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#### BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working  
January, April, July,  
and October

Hound and Terrier  
February, May, August,  
and November

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

This month, I am pleased to share that we now have more than 7,500 breeders enrolled in the AKC Breeder of Merit program. Our AKC breeders have supported this program since its inception in October 2010, and I thank you for your enthusiasm. Litters reaching 100 percent registration have grown tremendously since 2010.

The exclusive benefits we provide to breeders include customized web banners, a frameable Certificate of Distinction, and a special Breeder of Merit silver lapel pin. We've seen many of you wearing this at shows!



Breeders in the program also receive a \$20 credit every month to use for AKC online reports and may use the AKC online breeder classifieds for free, with an AKC Breeder of Merit designation in the ad. The AKC Breeder of Merit title is also showcased on all AKC registration certificates, dog applications, and registration kits.

Additionally, we've supplied special banners at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, Golden Gate, Westminster, and other select shows for Breeders of Merit to hang at their setup to celebrate their status. AKC Breeders of Merit also receive the exclusive, monthly newsletter "Inner Circle," which contains interviews and tips from top breeders in the sport, a puppy gallery to show off new stars, and more.

Finally, Breeders of Merit who register litters at a 100 percent rate will receive a special appreciation gift: a stationery set bearing the Breeder of Merit emblem, which is not available anywhere else.

Our marketing department continues to develop this program and is coming up with new ways to recognize and celebrate our program enrollees. We will continue to share program developments with you. If you are a breeder who'd like to apply for the Breeder of Merit program, download an application at [akc.org/breederofmerit/index.frm](http://akc.org/breederofmerit/index.frm).

Thank you again for your support of the AKC Breeder of Merit program. Your commitment to 100 percent puppy registration will help ensure the long-term success of the American Kennel Club.

Sincerely,

Dennis B. Sprung  
President and CEO



## Lab Joins *Reg. Ranks Revealed in NY Media Blitz* 21 Club

The AKC's Gina DiNardo appeared on *The Today Show* on February 28 to announce that the Labrador Retriever topped 2011 AKC individual-dog registrations, a position the breed has held for 21 straight years.

Later that morning a press conference was held at AKC headquarters, where a swarm of reporters and photographers were introduced to dogs and puppies representing the top-ranked breeds. These included the Beagle, which moved into third place by unseating the Yorkshire Terrier. The Yorkie dropped to number five.

The Golden Retriever moved up a notch, from fifth to fourth, and the Rottweiler broke into the top 10 by passing the Shih Tzu, which had been a top-10 breed since 2000.

A notable registration trend is the marked increase in the popularity of larger dogs. Five breeds of medium size or over are in the top 10 (six, counting the standard Poodles among the three breed varieties registered under "Poodles"). And several large breeds—the Belgian Malinois, Bernese Mountain Dog, Bullmastiff, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Irish Wolfhound, and Rhodesian Ridgeback—all made substantial gains in individual registrations.

For complete rankings of all AKC breeds, visit the Registration pages at [akc.org](http://akc.org) and click on "Statistics" in the left-hand menu.



### Registrations Top 10

#### 2011

1. Labrador Retriever
2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Beagle
4. Golden Retriever
5. Yorkshire Terrier
6. Bulldog
7. Boxer
8. Poodle
9. Dachshund
10. Rottweiler

#### 2010

1. Labrador Retriever
2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Yorkshire Terrier
4. Beagle
5. Golden Retriever
6. Bulldog
7. Boxer
8. Dachshund
9. Poodle
10. Shih Tzu





## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**A**s this page is being prepared, the 2012 AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship is in progress. The event is running from February 27 through March 10 on 18,400 beautiful acres at the Ames Plantation near Grand Junction, Tennessee. The entry of 124 dogs, including 105

Field Champions, is the largest number of AKC pointing-breed Field Champions ever assembled for a single event. Field Champions from all nine of the major pointing breeds are competing, including many that placed in their breeds at the 2011 National Championship.

Grand Junction is rich in bird-dog history. The town is home to the National

Bird Dog Museum, which houses exhibits depicting the history of field trials as well as portraits and sculptures of some of the most famous bird dogs of the last 100 years. The first organized field trial in the United States was held near Memphis (just 60 miles from Grand Junction) in 1874, and the American Field National Championship has been held on the Ames Plantation since 1915.

The trial is one non-retrieving championship stake consisting of two series run on wild quail. Each series is one hour long, and six braces run each day—three braces in the morning, and three in the afternoon.

I encourage you to visit the 2012 AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship Facebook page for the latest on the event, including “Dogs of the Day” postings. Event coverage and photos are also posted in the Performance Events pages at [akc.org](http://akc.org).



Sincerely,  
Ron Menaker



## DWAA Honors Multimedia Mix

The Dog Writers Association of America held its annual awards banquet at the Affinia Hotel in New York on the evening of February 12. The AKC received seven of the organization’s Maxwell Medallions in a range of categories that recognizes AKC efforts in both print and electronic publishing.

AKC FAMILY DOG won Best Feature in an All-breed Magazine (Leslie Pearce-Keating, “The Healing Touch,” July/August 2011), Best Regular Column (Eve Adamson’s “Good Grooming,” and Best Short Fiction (Joe Badalamente’s “Partner,” July/August 2011). Chet Jezierski’s Finnish Lapphund cover art for the July 2011 GAZETTE won in the Best Illustration or Painting category.

*The American Kennel Club’s Meet the Breeds* was named Best General Interest or Reference Book.

“AKC Canine Partners News” won Best Online Magazine, Newsletter, or Publication, and Best Ongoing Blog went to Mary Burch for her “Citizen Canine: Award-winning Training Tips” at [Caninegoodcitizen.wordpress.com](http://Caninegoodcitizen.wordpress.com).

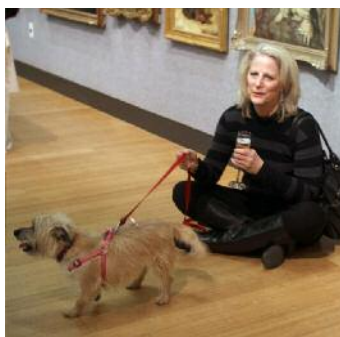
*At the Affinia: DWAA president Dr. Carmen Battaglia and AKC Publications Features Editor Mara Bovsun. Above: AKC Publications staff.*



# Barkfest Brunch

## Serves Woofles & Pomelets

The annual Barkfest brunch and auction preview to benefit the AKC Humane Fund was held Sunday morning, February 12, at Bonhams auction house in New York. Among the art on display were two record-setting canvases by William Henry Hamilton Trood (see story below).



## STRANGE BUT TROOD

*Artist Breaks \$ Record Twice in Same Day*

NEW YORK—The annual Bonhams “Dogs in Show & Field: The Fine Art Sale,” on February 15, made history when William Henry Hamilton Trood’s *Déjeuner* (right) easily surpassed its auction estimate (\$50,000–\$70,000) on the way to an inclusive sale price of \$194,500, a new world record for the artist.

About an hour later, Trood’s *Hounds in a Kennel* shattered the artist’s freshly set record by selling for \$212,500 (estimate: \$60,000–\$80,000).

“This was the best ‘Dogs in Show & Field’ sale we have had in years, and I am delighted with the results,” Bonhams Vice President Alan Fausel says. “The dog-art market is certainly turning a corner.”

Trood (1848–1899) was among England’s most admired painters of canine subjects during the golden age of dog art that



coincided with the reign of Victoria. He was a bit of an eccentric who, canine-art dealer William Secord says, “kept a fox, a badger, and an otter running loose in his room with his dogs. He once tried hypnotism on a dog to try and keep it to stay still, but its eyes looked unnatural.”

See all the auction results at [bonhams.com/usa/newyork](http://bonhams.com/usa/newyork).



**American Kennel Clips >>>**

**Important Notice from AKC Companion Events**

Changes to the *AKC Rally Regulations* have been made, effective April 1.

April 1 is a Sunday and splits a weekend. Thus, on Saturday, March 31, the old *Rally Regulations* would be in effect and on Sunday, April 1, the new regulations would be in effect. To eliminate confusion for judges and exhibitors, we ask rally judges to continue using the old regulations through Tuesday, April 3, and begin using the new regulations on Wednesday, April 4.

AKC rally judges should become familiar with these changes and regulations before April 1. To assist judges and fanciers to learn and disseminate these changes, AKC Companion Events has prepared several documents to assist in the transition. For all materials required, visit the Rally pages at [akc.org](http://akc.org).

**Join Us at Javits**

AKC Meet the Breeds returns to New York's Jacob Javits Center on October 20 and 21. Last year, more than 40,000 guests got up close and personal with dogs and puppies at booths manned by AKC parent clubs. It's never too early to get your club members thinking about this important public-education spectacular.

