

“Furthermore, I have enjoyed meeting so many AKC judges who were interested in learning more about this breed, which was just rec-

ognized by the AKC in 2010. Some of them made incredible efforts to learn everything they could, and that is really encouraging. Judges who understand and like the breed are vital in supporting the breeders and the breed club to do what is best for the breed.

“Thank you very much for inviting me!” —FCI judge Wilma Roem, Drs., Netherlands

For more information, visit the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America’s illustrated standard found at icelanddogs.com. —Donna R. McDermott, MPPA; eyjahunda@gmail.com

Norwegian Buhunds Therapy Dogs

I was excited when the AKC started the Therapy Dog (THD) titling program earlier this year, especially as one of my Buhunds has been a therapy dog since 2005. More and more facilities are expressing an interest in therapy-dog visits and are recognizing the value of having these dogs come and interact with their clients.

So what are some things to keep in mind if you are interested in doing therapy with your dog?

The first thing to remember is that while most trained dogs can do therapy work, the trick is to identify the appropriate type of therapy program for your dog based on his temperament and skills.

Different therapy programs require differing levels of therapy skills. Basic skills required for all therapy dogs are acceptance of extended petting and handling, the ability to settle for extended periods of time, and comfort in the presence of various loud noises, odors, crowds, and other animals. Dogs with such skills can go to basic therapy programs in schools, nursing homes, or libraries.

More advanced skills might be required for programs with certain clientele, such as children and adults with severe disabilities, or those in psychiatric wards. Such programs are more suited for dogs who are comfortable

with highly erratic movements, confined spaces, and bizarre actions and noises and are willing to work readily for others under strenuous conditions.

After identifying the most suitable programs for your dog, you can start planning your therapy visits. I always arrive ahead of time and exercise my dog before the visit. After that, I follow the facility’s check-in procedures and strictly adhere to all rules and regulations of each facility. I also try to dress and act professionally during the visit.

One crucial thing to remember is to pay attention to your dog when on a therapy visit. I try never to put myself or my dog in a questionable or threatening situation. After all, it is my responsibility to protect my dog’s physical and emotional well-being. I also ask participants’ permission before any interaction with my dog. Some people are afraid of dogs, while others might be allergic to them, and I have to respect their wishes. I never place my dog on a bed, chair, or wheelchair unless the participant and/or a facility staff member have given permission.

Therapy work can be both emotionally and physically stressful for our dogs, and it is up to us to minimize this stress. I try to limit the length of therapy sessions as well as the number of therapy sessions per week. Taking breaks during a long therapy session can also be very helpful. And I make sure that my dog has time to rest after a therapy session in a quiet spot, undisturbed by my other dogs.

Ultimately, therapy work can be wonderfully fulfilling for both our dogs and for us. —Jasmine Tata; Jtata2@yahoo.com

Old English Sheepdogs

Last spring the OES community lost an esteemed member, Dean Busby. Most of us have experienced incidents similar or identical to the one that ultimately claimed his life; incidents that too few of us regard even as remarkable, let alone possibly serious or potentially deadly. Dean’s widow Donna is our guest columnist this

month. As a leader in raising awareness of the cause of Dean’s death, she tells his story so that others might stay healthy and alive.

Sepsis: A Critical Matter

My husband Dean Busby gave one of our dogs a pill on Wednesday, March 2. We’ve all done it: Open the dog’s mouth, insert pill as far back as possible, remove hand. This time, when Dean pulled his hand back he brushed against a tooth, which punctured his skin.

The injury looked like nothing to worry about, and a scab formed very quickly. It did not look infected.

He worked at a dog show over the following weekend and came home on Sunday saying he did not feel well. He thought he had the flu. An hour or so later he was in terrible pain, so we rushed to the hospital. That was on Sunday, March 6, at 6:30 P.M. Dean died of sepsis four and a half hours later, at 11:00 P.M.

What happened?

Dean’s spleen had been removed when he was 15. In the 50 years following, he was never told that having no spleen put him at extra risk of deadly infection, especially from a dog bite, or that antibiotics needed to be started within 48 hours of such an incident. Had we known, he would probably still be here.

Unfortunately it seems that some doctors are not aware of this, either. Because of a friend whose fellow employee had this happen to a family member, we now have this cautionary and vital information to pass along.

Not only people who have had a splenectomy are at risk. That same risk applies to *anyone whose immune system is compromised*, whether by AIDS, cancer, or some other condition, as with the elderly.

Check with your doctor about any condition that might put you at increased danger of sepsis, and do *not* take chances. Your skin is the first line of defense against infection. Any time an animal tooth or claw penetrates it, you are at risk; probably not risk of

death unless you have a compromised immune system, but certainly at risk of developing a nasty infection that can be extremely serious. Do *not* take it lightly. Get treatment.

Read the articles below and pass these links along. These sites contain information that could save your life or the life of someone you know. Some of the photos are graphic, but the sites are meant to warn and inform, not to frighten or suggest giving up contact with our beloved animals.

Please send these links to everyone: movemutt.org/Asplenia—Dog-Bites—Sepsis.html; vetmed.lsu.edu/animal_bites.htm.

If knowledge gained as a result of Dean's death helps even one person, this will be a little easier. —Donna Busby

Thank you, Donna. —Marilyn O'Cuilinn; Marilyn@skybeammail.com

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Our guest columnist is Liz Myhre, of Emrys Pembrokes.

Obesity: Spoiling or Abuse?

I recently had a 12-year-old dog I bred returned for "boarding" when the owner had financial issues. The Pembroke's size was shocking: She was 46 pounds, when she should weigh 26! (Some rescue groups have received Pembrokes weighing as much as 76 pounds.) The owner thought the dog was fine but admitted spoiling her.

This Pembroke's feet have flattened, her pasterns bow painfully, she limps on two legs and she lies down to eat. Her only goal in life is to get back to her bed. Ligaments, joints, and muscles simply were *not* designed to bear this amount of weight. This is not harmless "spoiling"; it is abuse! Where is her quality of life?

I feel badly when I take her on forced walks. She's not happy about them and there is potential for injury, but what if she doesn't get that weight off? She's the equivalent of an elderly person who weighs 400 pounds. Difficulty in keeping one's own weight

down is one's own business, but your dog's weight is directly under your control.

How much should a Pembroke weigh? While it varies, the breed standard suggests that a male of the proper size and substance should weigh about 27 pounds and bitches about 25 pounds. Many veterinarians won't say that dogs are overweight for fear of losing clients.

The feeding guidelines on dog-food bags often greatly overstate how much a dog should eat. Monitor your dog's weight by using the "rib test": Hold your thumbs on the dog's spine, and run your fingers along the ribs. You should be able to easily feel but not easily count the ribs. Check every few weeks and adjust intake as necessary, and remember to watch it with those training treats! Some family members may also need "adjustment" if they are sneaking treats to the dog.

Realize that enticing a dog with gravies or changing food when she wants a new taste can hide health issues. Appetite is one of the primary indications of good health. My spoiled girl won't eat her food. In a dog that is already picky, that important indication that it's time for a vet visit is lost.

Should a dog have health issues that cause unhealthy weight loss, a dog that's been on a more boring diet will be easily tempted with good stuff whereas a spoiled dog will be likely to simply not eat. As this girl has lost weight, several large masses have emerged, previously hidden under her fat.

I don't know whether the owner will get a home again, but this dog isn't going back. My sales contract specifically states that I can take a dog back if it's not maintained in healthy weight or is not given proper vet care (also lacking). I so desperately hope she'll lose enough weight before something else happens, that she will be able to walk freely and chase a ball again before she crosses the bridge.

In this day of human obesity being politically incorrect to talk about, it's sadly also becoming very acceptable for pets to be obese. Breeders need to

more strongly emphasize with their puppy buyers the severe consequences of obesity, and more strongly word their sales contracts to stress the importance of weight control and regular veterinary care. —L.M.

Thanks, Liz! —Lynda McKee; TifflynLDM@aol.com

Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

The PON Smile

There are some characteristics of a breed that are not mentioned in the standard or in discussions on breed type. One of my favorites is the PON smile.

Before I explain, let me just say that there are fanciers of other breeds who claim that their dogs smile. Perhaps there is uniqueness to these other smiles, but all I have really seen are dogs with mouths open and maybe, tongues lolling. Surely, every owner of a "smiling dog" knows when a smile is given and appreciates the sentiment.

The Polish Lowland Sheepdog has a unique smile that is rarely seen in other breeds. There is a range of expressions a PON can have when "smiling." Once you've seen it, you'll not likely forget it.

A PON smile is different than that of other breeds in that a PON pulls back his lips and bares his teeth. This may appear to the uninitiated to be an aggressive look and has confused many people caught unaware. Trust that it is clearly a different expression.

There seem to be different theories on the smile. Some say one is more likely to see it on a Polish import. I think the most likely theory is that it is a submissive gesture. Either way, it may be quite startling to see the first time if one is not prepared.

As previously stated, there can be variations to the smile. One bitch we had displayed the "full Monty," so to speak. She would open her mouth wide and show every one of her teeth. She probably was the biggest and most frequent "smiler" in our family. At times, it was clear that she was doing this submissively. She was eventually trained to smile on command. If she

smiled spontaneously, it was often clear to any who knew her that she was excited, and happy in her own way.

One male we owned only smiled with one upper lip. We trained him to smile on command as well; of course, if you can imagine it, his command was “Elvis.” It appears that with him it may have been hereditary, as his sire and at least one of his offspring smiled exactly the same way.

Some PONs never smile or they never let anyone see them smile. Then there are others who begin later in life. We’ve had a couple of different dogs that didn’t smile until later in life, and not everyone got to see those smiles—it was definitely a case of “selective smiling.”

One bitch we owned was a late bloomer and didn’t smile until she was older. Shortly after we noticed her small smile, she would also smile with a physical trigger of touching one ear in just the right place. This seemed to be a submissive expression, since she would usually do it if she was on the grooming table and having that ear combed or brushed.

Although all Polish Lowland Sheepdogs do not smile, count yourself lucky if yours does. Perhaps, let the uninitiated see your PON smile. Or don’t, and let it be a special look shared with you from your dog.

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome. —*Russ Tesarz*; Retesarz@aol.com

Pulik The Puli in Fiction

I learned recently that author Thomas F. Motter, longtime Puli breeder and my immediate predecessor on this column, has published a new novel called *The Song of Charlemagne II—The Hard Goddess*, available at the Barnes & Noble or Amazon websites.

I asked him about it, and he revealed that Pulik and a Komondor are introduced into the storyline in this second book in what is ultimately to be a trilogy. The story is set in France, where the author lived for a

year, and takes place in the period following the fall of the Roman Empire, commonly referred to by historians as the Dark Ages. It is based on the *Chansons de Gestes* and follows known historical events during the reign of Charlemagne. But it is not a history lesson, the author assures me. It is a historical romance, full of intrigue, action, and adventure!

Motter explains that the two Hungarian breeds were well established long before this period and would have been in use by the Avars, the sometime enemies of the Franks, and thus known to them.

The book, I’m told, has pen-and-ink illustrations by Tivon S. Oldman that include the Komondor in battle alongside his knight as well as Pulik herding sheep as an integral part of the king’s army on the move. The author says it was necessary to introduce the breeds at this point in the trilogy, as they become characters unto themselves and an indispensable part of the plot in the trilogy’s conclusion, to be out at the end of next year.

Very little is known or understood about the origins of the conflict between Islam and the West, Motter says. Yet, a thousand years and more after the fact, all of us are haunted by it in so many ways. Things like religious intolerance and fanaticism, women’s traditional roles in monotheistic societies, class systems stated or implied, and so much more on the contemporary scene today had their origins in this epoch.

In the author’s mind, no story or subject could possibly have more relevance than the story of Charlemagne, his knights, and, most especially, the women behind them along with seemingly inconsequential elements of the landscape of the time—in this case, a Puli and a Komondor!

The author claims that no small amount of research and scholarship went into the making of his tale. He says that he spent many hours of research in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris as well as many

additional hours on-site at known Dark Age battlefields and haunts of Charlemagne and the peers. By definition, the socio-economic, political, and religious influences and characters of the time are explored in as much detail as that given to the Hungarian dog breeds in the story.

The book has received critical acclaim from Catherine M. Jones Ph.D., chairman of the department of Romance Languages, University of Georgia and Melvin R. Davidson Ph.D., chairman of the Humanities department (Ret.), Loyola Marymount University.

If one is looking for a good read at the beach this summer or something for a judge or exhibitor facing a long plane ride to read, this one based on the age of romance and chivalry might be just the ticket! —*Sherry Gibson*; gibsons@blomand.net

Pyrenean Shepherds Life with Pyr Sheps

What are they like to live with? That’s one of the questions that people interested in the breed ask most often. They can see that the little dogs are cute, fast-moving, and responsive, but what are they like at home? Is all that activity hard to cope with, day to day?

Following are a couple of opinions from people who’ve lived with the breed for differing lengths of time.

The first story comes from Kay Johnson, who shares her Washington home with Pyr Sheps Eli and Rubi and their Malinois housemates. The smaller herders always make her smile, she said. One day in particular, young Rubi propelled her owner from a bad mood into outright laughter.

Most of us who have the breed are well aware of their ravenous appetites; they’re always ready to eat. Kay was preparing to head back to work after a weekend at home with the dogs. As a special treat to ease her departure, she had set out raw bones to thaw.

“Of course, Rubi knew this, because every time she would go past the kitchen sink, she would stand up and

sniff them, so she couldn't wait for her treat," Kay says. She put all the dogs outdoors as she finished getting ready for work, and they waited on the porch near the door, where she keeps a large bucket of fresh water.

As Kay walked out the door to head for the kennels, bones in hand, little Rubi expressed her enthusiasm by jumping three feet in the air—backwards, of course, so she could keep her eye on the bones.

"Well, she jumped backwards three feet in the air and landed in the bucket," Kay says. "She gave a yelp of surprise and jumped out, still backwards, faster than she went in, bawling me out like it was my fault, but she never took her eyes off the bones!" Persistence, indeed.