Sponsorships: Daphna Straus [dxs@akc.org](mailto:dxs@akc.org)

Vendors: Audra Geaneas [ang@akc.org](mailto:ang@akc.org)

Media: Christina Duffney-Carey  
[cmd@akc.org](mailto:cmd@akc.org)

AKC Clubs: Gina DiNardo [gmd@akc.org](mailto:gmd@akc.org)

General Information: Michael Canalizo  
[mlc@akc.org](mailto:mlc@akc.org)



**Upcoming CGC Tests**

**March 17**

Paws, Claws, Feathers & Fins  
Oneida, New York  
[mdunn17@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mdunn17@twcny.rr.com)

**March 24**

Northwest Ohio Dog Trainers  
Montpelier, Ohio  
[k9nodd@frontiernet.net](mailto:k9nodd@frontiernet.net)

Golden Triangle Obedience Training  
Club (Pittsburgh)  
[dsloughran@comcast.net](mailto:dsloughran@comcast.net)

**March 29**

Catawba Valley Obedience Club  
Hickory, North Carolina  
[gypsyasd@charter.net](mailto:gypsyasd@charter.net)

**April 1**

Wiggles-n-Wags Dog Training  
Lombard, Illinois  
[roxannedwyer@yahoo.com](mailto:roxannedwyer@yahoo.com)

**April 7**

Sunflower Cluster of Dog Shows  
Valley Center, Kansas  
[hannakj@roseam.com](mailto:hannakj@roseam.com)

**April 11**

Labrador Retriever Club/Potomac  
Frederick, Maryland  
[LRCP.com](http://LRCP.com)

**April 14**

Blackfoot Kennels  
Hemingway, South Carolina  
[hannakj@roseam.com](mailto:hannakj@roseam.com)

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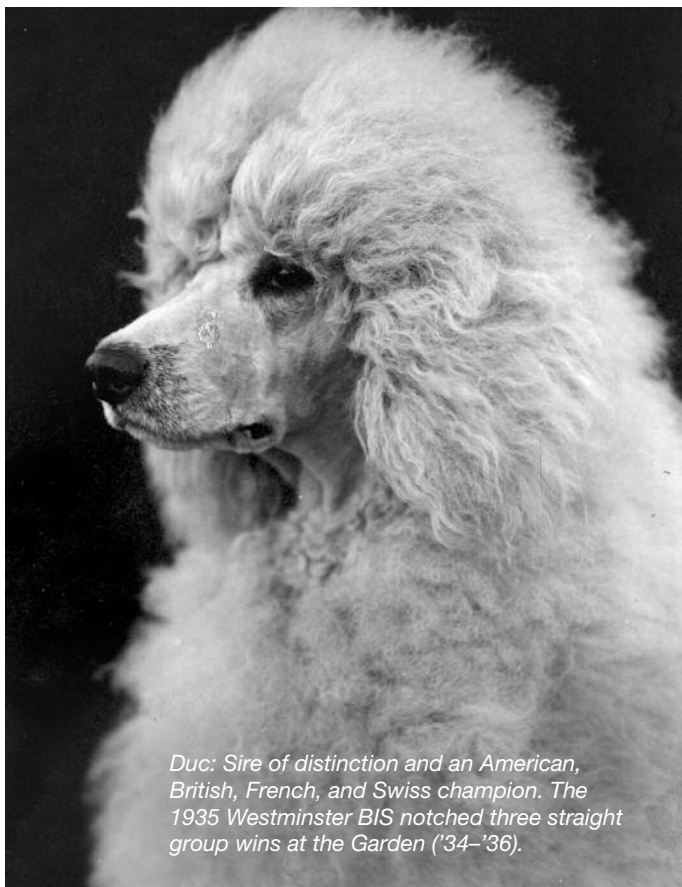
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[winshot@akc.org](mailto:winshot@akc.org)



*Duc: Sire of distinction and an American, British, French, and Swiss champion. The 1935 Westminster BIS notched three straight group wins at the Garden ('34-'36).*

## The House of Duc

**A**fter London's BIS at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, our office was abuzz with talk of a remarkable breed, the standard Poodle. At the "Times Past" desk thoughts strayed to an all-time great, Hayes Blake Hoyt's import Ch. Nunsoe Duc de la Terrace of Blakeen. Duc was a superstar show dog of the 1930s and a magnificent sire who influenced his breed for generations.

*Ch. Blakeen Jung Frau and her brother Ch. Blakeen Eiger, sired by Duc. These top BIS winners of the late '30s were the first Poodles to go Best Brace at Westminster.*



*Top to bottom:  
This Tauskey portrait of Duc grandson Ch. Broadrun Cherry made the GAZETTE's March 1942 cover.*

*Ch. Blakeen Luzon, a Duc granddaughter whelped in 1940, passed on granddad's good looks to her pups.*

*Ch. Ensarr Lace (c. 1950) was a fifth-generation descendant of Duc's matings with Piperscroft and Salmagundi stock.*





## Russell Bianca

*This picture-packed issue of the GAZETTE seemed an ideal occasion to visit with our Creative Production Director Russell Bianca. A mainstay of AKC Publications since 1998, Russell's many duties include correcting, enhancing, and restoring graphic images so that the dogs in these pages look real enough to jump off your screen and onto your sofa.*



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## 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.

*Information and opinions expressed in the breed columns represent the views of their authors, not necessarily those of the breed's parent club or the AKC.*

toys

### Affenpinschers "Our First"

We all have had a first dog in the breed we love and enjoy exhibiting.

My first Affenpinscher came as a surprise to me. I was caravanning with a group of sporting-dog friends on an extended show-circuit in the Northeast. At the time, the handler who was showing my Golden Retriever also was showing a champion Affenpinscher for one of the breed's foremost breeders in the U.S. In the handler's small ex-pen was the timid Affenpinscher girl; the handler was hoping exposure and attention would help her gain the confidence she needed to compete. I found time each day to sit with her, and she stole my heart.

I had been thinking about a smaller breed. In the crowded Golden Retriever ring, whenever a judge called out, "Take them around twice," I was aware that *once* was OK, but *twice* was getting harder and harder!

Later that summer, I was at a New York show, and the breeder of my handler's champion Affenpinscher girl was there. I introduced myself to the breeder, who had an Affenpinscher puppy in her arms. It was a puppy from a litter whose owner had traveled down from Canada for this breeder to evaluate. I noticed that one puppy had lipstick smeared inside her ears, and I asked why. She said, "This is the pick puppy, and I don't want her sold as a pet."

My "exhibitor's ears" perked up. I asked my handler to go to the owners

and assure them that I would be a responsible owner and a good show home. In less than 10 minutes, he was back and said, "You can buy her."

I rushed over to the grooming area with check in hand and bought the puppy. Immediately I took her to show her off to my friends. One of my Golden Retriever friends said, "That is the ugliest puppy I have ever seen. She looks like a 'Pitiful Pearl' doll!" So I named the puppy Pearl. Later she would become Ch. Nutak Sienna Gold Black Pearl, the dam of 10 champions, many of whom had significant wins at Affenpinscher nationals and at Westminster. Pearl is in the pedigree of every pup I have bred or co-bred. She lived a happy life for 17 years, while her offspring won in the show ring or brought joy to their owners as wonderful pets.

Now when the judge says, "Take the little dog halfway down and back," I say, "Thank you, Pearl—you were the start of something grand!" —Nancy Baybutt; [siennagoldaffens@comcast.net](mailto:siennagoldaffens@comcast.net); *Affenpinscher Club of America website:* [affenpinscher.org](http://affenpinscher.org)

### Brussels Griffons My Other Dog Is a ...

When one has puppies to place, the calls from potential buyers are more frequent, and the conversations become more detailed—more frequent because your fellow breeders refer callers when they can't provide the right animal, and more detailed because now each home situation must be evaluated.

The most welcome call is “We lost our beloved pet to old age after many years and are now ready to welcome another puppy into our childless home”; the scariest, “We have two pit bulls and a 2-year-old child. We’d like a Brussels for our 8-year-old, who thinks he’d like to try Junior Showmanship.”

First of all, never call it a Brussels if you want to convince the breeder that you’ve done your due diligence—they are Griffons, or Griffis, to us. Secondly, while pit bulls are notoriously wonderful family pets when raised and trained correctly, their potential to harm a smaller dog, whether intentionally or in play, is great.

Many people successfully house Griffons with other, often larger dogs. I know of Griff owners who also have Chows, Miniature Schnauzers, Bostons, Mastiffs, German Shepherds, Bulldogs, Poodles, Pugs, Australian Shepherds, and (to my mind the most unlikely combination) Borzoi. All are breeders or exhibitors, experienced dog people, and all are aware of the potential pitfalls. Griffis are bossy, attempting and often succeeding in being the alpha despite their size. This may work when the other dogs are laid-back and submissive, but it holds the potential for havoc.

We once adopted an older Great Pyrenees from relatives who could no longer keep him. He was so happy to have his Griff flock to guard that he even ignored the occasional attempt by the younger males to assert themselves, but he had an exceptional temperament. Even with that, he and the Griffis were never together unsupervised.

One friend kept a German Shepherd Dog with Griffons—again, never unsupervised. It was disconcerting, to say the least, to see the shepherd put her Griff friend’s entire head in her mouth. It was play, but *yikes!*

Many breeder-owner-handlers of large dogs seek out a smaller breed when they get older, when raising and training a large breed or running around the ring becomes difficult. This is good, as they get to stay in the game, and they have years of experience to

offer.

But what about the above caller who wants a Griffon for her 8-year-old? We don’t want to discourage her from dealing with reputable breeders, nor discourage her son from pursuing Junior Showmanship. The best response is to first discuss some of the reasons why a Brussels Griffon might not be the dog for them: Griffis are not always comfortable around toddlers; the puppy will want to play with the older, bigger dogs, who might not take kindly to it; the rough-coated Griffon needs hand-stripping and expert grooming to be presented properly in the Juniors ring; and, sad but true, it’s hard to compete in Juniors with a small dog when there are so many flashy dogs speeding around the ring. Then, give some encouragement. Point out some other more suitable breeds they might consider. Refer them to handling classes, and urge them to go to upcoming dog shows in their area to watch these breeds, their handling, their grooming, and seek out breeders to talk to—*after* they show their dogs. —*Anne K.*

*Catterson; annecatt@gmail.com; American Brussels Griffon Association website: brussels-griffon.info*

## Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

### What’s in a Name?

It occurred to me that many of us would enjoy learning the origins of the kennel names that have become so familiar to us over the years. Some are obvious blendings of several names, some are historical, and some are downright strange! Following is a listing of some of the most interesting, in no particular order.

*Devonmar* (Marlene Anderson). Marlene was fascinated by castles and studied their construction when she traveled overseas.

*Evanlake* (Diane Zdrodowski). “Ev” is short for Everett, Diane’s father’s name; “A” is the first letter of her father-in-law’s name, Adam; “N” is for the name of her oldest and dearest friend, Nancy; “lake” is because she was living on a lake when she applied for the kennel

name.

*Craigowl* (Norma and Gordon Inglis). Craigowl is the name of a hill near Norma’s home town of Forfar, in Scotland.

*Stepamgar* (Jim and Linda Shreffler). This is a combination of the names of the Shreffler’s three children—Stephan, Pamela, and Garrett.

*Stellar* (Mary Louise Gregg). This is in honor of the happy memories Gregg shared with her father, who had a special interest in astronomy.

*Caryse* (Renee Bruns). *Caryse* is Gaelic for “love.”

*Charlescote* (Jan Koehler). From *cavali-er* and *cote*, meaning a small enclosure for animals.

*Timsar* (Annette Jones). A combination of the names of Jones’s youngest children, Timothy and Sarah.

*Caruaid* (Chris Gingell). This is a Welsh word meaning “affectionate” or “loving.”

*Fyrnrose* (Gladys Baillie). Baillie grew roses and fir trees in Edinburgh. The Scottish word *fyrne* means “made of fir-wood.”

*Welmforth* (Phyllis Lasser). This evolved from “We left Manhattan for this”—referring to Lasser’s move to New Jersey.

*Kilbrook* (Joanne Opel). This is the name of a stream behind Opel’s house in Ossining, New York.

*Ministik* (Leah Swatko). *Ministik* means “island” in the Cree language and was the name of a lake and creek at the edge of Swatko’s old farm in Canada.

*Goldenspur* (Ellen Williams). English kings rewarded their most expert knights with a pair of golden spurs (the word cavalier means “knight”).

*Seaborne* (Robyn and Scott Futcher). The family lived on the coast of Maine and were recreational and professional sailors.

*Stuarthome* (Kathy Yonkers). Her affix was in honor of both her maternal lineage (the name Stewart) and her first Cavalier, Chanctonbury Stuart.

*Fair Oaks* (Chris Meagher). Named for the little town where her grandmother’s best friend lived, on the banks

of the Ohio River. Chris often accompanied her grandmother there, enjoying the friend's beautiful gardens and having tea served in special china cups. These visits made Chris feel very special and adult. When she sought a kennel name, those happy days came to mind.

*Torlundy* (Patty Kanan). Named for the village in which she once lived in Scotland, in Lord Abinger's original hunting lodge, which was later turned into a Michelin five-star hotel.

*Leogem* (Dennis and Tina Homes). The name is a combination of their astrological signs, Leo and Gemini.

*Lizmere* (Lizzie Gardner). Her best friend Lizzie is from her first litter; *mere* is French for "mother."

*Rose Arbor* (Betzie Smith). Betzie's grandfather took tender care of his beloved roses. He was her childhood hero, and she thought of him immediately when seeking a kennel name.

*Tea Time* (Betsy Clagett). The name came from the many hours she spent having a "cuppa" with her mentor in Morgan horses.

*Spiceolife* (Jean McAloon). Named after a toaster cover she saw in 1991!

*Turnworth* (Katie Eldred). Named for the village in Dorset, England, where Eldred and her two oldest children lived during World War II while her husband was overseas.

There you have it—a small insight into some of the many fascinating names we have all grown to know and respect. —*Stephanie Abraham*; [landmarks.properties@snet.net](mailto:landmarks.properties@snet.net); *American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club website*: [ackcsc.org/Home.html](http://ackcsc.org/Home.html)

## Chihuahuas

### The Good "Tiger Mom"

By now you have probably heard the term "tiger mom." It is sometimes used to describe an overbearing mother who pushes her child to achieve, and examples of such often sound cruel and heartless. Those who take pride in the label, however, define it as encouraging outstanding behavior. Their view is that it builds the child's self confidence, enabling the

child to face challenges with an optimism that she or he is capable of great things.

Consider being a good "tiger mom" to your Chihuahua, beginning as early as possible.

Training for the show ring cannot start soon enough. The Chihuahua who enters the ring happy, with tail up and moving confidently, instantly has an edge over the shy, unsure, tail-down, apprehensive dog. (Remember our standard, which mentions the breed's "terrierlike" qualities.) If that same dog is rock-solid for the table exam, the edge can be significant.

Expose your puppy to new environments, new people, and new surfaces to walk on. Buy a piece of mat material (a ridged stair-tread works well), and attach a strip of duct tape across it. Give the pup a treat for walking on this unfamiliar surface.

Bring your puppy to a variety of places, such as pet-supply stores, training centers, and fun matches. At each new place, have different kinds of people, both male and female, hold your puppy. Have each person continue holding the pup until it's clear that she is relaxed with her new friend.

Find treats and toys that the puppy really likes, and use them only for training. Set up a ringside table in your house and put the puppy on the table a few times a day. Feed the puppy on the table, and give her treats while she's on it. Be sure to avoid doing grooming on this table—the puppy needs to learn that *good* things happen on the table, and she might not enjoy some aspects of grooming. Have other people approach her on the table and "play judge."

While this may sound like all the other training tips you've heard, the key is in being a "tiger mom"—you, the owner-handler, must be consistent, strict, and disciplined.

I got my first Chihuahua after 20 years of training and showing Shiba Inu. My first few attempts to train my Chihuahua to self-stack didn't seem to have an effect. I figured the little dog couldn't see the bait, so although get-

ting up and down wasn't easy for me, I began getting on my knees and trying to hand-stack him.

A very tall Chi exhibitor soon told me that not only could Chihuahuas be taught to self-stack, they can make for a very dramatic picture when you the only one in the ring with a self-stacked dog and everyone else is on their knees trying to hold their dog together. Since then, I have taught all my Chihuahuas how to self-stack. I might have to bend at the waist quite a bit, but they can see and smell the bait quite well.

Stop making excuses for your dog's incorrect behavior. ("She's shy" ... "It's his first show" ... "Another dog scared her.") Keep practicing until the desired outcome is consistent and reliable. —  
*Evelyn Piano Behrens*;  
[blueloon@mn.state.net](mailto:blueloon@mn.state.net); *Chihuahua Club of America website*: [chihuahua-clubofamerica.com](http://chihuahua-clubofamerica.com)

## Chinese Cresteds

### The Breed's Hare Foot

It's a small thing ... actually, several small things. I'm talking about Chinese Crested feet. The feet don't get much attention, but of course they are very important to the dog.

The breed's standard is brief and to the point on the subject: *Hare foot, narrow with elongated toes. Nails are trimmed to moderate length.*

Pretty simple, except that many Cresteds have hair that all but covers the shape of the foot as well as the nails. It becomes difficult to tell whether what's hiding under there is a hare foot, or a little, round cat foot. It's simple enough to gently move the hair aside to check the shape of the foot, but very few judges do it.

To the unaccustomed eye, a hare foot is not nearly as attractive as a compact cat foot or a pretty little oval foot. Add to this the fact that many Crested breeders and judges have come from other breeds that require a different-shaped foot, and the problem becomes more obvious.

A Crested's foot is an interesting piece of equipment. Many use them almost like hands, minus the thumb.



There are countless stories of Cresteds who can pick up things as small as a pencil with their tricky little toes. To watch them play with a toy—often as if it were prey—is an amazing thing. Their toes are strong and very flexible. It's not unusual to pick up a Crested and find that he has as firm a hold on you with his toes as you have on him.

We know where the other foot shapes in the breed come from. Many generations ago, as with many breeds, other breeds were introduced into our gene pool to improve characteristics such as dentition, coat texture, and other traits being sought for at the time. Sometimes, unexpectedly, some of the characteristics of these other breeds surface. I had a Crested a few years ago who was a beautiful example of his breed except for his little round feet. It's not a disaster. It's not a disqualification—we don't have any breed-specific qualifications in Cresteds—but it is a fault to be weighed in with the general evaluation of the dog, as is any flaw.

At a show recently, I had a casual conversation with one of the photographers. As we stood talking, the photographer, who is a knowledgeable dog person, reached out and picked up my Crested's front foot.

"Looks like you need to trim these nails," she said. I looked down, knowing that I had trimmed them the night before. Sure enough, they looked fine to me. Then it hit me: She comes from a breed where the nails must be trimmed short. To her eye, these nails looked too long.

"Actually," I said, "this is right for Cresteds. Moderate length is what we want."

"Really?" she replied. "Thanks for telling me. I didn't know that."

It should be so easy to educate everyone about our breed!

A foot is just a small part of the dog. We never want to fault-judge, and failure to consider a beautiful specimen for lack of the correct foot would be a mistake, but to be a truly knowledgeable person about this or any breed, it's necessary to be aware of the dog's fine points.

Now go out there and check out those feet. You will be surprised at what you find. —*Sue Klinckhardt-Gardner; Tamoshire@Qnet.com; American Chinese Crested Club website: chinese-crestedclub.info*

## English Toy Spaniels Getting Started

Our club members often receive requests for breed information and assistance in finding a puppy. With spring arriving, these requests will probably increase, and by following a few simple guidelines, new owners can greatly enhance their understanding of the breed.