Mary Dixon, who lives with young Pyr Shep Mowan and a pack of other dogs in Michigan, says she daydreamed before she got Mowan that her new pup would be her little art studio friend, lying nearby and keeping her company as she worked on her jewelry and tile designs.

"Amazingly, she started doing that very thing the first day she was here!" Mary says. "I never had a dog that would do that (during) the entire time I did Australian Cattle Dog rescue (we lived with 300-plus dogs)."

Mowan loves her cat family and has had lessons in play from Mary's Border Terriers and in boldness from her Cattle Dogs. She's taught herself to herd chickens, Mary says, and shows real talent for the task. She loves to help with farm chores.

While Mowan isn't thrilled by crowds, hates dog shows, and prefers car trips that end at home, she makes a wonderful homebody.

"She's a perfect citizen in the home, and I sometimes forget she's a dog," Mary says. "For someone who is a professional movie-animal trainer, this is quite a feat for any animal to accomplish with me. ... She's all I could ever want in a dog—beauty, brains, and a perfect blonde mop my hairdresser tries to duplicate on me!" —*Kathleen Monje*; cognitivedog@epud.net.

Shetland Sheepdogs

Our guest columnist, Johnye Pryor, lives in North Little Rock, Arkansas, with her husband of 38 years. Pryor is a graduate of the Arkansas School for the Blind and worked for the Arkansas attorney general for 22 years. She received a successful kidney transplant in 1990.

Shelties as Therapy Dogs

I've had dogs my whole life—pet dogs of several different breeds and three guide dogs, including my current guide dog, Conner—but my Shelties, Trent and Trey, are my first therapy dogs. Trent became part of our family when he was 6 months old, and 5-month-old Trey joined us about a year later.

One of my friends had a certified therapy dog. I thought my Shelties would be great therapy dogs, so I asked her how I could get them involved.

She told me that would-be therapy dogs needed to be at least 1 year old and respond reliably to basic obedience commands—*sit, down, stay, come, heel, and leave it*. In addition, testers for the certifying organization will evaluate each dog's friendliness and manners when greeting people and other dogs. They will be tested to see how they respond to loud noises, canes, walkers, wheelchairs, and crowds of people. The tester will make sure the dog doesn't exhibit signs of separation anxiety.

The most important requirement is that the handler has good control of the dog at all times.

I had started obedience training with both dogs as soon as they joined our family, but now I had a specific goal for the training. Though it wasn't required for certification, I also taught both dogs to do a few crowd-pleasing tricks. They were so eager to do what I wanted; training them was very rewarding and great fun.

At 1 year of age, both Trent and Trey passed the test to be certified by Therapy Dogs International (*tdi-dog.org*). We've had many wonderful experiences since then. For example,

we have wonderful memories of many hours spent with a woman in hospice care. She loved the dogs, and they knew it. As soon as we entered the hospice facility, they would head straight to her room and wait for the invitation to jump up on her bed for a cuddle.

We make once-a-week visits to a facility for people with brain damage, where one of the patients especially loves seeing the dogs. She can't speak, and she can move only her head and one finger, but her smile lights up the room when she sees us coming.

Both dogs know exactly how to position themselves so she can reach them with the limited movement she has in that one finger. They lie calmly by her side for as long as she continues stroking them.

And I will never forget a nursing home visit where Trent and I met a family who was there to say goodbye to a dying loved one. Their children seemed nervous and uncomfortable until I had Trent do his tricks for them. When the children and adults started petting him, I could tell that it lifted their spirits and calmed their nerves. This was a very special visit indeed.

My two Shelties are very special to me. Through their therapy work, they have become special to many others too. I feel truly blessed to be able to share them with others in this way. — J.P.

Thank you, Johnye! —*Kim Schive*; kschive@post.harvard.edu

Swedish Vallhunds Living History

In a breed like the Swedish Vallhund, it is dangerously easy for your experience of the breed and interpretation of the standard to become isolated to your own dogs or the dogs you are able to see regularly (sometimes these will be dogs you yourself have bred), or to dogs who do well in the breed ring.

Part of what makes contact with fellow fanciers, attending national specialties, and going to other events with numbers of the breed present so important to breeders and breed fanciers is

the opportunity to see a variety of dogs, from a variety of bloodlines, and observe the similarities and differences between them and your own stock.

Talking to other breed fanciers and learning judges' opinions can also help to fill in and define your own interpretation of your breed standard, as can comparing your country's standard to that of the breed's home country.

Trying to keep an open mind and being self-aware when it comes to your personal preferences is important. You may place a real emphasis on shoulders, for example, while someone else places a greater emphasis on heads; neither is empirically right or wrong, especially if neither person neglects the overall breed standard in service to their preferences, and more especially if neither person neglects the total dog, including temperament, health, and working ability.

No matter how specific a breed standard is, its application to a real, living animal is essentially subjective to varying

degrees. The breed standard defines an ideal, even when it is based upon a real individual animal (as the Swedish Vallhund standard is, based on a bitch named Topsy).

Some aspects of a standard are less subject to differences of opinion (such as proper dentition or height at the withers) while others are more so (such as interpretation of the standard's use of the words *strong* or *small*).

The only well-known photograph of Topsy—the “model of the breed” used by the Swedish Vallhund's savior, Björn von Rosen, when creating the original breed standard—was taken when she was older, but we can still see that she is obviously a Vallhund.

Her ears are quite large compared to many modern Vallhunds, but her expression, proportions, markings, body shape, and overall type are clearly those of a Swedish Vallhund, and she would likely not look too terribly out of place in a Veterans class today.

While there is always room for improvement and refinement in some areas, comparing your dogs to well-regarded individuals from the past or even the breed's foundation stock is vital if you, as a breeder, intend to preserve the breed.

Purebred dogs are not just dogs, they are living history. The dog sleeping on your bed should not look or act appreciably differently from the dog from 1940. It should be able to do the same work, and it should possess the same characteristics. There is something amazing about feeling such a link to the past when you can look at a picture of a stud dog from 1938 and see how similar he is to many dogs in the breed today.

While there have certainly been some changes in our breed over the years, my overall impression is that many modern Vallhunds would be able to fit in just fine on a pre-World War Two Swedish farm—if we could only work out that pesky time-travel problem! —*Amanda Lowery*; amanda@alkemi.org



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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.

Attention Delegates

Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Rosen Center Hotel, Orlando, FL, on Friday December 16, 2011. It will begin no earlier than 10:00 am, and will follow the 8:30 a.m. Delegates Forum.

Delegates Credentials

Anne H. Bowes, Duxbury, MA,
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America

H. Geoff Geoffrey, Deland, FL,
West Volusia Kennel Club

Robert W. Gilmour, Limerick, PA,
Penn Treaty Kennel Club

Homer Russell Hastings III, Westfield, PA,
Elmira Kennel Club

Charles D. Kerfoot, Vinton, VA,
Roanoke Kennel Club

Bonnie Lane, Commack, NY,
Riverhead Kennel Club

JD Rowell, Highland Park, TX,
Trinity Valley Kennel Club

Lynn W. Schmitt, Aptos, CA,
Monterey Bay Dog Training Club

Susan D. Sholar, Valley Center, GA,
Black Russian Terrier Club of America

Notice

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

Mrs. Dawn Towne (Lacona, NY)

Mr. Garry Towne (Lacona, NY)

Notice

Mr. Dave Boyd (Carmichael, CA) Action was taken by Mensona Kennel Club for conduct in connection with its August 28, 2011 event. Specifically, Mr. Boyd was charged with foul and abusive language/verbal altercation. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee's report, found it in order and set the penalty at a reprimand a \$100 fine. (Bulldog)

Notice

Mrs. Inge Christensen (Palmer, AK) Action was taken by the Cascade Dachshund Club for conduct in connection with its August 19, 2011 event. Mrs. Christensen was charged with impairing a club's ability to retain a site. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee's report, found it to be in order and set the penalty at a three month event suspension and a \$500 fine, effective September 27, 2011. (Bulldog)

Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. James Reiff (Ephrata, PA) from all AKC privileges for six months and imposed a \$500 fine, effective November 7, 2011, for refusing to make his dogs and records available for inspection when requested. (Bulldog, English Springer Spaniel)

Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Tim Deters (Baileyville, KS) from all AKC privileges for five years and imposed a \$1000 fine, effective October 10, 2011, for refusing to make his dogs and records available for inspection when requested. (Multiple Breeds)

Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Audrey Drey (Eagle Springs, NC) from all AKC privileges for one year and imposed a \$1000 fine, effective November 7, 2011, for non-compliance with AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements, and the AKC's Care and Conditions Policy. (German Shepherd Dog)

Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Veronica Reynolds (Helenwood, TN) from all AKC privileges for one year and imposed a \$1000 fine, effective October 10, 2011, for non-compliance with AKC's Care and Conditions Policy. (Multiple Breeds)

Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Kristina Henneman (Boise, ID) from AKC registration privileges for six months and imposed a \$500 fine, effective November 7, 2011, for her submission of an online litter registration application containing the false certification as to the signature of the co-owner of the dam. (Bouvier des Flandres, Havanese)

Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has reprimanded Mrs. Vicky Brachfeld (Middletown, NY) for signing an AKC document on behalf of another without filing a properly completed Power of Attorney form. (Doberman Pinscher)

Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for ten years and imposed a \$2000 fine, effective November 7, 2011, for conduct prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or to the best interests of the American Kennel Club based on their violation of the AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy.

- Mrs. Judy Chambers (Marionville, MO)
- Mrs. Diana Cheadle (Canby, OR)
- Mr. Gary Dotson (Havana, IL)

NOTICE

For clarification, the notice that appeared on the November 2011 Secretary's page Gazette concerning an action imposed by the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club pertained to an action imposed by the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of Western Reserve.

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of reprimands and/or fines imposed on clubs for late submission of applications.

Chapter 2, Section 4 & 9.

Fox Terrier Club of New England.....\$100.00
 Pilgrim Basset Hound Club\$100.00

Notification of fines imposed on clubs and/or superintendents for failure to comply with

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 17, Section 2, Failure to send in their clubs event results as set forth in the rules

Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Denver\$85.00

Notification of fines imposed on clubs and/or superintendents for failure to comply with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 9 Section 10*, Failure to follow and enforce all AKC Rules and Regulations, in regards to accepting entries from an exhibitor for a class not listed in premium list.

Cowtown Chinese Crested Club.....\$250.00

Notification of fines imposed on clubs and/or superintendents for failure to comply with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Sections 4*, instructing the event secretary to accept an entry after the closing of entries (day of the event).

Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Louisville\$500.00

Notification of fines imposed on superintendents for failure to comply with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 12, Sections 1 & 4*, Failure include complete entry information for all entries for the Basset Hounds in a 4 day (Cotton Land Cluster) catalog.

Jack Onofrio Dog Shows\$500.00

Notification of fines imposed on clubs and/or superintendents for failure to comply with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 9, Section 10*, failure to print the correct judges in the judging program for the Panhandle Kennel Club of Texas.

Jack Onofrio Dog Shows\$500.00

Notification of fines imposed on clubs and/or superintendents for failure to comply with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 9, Section 10*, accepting an entry for a Cardigan Welsh Corgi, processed and listing in the wrong class thereby causing dog to be disqualified, three day circuit Bexar County Kennel Club and Comal County Kennel

Club. Also improper handling of a Rally entry for St Croix Valley Kennel Club.

Jack Onofrio Dog Shows\$500.00

JUDGES

As a result of the October 2010 Board Meeting, publication notice in the Gazette was combined into one notice, therefore the judging approval process continues to include an opportunity for the fancy to respond to each provisional judge.

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 by AKC concerning their qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and JS 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 at (919) 816-3593 or email, judgingops@akc.org.

Provisional Judges

The following persons have been approved on a **Provisional** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. **They may now accept assignments** and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

New Breed Judges

Dr. Stephen Leonard Bloom, M.D.
 (94457) MN
 (218) 786-8364
bloomsberrys@yahoo.com
 German Shepherd Dogs, JS-Limited



Mrs. Linda J. Gagnon (81922) MA
 (978) 544-8933
 wetacres@gmail.com
 Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Dandie
 Dinmont Terriers

Ms. Evalyn R. Gregory (6130) KY
 (502) 777-1969
 evjudge@aol.com
 Beagles, Dachshunds, Boxers,
 Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Maltese,
 Papillons, Pekingese, Yorkshire Terriers,
 Chow Chows

Mrs. Linda E. Kornhi (94253) OR
 (541) 726-3850
 cavlady@mindspring.com
 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Mr. Michael Leachman (94267) MI
 (313) 408-1962
 whippetchamps@att.net
 Whippets

Mrs. Terry Nuss (94455) NJ
 (856) 467-1814
 nusstj@comcast.net
 Saint Bernards, French Bulldogs

Ms. Mary K. Rosborough (93775) IL
 (618) 931-0238
 rosbrgh2000@yahoo.com
 Bulldogs

Approved Breed Judges

Mrs. Karen Arends (19274) TX
 (817) 774-0706
 karends999@aol.com
 American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Black and
 Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick
 Coonhounds, English Foxhounds,
 Harriers, Norwegian Elkhounds,
 Otterhounds

Ms. Pamela Jane Arwood (91148) TX
 (817) 846-1525
 tnsaluki@yahoo.com
 Afghan Hounds

Ms. Mary Anne Brocious (3691) MI
 (248) 685-8428
 qubicoes@comcast.net
 Balance of Working Group (Anatolian
 Shepherds, Cane Corsos, Dogues de
 Bordeaux, Komondorok, Leonbergers,
 Neapolitan Mastiffs)

Mr. Timothy Catterson (5032) IN
 (765) 529-5500
 tcatterson@hughes.net
 Balance of Hound Group (American
 English Coonhounds, Bluetick

Coonhounds, English Foxhounds,
 Norwegian Elkhounds, Plotts, Redbone
 Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds,
 Treeing Walker Coonhounds), Samoyeds,
 Bulldogs