Our breed is very small in numbers, so to have a successful match for owners and puppies, it becomes crucial that both parties have realistic expectations. The end goal is always to place quality puppies in the hands of those who will help them reach their maximum potential in a loving and stable environment. It is irrelevant whether the puppy is a pet only or also a show and breeding prospect.

For those who are answering calls, please remember that we all started somewhere, and each inquiry should be handled with respect and dignity. It is our job to educate all potential newcomers to our breed. Remember, the only stupid question is the one not asked!

Even when you are positive that the caller is not a good match for our breed, it is a small price to give of your time and leave them feeling informed and thinking about possibilities. We all want to protect our special breed from those who are not well intended, yet we must try to give each inquiry the benefit of the doubt. It all boils down to treating others as you would like to be treated yourself—a simple but often-forgotten principle in our busy lives.

Anyone who is looking to join the ranks of our breed devotees must realize that doing so is not always simple, and it is hardly ever a quick process. We have a very limited number of puppies born every year, and these are often spoken for by those already involved in

our breed. However, there are some things that will help make the process a lot easier and quicker when searching for a puppy.

The biggest roadblock is having your heart set on a particular color or sex. Thinking you want to start with a female as either a pet or a show/breeding prospect is the quickest thing to shut down your search. Females are obviously the most valuable to a breeder, and it will take a lot for them to part with one.

If you are looking for a pet, please realize that the boys in our breed are actually much more loving and demonstrative. I find both sexes pretty easy to housebreak, and marking is almost never an issue with good training and neutering. When people are looking for a show/breeding prospect, I will always advise them to start with a male. Males are more readily available, and by the time you finish your boy's championship you will have learned more about our breed and possibly found your mentor.

Another big mistake is insisting on a certain color. With a limited number of available puppies, this is not a place to set limitations. Be prepared to answer a lot of questions, and know that these puppies are not inexpensive to breed. Good breeders are not out to make a buck, but they need to charge a fair price or only the wealthy could pursue this interest.

Once you own one of these little charmers, you will understand they are worth the work and the wait! Let's get started on the journey. —*Janelle Smedley; jsmeds@cheqnet.net; English Toy Spaniel Club of America website: etsca.org*

## Havanese Calling Our Veterans!

Do you stand and clap for the veterans at your specialties? Do you love seeing them proudly sail around the ring? Does it bring a tear to your eye and cheer to your heart to see the ones who are the foundation of our breeds? Did some of them return to the ring to earn Grand Championships?

Why don't we have more Veterans classes at all shows? Isn't it a great thing to have dogs who were not only winners in their day, but also have held up in the years after those wins?

We are all looking for ways to have more entries at shows, and adding Veterans seems like a wonderful way to accomplish this. Show dogs typically are trained, groomed, evaluated, and enter the ring as puppies, and as young adults they finish a championship. A few will be specialed and shown nearly every weekend, to be campaigned for one or two years. After a show career, typically dogs retire to do what show dogs were meant for: have puppies and carry the breed forward. Some may also compete in agility, obedience, rally, earthdog, or other events. Most do not go back to the conformation ring. Why not?

We are lucky with Havanese as they are shown naturally. Correct coats are easy to maintain. When the new Grand Champion title was announced, some of our retired champions were in full coat and could re-enter the ring without much preparation.

The Grand Championship has attracted many. There are dogs out there whose breeding careers have ended and who would love to go back to applause and excitement. A Veterans class at shows would allow them to do that.

Don't you have a retired champion who would love to be shown? I know I do! —*Joan Ambrose*; joanambrose@yahoo.com; *Havanese Club of America website: havanese.org*

## Italian Greyhounds It Can Happen

Dogs are wonderful, but every breed has its own particular cross to bear. Italian Greyhounds are no exception. Two things come to mind almost immediately: housetraining difficulties, and the potential for a broken leg. This column will be devoted to the second of these situations and how to lessen the risk of this devastating occurrence.

Some lines in the breed may be

lacking in bone density, but there are also several reasons that even an IG with normal bone may be prone to leg fractures, besides the fact that long, slim legs break more easily than short, heavy-boned ones.

First of all, a very high percentage of breaks occur in young dogs between 5 months and 1½ years. Italian Greyhound puppies are not couch potatoes and sincerely believe that they can fly. They are very active and athletically inclined youngsters who are unlikely to give much thought to their landing site once they take off.

Bearing out this theory is the fact that a large number of broken legs occur within a few days of the dog coming into an unfamiliar new home. Indoor hazards include high-backed furniture not placed against a wall, hard and slippery floors, enticing items left on tables and other tall locations, fashionably high beds, chairs with webbed seats or cushions that could entrap a small foot, and statuary or other irregularly shaped objects that might be in the flight pattern.

Outdoors, such things as gopher holes can be a problem, as well as the likelihood of small animals like rabbits and squirrels that need to be chased. Other dogs, even other resident Italian Greyhounds, may encourage dangerous play activity. Having the IG run wildly on unfamiliar ground is definitely something to avoid. Stairs—even a short flight of steps—can be a hazard for a puppy who is unaccustomed to them. Additionally, one of the most common causes of fractures is lack of caution in getting an IG out of the upper compartment of a stack of crates.

We have had IGs in numbers from 1 to 18 since 1966, and I thought our home to be free of potential booby traps. In September, however, I picked up a new puppy at our national specialty from the co-breeder.

On her third day here I was showing Diva off to a friend, when my husband let our five adult IG girls in from outside. Four of them came charging in at top speed, making a beeline for the

sofa, bowling Diva over on their route. The puppy picked herself up and tried to emulate them, but she aimed badly and struck a corner of the coffee table as one of the others accidentally slammed into her. IG fanciers call what ensued the “death scream.” Once heard it isn't easily forgotten. I knew Diva had broken a leg before even seeing it.

Repairing a fracture, especially if a show career is to be salvaged, requires a highly skilled veterinary surgeon and a healthy bank account. I highly recommend that anyone acquiring an IG puppy should know where to find these in case the need should arise.

As I write this, Diva is waiting for her water therapy, and my fingers are crossed that I'll eventually be able to show her. —*Lilian S. Barber*; iggyil@earthlink.net; *Italian Greyhound Club of America website: italiangreyhound.org*

## Japanese Chin Taking the High Road

Do most dog people realize that it seems the public only hears about dog breeders when some horrible rescue happens that is put on TV or the Internet? Do you feel that nondog friends look at you as if they think you are breeding to make money or to caress your ego when you win in the show ring? Dog people are often presented to the public as uncaring, money-grubbing egomaniacs who have no real regard for dogs at all.

I for one am *so* tired of this type of bad press. Animal-rights groups with their agendas have found many ways to attack dog shows and dog breeders. The attacks are working! Look at the popularity of designer dogs and how hybrid “mutt vigor” is promoted all over TV, along with the animal-cops shows.

So what are we to do?

I think the AKC should be promoting the sport more strongly and showing the backbone of the dog world—the good breeder—in a better light.

More public education should be done about how finding the genetics of dog diseases is ensuring the breeding of healthier dogs and often also helps

humans in the long run. Awareness should be raised of how good breeders provide proper prenatal care and socialization of pups to ensure the good temperaments of adults.

More emphasis should be placed on how the public benefits enormously by the contributions made by purebred dogs.

The public should be educated about how much it costs to properly raise puppies and how responsible breeders do not aim to make a profit. People should be educated to realize that healthier, happier animals come from dedicated breeders who have extensive knowledge of parentage and pedigrees.

Since parent clubs are the guardians of specific breeds, each club should promote its own code of ethics, should only accept as members people whose homes have been visited to see how their dogs live, and should have a support system to help owners who face major life-challenges such as divorce or illness.

Unfortunately animal hoarding is a real disease. Parent clubs must take notice if a member seems to get into a situation of having too many dogs to properly care for. All dogs should have proper, daily food and water and vet care and live in clean surroundings outside of crates. If this is not being done, the parent club should find ways to promote the welfare of its specific breed—whether by guidance, arranging home visits, or just being aware and not ignoring telltale signs that someone is in “over their head.”

If we are to continue breeding and showing purebred dogs, we need to take the high road, lead by example, and expect everyone involved to be of the highest ethics so the public hears less “bad” about dog breeders. —*Carla Jo Ryan*; carlaryan@bellsouth.com; *Japanese Chin Club of America website*: japanesechinonline.org

## Maltese A New Era

My last column closed the era of the hard-copy, printed GAZETTE. While it was very hard to realize that

an issue of that magazine would not come in the mail again, I am now overjoyed to be able to write the first digital columns as well for the American Maltese Association.

The future holds bright for the entire online world to read about our beautiful Maltese in the U.S. For those just now googling information about the breed, I'd like to guide you to the American Maltese Association's website, *AmericanMaltese.org*.

Through the site you will be able to connect to dedicated breeders who strive to breed healthy dogs that follow our American standard. The site also offers information on upcoming events, such as our national specialty shows, the next of which will be held in May in the San Diego area.

Our site also offers areas with breed photos, health information, news about obedience, rally, and Junior Showmanship, and pictures of many winners of past specialties. While the GAZETTE column is primarily about our breed in the U.S., we would love to include information from kennels overseas as well. If anyone has a subject they would like discussed or pertinent information about our breed to share here, please e-mail me.

I was reading some materials from when the club was in its infancy, and interestingly enough, many of the articles addressed the same topics we discuss today about whelping, taking care of coats, dealing with eye-stain, and so on.

Since there was not instant communication in those days, many of the columns presented show results from around the country. Even in those days, people liked to brag about their wins.