Ms. Patricia Darke (39766) MN
 (612) 743-7998
 pdarke@darkeassociates.com
 Irish Setters

Mrs. Debra L. Davis (25320) MI
 (248) 627-3729
 debbie.davis@cookmedical.com
 Brittanys, German Shorthaired Pointers,
 Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers,
 Vizslas

Mrs. Edy Dykstra-Blum (20342) FL
 (352) 465-7142
 bizzeeboots@gbwebs.com
 Balance of Herding Group (Beaucerons,
 Briards, Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher
 Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds,
 Icelandic Sheepdogs, Norwegian Buhunds,
 Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds)

Mr. David W. Haddock (18846) TN
 (615) 430-4773
 globalfone@aol.com
 Bullmastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, Giant
 Schnauzers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees,
 Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Rottweilers,
 Saint Bernards, Standard Schnauzers

Mr. Homer Russell Hastings III (50295) PA
 (814) 628-2707
 hrh3judge@verizon.net
 Borzois, Dachshunds

Dr. David T. Hayhurst (24968) CA
 (619) 722-6646
 dhayhurs@mail.sdsu.edu
 Anatolian Shepherds, Bullmastiffs, Mastiffs,
 Newfoundlands

Mrs. Betsy Horn Humer (5156) VA
 (757) 442-3672
 tiderunr2@verizon.net
 Australian Cattle Dogs, Belgian Malinois,
 Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervuren,
 Canaan Dogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,
 Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds, Swedish
 Vallhund

Mr. Kenneth Kauffman (4823) PA
 (215) 453-0399
 brehannon@hotmail.com
 Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels,
 Japanese Chin, Papillons, Pekingese,
 Pomeranians, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers

Mr. David L. Kittredge (7016) NY
 (585) 279-9718
 orangie@rochester.rr.com
 Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons
 Frises, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, French
 Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lowchen,
 Norwegian Lundehunds, Poodles,
 Schipperkes, Xoloitzcuintli)

Mr. Thomas J. Latta (91010) MO
 (660) 394-2275
 tjlatta@ctcis.net
 Doberman Pinschers

Maj. Stephen D. LeVan (Ret) (92386) SC
 (803) 432-8611
 stevelevan@truvista.net
 Whippets

Mr. Richard J. Lewis (18253) WA
 (509) 697-6032
 richelieu@elltel.net
 Balance of Herding Group (Beaucerons,
 Briards, Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher
 Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds,
 Icelandic Sheepdogs, Norwegian Buhunds,
 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pulik,
 Pyrenean Shepherds)

Mr. Roland L. Pelland (6940) RI
 (401) 397-5749
 rpelland@verizon.net
 Balance of Non-Sporting Group
 (American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, French
 Bulldogs, Lowchen, Poodles, Tibetan
 Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers)

Mrs. Sharon Ann Redmer (2711) MI
 (734) 449-4995
 sredmer@umich.edu
 Balance of Herding Group (Beaucerons,
 Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher Mountain
 Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic
 Sheepdogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish
 Lowland Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds,
 Swedish Vallhunds), Doberman Pinschers

Dr. Alan Santos (73979) NY
 (212) 600-1833
 obanesdoc@aol.com
 German Shorthaired Pointers, Irish Setters,
 Vizslas, Weimaraners

Ms. Debra L. Thornton (18837) VA
 (434) 286-9504
 cypressbaydlr@gmail.com
 American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Beagles,
 Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds,
 English Foxhounds, Harriers, Plotts,
 Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish
 Deerhounds

Mrs. Wendy G. Willhauck (6103) MA
 (508) 339-9242
 frostfield@aol.com
 Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons,
 Chihuahuas, Miniature Pinschers,
 Pomeranians, Poodles, Pugs, Keeshonden,
 Shiba Inu

Provisional Assignments Completed

The following persons have **com-
 pleted** their Provisional Judging assign-
 ments in the breeds listed, and their
 names have been added to the list of reg-
 ular **approved** judges.

New Breed Judges

Mr. Charles H. Bridges Jr (75305) CA
 (209) 835-6530
 dvchows@att.net
 Chow Chows

Mr. Paul Chen (90736) WA
 (206) 463-3351
 afaraa@yahoo.com

Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Pembroke Welsh
 Corgis, JS

**Mrs. Michelle LaFlamme Haag (69404)
 UT**
 (801) 486-4041
 saluki@ultimatevacations.cc
 Salukis

Mrs. Wendy Hill (78532) NJ
 (856) 589-9312
 wdshihtzu@gmail.com
 Shih Tzu

Ms. Helen W. Lee (52017) BC
 (250) 828-1978
 savladai@borzoi.net
 Borzois

Ms. Gigi Lorentz-Reiling (90640) MO
 (314) 971-3162
 giginstl@yahoo.com
 Kerry Blue Terriers

Mrs. Tamiko Lynch (90486) ID
 (707) 494-1585
 firecld@castles.com
 Samoyeds

Ms. Sakura E. Moses (91408) WA
 (360) 872-8650
 sakuram@comcast.net
 Samoyeds

Mr. Michael Wiest (92088) NJ
 (732) 469-7747
 michael@beechnocroftlabs.com
 Labrador Retrievers

Mrs. Tami D. Worley (90328) OR
 (503) 625-4362
 worleycom1@aol.com
 Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs,
 Belgian Tervuren

Approved Breed Judges

Ms. Diane Anderson (17566) OH
 (419) 866-4723
 likeabear@sbcglobal.net
 Anatolian Shepherds, Bernese Mountain
 Dogs, Boxers, Great Pyrenees, Leonbergers,
 Mastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Saint
 Bernards, Samoyeds, Standard Schnauzers

Mr. David L. Anthony (25447) PA
 (814) 434-0822
 dragonpatch@gmail.com
 Belgian Sheepdogs, Border Collies,
 Bouvier des Flandres, Polish Lowland
 Sheepdogs, Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds

Mrs. Judi Bendt (37568) SD
 (605) 787-5431
 all4moriah@aol.com
 Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies,
 Beaucerons, Belgian Malinois, Border
 Collies, Bouvier des Flandres, Briards, Old
 English Sheepdogs

Mr. Robert Eisele (7354) NY
 (631) 277-2201
 bobesele@aol.com
 Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes,
 Rottweilers, Chinese Shar-Pei,
 Keeshonden, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu

Mr. Ted W. Eubank (53715) TX
 (214) 649-1104
 teubank143@aol.com
 Chinese Cresteds

Mr. Rick Gschwender (6740) MI
 (248) 240-2324
 rggschwender@aol.com
 Balance of Working Group (Black Russian
 Terriers, Cane Corsos, Dogues de
 Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Greater
 Swiss Mountain Dogs, Leonbergers,
 Neapolitan Mastiffs, Tibetan Mastiffs),
 Brittanys, German Shorthaired Pointers

Mr. Ronald V. Horn (65755) CO
 (303) 797-8642
 vnnewf@gmail.com
 Rottweilers, Siberian Huskies

Mr. George E. Marquis (5789) FL
 (603) 770-9830
 chiens@prodigy.net
 Balance of Sporting Group (Curly-Coated

Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling
 Retrievers, Irish Red and White Setters,
 American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels,
 Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker
 Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water
 Spaniels, Sussex Spaniel, Welsh Springer
 Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired
 Pointing Griffons)

**Ms. Diane Young McCormack (20415)
 NV**
 (530) 559-9600
 spirit@telis.org
 Balance of Hound Group (American
 English Coonhounds, American
 Foxhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English
 Foxhounds, Otterhounds, Plotts, Redbone
 Coonhounds, Salukis, Treeing Walker
 Coonhounds)

Ms. Mary C. Murphy-East (36967) MN
 (763) 291-2263
 marmcmurph@aol.com
 German Shepherd Dogs

Mr. Link Newcomb (29254) CA
 (714) 389-5218
 linkn@cox.net
 French Bulldogs

Dr. Donald E. Schwartz (39668) CO
 (970) 739-3100
 desvmd@aol.com
 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Irish Setters,
 French Bulldogs

Mrs. Sharon C. Smith (5415) GA
 (770) 573-4874
 sharon@octoberbernese.com

Balance of Working Group (Black Russian
 Terriers, Boxers, Cane Corsos, Dogues de
 Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Giant
 Schnauzers, Komondorok, Kuvaszok,
 Leonbergers, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Tibetan
 Mastiffs)

Ms. Sharon K. Steckler (65373) TX
 (281) 242-1178
 steckler@swbell.net
 Doberman Pinschers

Junior Showmanship Judge

Ms. Ryann Grady (74929) WA
 (206) 227-7429
 ryanngrady@hotmail.com

Best In Show

The following person, having success-
 fully **completed** the required Group
 Assignments in the first Variety Group

for which she is **approved**, has been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Ms. Robin K. Riel (7006) WA
(509) 952-9563
mbissborzoi@hotmail.com

Resigned Judge

Mr. Jerry W. Graham

Deceased Judge

Mrs. Carol V.S. Gossweiler

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.*

Ores Chever (74179) NY
212-242-3598
ochever@msn.com
Obedience - Open

Kathleen Cook (37193) OH
513-724-2569
Kath@obeydog.com
Obedience - Utility

Amede DeCruydt (43367) MI
248-224-6967
aaloyiud@aol.com
Obedience - Novice

Anthony Ginter (94111) KY
270-465-6299
Hummer@Toast2.net
Tracking Dog

Bonnie Hornfisher (81331) MI
734-414-9450
hornfisher@comcast.net
Obedience - Open

Janet Induni (93291) VT
802-879-6526
Jinduni@gmail.com
Rally - All

Deceased Judges

Joyce Klamut

Provisional Obedience/Rally/Tracking Judges Completed

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of regular approved judges.

Karen "Kay" Bedeau (21038) SD
605-745-5796
token@gwtc.net
Obedience - Novice

Lynn DePrizio (81691) TX
401-527-8041
Karlynborzoi@juno.com
Rally - All

Kelly Dygert (48016) AK
907-488-8314
rhaven@alaska.net
Tracking Dog

Kathryn Marshburn (45524) CO
303-978-1900
Kathymarshburn@aol.com
Variable Surface Tracking

Sara Steele (22520) NJ
908-876-9098
steelless@earthlink.net
Obedience - Novice

Jesse "Chip" Taylor (92186) WA
253-948-2525
jesse@xwb.com
Rally - All

APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC REGISTERED NAME PREFIX

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club. Letters in regard to these applications should be addressed to James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary:

SHAMBHALA-TM - Tibetan Mastiffs - Efrain Torres & Susan Abrams

CAVIAR - Shetland Sheepdogs - Elicia Stevens

SEAMONKEY - Affenpinschers - Debra & Danielle Nelson

STILLBROOK - Labrador Retrievers - Donna Kenny

SUN JOY - Portuguese Water Dogs - Beverly Jorgensen

MOVIN RIGHT - Poodles - Kasey Cowan

SNOWBORN - Siberian Huskies - James Holt

DOUBLEHEADER - Labrador Retrievers - Betsy McCracken

ICHTACA - Xoloitzcuintli - Marilynn Keith

LOOKOUT - Great Danes - Robin MacFarlane

FOXWUDZ - Pomeranians - Laura Jennings & Bonnie Stetson

WEYBRIDGE - Cavalier King Charles Spaniels - Sherry Burton

BEARHOLLOW - Newfoundlands - Joyce Taylor

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

KOTUR - French Bulldogs - Theresa Wilson &

Marilyn Fisher

JABEAU - Cavalier King Charles Spaniels - Debbie Belliveau

CEDARCREEK - Australian Shepherds - Connie Hurley

DAGOBA - Basenji - Kimberly Brown

KLONDIKE - Spinone Italianos - Carol & Mike Sheridan

TSARSHADOW - Wire Fox Terriers - Douglas Belter & Dawne Deeley

JAMBET - Maltese - Betty White

KIARA - Tibetan Terriers - Dennis Gunsher

MICHAN - Norwich Terriers - Lynn Marshall

GLENCAIRN - Irish Wolfhounds - Martha Traylor

CASCADE - Portuguese Water Dogs - Cynthia Thorson

OCOEE - English Springer Spaniels - Kathleen Lorentzen & Melanie King

CACHE - Cavalier King Charles Spaniels - Kimberly Thompson

DOUBLOON - Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers - Elena Landa

MYSTIC ACRES - Welsh Springer Spaniels - E. Carla & Keith Vooris

BELLE DESTINEE - Briards - Kristl Lemieux

BRAVEHOUND - Italian Greyhounds - Jerome & Denise Milko

PENAIRE - Airedale Terriers - Joan Clarke

CATLINE - Australian Shepherds - Joyce Siddall

LINDENKA - West Highland White Terriers - Linda Limon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 7 - 8, 2011

The Board convened on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present, except for Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman. The Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Executive Secretary were also present. Copies of the October 2011 minutes were made available to all Directors. The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 10 -11, 2011 meeting. Ms. Scully indicated that she had abstained on the vote regarding jump heights for Basset Hounds in Agility, and that the National competition which will recognize the top Rally novice dog, top Rally advanced dog, and the top Rally excellent dog annually is in

the 2012-2016 Business Plan. Upon a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the October 2011 Board minutes were unanimously (absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) adopted as amended.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jim Stevens, Chief Financial Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting. Total revenues for the month of October 2011 were less than last October, which reflected the results of the Meet The Breeds event that was held in New York. Total operating expenses during the month were below 2010. Due to the improved performance of the stock markets in October, our investments generated a gain during the month.

BUDGET

The Board considered the approval of the 2012 Budget. The proposed budget was discussed in great detail. Emphasis was placed on increased efficiency and cost savings in all areas. Continued reductions were also discussed.

Following a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to approve the 2012 budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items

Mr. Sprung gave a status report on previous Action items assigned to the Staff.

Events and Entries Update

Mr. Sprung reported that for the first nine months of 2011 aggregate Entries were up by 2.95% and Events were up by 2.32% compared to the same period in the previous year.

Signature Requirements of All Dam Owners on Litter Registrations

Margaret Poindexter, AKC Staff, was present during this portion of the meeting. Charles Kneifel and David Roberts, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. There was a discussion on possibly amending the current Board policy which requires the signature of all dam owners to register a litter. No action was taken at this time.

PUBLICATIONS

Daphna Straus, AKC Staff, advised the Board of a number of AKC books including "Meet

the Breeds" and individual Meet the Breed books prepared in cooperation with Parent Clubs for the Labrador Retriever, Shih Tzu, and German Shepherd Dog. These books are published by BowTie Press and are sold at \$12.95 each.

LEGAL REPORT

Margaret Poindexter, General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. She presented a status report on pending litigation and other activities during the month of October 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

Following discussion, there was a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

Delegates

The following Delegate was approved:
Margaret Doster, Hamburg, NY
To represent Kennel Club of Buffalo

Jacqueline Fogel, West Bend, WI
To represent Kettle Moraine Kennel Club

Anne Midgarden, DVM, Wapakoneta, OH
To represent Lima Kennel Club

G. Robert Stevens, Hancock, NH
To represent Cheshire Kennel Club

Carolyn Vack, Gordonville, PA
To represent Lancaster Kennel Club

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 1, Section 3

The Board VOTED to remove Chapter 1, Section 3, from the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, as the type of event it references is no longer relevant, i.e., a show restricted to puppies and dogs that have previously placed at a show. It also VOTED to renumber all subsequent sections. This Rule change will be read at the December 2011 Delegate meeting for a vote at the March 2012.

Obedience Regulations - Jump Height Change

The Board VOTED to approve the requests of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, the Norwich Terrier Club of

America and the American Shih Tzu Club, Inc., and approved the lowering of these breeds' jump height requirement in AKC Obedience to three-quarters of the height of their breed at the withers. (A dog measured at 20 inches at the withers would jump a 16-inch high jump.) The new three-quarters jump height would still follow current regulations with jumps being set at the nearest 2 inches.

Herding "Master" Titles

The Board VOTED to amend AKC Herding Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 5, and Chapter IV, Sections 1 and Section 3, and to add a Master(M) designation to each of the current Herding Trial titles if a dog passes a class (level – course – stock) eight additional times after earning its initial title in that class and to allow clubs to hold up to 10 herding trials per calendar year (current limit is 8).

New wording underlined:

AKC Herding Regulations Chapter 1, Section 5

Section 5. Making Application.

Applications for licensed and member club herding tests and/or herding trials must be received by AKC at least three (3) months prior to the closing date. Herding clubs will be permitted to hold up to 10 licensed trials during a calendar year. A club may hold as many Herding Tests as it desires.

AKC Herding Regulations Chapter 4, Section 1

Section 1. Trial Levels. A dog will indefinitely remain eligible to compete in both Herding Started and Herding Intermediate classes after the dog has earned a title in that trial level, course and livestock type. Dogs that have achieved any title of Herding Advanced (HX) are eligible to compete in any Herding Advanced (HX) class for an indefinite period of time.

Section 3. Herding Trial Titles. The requirements for an eligible dog competing in herding trials under these Regulations to acquire a herding title or championship shall be established by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

The American Kennel Club will issue a

Herding Started certificate designating the specific course and livestock type for an eligible dog, and will identify the titlist by the use of HS (course and livestock) after the name of that dog in official AKC records, once the dog has been certified by three different Judges to have received qualifying scores in the Started class, same course and livestock type, at three licensed or member club herding trials.

A Herding Started Master title can be earned by receiving eight (8) additional qualifying scores on the same course and stock. This title will be designated with an "M" after the current title. The owner must track these qualifying performances on a Master Title tracking form developed by the AKC. Upon achieving eight additional qualifying scores, the tracking form is mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the title will be applied to the dog's record. The Started Master title will suppress the Started title earned for the same course and stock. No Master title certificate will be issued unless ordered by the owner for a fee established by the AKC Board of Directors.

The American Kennel Club will issue a **Herding Intermediate** certificate designating the specific course and livestock type for an eligible dog, and will identify the titles by the use of HI (course and livestock) after the name of that dog in official AKC records, once the dog has been certified by three different Judges to have received qualifying scores in the Intermediate class, same course and livestock type, at three licensed or member club herding trials. **A Herding Intermediate Master** title can be earned by receiving eight (8) additional qualifying scores on the same course and stock. This title will be designated with an "M". The owner must track these qualifying performances on a Master Title tracking form developed by the AKC. Upon achieving eight additional qualifying scores, the tracking form is mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the title will be applied to the dog's record. The Intermediate Master title will suppress the

Intermediate title earned for the same course and stock. No Master title certificate will be issued unless ordered by the owner for a fee established by the AKC Board of Directors.

AKC Herding Regulations Chapter 4, Section 3

Section 3. Herding Trial Titles. The American Kennel Club will issue a **Herding Excellent** certificate designating the specific course and livestock type for an eligible dog, and will identify the titles by use of HX (course and livestock) after the name of that dog in official AKC records, once the dog has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Advanced class, same course and livestock type, at three licensed or member club herding trials. **A Herding Excellent Master** title can be earned by receiving eight (8) additional qualifying scores on the same course and stock. This title will be designated with an "M". The owner must track these qualifying performances on a Master Title tracking form developed by the AKC. Upon achieving eight additional qualifying scores, the tracking form is mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the title will be applied to the dog's record. The Excellent Master title will suppress the Excellent title earned for the same course and stock. No Master title certificate will be issued unless ordered by the owner for a fee established by the AKC Board of Directors.

Technical Modifications to the Herding Regulations

The Board VOTED to make two technical modifications to the Herding Regulations. The Board amended AKC Herding Regulations, Chapter VI, Section 2, to allow clubs the option to make the "drive" section of the course an isosceles triangle rather than an equilateral triangle. The Board amended AKC Herding Regulations, Chapter VI, Sections 3 and 4, to clarify when the handler can leash the dog at the completion of Course A.

CHAPTER VI

Section 2. Course Layout. The course

is laid out in a triangular pattern with the handler's post on the bottom, gate #1 on the left and gate #2 of the right. The course can be reversed at the discretion of the course director.

The host club has two options:

A. Equilateral triangle – Each angle of the triangle is approximately 60 degrees. Each leg of the drive shall equal approximately 1/3 of the total outrun length (except for the minimum of 100 feet for sheep and cattle and 50 feet for ducks).

B. Isosceles triangle – The total drive distance must equal the outrun length except for the minimum of 300 feet for sheep and 150 feet for ducks. The drive distance from gate #1 to gate #2 must be a minimum of 100 feet for sheep and cattle and 50 feet for ducks. The other drive legs must be equal in length (except for the minimum of 100 ft for sheep and cattle and 50 ft. for ducks).

The isosceles triangle may be useful for clubs as they transition from Course B intermediate to advanced tests. The isosceles triangle can be achieved by moving the handlers post back while leaving the gates in place.

CHAPTER VI

Section 3. Levels.

Started Level Course A – Description.

Pen - Turn toward the top of arena and the stock move to near the gate. The dog holds the stock in a location near the exhaust pen but away from the gate while the handler opens the gate while the handler opens the gate. The dog must demonstrate it is willing to disengage from the stock. The leash shall not be placed on the dog until just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena.

Section 4. Judging Course A.

D. General Deductions:

8. Up to 5 points deducted if, when entering the arena, the dog remains on lead as the handler leaves the gate area to proceed to the appropriate post or if, when leaving the arena, the lead is applied early rather than just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena.

Beagle Grand Field Champion

The Board VOTED to add a new Beagle Field Trial title called the Grand Field Champion (GFC). A dog must have previously been awarded a Field Champion title to earn the GFC title. To be recorded, a GFC a dog must win two first places and 90 points under the existing point system at AKC approved Brace and Gundog Federation Championship trials or the AKC National Beagle Championship Trial for Brace, Gundog Brace, Small Pack Option or Large Pack Beagles. This is a prefix title that would appear in addition to the Field Championship title. This will be read to the Delegates in December for a vote in March, 2012.

Beagle Field Trial Technical

Recommendations

The Board VOTED to amend the Beagle Field Trial Standard Procedures to (1) Allow the judges, while in the field, to move up a dog that they have determined to be the Next Best Qualifier (NBQ) if one of the hounds that remain under judgment commits an action so faulty as to not warrant a placement. (2) Clarify that in traditional brace/trio trials, the hounds in the first series shall be laid on the line in the order drawn. These changes are effective January 1, 2012

PROCEDURE 4. JUDGING

4 – B In all classes the Judges shall award places as follows: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and after these places have been awarded the Judges shall designate the next best qualified hound as “N.B.Q.”. N.B.Q. is not a place and in case of disqualification of a placed hound at a licensed or member trial, the N.B.Q. hound shall not be moved up. However the judges while still in the field have the authority to move up the hound they have selected as NBQ if one of the hounds they are considering for a placement commits an action so faulty as to not warrant a placement.

PROCEDURE 6. CLOSING, DRAWING, BRACING ABSENTEES

6 – B The running order of the hounds entered in each class shall be determined by drawing, and the hounds shall be drawn in braces, or trios if applicable, for the first series. In the first series the hounds must be run in the order drawn. However at

Gundog Brace trials, should a second hound owned by the same person be drawn in the same brace or trio, that hound will change places with the next hound drawn which is not so owned. This change will be made with a hound drawn later if possible, but may be made with a hound drawn earlier if necessary. The running together of two or three such hounds may be permitted in the first series when a separation is impossible, but in no other case.

GWP Field Trial Water Test Requirements

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America (GWPCA) to permit a “pass” by a German Wirehaired Pointer in a Pointing breed water test to count toward both the FC or AFC title regardless whether a professional or amateur handles the dog. This change is effective December 1, 2011.

Chapter 14 of Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds will now read:

AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

At present, a dog of one of the Pointing breeds will be recorded an Amateur Field Champion after having won 10 points under the point rating schedule below regular Amateur Stakes in at least 3 licensed or member field trials, provided that no more than 2 points each have been won by placing first in Amateur Walking Puppy and Amateur Walking Derby stakes and that it has been awarded 2 first placements, one of which must be a first placement in a 3 point or better Amateur All-Age, Amateur Gun Dog, Amateur Limited All-Age, or Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake;

AND EXCEPT THAT a German Wirehaired Pointer shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has also been certified as having passed a Water Test at a licensed or member field trial or hunting test held by a pointing breed club. AND EXCEPT THAT a Weimaraner shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has also been certified as having passed a Water Test with an amateur handler (as determined by the Field Trial or Hunting Test Committee in accord with the

Definition of an Amateur found in Chapter 14, Section 2), at a licensed or member field trial or hunting test held by a pointing breed club.

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos Eligible to Participate in AKC Lure Coursing Events

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America to allow the Portuguese Podengo Pequenos to be eligible to participate in AKC Lure Coursing events. The breed is not allowed to compete for Best in Field, due to its small size. Effective date is January 1, 2012.

Boxers Eligible to Participate in AKC Herding Events

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the American Boxer Club to permit the breed to compete in AKC Herding events contingent upon the Parent Club or at least one local Boxer specialty club becoming licensed to hold Herding events. This will become effective January 1, 2012.

Revisions to Hunting Test Regulations

The Board VOTED to approve the following minor housecleaning changes to the Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests. Changes underlined:

*Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds, Spaniels and Retrievers - CHAPTER 1, Section 4. **Entry Requirements. No Special Inducements.***

A Hunting Test giving club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminate between entrants. Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. A junior handler is someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the test.

CHAPTER 1

Section 3. Senior Hunter Title (SH)

Dogs that have acquired a Senior Hunter title at an AKC-licensed or member Hunting Test are eligible to enter Junior Hunting Tests. No JH title will be issued.

Section 4. Master Hunter Title (MH)

Dogs that have acquired a Master Hunting

title at an AKC-licensed or member club Hunting Test are eligible to enter Junior and Senior Hunting Tests. No JH or SH titles will be issued.

Chapter 1, Section 12. Weather.

Weather is an important consideration for the hunting test event committee. The safety of participants and animals is of utmost importance. Extreme weather such as lightning, strong winds, heat or cold, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. The hunting test event committee, in consultation with the judges, has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted due to weather and at what point the event shall resume. If a weather delay results in an entrant being unable to participate, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee. If an entire event or part of an event is cancelled due to weather, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee.

Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds -

Chapter 1, Section 6. Judges' Eligibility and Approval.

Anyone at least 18 years old and in good standing with The American Kennel Club may be approved to judge a Hunting Test subject to the qualification requirements in force at the time.

In order to Apprentice Judge:

- Must handle a dog to at least one qualifying leg at the level to be judged or higher.

In order to be an Approved Judge:

- Must apprentice judge twice at the level to be judged or higher.
- Must attend one AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Test Seminar.
- Must pass an AKC Hunting Test written test.
- Must handle a dog to at least three qualifying legs at the level to be judged or higher.
- Approved pointing breed field trial judges are exempt from the "handled in

three qualifying legs" requirement, but must still apprentice judge twice and pass the written test prior to judging Pointing Breed Hunting Tests.

Tracking Device Regulations

10. The use of tracking devices is at the discretion of the host club. For Hunt Tests, the premium list must state they are not allowed, otherwise they will be allowed.

Regulations For AKC Hunting Tests for Spaniels

Chapter 3, Section 5. Guns. In the Master Hunting Test and the Senior level water test the handler must carry an empty shotgun. If the shotgun being carried is functional, it must be a breaking type shotgun; if the handler's shotgun is non-functional, it may be of any type. Whether on land or water in "the handler must shoulder the empty shotgun and, with both hands on the gun, follow the flight of the bird as if a shot were to be fired. Handlers must follow safe gun handling practices at all times. Failure to handle the gun as previously described during a land flush or at the water, or handling the gun in an unsafe manner must be severely penalized, even to the point of disqualification under trained abilities. Handlers at the Junior level are not to be required to handle a gun at any time during any part of the testing. Handlers in the Senior land test are not required to handle a gun.