Just think: It was on December 3, 1961, that the American Maltese Association became the breed's first parent club in the world! Now in 2012, we can be read around the world as well, instantly! —*Daryl Martin*; daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net; *American Maltese Association website*: americanmaltese.org

## Miniature Pinschers Are You Prepared?

Here's the situation: You fell 11½ feet off the roof of your motor home while removing the cover. You have safely removed the cover thousands of times, but this time you fell. Your face is torn and swollen, your clavicle broken, rotator cuff torn, bicep tendon separated, and wrist shattered in six pieces.

The scary part is that you live alone with your dogs. Who will tend to your dogs while you go through months of surgeries and healing time? How will they know which dogs need special care? What kind of food to give them, and how much? How much medicine needs to be administered? How will they know which dogs can run together in your fields or runs?

Good questions. Are you prepared? We go through our life routines believing all will be fine, but as I learned so quickly, accidents happen in a flash. It is vital to ensure we have emergency plans.

Although I was worried, fortunately I had done some preparation. My dog room is color coded—each crate or pen has the name of the dog, a color band, and a picture. The top of the gate for each field is painted a corresponding color, and the dogs that can play together safely have that color on their nametags. A map of the field area is posted on the door along with the number of dogs in each group and the color band.

In the food cabinet is a list of each dog, in crate order, with that dog's type of food and medicine (if needed). A fact list and feeding routine is posted on the door to the room. In an emergency, anyone can walk into the dog room and know how to take care of my dogs. I had this prepared before the accident so even non-dog family or friends could take care of them if I was unable to do so.

There are many ways one can ensure that their dogs are each identifiable and print out instructions for their care. Have you made any emergency preparations such as these?

In addition to detailed instructions about caring for your dogs, prepare a



list with their phone numbers of the people who know your wishes regarding your dogs. This way no one suffers in the event you are incapacitated for an extended period of time, such as if you will need someone to help in the placement of puppies, young adults, and senior citizens.

To be prepared takes some time and effort. However, as the one in charge, this difficult work is part of your duty. Take an hour or so to write instructions down, and update them as needed. Make sure they are kept in a visible place. —*Kim Byrd*; kimbyrd90@gmail.com; *Miniature Pinscher Club of America website*: minpin.org

## Papillons

### Breeding 101

I just “recovered” from assisting my Papillon bitch, Sabrina, as she whelped a beautiful litter of three healthy puppies. *Whew!* I am not a novice—I’ve been breeding more than 30 years—but every time my bitches whelp, I become just as anxious as them.

I usually have their whelping box and whelping kit ready, but as it was Sabrina’s first litter, I was unsure of her due date. She was bred early, on her seventh day, then three more times every other day. I therefore had to watch her closely for signs. Some bitches sleep round the clock for a few days right before they whelp. Some even start nesting—scratching and digging—a day before. Some eat the day they are ready to pop, while others fast. Some pant frantically and have that glazed look, as though saying, *Help me!* For Sabrina, however, it was a bit different.

When I left for work, all was normal. But when I returned, I noticed she did not eat, although she started to munch when she saw me. I let Sabrina out first, and usually she would scurry out to do her business. Today, however, she didn’t want to go out! I knew then it was time. I took her temp and she was already at 99 degrees, so I had to work quickly to gather all the necessary supplies for the big event.

My whelping kit consists of facecloths for extracting puppies; towels for

drying them; a 3½-inch hemostat to clamp umbilical cords; small, flat scissors to cut the cord; a small glass with rubbing alcohol in it to place the tools in; unwaxed dental floss to tie the umbilical cord; and a bulb syringe to clear the pups’ lungs. I also make sure that I have 500 ml of lactated Ringer’s solution, a variety of syringes and needles, nitrate sticks, a #8 French feeding tube (clear), one can of Esbilac, surgical gloves, K-Y Jelly, and a small tube of cake icing.

I’m also sure to have on hand at least two tubes of fresh-frozen blood plasma from Dr. Jean Dodds. The plasma is collected from healthy, immunized dogs who are blood- and serologically tested. The expected shelf-life conservatively is one year, and it is viable as frozen for an additional four years from expiration date, giving it a total of five years.

For the treatment of the fading puppy, orphaned puppies, or those receiving only minimal colostrum after birth, this should be administered three times in the first 24–48 hours.

For sick newborns, it is given intraperitoneally (IP), but it also can be given orally in the first 24–36 hours of life. For pups 2 days or older, administration must be IP, IV, or subcutaneous, and not oral, as at this point the antibodies in the plasma will no longer be absorbed gastrointestinally.

Once one of my puppies had hind dewclaws (which according to our Papillon standard must be removed), and unbeknownst to me the vet, behind closed doors, injected her with a local to remove them. My puppy became lethargic and unable to nurse and was losing weight.

After trying to hold her on a nipple and attempting other methods to get her going, with no success, I prepared and administered the blood plasma subcutaneously. Like a miracle, the puppy immediately grew strong, was able to nurse again, and rapidly regained her weight. I am so thankful for having the plasma, because it saved my puppy’s life. —*Roseann Fucillo*;

cilloette@yahoo.com; *Papillon Club of America website*: papillonclub.org

## Pekingese

### Where’s Your Passion?

Let I be misunderstood, *passion*, as used herein, is to be understood as “a powerful or compelling emotion or feeling.”

As I’m sure any enthusiast or devotee of any breed of dog will agree, we claim to have a passion for our own beloved breed(s). How, though, does this stated “passion” translate into action that promotes and furthers the highest interests of our breed? Although this article is written primarily with Pekingese in mind, surely my thoughts apply to many breeds and their devoted breeders, owners, and exhibitors.

We all know our present economy creates many challenges to each of us, albeit in different ways. The cost of almost everything is up, but most incomes are not.

There are many stated reasons why show entries are down, most valid but worthy of being reevaluated. If we reach a point of having no individual (owner-handler) exhibitors, we will have no shows. We need numbers of entries to create the points necessary to earn our dogs’ championships. And yes, the professional handlers need us to help build these numbers. If there are few or no dogs of specific breeds entered in any given show, it’s likely there will be fewer and fewer interested spectators—spectators who might be future exhibitors and even breeders.

So this is where our passion comes in:

- Do you have the passion to educate others about your breed? When you receive a call asking about puppies for sale or with other questions, do you take the time to give helpful information about shows, resources for breed information, and so on?

- Do you have the passion to work with others to bring new people into your breed? There are so few new exhibitors these days, it is incumbent on each of us to greet them, introduce ourselves, perhaps invite them to a local club meeting, and offer any learning assistance which they might welcome. Over time, I have seen some newcom-

ers simply fade away because they have been given little incentive to grow in the breed.

- If you have a specific talent, such as in grooming, training, writing, or whatever, have the passion to share that talent with others who may be less gifted in that area.

- Finally, let your passion for your chosen breed flow into assisting others with like passion when you become aware of illness or other challenges in their lives. Sometimes just the outreach of a caring hand is enough to sustain another through a difficult time.

If your passion is great enough, you—and others together with you—will find ways to continue showing and bringing new glory to your breed. —*Jacqueline Ragland; jaling60@hotmail.com; The Pekingese Club of America website: thepekingeseclubofamerica.com*

## Pugs Not Just a Pretty Face

**O**K ... not everyone thinks that the words *pretty*, *Pug*, and *face* belong together in the same sentence, but let's dispense with all that. We Pug lovers feel that our dogs' faces are beautiful—far superior, in fact, to the faces of most other breeds.

However, this column is not about our breed's outward beauty. It is about their intelligence, trainability, and inner beauty.

While nobody would question the inner beauty of this happy little breed, I am imagining raised eyebrows and snickering at the thought of Pug intelligence and trainability. When I researched the breed before buying my first Pug, I distinctly remember reading on a website devoted to the breed, "Forget ever trying to train a Pug."

Really?

Well, whoever owned that site had never been to a Pug national specialty. Last October, hundreds of Pugs and their people descended on Warwick, Rhode Island, for the 2011 PDCA national specialty. There were Pugs entered not only in conformation but also in the companion events of agility,

rally, and obedience.

We started out the national with an all-Pug agility trial. We had 93 runs, and the Excellent classes were some of our biggest. Lest anyone think that Pugs aren't athletic, you should have seen those dogs run, jump, and climb at full speed! A few trainers were running as fast as any Sheltie handler, and they needed to do distance-work sending their dogs to obstacles just so they could keep up with them, let alone get ahead of them.

Then there were the rally and obedience dogs. Again, we had a nice entry, and many titles were earned. One Pug even earned her RAE7—the first of the breed to do so.

Yes, there were some of those "Pug moments" throughout all the companion events. You know, those times when our little clowns show off their creativity and keep even the judges laughing. However, there were also some great-working dogs. Best of all, they were all happy-working dogs whether they qualified or not.

And let's not forget our conformation dogs. We had over 60 specials alone. Specials need to be able to perform, and that requires training.

The dog who won the national absolutely deserved it by meeting the judge's criteria. The judge asked all the dogs in the final cut to go to the center of the ring to free-stack. His handler gaited him out and threw the bait out ahead of him, and that Pug went right to the end of the lead in front of his handler, nailed his stack, and held it. That does not happen without training and the ability to produce the behavior when asked.

Only 10 years ago people would look at me with incredulity at an agility trial and ask, "Are you really going to run that Pug?" How things have changed! Now we have quite a few OTCH, MACH, and PACH Pugs. A big contingent is qualified for the agility nationals.

So get out and train your Pugs. Once you do, enter some trials. Teach them some fun tricks, and do therapy work. Well-behaved Pugs are welcome at

most health-care facilities, and they spread so much joy.