Allowing Judges to Use 4-Wheelers in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests

The Board VOTED to approve changes to the Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds Chapter 3, Sections 4 & 6, to permit Pointing Breed Hunt Test Judges to Use 4-Wheelers.

Section 4. Motorized Vehicles. Birds may be liberated from horseback and/or All Terrain Vehicles on the back course, as long as it can be done without interference to the working dogs. Judges may ride ATV's at the discretion of the host club. If judges will be using ATVs it must be clearly stated in the event premium. ATVs must be turned off while

a judge observes a dog's bird work. If one judge uses an ATV the other judge must use an ATV or walk. For safety reasons the mixing of ATVs and horses for the judges is not allowed.

ATVs must meet all applicable state and federal government requirements. ATVs are not allowed in bird fields but may be driven around their perimeters.

Section 6. Horses. In testing for Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests, all handling must be on foot. Horses may be used only by the Judges, Apprentice Judge, the Judge's Marshall and the bird liberator. Judges may ride horses, walk or ride ATVs at the club's discretion. For safety reasons, one may not be riding an ATV and the other judge riding a horse.

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests "Advanced" Titles

The Board VOTED to amend the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 1, Section 3, to allow clubs be allowed to hold up to 6 events per year (current limit was 4). The Board VOTED to amend the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 2, Sections 1, and create new sections 2A 3A and 4A to provide for additional advanced titles at all three levels.

New wording underlined:

Chapter 2, Section 1 – new paragraph
In order to receive a Qualifying score in Junior Advanced, Senior Advanced and Master Advanced Hunting Tests, a dog must acquire a minimum score of not less than 5 on each of the categories of abilities (4 categories in Junior, 6 categories in Senior and Master) listed on the Score Card, with an overall average score of not less than 8.0.

Chapter 2, New Section 2A
Section 2A. Junior Hunter Advanced Title (JHA). A dog must have previously earned a Junior Hunter title to be eligible to earn qualifying legs towards a Junior Hunter Advanced title. In order to be recorded as a Junior Hunter Advanced, a dog must have a record of having acquired five (5) JHA qualifying scores in the Junior

Hunting Test.

Upon completion of these requirements, the owner of the dog must complete the Advanced Title tracking form and submit it to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the dog shall be identified as a Junior Hunter Advanced in all official AKC records by the suffix title JHA. The JHA title will supersede the JH title on a dog's records.

A JHA title certificate will not be issued unless ordered by the owner. The Advanced Title tracking form will include title certificate ordering information. There will be a fee for the title certificate. The fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Chapter 2, New Section 3A

Section 3A. Senior Hunter Advanced Title (SHA). A dog must have previously earned a Senior Hunter title to be eligible to earn qualifying legs towards a Senior Hunter Advanced title. In order to be recorded as a Senior Hunter Advanced, a dog must have a record of having acquired five (5) SHA qualifying scores in the Senior Hunting Test.

Upon completion of these requirements, the owner of the dog must complete the Advanced Title tracking form and submit it to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the dog shall be identified as a Senior Hunter Advanced in all official AKC records by the suffix title SHA. The SHA title will supersede the SH title on a dog's records.

A SHA title certificate will not be issued unless ordered by the owner. The Advanced Title tracking form will include title certificate ordering information. There will be a fee for the title certificate. The fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

In order for GWP's and Spinones to earn a SH title, they must have passed a Water Test. Another Water Test does not need to be passed to be awarded the SHA title.

Chapter 2, New Section 4A

Section 4A. Master Hunter Advanced Title (MHA). A dog must have previously earned a Master Hunter title to be eligible to earn qualifying legs towards a

Master Hunter Advanced title. In order to be recorded as a Master Hunter Advanced, a dog must have a record of having acquired five (5) MHA qualifying scores in the Master Hunting Test.

Upon completion of these requirements, the owner of the dog must complete the Advanced Title tracking form and submit it to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the dog shall be identified as a Master Hunter Advanced in all official AKC records by the suffix title MHA. The MHA title will supersede the MH title on a dog's records.

A MHA title certificate will not be issued unless ordered by the owner. The Advanced Title tracking form will include title certificate ordering information. There will be a fee for the title certificate. The fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

In order for GWP's and Spinones to earn a MH title, they must have passed a Water Test. Another Water Test does not need to be passed to be awarded the MHA title.

Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Board VOTED to approve six modifications to the Retriever Hunt Test Regulations. Effective January 1, 2012. New wording underlined:

Chapter 3, Section 6,

Section 6. Honoring. In Senior and Master Tests every dog shall honor in at least one hunting situation involving the retrieve of a marked fall(s) by remaining on the line off-lead while the working dog retrieves, unless otherwise directed or until dismissed by the Judges.

Only one dog at a time may be required to honor the retrieve of the working dog. The honoring dog must be in an area designated by the judges. The specific position (sitting, lying down, etc) of the honoring dog will be determined by the handler provided the honoring dog is positioned to clearly see all the marks without having to reposition itself.

Judges should be careful in establishing the honoring scenario to maintain adequate distance between dogs.

Chapter 3, New Section 18.

New Section 18. Walk Ups. In Senior and Master hunting tests, a walk up is used to test a dog's steadiness. The bird represent a surprise situation therefore gunning stations must be well concealed, utilizing natural cover when possible so that only the bird may be seen when launched. Birds shall be presented at distances ranging from 35 to 45 yards of the dog with no attention getting devices utilized.

As the first bird is thrown in a walk up situation, the handler may give either a verbal or whistle command to steady the dog once the bird is in the air. Judges shall tell handlers in advance of the start of judging when it is appropriate to give the steadying commend or whistle.

There shall be no walk up test situations in Junior level tests.

Chapter 5.

New Section 4. Marking and Memory of Birds.

In Junior, Senior and Master Tests, marking and memory of birds are of primary importance. While dogs may be handled in all three levels of testing, this is undesirable in marking tests and should be utilized only as a last recourse to get a bird out of the field. A dog that goes to the area of the fall, establishes a hunt and finds the bird unaided must be scored appreciably higher than a dog that has to be handled to the bird.

Section 5. Junior Hunting Tests.

Dogs shall be tested on a minimum of four single marks, two on land and two on water. No more than two marks may be thrown in a series.

Judges in keeping with simulation of realistic but relatively simple hunting situations must remember the use of numerous decoys, islands, points of land, rolling terrain, cover, ditch lines, wind direction, etc. are important factors to consider when designing test scenarios to evaluate Junior dogs as capable hunting companions.

(1) ...

(2) Dogs shall be steady but may be brought to the line on leash with a flat buckle collar. The dog is under judgment when it leaves the holding blind. A Junior

dog that is not under control when brought to the line (jumping, strongly tugging, etc) even though it is on a leash shall risk receiving a lower score in trainability including zero in extreme cases. Dogs may be restrained gently with a slipcord looped through the flat buckle collar, or held gently by the flat buckle collar until sent to retrieve.

Section 6. Master Hunting Test. Dogs shall be tested in a minimum of five hunting situations as follows: multiple land marks, multiple water marks, multiple marks on water and land, a land blind and a water blind (at least one that shall be a double blind in any combination). There shall be at least three series. At least one of the series shall include a walk-up. Diversion birds and/or diversion shots such as described in Chapter 3, Section 24, must be used at least once. In Master tests, in at least two multiple marking situation the dog's marking/memory will be tested with at least three (3) falls, before the dogs is sent to retrieve. During a double set of marks (2 falls) Master judges shall include additional elements of testing i.e. walkup, diversion bird, diversion shot, blind/s etc. in testing the dog's abilities.

Chapter 1, Section 3. Making

Application. Approval for licensed or member club Hunting Tests may be issued to clubs formed for the improvement of the several breeds of Retrievers or to clubs formed for the improvement of a single Retriever breed.

Retriever Clubs may offer Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests for all AKC registrable eligible breeds, but may not offer more than one of the same category at any event at which Qualifying scores toward titles might be earned.

Clubs that sponsor more than two hunting test in any twelve month period shall be required to offer at least once in any combination, each of the three (3) test levels.

Chapter 1, Section 6

Section 6. Judges' Eligibility. Anyone at least 21 years of age and in good standing

with the American Kennel Club may be approved to judge a Hunting Test subject to the eligibility requirements in force at the time. It is the responsibility of the clubs to determine the "qualifications" of each prospective judge by researching experience accumulated through training, actual hunting over dogs, handling dogs in field events and prior judging activities. Clubs may at their discretion develop a questionnaire in order to request background information on prospective judges.

Prior to Becoming an Approved Judge. For new judges after January 1, 2012:

- (1) Seminar: Attend an AKC Retriever Hunting Test seminar. This first seminar allows an individual to judge for three years assuming the apprenticeship requirement is met.
- (2) Apprenticeship: Successfully apprenticed at least once at the level being judged. (Club's responsibility to monitor.)

Prior to Becoming Qualified to Judge the Senior/Master Test. After January 1, 2012, an individual judging the Senior or Master test for the first time must have judged at least twice at the testing level immediately below the one they are being asked to judge. (Club's responsibility to monitor.)

Chapter 1

Maintaining One's Ability to Judge:

- (1) Second Seminar: If an individual has judged within three years of attending the first seminar, that individual is required to attend a second seminar to maintain the ability to continue to judge. If an individual has not judged within three years of attending the first seminar, another "first" seminar is required prior to being allowed to judge. However, if you have earned six (6) points at the Master level, you do not need to take the second seminar. Anyone that has attended two or more seminars (one prior to judging and one after having judged) is exempt from any further seminar attendance.
- (2) Written Test: After the second seminar (one prior to judging and one after having judged), an individual must complete a written self-administered AKC test every

four years and *pass the test with a score of 90% or better.*

(3) Must Remain An Active Judge: An individual must judge at any level at least once every four (4) years to maintain eligibility. Individuals who have not judged within the four-year period of the mandatory written examination will be required to attend the Seminar.

Section 6. Judges' Eligibility cont.

(4) Must Remain An Active Handler: An individual must have handled a qualifying dog at the level he is being asked to judge or higher within seven (7) years of the date of the event. (Club's responsibility to monitor.)

Judge's Panel Qualifications:

- (1) The combined number of points required for the two Judges in any division or level shall be six (6) at that level or higher. Judges accumulate a point for each level judged at the completion of an assignment.
- (2) Handling experience - At the Master test level and each division thereof, one Judge shall have qualified a dog or dogs (5) times at the Master level. At the Senior and Junior test levels and each division thereof, one Judge shall have qualified a dog or dogs four (4) times either at the level being judged or at a higher test level. Monitoring the qualifications of judges is the responsibility of the event-giving club.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

David Roberts, and Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Proposed Komondor Breed Standard Revision

Following a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to permit the Komondor Club of America to ballot its membership on proposed revisions to the Bite section of the breed standard, in accordance with the club's constitution and bylaws.

Proposed Rottweiler Breed Standard Revision

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously)

to permit the American Rottweiler Club to ballot its membership on proposed revisions to the Tail section of the breed standard, in accordance with the club's constitution and bylaws.

Imported Portuguese Water Dogs

The Board reviewed a request from the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America to only permit Portuguese Water Dogs imported from Clube Portugues de Canicultura (CPC), to be accepted for AKC registration if the import pedigree shows at least five generations of complete LOP dogs (normal registration designation in CPC) with no RI (Initial registration in CPC) dogs in these five generations. Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Smith, it was VOTED (unanimously) absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman to require three generations of LOP dogs with no RI dog in these three generations of the pedigree for Portuguese Water Dogs imported from Portugal (CPC).

Basenji Stud Book

Following a motion by Dr. Newman, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was VOTED (unanimously) to extend the Open Registration for Basenjies imported from Africa, until December 31, 2018, with any dogs imported into the United States prior to December 31, 2018, eligible for registration until December 31, 2020.

Proposal to Reduce Number of Delegate Meetings

The Board reviewed a proposal, from the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, to reduce the number of Delegate meetings from four to three per year. The proposal suggests that two of these meetings be expanded from two days to three days in order to enable increased attendance at the various Delegate Committee meetings. This will be considered further in January.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa Gonzalez, David Roberts, Mark Dunn, and Michelle Baker, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

David Roberts gave an update on AKC's Marketing and Communications initiatives. Mark Dunn gave an update on the AKC Canine Partners Program.

COMPLIANCE

Margaret Poindexter, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting, and Jack Norton, AKC Staff, participated via video conference.

Hardship Policy

The Management Disciplinary Committee requests a change to the Board's Hardship policy to allow for the registration and/or transfer of dogs listed in the AKC recorded ownership of an individual who has been suspended from AKC privileges. The proposed change would allow dogs listed in the AKC recorded ownership of the suspended individual, at the time the suspension was imposed, to be registered and/or transferred provided an AKC DNA Profile for the dog is on file and all other registration requirements are met. The change would allow the AKC to retain the registration viability of a large number of dogs that are affected by registration suspensions without adversely affecting the accuracy of the registry. This will be discussed further at the January Board meeting.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

CONFORMATION

Robin Stansell, Charles Kneifel, Mari-Beth O'Neill, Lee Herr, Bobby Birdsong, and Bri Tesarz, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Mr. Gladstone joined the meeting via teleconference in accordance with Board policy. He could participate in discussion, but not vote.

Event Analysis Summary

At the July and August 2011 Board meetings, PowerPoint presentations concerning analysis of the impact on clubs which have changed their date, have ceased holding events, have changed their site, etc. was presented to the Board. Staff presented additional research which was performed to assess where exhibitors live and how far they travel to events.

Conflict Distance/Moratorium

Recommendations

The Board discussed the moratorium on new shows that was approved in order to further study the impact of the number of shows on

the financial well-being of existing clubs. Staff recommended that the Board remove the moratorium on new All-Breed clubs with limitations:

Following a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (Mr. Arnold, Ms. Scully, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Smith, Dr. Davies, Mr. Amen, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Newman; opposed Dr. Garvin; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual prior notice requirement.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to remove the moratorium on new All-Breed clubs, with the following limitations:

1. Availability of open weekends - approval of new All-Breed clubs requires at least four (4) open weekends within the calendar year in that AKC division and no shows within 300 miles of the territory of the new club on the show date. However, no such restriction will apply to clubs in Divisions 10, 11, and 12 (Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico).
2. New all-Breed clubs are encouraged to invite local Group or Specialty clubs to join with them to improve event attendance.