Most important, if along the way you run into someone who tells you that Pugs are stubborn, untrainable, or unintelligent, please set them straight. These smart, funny, and active little dogs are not just pretty faces, nor are they idle couch potatoes, and we have to make sure people don't buy into that myth anymore. —*Ashley B. L. Fischer; ashley54@optonline.net; Pug Dog Club of America website: pugs.org*

## Shih Tzu Itchy Pet?

**T**here are many things that might cause your Shih Tzu to scratch, lick, or chew at itself excessively.

Fleas are a common cause of itchiness. If so you need to treat your dog, his bedding, and your home to eliminate these pesky critters. Some highly allergic pets may itch after receiving only a few flea bites, even if you see no evidence of active infestation. More rarely, scabies mites can cause itchiness; your veterinarian can recommend treatment for these pests.

If your dog is chewing at his feet, suffers recurrent ear infections, and has itchy armpit and groin areas, he may be suffering from inhalant or food allergies. Inhalant allergies are most common in the spring, when pollen counts are high.

If you think inhalant allergies may be the cause of your pet's discomfort, try to keep him off of the grass just after it has been mowed. Also avoid walking him in the early morning or early evening, when pollen counts tend to be highest. If he licks his feet a lot, you may want to wipe them with a damp cloth when he comes inside. If his foot-licking continues, try applying a diluted solution of baking soda and water to his paws.

For more generalized itchiness, weekly or twice-weekly baths using a quality conditioning shampoo and creme rinse can help remove pollen from his coat and strengthen the skin lipids and proteins that prevent allergens from entering the body.

Food allergies can cause generalized itchiness that is not seasonal. With food allergy, your pet may also have a soft stool or be irritated around the anal area. Food allergies are often not the result of a recent dietary change; intolerance to an ingredient can develop gradually over a long time.

Corn, wheat, and beef tend to be the most common allergens. If your pet might have a food allergy, you may want to try changing his diet to see if his condition improves when doing so.

Whatever the cause of the original itchiness, it is often accompanied by secondary bacterial and/or yeast infections. Whether such infections occur independently or as a result of pests or allergies, they need to be treated.

Shih Tzu rescue has had great success in treating such infections by bathing the dog with Head and Shoulders Intensive Treatment shampoo, being sure to keep the product out of his eyes. The important thing is to leave this on for *10 full minutes*, then rinse with cool water for another *10 full minutes*, then towel-dry. Repeat three times weekly to start, reducing the treatments to biweekly, then weekly, as the situation improves.

If your dog's itching and chewing starts to create a raw, irritated hot-spot, treat it at once with a solution of one-third Listerine, one-third baby oil, and one-third water. The herbal oils in the Listerine may fight fungus and possibly bacteria, while the baby oil helps restore the skin's protective layer.

Itching and flaking are often caused by the *Malassezia* yeast. If so, follow your shampoo with a rinse of one part apple-cider vinegar and four parts warm water. This rinse helps to remove shampoo residue and creates conditions unfavorable for this yeast.

If your problem is so serious that a solution eludes both you and your regular veterinarian, consult a veterinary dermatologist in your area. However, the simple suggestions above may resolve many of the most common causes of itchiness. —*Jo Ann White; joawhite@juno.com; American Shih Tzu Club website: americanshihtzuclub.org*

## Silky Terriers Keeping Your Numbers Down

How do you control your dog population? I just heard a very sad story about an acquaintance in another breed who is being investigated for having over 100 dogs. The dogs were removed and are likely going to be put up for adoption.

This is sad on a number of levels. These are some of the better dogs in that particular breed, and they are this person's whole show kennel.

How did she ever get to this number? How did things get so out of control? I have heard about these kinds of situations before, but luckily not often. Most of us are able to control our populations better than that.

One of the most unfortunate things about this incident, aside from the fate of the dogs, is that some pet advocates in the area are using it as a reason to suggest to people that they should not buy puppies from breeders.

They are citing this as an indication that all breeders are "only in it for the money" and that breeders' dogs have a terrible life. What unfortunate fallout from an unfortunate situation.

How do you control the number of dogs you have? Do you have a limit in your mind of how many you can adequately care for? We know we can only breed and show so many. The problem is, how do we decide who stays, and who is allowed to go to a pet home?

I have found over the years that letting my favorite former show dogs go is very hard, but it is always so rewarding for the dog as well as the new owner.

I do require that all pets, including retired show dogs, be spayed or neutered when they leave my house. I think for me that is where I start. I do not place into pet homes dogs that I wish to breed at some point. I make it a point to let the dogs go. I hold no requirements for the new owners other than that if they are unable to continue to provide a home for the dog, they must return it to me for me to find a new home. I have had only a couple

come back in all the years I have been breeding.

I actually have the same requirements for placing pet puppies—they are spayed or neutered, and they are to be returned to me if the owners are unable to continue to provide a home for the dog.

I have had some breeders tell me they do not place retired show dogs, giving the reason "no one can care for them as well as me." I suspect this sort of reasoning may be how the person mentioned above got into trouble, by keeping dogs they should have placed.

As for me, I feel the pet home is probably a much better home for my already well-loved show dog, because in such a home, instead of being one of many, the dog is one of one or two. In the pet home they can get much more care, attention, and loving than I could give them.

I know it is hard, but think of the dog, and ultimately yourself. You can give more attention to the ones who need it now if someone else is giving attention to your former show dogs who are ready to retire. —*Vicki Bratton; Tumbelle@nwi.net; Silky Terrier Club of America website: silkyterrierclubofamerica.org*

## Toy Fox Terriers Show-training Puppies

Show-train each puppy early. Handle him often, and even before he can stand, hold him fore and aft so that those little legs are spread out in a show stance. This sets the stage for times when training becomes more serious. He needs to become accustomed to being touched without resistance. Fidgety puppies need to learn to stand still for examination.

By 6 weeks, practice stacking him on a grooming table with a calm command of "Stand," but keep it fun! Don't worry that he's not standing still at this point; just practice cheerfully. Show training isn't really *training*; it's *conditioning*.

Keep in mind that it's better to have a dog wiggling under the judge's touch than cringing. Your Toy Fox is a terrier



and should maintain that terrier attitude.

When he begins to stay in position, try placing him on a board that fits his stance. This eventually results in stacking foursquare because if he doesn't, he'll slip off the board. Again, slowly increase the time for stacking. Be firm, but positive.

By 8 weeks of age, show him a treat and tell him, "Watch it!" Ideally, in anticipating the treat, he will freeze and self-stack. *Immediately* reward him and repeat, gradually increasing the stacking time.

In the ring, you must have his full attention and a statue-like stance when needed. You can't show off his best qualities if he reacts to every other sight and sound inside and outside the ring. Training him with other show-trained dogs helps.

"Watch it!" ties in with lead training. Place a lead on the pup, and let him drag it around. When he's comfortable with that, take the lead and get him to follow you, using a high-pitched voice to encourage him and a treat to focus him.

If he balks, keep coaxing, but *don't* reprimand or drag him. *Do* make it fun. When he accepts the lead, it helps to walk him with a show-trained dog. He needs to pull ahead slightly and not turn around and look at you until you say, "Watch it."

Give an enthusiastic command such as "Let's go!" and he will soon get the idea—maybe too enthusiastically. If he pulls too hard, change direction, and keep encouraging him playfully when the lead stops him. Be apologetic and praise him. He'll soon get the message.

When you stop to pose him, say, "Watch it!" and give him a treat when he shows that pretty picture for the judge.

Showmanship is 50 percent of winning. To best emphasize his assets and minimize faults, encourage him to turn his head and body in the direction you choose. Remember, if you control the head, you control the dog.

Finally, going to show-handling classes and/or match shows is

absolutely necessary. It provides your dog with socialization, gets him used to being examined by other people, and helps you learn more handling techniques.

Start early, make it fun, be patient, and you'll have a winner! —*Beverly E. Stanley, ELS;*  
Beverlystanley6@gmail.com; *American Toy Fox Terrier Club website: atftc.com*

## Yorkshire Terriers Better Dogs!

Times are changing in the world of purebred dogs. As evidenced in lower registration numbers and smaller entries, more people are obviously doing more things with fewer dogs.

Those of us who continue to exhibit in conformation may bemoan the lack of majors and fewer choices for breeding sires and show puppies, but we also see an increase of participation in various companion and working events.

Few have the resources to breed on a large scale. Vet prices are way up, and pet prices are way down.

Lately I've noticed that prospective pet owners are thankfully no longer requesting a "two-pound dog." I can recall not that long ago when it came to a pet, everyone wanted "tiny." Not today. People are more active, exercise and walking are popular, and they are typically searching for a small dog who is within the standard "but not too small."

Although we are still educating the public about the improper colors (in a breed that comes in only one choice!), it does seem that the "teacup" Yorkie has begun to fall out of favor.

One of the greatest challenges in this breed in terms of producing dogs for the conformation ring has and always will be consistently producing the correct coat color and texture. The requirements in the standard for coat quality and color are quite specific and are indeed a challenge when one is striving for perfection.

More pet owners prefer a cute haircut over growing a show coat, and therefore they lean more toward temperament and health over the quality

of coat in choosing a puppy. I hope we are doing our job to educate potential show-enthusiasts about the fine points of breeding for coat quality.

At the same time, however, we are taking pride in producing healthy, sound puppies for those who prefer this breed for the terrier attitude and longevity it is known for.

The Yorkshire Terrier Club of America Health Foundation came to our board some years ago and asked for us to implement the CHIC program. Most breeders are doing health testing even beyond the requirements of CERF and OFA patella screening. As of this year, no dog may win a club award for conformation without a CHIC number. We now have health clinics at our specialties, and our foundation continues to fund countless grants to study health issues particular to the breed.

The AKC has implemented classes for owner-handlers and incentive for those wishing to continue conformation showing past the championship title. Additional titles are also offered in obedience, rally, agility, and tracking, allowing enthusiasts to continue competing.

The breed's parent club supports the Meet the Breeds events at the AKC/Eukanuba Championship show and at the Javits Center. In fact, my all-breed club now holds Meet the Breeds events at its show and during Responsible Dog Owners' week.

In spite of the tough economy and unreasonable anti-dog legislation throughout the country, I think owners of purebred dogs have pulled together to make a closer-knit family, and I think we have made great strides to prove that AKC dogs are simply the best.

No other registry has what we have to offer.

In this time of possibly fewer dogs, I hope everyone will take advantage of what we are doing and continue to produce the best dogs—and maybe even better! —*Janet Jackson; step-pinup@dc.rr.com; Yorkshire Terrier Club of America website: ytca.org*

## American Eskimo Dogs

### How Healthy Is the American Eskimo Dog?

The truth of the matter is, they are one of the healthiest breeds out there today. A recent article appearing in *Dog News* included comments about health problems in our breed, and I feel I must rebut some of the statements made in that article.

In breeding the American Eskimo Dog for 28 years, I have encountered few or no problems with regard to health, breeding, whelping, puppy mortality, and the like.

I will not deny that our breed can be afflicted with progressive retinal atrophy. However, there is now a genetic test available, and responsible, reputable breeders are using this test as a breeding tool. Before availability of this test, I did once unknowingly breed a carrier to an affected dog. He showed no signs of being affected at the time of breeding. His son did not show signs of being affected until after the age of 8. By that time, I had had him tested and I knew he was affected. I had nothing to breed him to, so he was never bred and lived happily until the age of 13. To date, all of my breeding dogs have been tested for PRA, and none are affected.

With regard to hip dysplasia, this is a polygenic disease. That means it is caused by a combination of multiple genes, not just two. Testing our dogs and acquiring ratings on them is an excellent tool here as well, but it will not prevent hip dysplasia, even in breeding an Excellent to an Excellent. Completely eradicating hip dysplasia is simply genetically impossible in any type of dog.

Diabetes has cropped up in our breed, but is in no way prevalent. Any mammal can be afflicted with this disease, as well as humans, of course. If there were a cure for diabetes, humans would be free of it, which they are not. If a breeder is unfortunate enough to have a dog with the disease, the wisest thing to do is to spay or neuter the dog and treat it with insulin as needed. Diabetes is a disease, not a death sentence.

Last but not least, I will address the

issue of seizures. Many years ago (about 13, I believe), fanciers found that the breed is susceptible to vaccine-related seizures if given too many vaccines at once or when certain types of vaccines are given. Once this was discovered, we limited vaccines, and the seizure problem ceased. As far as seizures of unknown origin go, these occur in all dogs. The best thing to do for this is to treat the dog with an anticonvulsant and spay or neuter the dog, even though seizures of this sort may or may not have a genetic cause.

I believe I have addressed each disease cited in that article. I hope people will read with earnest this breed column and realize that our American Eskimos are a very healthy breed very seldom afflicted with the diseases mentioned. —*Debbie Mitchell*; Eskie18@earthlink.net; *American Eskimo Dog Club of America website*: aedca.org

## Bichons Frises

### Early Spay/Neuter?

After many discussions with my veterinarian as to why so many vets push for early (at under 8 months of age) spay/neuter, he has explained that the veterinary population needs to “act while the newness is on the puppy.” In other words, in the early months the new owners are all excited about the fluffy, little white Bichon in their home and want everything just right for her. The pup needs shots and flea and heartworm treatments—and since the breeder says she must be spayed, they want this done also. Vets want to act before that newness might wear off and the new owners become lax, thus they might schedule an early spay/neuter (usually at around 6 months of age).

Early spay/neuter can have a physical influence on the canine athlete. A number of studies suggest that those of us with canine athletes should carefully consider the current recommendations for spay or neuter to be performed at 6 months of age or earlier. A study found that bitches spayed at 7 weeks were significantly taller as adults than those

spayed at 7 months, who were significantly taller than those who were not spayed at all or who were spayed presumably after the growth plates had closed.

The sex hormones cause the growth plates to close, so the bones of dogs or bitches neutered or spayed before puberty continue to grow. This growth frequently results in a dog who does not have the same body proportions as he or she was genetically meant to. For example, if the femur is normal length at 8 months when a dog gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months, continues to grow, then an abnormal angle may develop at the stifle.

In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle becomes heavier (because it is longer), causing increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament. This is confirmed by a recent study showing that spayed and neutered dogs have a higher incidence of CCL rupture and ACL rupture.

I have significant concerns with spaying or neutering dogs before puberty, particularly for the canine athlete. And frankly, if something is healthier for the canine athlete, would we not also want that for pet dogs as well?

I think it is important, therefore, that we assess each situation individually. If a pet dog is going to live with an intelligent, well-informed family who understands the need to help prevent pet overpopulation and can be trusted to keep their dog under control at all times and not breed it, I do not recommend spaying or neutering before 10 months of age—and better yet, not until the dog is more than 12 months of age.

This is something each pet person must discuss with their breeder first, and then their vet. For me, if I trust a person to buy a puppy from me, to raise it up, care for it, and love it, then they must be a guardian for them whom I would trust and expect to not allow indiscriminate breedings to take place.

I have always found it interesting that in most European countries, it seems

spay/neuters are not as prevalent as here, but yet there is not the number of unwanted pets that we see. Are we as a country that lax in the care of our animals? —*Stephanie Uva*;

Stephanie.Uva@comcast.net; *Bichon Frise Club of America website: bichon.org*

## Boston Terriers “Mother Dog Is Acting Crazy”

It's very important to breed only a dam who has a good temperament. When females are high-strung and have an undesirable attitude, this trait would typically be passed on to the puppies. However, there are influences that can contribute to making a nice dam show aggression and even kill her young. Don't always blame the bitch on her behavior, because many times a problem can be caused by anesthesia or other medications or physical pain. Image waking up half-drugged and in pain, seeing these little babies crying, and wondering where they came from.

Thanks to Georgann Mathis (of Lumberjack Bostons) and Peggy Jackson (of PeJa Bostons) for this documentation. Breeders working together to help each other is what dog people are about.

One female named Tootee had never shown any signs of aggression until her first litter of puppies. I remember being at a dog show when Georgann and her daughter Kiera came out of their RV, clearly very upset. Seeing the horrified look on their faces made me afraid that something was very wrong.

Georgann said, “Tootee seemed to not know what was going on. We were right there with her when she hurt the puppies. It appeared that she was cleaning them, but she bit them and gave them mortal wounds that caused them to die. It was a horrible case, and I haven't seen one like it before.” Kiera is very tenderhearted, and if it hadn't been for their mentor Peggy Jackson, I don't think they would have ever understood or gotten over the experience.

Peggy asked them to breed Tootee one more time. The plan was to have her veterinarian deliver the pups, and

she would raise them. Peggy never believed the dam was a bad mother; she thought the drugs used had caused Tootee to hallucinate, and the pain from the C-section had caused a feeling that something was attacking her. A different pre-op shot and pain medication were given, and the mother never showed any aggression, only love for her babies.

Peggy commented: “The medication for surgery might have been fine for a dog being spayed or neutered or for an ear-trim. When you have a bitch with pups, however, it is very important to use the correct drug so that it would not produce illusions in their mind. Dr. Larry Williams spoke with the vet who had previously performed the section that turned into a tragedy, so hopefully this will not happen again. Tootee has just had her third cesarean section that was done by the first vet. The pups are fine, and she has been a wonderful mother. The drug is not what made her a good mother—as long as you use the right drug, there should be no problem—but her pain with the wrong medication used for the first section was what changed the way she reacted to her pups.”

Georgann feels that some first-time mothers who have a cesarean section do not get a hormone flush or milk as soon as others, and this can create a bonding issue too. The dams don't really recognize the puppies as being theirs.

Ask what drugs are to be used during a C-section, and do research ahead of time. Closely watch first-time mothers who have sections. They are in pain, and they might wonder, “What are these screaming babies?” —*Patricia Johnson*; patsgrooming@aol.com; *Boston Terrier Club of America website: boston-terrierclubofamerica.org*

## Bulldogs The Purpose of a Dog Show

So often the question about the purpose of a dog show comes up. Many people think that it is a beauty contest.

When we first became involved in

dogs, we were told that the purpose of a dog show was for the exhibiting of breeding stock for the improvement of the breed.

Take a minute and ask yourself, why does the American Kennel Club not allow spayed bitches or altered dogs to compete in dog shows? Dogs are not to be altered, or drugged in any way, because they are breeding stock, not contestants in a beauty contest.

If a dog show is a beauty contest, then type, soundness, and temperament are not as important as being showy and catching a judge's eye. The dog must be perfectly show-trained and groomed. The breeding potential of the dog is secondary, as long as he shows well. The emphasis is on winning and being showy.

How often have we heard the expression that a particular dog is winning because he is a “showing fool”?

To the serious and dedicated breeder, it is an outrage to see a judge put up a dog who is showing well over a better-quality dog who is not. The serious breeder wants and expects the judge to put up dogs who are good representatives of the breed. If the true purpose of a dog show is to exhibit breeding stock to maintain quality and improve the breed, then judges should look at the quality of the dog and not be giving brownie points for showmanship. —*Amelia Averill*; BoatswainA@aol.com; *Bulldog Club of America website: thebca.org*

## Chinese Shar-Pei

In this issue we continue our column begun in the December 2011 issue about the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America's Futurity/Maturity program. Our thanks to guest columnist Jocelyn Barker, director of the program.