Removing Limited Breed Clubs from Moratorium

Sanctioned Limited Breed (Group) Clubs are currently restricted from advancing to licensed club status by the moratorium imposed by the Board of Directors. The Board reviewed a proposal to permit these clubs to advance to licensed status with restrictions similar to those approved by the Board for specialty clubs to advance. Following a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to remove the moratorium on new Group clubs with the following limitations:

1. Group clubs will not be approved within a 100 miles of the territory of another club of the same Group.
2. Group clubs will only be licensed to hold Group shows in conjunction with another Group show, All-Breed shows or clusters.

3. Any newly forming or club ready for licensing will only be approved with the proviso they agree any future events must meet the adjacency and/or integrated specialty requirement as stated in (2).
4. Any local Group club licensed or formed during this period will be subject to any final policies that result from the moratorium study period

Realignment of Point Schedule Divisions

The Board considered a Staff proposal to realign the point schedule divisions. The goal was to minimize the differences in average entries among the states in the current Divisions. The proposal would create the following Divisions.

1. CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
2. DE, NJ, PA, NY
3. DC, MD, NC, TN, VA, WV
4. FL, GA, SC
5. IN, OH, KY
6. IA, KS, MO, NE
7. OK, TX, CO
8. OR, WA
9. CA, AZ
10. AK
11. HI
12. PR
13. ID MT, ND, NV, SD, UT, WY, NM
14. AL, AR, LA, MS
15. IL, MI, MN, WI

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Smith, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman), to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual advance notice requirement.

Following a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman), to approve this realignment, effective with the May 2012 point schedule.

Points for Reserve at a National Specialty

The Board considered a proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows as follows:

(new sixth paragraph)

At one National Specialty each year, specified by the AKC Breed Parent Specialty Club at the time the event application is submitted to AKC, the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the

bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five point major, in the region in which the event is held.

In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.

This proposed amendment was submitted by the Progressive Dog Clubs. During the discussion a liaison to the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee, reported that this committee is unanimously opposed to this amendment.

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Davies, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Newman, Mr. Amen, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Arnold; opposed: Mr. Menaker, Ms. Scully, Dr. Smith, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Ashby; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to approve this amendment.

There was a motion by Mr. Amen, seconded by Mr. Menaker, and it was VOTED (affirmative, Mr. Amen, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Smith; Ms. Scully, Mr. Ashby, Dr. Garvin; opposed: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Newman; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to reconsider the question

Following a motion by Mr. Amen, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (affirmative, Mr. Amen, Ms. Scully, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Ashby, Dr. Newman, Dr. Davies, Mr. Arnold; opposed: Dr. Smith; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to send the proposed amendment forward to be read at the December 2011 Delegate meeting, for a vote in March 2012, with no Board recommendation.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 3 Territory

The Suffolk County Kennel Club proposed an amendment to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 3, in order to require clubs to hold events in their territory in order to maintain exclusive privilege in the territory. A second condition of the request would permit clubs to reclaim exclusive

privilege after they hold shows within their territory following a prolonged absence. The amendment would read as follows:

Each member club or association not a specialty club which shall hold a show within their territory at least once in every two consecutive calendar years shall have the sole show privilege in the city, town or district which has been assigned to it as its show territory. Clubs that have not held a show in their territory within two consecutive calendar years will be granted the exclusive privilege of their territory one year after the next date they hold a show in their territory.

A majority of the Board favored the insertion of "in their territory" but not the proposed last sentence. This will be discussed further at the January 2012 meeting.

Junior Guidelines Updates

The Board reviewed suggested updates to The AKC Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, and Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Performance Events Regulations to make them consistent with the Judges Guidelines in regards to the solicitation policy as well as recommend a revision to Section 7: Eligibility of a Dog. This section currently defines that AKC registration or PAL is required for a dog to be eligible to compete. Staff would like to revise this to include a dog of an AKC Recognized breed eligible for entry from a foreign registry accepted for AKC Registration.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED (affirmative: Mr. Ashby, Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Scully, Mr. Amen, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Smith, Dr. Garvin, Dr. Davies, Dr. Newman, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Menaker; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual advance notice requirement.

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to adopt these amendment, effective immediately.

Adjustment to Championship Points Computation

The 2012 dog show points schedule was reported to the Board in accordance with the May 1995 Board Policy: "A three-member Staff committee, appointed by the President, is given the authority to approve the annual dog

show point schedule, which upon completion, is to be reported to the Board.”

In order to increase the number of majors available at All-Breed shows, Staff proposed the specialty shows be removed from the calculation of the point schedule.

The Board had concerns about the number of additional majors that would be created, and indicated that it would need additional statistical data to evaluate this proposal.

Application Fee for Open Show and 4-6 Month Puppy Competition

The Staff proposed an application fee for the Open Show and the 4 to 6 Month Puppy Competition sanctioned events at \$25 to cover the expense associated with processing the applications. The Board was advised that unless it had any objection, this fee would be instituted and there was no objection.

Meeting adjourned on Monday November 7, 2011 at 5:30 pm

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday November 8, 2011 at 9:00 am. All Directors were present, except Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman. The Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Executive Secretary were also present.

Mr. Gladstone participated by telephone conference, under Board policy, he could participate in discussion, but could not vote.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

There was a discussion on the Judging Approval Procedure adopted by the Board at the October 2011 meeting, specifically with regard to the Judges Review Committee described on page three.

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Smith, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to change the composition of the Committee as follows:

The Judges Review Committee as referenced within this policy is defined as a committee of five members to be comprised of the COO of the American Kennel Club, the Vice President of Dog Show Judges whom shall be Chair, one AKC Executive Field Representative appointed by the CEO for a two year term, with a four year limit, one Senior Judge (at least 20 years judging

experience and having at least three groups), and one designated person both of whom will be recommended by the CEO and confirmed by the Board of Directors. The last two appointees shall not serve more than two terms and shall not be a member of AKC staff or Board of Directors and are subject to Board of Directors confirmation if recommended by the CEO for a second term.

PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren and Lisa Carroll, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Event Application Fees for Field Trials and Hunting Tests

The Board voted to approve a recommendation to raise the event application fee for field trials and hunting tests from the current rate of \$25 to a rate of \$35. This increase would apply to nine event types – field trials for Pointing breeds, Retrievers, Spaniels, Beagles, Dachshunds, Basset Hounds and hunting tests for Pointing breeds, Retrievers and Spaniels. The increase will apply to events held after April 1, 2012 unless the application has already been submitted.

Braque du Bourbonnais Eligible to Participate in AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Tests

The Board reviewed a request via Special Services from the President of the Braque du Bourbonnais Club of America requesting that Braque du Bourbonnais be allowed to enter AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Tests. Without objection the Braque Du Bourbonnais will be added to the list of breeds eligible to participate in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests effective January 1, 2012. There was no objection.

Therapy Dog Program Status Report

Staff presented a status update on the first four months of the AKC Therapy Dog Program. As of October 27 (exactly 4 months since launch) the AKC has issued 1,686 Therapy Dog titles, with 151 different breeds having earned the title. The AKC has acknowledged 88 Therapy Dog certification organizations. Dogs located in all 50 states plus Canada and Puerto Rico have been awarded the THD title.

Rally Advisory Committee

Recommendations

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded

by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to adopt the Rally Advisory Committee's recommended regulation changes for the sport of Rally, effective April 1, 2012. (Attachment A)

Flat-Coated & Curly-Coated Retrievers Eligible to Participate in Spaniel Hunting Tests

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED to (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman), to approve a recommendation for the Curly-Coated Retriever and the Flat-Coated Retriever to permit the breeds to be eligible to enter the Spaniel Hunting Test program. Titles earned by these breeds in Spaniel Hunting Tests will be designated with an “U” (for Upland) to differentiate the title from those earned in Retriever Breed Hunting Tests (example: JHU). The proposal permits Specialty clubs from these breeds to apply to become licensed to hold Upland Hunting Tests one year following their eligibility to participate. This is effective January 1, 2012.

Boykin Spaniels Eligible for Retriever Hunting Tests

Following a motion by Dr. Gavin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman), to permit the Boykin Spaniel to be eligible to participate in the Retriever Hunting Test program, effective December 1, 2011. Titles earned by Boykin Spaniels in Retriever Hunting Tests will be designated with an “R” to differentiate the title from those earned in the Spaniel Hunting Test (example: JHR).

CLUBS

Delegates for Publication:

H. Geoff Geoffrey, Deland, FL
to represent West Volusia Kennel Club
No current Delegate

Robert W. Gilmour, Limerick, PA
To represent Penn Treaty Kennel Club
No current Delegate

Susan D. Sholar, Valley Center, CA
To represent Black Russian Terrier Club of America
No current Delegate
JD Rowell, Highland Park, TX

To represent Trinity Valley Kennel Club
Currently represented by Larry Abbott

NEW BUSINESS

Liaisons to Board Committees

The Board considered a request from the Chairs of the Standing Delegate Committees to reinstate Staff liaisons, who would attend the Committee meetings. The request included an offer by the Committees to give up 25% of their \$200 per meeting stipend for every Committee member to cover the cost of Staff travel.

While continuing to provide Board liaisons to the committees, the additional AKC Staff liaisons were discontinued by the Board for both economic and productivity reasons. The latter was particularly critical because of the number of additional days this meeting attendance required senior Staff to be out of the office. Applicable Staff has always been and continues to be available to review any Committee proposals in advance of their meetings as necessary. There was no motion to reverse the previous Board decision.

Meet the Breeds

Gina DiNardo reported on the "Meet the Breeds" in New York and in Orlando. In New York, there will be booths for 161 breeds and 50 cat breeds, and ticket sales are well ahead of last year. In Orlando, available booth space is completely filled and there will be 170 breeds represented. Ticket sales for the show are going very well, and the arena is almost sold out for the evening program.

Group Realignment

The Board discussed the Realignment Committee's recommendations. They included rule changes to go from seven to eleven groups, and to name the various groups. The Committee also recommended how the groups should be populated, but that decision would rest with the Board. Following a motion by Mr. Amen, seconded by Dr. Smith, the Board voted (affirmative: Mr. Amen, Dr. Smith, Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Newman, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Kalter, Ms. Scully; Mr. Arnold; opposed: Dr. Garvin; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to accept the Committee's recommendations and to approve the necessary rule changes. Staff was directed to prepare the necessary paperwork to forward this to the Delegates for a read and vote. This would include a

detailed Q & A. If adopted by the Delegates, the effective dates would be no earlier than 2014, and could be as late as 2015.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

Attachment A INTRODUCTION RALLY REGULATIONS AKC RALLY INTRODUCTION

RALLY INTRODUCTION

The Obedience Regulations and Rules Applying to Dog Shows, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of AKC Rally trials and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, except as these *Rally Regulations* may otherwise provide. AKC Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at a brisk pace through a course of designated stations (10-20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. The dog and handler team moves continuously at a brisk but normal pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect heel position is not required. Any faults in traditional AKC Obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the *Rally Regulations*. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. Unless otherwise specified in these regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands

and or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, touching the dog (unless otherwise specified by these regulations) or any physical corrections will be penalized. AKC Rally is a companion sport to AKC Obedience. Both require teamwork between dog and handler along with similar performance skills. Rally provides an excellent introduction to AKC Companion Events for new dogs and handlers and can provide a challenging opportunity for competitors in other events to strengthen their skills. All rally titles will follow the dog's name.

CHAPTER 1 RALLY REGULATIONS GENERAL REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 1

Section 4. Judging Schedule. The judging schedule will be based on the judging of up to 20 dogs per hour. A and B classes at the same title level may be combined for judging if the total combined entry for both classes is not more than 20 dogs.

CHAPTER 2 RALLY REGULATIONS GENERAL PROCEDURES

Section 2. Entry Limits. Entry limits may be based on ring availability or as specified by the club offering the event. The judging program will schedule up to 20 entries per hour, and no judge will be assigned for more than eight hours in one day. Judges may take 45 minutes to one hour for rest or meal breaks at their discretion. When entries are limited, a club must designate an RAE class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this RAE class would be entered in both Advanced B and Excellent B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. If due to entry limits an exhibitor cannot be entered in both the Advanced B and Excellent B classes the RAE class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be

unacceptable in their entirety

Section 5. Placement of Signs. Signs will be placed to the right of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the handler to aid in that change. Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. Exact placement of signs is made by the judge while walking the course along the path that will be taken by the handlers.

Section 7. Familiarization Time. The course for each class will be posted at the ring when the judge arrives. A 10-minute walkthrough for approximately each two hours of judging will be allowed for handlers without their dogs. After each two-hour period of judging, judges should allow an additional 10-minute walkthrough for the next two hour block of dogs to be judged in the class. When the same course is used for A and B classes, the judge may choose to combine the walkthrough times. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to answer any questions the handlers might have. The judge may also choose to brief the handlers on the course during this period. Copies of the course may be given to exhibitors prior to the first class if available. Walkthrough times need only be published in the judging program and catalog for the first rally class scheduled and shall show a time of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the class.

Section 9. Qualifying Scores and General Scoring. To qualify, dog and handler must receive a minimum score of 70 points out of a possible perfect score of 100. A rally title may be added after the dog's name when three qualifying scores have been earned under at least two different judges. Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points unless otherwise stated in these regulations. Unofficial scores will be posted ringside after each dog has completed the final exercise. Times will be recorded but not posted. Times will be used only to break ties for placements. The maximum number of points that can be deducted for any station is 10, with the exception of a non-qualifying performance.

The following deductions shall apply on a scale from 1 to 10.