## CSPCA Futurity/Maturity Program PART TWO

Following is a quick overview of the steps involved in the program:

1. The breeder chooses a sire and dam and completes the breeding process.
2. Prior to the birth of the litter, a lit-



ter nomination form and fee are mailed to the CSPCA F/M staff for recording.

3. Once the puppies are evaluated but before they reach 4 months of age, puppies from the litter are nominated individually.

4. At the first national-specialty show after the nominated Shar-Pei reach 6 months of age, they are entered in the F/M competition.

5. The competition pairs dog and bitch Shar-Pei of the two coat types and of similar ages. The winners of the classes are evaluated, and a final Best Futurity Shar-Pei is chosen. Money gathered from the nomination process is paid out to not only the owner of the Shar-Pei, but also to the owners of its sire and dam. The breeder of the winning entrant receives 50 percent of the payout, the owner receives 35 percent, and the owner of the sire receives 15 percent.

*Maturity competition.* Should the breeder/owner choose, the individual Shar-Pei can be further nominated for the Maturity competition. A Shar-Pei will be entered in the Maturity competition at the national specialty the year following its competition as a Futurity nominee.

1. To compete in the Maturity, the Shar-Pei must have been fully nominated for the Futurity and also nominated for the Maturity.

2. It is not necessary for the Shar-Pei to have been shown in the Futurity competition the previous year.

3. Payouts to the winners are made to the breeder, the owner of the sire, and the owner of the individual entrant.

Currently, each person nominating a litter is encouraged and entitled to nominate a judge for future competition. The names of the top three nominees in terms of numbers of nominations are placed on a ballot sent to the Futurity/Maturity participants, and the judge receiving the greatest support is chosen to officiate.

The CSPCA board of directors has shown strong support for the program by instituting changes that have made participation easier. The club no longer

takes an "entitlement" of 15 percent of each nomination fee, and instead this money has been added to the money paid to competitors. Additionally the board has been supportive of updates to the program, such as allowing the use of PayPal to pay nominations.

It has been very encouraging to visit with judges who have either judged for our program or have observed the program in action. We have been told time and again that the CSPCA Futurity/Maturity is one of the best in the dog world, both on the basis of quality of the entry and the organization of the competition. The staff believes that success is directly due to the guidance we received and our continued commitment to maintain the rules.

Clubs or individuals who would like more information regarding the particulars of the CSPCA Futurity/Maturity program can contact our director, Jocelyn Barker, at [mjbarker53@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbarker53@hotmail.com). —J.B.

Thank you, Jocelyn. —Jo Ann Redditt; [orientpubl@aol.com](mailto:orientpubl@aol.com); *Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America website:* [cspca.com](http://cspca.com)

## Chow Chows

### The 2012 Chow Chow National Specialty

Please make your plans and reservations to attend our most exciting Chow Chow event of the year, scheduled to occur in St. Louis, Missouri, April 28 to May 3. Members of the Chow Chow Club, Inc., will be meeting to exhibit their best Chow Chows, to attend some wonderful educational events, and to visit with old and new friends.

The hosting hotel is the newly redecorated Sheraton Westport Chalet, on 900 Westport Plaza Drive, which is part of the West Port Plaza complex. Our national-specialty judging and festivities will be held at the hotel. There will also be three all-breed shows held at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit on Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6.

For additional information, please

visit the Chow Chow Club, Inc., website at [chowclub.org](http://chowclub.org).

The host committee, managed by JoAnne Schullier and Mary Harris, has planned a great week of events for all attendees. We look forward to having a beautiful entry and will welcome everyone who comes to participate, whether observer or exhibitor.

Our judges will be the highly respected Mr. Edd E. Bivin judging our regular and nonregular classes, and longtime member, breeder, and exhibitor Wayne Eyster judging the puppy and veteran sweepstakes. Our Junior Showmanship competition will be judged by Elaine Lindhorst, and our obedience and rally judge will be the popular Mrs. Margery A. West.

Mary Wuest ([mwuest1@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mwuest1@cinci.rr.com)), the club's chair of judges' education, has a great educational program planned for aspiring judges on Tuesday, May 1, and there will be ringside mentoring on the next two days, with dog and bitch class judging on Wednesday, May 2, and Best of Breed judging on Thursday, May 3.

The 2012 show committee also has several very interesting seminars scheduled for members and guests. The annual membership meeting of the parent club will be held on the evening of Monday, April 30.

The specialty-show superintendent is Foy Trent Dog Shows, P.O. Box C, Sturgeon, MO 65284 (phone: 573-881-2655; website: [foytrentdogshows.com](http://foytrentdogshows.com)).

This is truly going to be a terrific event, and we hope to see you there! —Love Banghart; [Lkendr4300@aol.com](mailto:Lkendr4300@aol.com); *Chow Chow Club, Inc. website:* [chowclub.org](http://chowclub.org)

## Dalmatians

### Who Am I? Where Am I?

The AKC announced recently that there will be a major group realignment in the near future. As one might expect, this announcement caused a stir heard 'round the world among dog-show fanciers. Some breeds' caretakers were skeptical, while others were content to know they were staying in the group in which they'd

always been.

Dalmatian breeders were mixed on the subject, as the word was that the breed would be moving to the Working Group. Breeders were concerned that the Working Group is packed with guard dogs, and that the Dalmatian might suffer in reputation if it was generally perceived as a guard. Others felt the Companion Group provided the right fit, since the Dally could no longer function in his originally designed capacity.

The Dalmatian was bred to guard the coach and four while the coachman was away downing his swill in the pub or getting much-needed rest in the inn. The breed was also depicted in many publications as the chosen dog of the Gypsies who roamed from town to town. When the coach was on the move, the dog accompanied it for many miles. When the coach stopped, the dog went on guard.

Obviously, the breed has outlived its usefulness for the true purpose for which it was bred. However, that doesn't take away that inherited need to guard, and guard they do. Breeders today know that the Dal cannot perform his originally intended purpose, so they breed for companion dogs suitable to become beloved members of families rather than working dogs. The guard-dog mentality has indeed been toned down to a large degree. And woe to the poor Dal who tries to coach a shiny SUV on the busy city freeways of today.

But what about that guarding feature? How can one produce a companion dog who must function in a family environment, when the tendency to guard is inherited, and rightly so? Herein lies the conundrum.

As a result of his original purpose, the Dal should be built to move soundly and efficiently for many miles, as was needed to be able to keep up with the coaches of olden days. Judges aspiring for the right to pass on the breed are taught that, in keeping with his original purpose, movement is one of the most important features of the breed and should be considered

strongly when ribbons are handed out. The breed's AKC standard calls for the dog to be poised, alert, and free of shyness—of course! How can a shy dog be a guard? Shyness therefore should also be heavily penalized.

OK. So, into what group does the Dalmatian actually fit? Companion or Working? It's a complicated question. I feel that the answer is neither ... and both.

There is no perfect fit for Dalmatians. However, the original purpose of the breed must be respected and honored. Therefore, the Working Group seems to be the best choice. Breeders can breed dogs capable of doing their job but who function well in a family environment. A guard dog does not equate to a vicious or dangerous dog. Doberman and Rottie breeders have proven that it can be done.

We can do it, too. One trait need not be sacrificed for the other. —*Sharon Boyd; Cotndale@aol.com; Dalmatian Club of America website: thedca.org*

## Finnish Spitz The Road Back From Hell

This column is quite different from any I have written previously. It deals with our fire disaster of September 2011.

First, I offer an expression of grateful thanks to the dog fancy all over the world for the overwhelming response during and since the tragedy. Next, I will share the responses of our Finnish Spitz to the trauma they experienced.

Word of our forced fire evacuation, without being allowed to take our dogs, spread quickly worldwide. Over the three traumatic days, when we could get no information as to whether our house had burned or whether the dogs were dead or alive, expressions of concern poured in from many countries. A worldwide prayer vigil was held. Later, a fund for contributions was established. Messages and gifts have continued to come. Marg and I take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation for each and every prayer, message of concern, and gift. You're great!

Late on a Sunday afternoon,

September 4, 2011, a sheriff's car with lights flashing drove up and informed me that my wife and I were to evacuate immediately, as a fire was approaching. (Reality: The fire was a mile away, the wind was blowing it away from us, and our house did not burn until Tuesday, when the wind changed directions and our area got no help from firefighters.)

My minivan and car were in the driveway. I pressed to be allowed a few minutes to load the dogs into the van; however, I was curtly informed by the deputy that he did not care about the dogs and that we were to leave immediately.

Since Marg has had strokes and does not drive, we left the van in the driveway, loaded three bitches that were in the living room into the car, and drove away. We left a dog and bitch in the backyard, with access to the kitchen through a doggy-door, and 12 others in chain-link metal-covered kennels.

It never crossed my mind that our place would burn, as we foolishly had complete confidence in our firefighters. Naively, we anticipated that we would return within a few hours.

An evacuation center had been set up; however, we spent the night in the car with the bitches. By morning, the fire was out of control, and we accepted the invitation of friends in a neighboring town to bring our critters and stay with them while we waited for information on returning.

Monday passed, Tuesday passed, and Wednesday morning passed without our knowing whether our house and dogs had burned.

About noon on Wednesday, a utility worker informed us that our house had burned. On mid-afternoon Wednesday, the exciting news came that the dogs in the kennels were alive. All entry to the area was forbidden; however, we got an escort from the