Minor Deduction (1-2 points) for each of the following:

- Tight leash
- Dog interfering with handler
- Poor sits
- Slow, delay, or resistance to respond
- Touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
- Out of position

Minor to Substantial Deduction (1-10 points) for each of the following:

- Repeat of a station—only one (1) retry of each station will be allowed for all class levels. Repeat of a station is an automatic 3 point deduction.
- Pylon/post knocked over on Figure Eight, Spiral and Serpentine
- Lack of control
- Lack of teamwork
- Lack of briskness
- Handler error*
- Loud command or intimidating signal
- Excessive barking
- Hitting the jump
- Patting/Clapping in Excellent – per occurrence

Substantial Deduction (6-10 points) for each of the following:

- Incorrectly performed station** (Automatic 10 point deduction)
- Failure to complete the Stay Exercise (IP)—No retries allowed
- Failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction (IP) – no retries allowed
- Luring /pleading with the dog
- Lack of Natural Manner

Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog that eliminates while in the ring for judging
- Handler error*
- Station not attempted by handler***
- Non-qualifying errors may not be re-tried

***Handler errors** can be assessed from 1 to

10 points up to non-qualifying. Handler errors can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations on a course. Once a handler has stopped on any halt exercise, the handler cannot move their feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.

****Incorrectly Performed (IP) stations occur when a team attempts a station and fails to perform the principal parts of the station on the first attempt.** The handler may choose to retry the station once, for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory 3-point deduction for the retry of the station. The station is considered an IP if the handler chooses not to retry or fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt.

*****A station will be considered Not Attempted if:**

- handler completely passes the station without noticing the station
- handler approaches sign but chooses not to do the exercise
- handler approaches sign but does not begin the exercise described on the sign

Section 13. Ribbons and Prizes. Ribbons for the four official placements and all prizes offered for competition within a single regular class at licensed or member trials or at sanctioned matches will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores. Qualifying scores will not be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes in the non-regular classes. Awards for the four placements in these classes will be based solely on the number of points earned. There are no awards for competition between classes. Highest Combined Score in Advanced B and Excellent B classes may be offered at the option of the club. Prizes at a licensed or member rally trial must be offered to be won outright. However, a prize requiring three wins by the same owner for permanent possession, but not necessarily with the same dog, may be offered for the dog with the highest qualifying score in one of the regular classes. Prizes offered only to members of certain clubs or organizations will not be approved for publication in premium lists. If an

award in any of the regular classes is cancelled, the next highest scoring dog will receive that award. If there is no dog to move up, the award will be void. If the AKC cancels a dog's win, the dog's owner must return all ribbons and prizes to the trial-giving club within 10 days of receiving the AKC's cancellation notice.

**CHAPTER 3
RALLY REGULATIONS
CLASSES AND TITLES**

CHAPTER 3

Section 2A. Jumps. One jump must be used for this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in AKC Obedience classes (broad jump, high jump or bar jump), except 4 foot wide jumps may be used in place of 5 foot wide jumps. A 4-inch high jump board and bar jump will be supplied for dogs that have a height at the withers of less than 10 inches. This jump will be constructed so the maximum height does not exceed 4 inches, with a half-inch tolerance. This can be a separate board or support system placed between the two standard uprights. The bar or high jump board used to create this 4-inch jump height can be supported by a means other than the two standard uprights. Designs should be such that they do not interfere with the jumping of a dog. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these regulations. The **broad jump** will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest board will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if from a 5 foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point. In the ring, broad jump boards will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump set for each dog. Three boards will be used for a jump of 32 inches, two boards for a jump of 16 or 24 inches, and one board will be used for a jump of 8 inches. When decreasing the number of hurdles in the jump, the highest will be removed first. The **high jump** will consist of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height. The **bar jump**

also has two uprights. These are constructed to support only a striped bar, which is set at the dog's required jump height. The bar jump may be used in the same way as the high jump. However, if the bar jump is to be used as a jump in both directions, the uprights must be offset to allow the bar to be knocked off from either direction.

Send to Jump. The sign for this station will be placed at least 10 feet before the jump. The sign for this station and the one after it will be set so that the handler maintains at least a 3 foot path away from the jump while the dog performs the jump and returns to the handler. The set up and performance of this sign should not be confused with sign # (*) Send Over Jump-Handler Passes By.

Section 3. Rally Excellent Class. All exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Excellent must have between 15 to 20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Courses shall have a minimum of two Advanced level stations and a minimum of three Excellent level stations, plus the two required jumps and the Stay exercise per class. Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced classes, in Rally Excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

Section 4. The Stay Exercise. The judge will designate the area or person in charge of the leash prior to the excellent walkthrough. All exhibitors must be informed of where they need to go to retrieve their leash or from whom during the walkthrough. Immediately following the Finish Sign the handler and dog will go to the Stay Sign. The handler will sit the dog, and command and/or signal the dog to stay. The handler will then walk forward at least fifteen (15) feet, retrieve the leash from any of the following: gate steward, judge or designated area next to the ring exit, and return to heel position by walking around and behind the dog. The judge will order

"Exercise Finished" at which time the judging of the Stay Exercise will be complete. The handler will then attach the leash and exit the ring. The Stay Exercise is not considered to be one of the stationary exercises on the course.

**CHAPTER 4
RALLY REGULATIONS
NON-REGULAR CLASSES**

CHAPTER 4

Section 4. Rally Team Competition. For the non-regular Rally Team Competition, any of the regular rally class levels may be offered. The Rally Team Competition will be for teams of any four dogs that are eligible under these regulations. Five dogs may be entered, one to be considered an alternate for which no entry fee will be required, however the same four dogs will perform all of the exercises. No dog may be entered on more than one team. There is a total possible score of 400 points for each team. All team members will run the course individually, with the team time running continuously. Time will start when the judge gives the first member of the team the forward command from the "Start" sign. The subsequent dog for each team starts when the previous handler for the team passes the "Finish" sign without an additional command of "Forward" by the judge. Timing for each team will begin when the judge commands the first handler in the team to begin with the command "Forward" and will stop when the fourth handler from the team passes the finish line. If jumps are required, they will be based on the height of the smallest dog on each competing team. **Scoring.** All stations will be counted with a point value. The maximum point value, which can be deducted at any one station, will be 10 points. It is possible for a team to receive a negative score. Suggested judging rate is four teams per hour.

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS
RALLY REGULATIONS**

Deductions:

Minor deduction – 1 to 2 points

Minor to Substantial deduction – 1 to 10 points

Substantial deduction – 6 to 10 points

- Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3 point deduction.
- Incorrectly Performed stations are an automatic 10 point deduction.

Luring – The appearance of having a reward in hand, i.e. holding the thumb and first two fingers together as if holding a treat. No treat need be present.

Natural Manner – Not artificial, free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places.

Pleading – Repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to handler's commands and/or signals.

RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES PURPOSE

PURPOSE

Rally trials are a sport, and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring. Rally trials demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the Rally ring and emphasize the exhibition of teamwork between handler and dog. All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of Rally trials, however, is to recognize dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of Rally at all times and under all conditions. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must meet the requirements of the Rally Regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that the handler and dog appear to be working together as a team.

CHAPTER 1 RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A JUDGE

Judges must understand their responsibilities

to the sport.

Responsibility to Exhibitors. Each exhibitor has paid an entry fee for the purpose of competing and having their dog's performance evaluated. Judges are expected to be friendly and courteous to all who enter the ring. Without exhibitors, there would be no trials. For every experienced exhibitor there are many newcomers. The future of this sport is in the hands of the novice. After a judge completes an assignment and has turned in the judge's book, it is appropriate for the judge to discuss an individual dog's performance with the handler, if the handler requests this information. However, a judge should never continue a conversation with an angry or aggressive person.

Responsibility to Spectators. Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the actions of the judge, the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport. Judges should work to maintain spectator appeal in the sport while keeping foremost in mind the welfare and convenience of the exhibitor and the dog.

Section 2. Knowledge. The Rally Regulations are the basic guide to judging; however, not every possible fault or error is covered, only the more common and serious ones. The Rally Regulations clearly define the exercises and the standard by which they are to be judged. The Rally Regulations set the standard for a perfect score of 100 points by which each dog's performance is judged. The Rally Regulations give the judge guidelines for how an exercise is to be performed. While rally is not judged with the same precision as formal obedience, rally judges must make decisions based on a mental picture of the perfect performance within the framework of the Rally Regulations.

Judges are given full discretionary authority within the framework of the Rally Regulations and they must exercise this authority impartially. Judges are required to make their own decisions and accept the responsibility this implies. If a decision depends on the exact wording of the Rally Regulations, the judge is expected to consult

the book before making the decision. A judge may not discard, modify, or require anything not specified in the Rally Regulations. A rally title is intended to evoke admiration; therefore, the title must be based on performances that fully meet the requirements of the Rally Regulations. Scores for each exercise must be amply justified by the performance of the dog and handler. The owner of any dog receiving a qualifying score in rally has every reason to be proud. Earning a qualifying score should indicate a credible performance that fully justifies the eventual awarding of a title.

Section 3. Rally Judges' Education.

Studying the Rally Regulations, exhibiting and attending AKC Companion Events seminars increase a judge's knowledge. Putting the acquired knowledge into practice permits a judge to apply the principals of sound judging contained in the Rally Regulations. Rally judges must attend at least one obedience and one rally judges' seminar presented by AKC staff in every three-year period and will be ineligible to accept assignments if this requirement is not met. A person who is not currently suspended from the privileges of the AKC and who has trained and exhibited a dog to the Rally Excellent title (RE) and a Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title may be approved to judge the rally non-regular classes.

CHAPTER 2 RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES COURSE DESIGN

Section 1. Course Design and Setting the Course. A Rally Course should be designed to be fun, interesting and enjoyable for the exhibitor, dog and spectators. Courses should provide sufficient challenge without being overly complicating and designed to be completed by the average team in less than two minutes. This may vary slightly depending on the level. When designing courses, remember AKC Rally is a skill building class for all other AKC events and should provide the dog and handler the ability to develop and master a variety of skills.

Control and Teamwork is best evaluated with courses that flow. The Rally Judge should

consider the dog and handlers path when designing and setting the course. Grouping stationary exercises together causes a course to be choppy and tight while using multiple circular turns in the same direction may cause dizziness. Stations requiring specific angles of performance must be used to allow those angles to be executed correctly. Exercises using the pylons may share one or more pylons except for the Offset Figure 8. All stations with a "Fast" or "Slow" must be followed by a "Normal" except the "Slow" may be used as the last station.

Adequate space must be allowed for all sizes of dogs to perform the stations properly inside the ring including the Start, Finish and Stay signs. The Stay Exercise is not to be considered one of the required stationary course stations and must not be in the path of the course. Separate entrance and exit gates allow for better traffic flow and time management.

The first course of the day should be nested with multiple signs per holder for the following class levels to allow for an efficient and easy course change between levels. If a course needs to be modified note the changes on course posted and the one included in the Judge's Book.

Course Design is of significant importance to the sport. Judges should not use the same course in the same area over and over again. Courses should be laid out in a clear and straightforward manner in order that a handler who misses the walk through has a reasonable chance of qualifying by following the numbered stations.

CHAPTER 3 RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES PREPARATION FOR JUDGING

BE ON TIME. The judge must arrive a minimum of 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of judging, unless a prior judging assignment conflicts. Upon arrival, the judge will post the course(s) outside the ring.

Section 1. Ring & Equipment – Prior to the scheduled judging time, the judge will

inspect the ring, which must meet all requirements of the Rally Regulations Chapter 2, Section 1. Size shall be determined by the judge pacing the ring. Checking the ring also requires the judge to:

- Examine signs and sign holders to ensure they are secure
- Examine the distractions used in the Offset Figure 8 to determine that they can be seen and smelled but not consumed
- Measure the jumps in the Advanced and Excellent classes to ensure they meet the requirements as described in the Rally Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 2A

Section 2. Catalog Order – The *Rally Regulations* require that dogs be judged in catalog order to the extent practical, without holding up the judging in any ring. For the Advanced and Excellent classes, the trial secretary or superintendent will arrange entries according to the dog's jump height, ranging from either low to high or high to low. A judge need not mark absentees in the judge's book until the end of the class. However, judges are not required to wait for dogs.

Section 3. Judging Schedule. The judging schedule will be based on the judging of up to 20 dogs per hour. Walkthroughs should be performed as outlined in the *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 2, Section 7, "Familiarization Time." Additionally, judges may take rest or meal breaks at their discretion. Unnecessary delays in judging should be avoided. If there are less than 5 hours of judging scheduled a lunch break is not recommended.

CHAPTER 4 RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES JUDGING THE DOGS

Section 1. Judging the Dogs. The judge has absolute control and unquestioned authority over all persons and dogs in the ring. With this authority comes the responsibility to be courteous and considerate. Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog as conditions permit.

Judges position should be kept in mind when designing the course. Position is important

for three reasons: first to properly evaluate the dog and handler, second to establish consistency from team to team and third efficient time management. While there is no one perfect position, some positions are better than others. All dogs should be viewed from the same relative position on the course. Fronts and finishes are best judged from the front or from the side. When evaluating a "down", the judge should be in position to see whether or not the dog has dropped completely. Handlers should expect and train for a reasonable amount of movement by the judge.

Section 2. Philosophy of Scoring. It is the judge's responsibility to qualify all the dogs that should qualify and to non-qualify all the dogs whose performances did not meet the minimum requirements. From the qualifying group of dogs, it is the judge's responsibility to place the top four dogs in order of their performance. The remainder of the qualifying dogs are ranked in order by their scores. Unofficial scores, but not times, shall be posted ringside after each dog has completed the final exercise. A judge should honor an exhibitor's request to be excused. The sliding point scale is to assist judges in the scoring of each dog and handler team. Unless otherwise specified in the Rally Regulations scoring will be based on the minor to substantial deductions listed in Chapter 2, Section 9 of the Rally Regulations and any other applicable section found in the Rally or Obedience Regulations regulating performance and scoring. Each team should be scored on the following sliding scale while being judged:

Minor deduction – 1 to 2 points
Minor to Substantial deduction – 1 to 10 points

Substantial deduction – 6 to 10 points

- Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3 point deduction.
- Incorrectly Performed stations are an automatic 10 point deduction

CHAPTER 5 RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES THE JUDGES BOOK

Section 1. Check the Book. Prior to beginning the judging of each class,

check each book to ensure any additions or corrections have been initialed by the trial secretary or superintendent.

Section 2. When Judging is Finished.

Final scores may be recorded in the official judge's book by the table steward; however, the judge must verify the scores and sign the book prior to awarding ribbons. Once judging is finished, judges must first ensure their judge's books are complete and all scores, times, absences, excusals or other necessary information have been entered correctly. The judge must then sign the judge's book. The book, along with a copy of each course for the completed class, is then returned to the trial secretary, rally chair or superintendent who will scan the book for obvious omissions or oversights that can be corrected immediately by the judge.

Section 3. Judge's Score Sheets and

Records. Judges are not required to display or show exhibitors their individual worksheets. Judges will retain complete control of their records (copies of worksheets, copies of judge's books, etc.) for at least six months in case such records are required by the AKC in order to review the results of a particular class.

Section 4. Explanations and Errors. After the class is finished, judges are not required to explain their scoring and should not enter into a discussion with a dissatisfied exhibitor. Any person who thinks there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards, the judge, the superintendent or to the show or trial secretary so that the matter may be checked.

Note: Excusals and Attack Situations—Judges should refer to the Obedience Regulations Chapter 1, Section 17 for information on the excusal of a dog or disqualification for attacking situations

**CHAPTER 2
THE STEWARD IN RALLY
THE TABLE STEWARD**

Table stewards should report to their assigned

ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for the class. The extent to which a judge uses the services of a table steward varies greatly. The steward must receive specific instructions from the judge as to what will be required. Judges must use worksheets to communicate with the table steward. The judge may ask the table steward to prepare and have the worksheet ready for the next dog. The table steward is responsible for totaling deductions on the judge's worksheet and transferring them to the official judge's book. Final scores may be recorded in the official judge's book by the table steward; however, the judge must verify the scores and sign the book prior to awarding ribbons. The table steward must be aware that any and all class changes of dogs in rally can only be made by the superintendent or the trial secretary. No additions or corrections to the judge's book are allowed by any other person.

The duties of table stewards should include:

- Correctly entering the class, proper armband number and breed of dog on the worksheet.
- Correctly adding the scores on the worksheet.
- Correctly transferring the scores from the worksheets and the times to the judge's book, and, after doing so, initialing the judge's worksheet.
- Informing the judge of any error on the worksheet, and after the judge corrects it, entering the score and time of the dog into the judge's book correctly.
- Listing the time in the judge's book as minutes, seconds and hundredths.
- Posting each dog's unofficial score at or near ringside after the dog finishes the course.
- Making sure the judge's worksheets are not displayed or exhibited to any other person at the event, unless specifically directed to do so by the judge.
- Making all trophies and ribbons available at the conclusion of each class.

**RALLY REGULATIONS
SIGNS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

SIGN #13

13. Call Dog Front—Finish Right—

Forward—While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the **dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler's right, around behind the handler,** toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position.

The **dog does not sit before moving forward** in heel position with the handler. ***Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.*** (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #14

14. Call Dog Front—Finish Left—Forward— While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the **dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler's left** toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position. The **dog does not sit before moving forward** in heel position with the handler. ***Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.*** (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #15

15. Call Dog Front—Finish Right—HALT— While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part is the **finish to the right,** where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the right side of the handler. **Dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward with the handler. ***Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel***

position. (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #16

16. **Call Dog Front-Finish Left-HALT-** While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. Second part is the **finish to the left**, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the handler and sit in heel position. **Dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward in heel position with the handler. **Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.** (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #20

20. **Moving Sidestep Right-While heeling, the handler takes one step to the right, leading with the right foot,** and continues moving forward along the newly established line. The **dog moves with the handler.** The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. (This exercise shall be considered a change of direction and the sign shall be placed directly in line with the **team's** path requiring the handler and dog to sidestep to the right to pass the sign.)

SIGN #27

27. **Down and Stop-**While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the **dog to down** as **the handler comes to a stop** next to the dog. **Once the dog is completely down,** the handler moves forward, commanding **the dog to move forward from down position.** (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #36

36. **HALT-Stand Dog-Walk Around-Handler halts and dog sits.** With the dog sitting in heel position, **the handler stands the dog** and commands and/or signals the **dog to stay as the handler walks around the dog to the left,** returning to heel position. The **handler must pause** in heel position before moving forward to the next station. In the Advanced class, the handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog, and may pose the dog as in the show

ring **and the dog must move forward from the stand position. Handler may not touch the dog in the Excellent Class.** (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #39

39. **Offset Figure 8-**This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 8-10 feet apart, around which the **team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the center point three times without disturbing the distractions.** Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the figure 8 about 5-6 feet apart. Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side (see 3A and 3B). The distractions will consist of two securely covered containers with tempting dog treats; however, dog toys may replace one or both containers, or may be placed next to the containers. The exercise sign may be placed on or near the cone where entry is made into the Offset Figure 8. **Pylons or posts may not be shared with other exercises.**

NEW SIGNS (NOVICE CLASS)

Figure 8 – No Distractions –Two pylons or posts spaced approximately 6-8 feet apart. The team enters the sequence with the posts on either left or right and will perform a complete figure 8 around the posts or pylons, **crossing the center point three times.**

HALT – Left Turn – Forward – Handler halts, dog sits. With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the left and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. **The dog must turn with handler as the handler turns.**

HALT – Right Turn – Forward – Handler halts, dog sits. With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the right and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. **The dog must turn with the handler as the handler turns.**

Call Front – Return to Heel –While heeling the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position. The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front

position. **Dog sits in front** and faces the handler. The handler will then walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position and pause. **Dog must remain sitting as handler walks around dog.** (This is a 180° change of direction, about turn.) (Stationary Exercise)

Halt-Slow Forward From Sit-The handler halts, and the **dog sits in heel position.** The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel and moves forward at a slow pace. **The dog must maintain heel position as handler slowly moves forward.** This must be followed by a normal pace, unless it is the last station on the course. (Stationary exercise)

NEW SIGNS (ADVANCED CLASS)

HALT – Stand – Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, **the handler will stand the dog.** Handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog and may pose the dog as in the show ring. Handler then resumes heel position while the dog stands in place. Handler pauses before moving forward.

Halt-Pivot Right-Forward- The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, **then pivots to the right and dog and handler move forward.** (Stationary exercise)

Halt-Pivot Left-Forward- The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, **then pivots to the left and dog and handler move forward.** (Stationary exercise)

Leave Dog-2 Steps-Call to Heel-Forward- The handler halts, and the dog sits in heel position. While the dog remains sitting the handler takes two steps forward and pauses. The handler moves forward and commands the dog to resume heel position. The dog must move briskly. (Stationary exercise)

NEW SIGNS (EXCELLENT CLASS)

Down While Heeling –While moving forward, **without pause or hesitation.** The

handler will command and/or signal **the dog to down and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause** and then command and/or signal the dog to heel. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) **Dog must return to heel position and the handler must pause before moving forward.**

Stand While Heeling – While moving forward, **without pause or hesitation** the handler will command and/or signal **the dog to stand and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause** and then command and/or signal the dog to heel. This is a 180° change of direction, about turn. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) **Dog must return to heel position and handler must pause before moving forward.**

Stand – Leave Dog – Sit Dog – Call Front-Finish – While heeling, **the handler will stop** and command and/or signal the dog to stand, the **dog must stand and stay without sitting first.** Then the handler will **walk forward approximately 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn to face the dog** and command and/or signal the **dog to sit.** When the dog sits, the handler will command and/or signal the **dog to front.** The **dog sits** in the front position facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. **Dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary Exercise)

Send to Jump – At the sign for this station, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to leave heel position to execute the jump. The dog must leave the **handler immediately and execute the jump. The handler must maintain a straight path of at least a 3 foot distance away from the jump and may not pass the jump until the dog has returned to heel position. The dog must jump the jump in the proper direction and return to heel position without** pause, hesitation,

or **stopping.** The team then continues to the next station.

Stand-Leave Dog-Down Dog-Recall – While heeling, the **handler will stop** and stand the dog using a command and/or signal, then **walk forward approximately 6 feet.** The **dog must stand and stay without sitting first.** The handler will turn to face the dog and command and/or signal the **dog to down.** When the dog downs, the handler will command and/or signal the **dog to front.** The **dog must sit in the front position** facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. The **dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary Exercise)

Double Left About Turn– While moving with the dog in heel position, **the handler makes an about turn to the left** while at the same time, **the dog must move around the handler to the right and into heel position.** The handler must take one or two steps forward before performing the exercise a second time. The handler will end up turning 360° to the left as the dog turns 360° to the right around the handler. **The dog does not sit at any time during this exercise.**

Stay – This sign will be used as a marker for the stay exercise. **The dog must remain in the sit position while handler retrieves leash and returns to heel position and the judge says “exercise finished”.**

Call to Heel Marker – This sign will be used as a marker for associated exercises.

EVENT POLICY CHANGE

Currently Rally events are tied to an Obedience Trial, on a one to one basis with the trials to be held within 24 hours of one-another. The new policy increases the 24 hour time period to 72 hours (3 days). This is to allow for greater flexibility for clubs tied to multiple show events, in scheduling the two trials.

Regulation Change to Sign Numbering - Renumbering of Rally Signs

Novice Course Signs – Numbering sequence from 1 N, A, X to 99 N, A, X As with current regulation novice level, signs can be used in all three levels. There is no anticipated change in numbering to the current novice signs including the start and finish signs numbered one to thirty-one.

Advanced Course Signs – Numbering sequence from 101 A, X to 199 A, X As with current regulation, advanced level signs can be used in the advanced and excellent level classes. Signs at this level will need to be renumbered to fall into the proposed sequence of numbering. The use of a label attached to the sign will be permitted.

Example of renumbered signs –

Current Number	Proposed Number
Sign # 32 A, X	Change to # 101 A, X
Sign # 33 A, X	Change to # 102 A, X
Sign # 34 A, X	Change to # 103 A, X

Similar format for the remaining advanced signs numbered thirty-five to forty-five.

Excellent Course Signs – Number sequence from 201 X to 299 X. As with current regulation, excellent level signs can be used in the excellent classes only. Signs at this level will need to be renumbered to fall into the proposed sequence of numbering. The use of a label attached to the sign will be permitted.

Example of renumbered signs –

Current Number	Proposed Number
Sign # 46 X	Change to # 201 X
Sign # 47 X	Change to # 202 X
Sign # 48 X	Change to # 203 X
Sign # 49 X	Change to # 204 X

The Companion Event staff is currently working on renumbering of the Advanced and Excellent Signs.



American Water Spaniel



Boykin Spaniel



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red & White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Afghan Hound



American English
Coonhound



American
Foxhound



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan
Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick
Coonhound



Borzoi



Dachshund



English
Foxhound



Greyhound



Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish
Wolfhound



Norwegian
Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Redbone
Coonhound



Rhodesian
Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish
Deerhound



Whippet

Parent Club Links

Working



Akita



Alaskan
Malamute



Anatolian
Shepherd Dog



Bernese
Mountain Dog



Black Russian
Terrier



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Doberman
Pinscher



Dogue de
Bordeaux



German
Pinscher



Giant
Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss
Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan
Mastiff



Newfoundland



Portuguese
Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard
Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

Parent Club Links

Terrier



Airedale
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



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated
Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire
Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland
White Terrier

Parent Club Links

Toy



Affenpinscher



Brussels
Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese
Crested



English Toy
Spaniel



Havanese



Italian
Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

Parent Club Links

Non-Sporting



American
Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese
Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



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



Australian
Cattle Dog



Australian
Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian
Malinois



Belgian
Sheepdog



Belgian
Tervuren



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



Norwegian
Buhund



Old English
Sheepdog



Pembroke
Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland
Sheepdog



Puli



Pyrenean
Shepherd



Shetland
Sheepdog



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/handlers/>

To view the AKC Registered Handlers Membership list, click here:

www.akc.org/handlers/states/allstates.cfm

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics:

http://www.akc.org/handlers/jr_clinics.cfm

http://www.akc.org/handlers/adult_clinics.cfm



The American Kennel Club's Registered Handlers Program wants to encourage exhibitors to ask yourselves these questions:

1) Does your 'handler' have a safe, clean, well-maintained, and temperature-controlled vehicle to transport and house your dog while on the road?

RHP professional member handlers are required to have safe, clean, suitable, fully registered and insured vehicles for the animals that they transport (with documentation on file at AKC). Initial vehicle inspection is performed by AKC staff and mandatory annual re-inspection by RHP regional reps.

2) Have you visited and visually inspected your 'handler's kennel facilities?

RHP professional member handlers are required to have kennel facilities appropriate for the breeds that they typically carry and house. Facilities are inspected (with documentation on file at AKC) by AKC staff.

3) Is your 'handler' insured?

RHP professional member handlers are required to maintain Care, Custody and Control insurance for the dogs in their care and must show proof of insurance annually before the program will renew their membership.

4) Has your 'handler' provided you with a professional rate sheet and written contract?

RHP professional member handlers are required to provide their clients with a rate sheet and contract which should be signed by all parties prior to the handler accepting the dog.

5) How much experience does your 'handler' have?

RHP professional member handlers are required to have a minimum of seven years experience showing dogs for a fee and/or have worked as an AKC Apprentice Handler before they are eligible for membership in the AKC Registered Handlers Program. Additionally, the AKC RHP is the ONLY professional dog handling organization that requires its membership to complete annual mandatory ongoing education as a condition of membership and renewal.

You are entrusting your handler with your dog's health and well-being. Be sure you know the qualifications of who you are hiring.

**The American Kennel Club's Registered Handlers Program.
The safety, security and well-being of the dogs are placed above all considerations.**

For more information and a directory of RHP member handlers:

www.akc.org/handlers
handlers@akc.org
(919) 816-3590

The AKC RHP is sponsored by:

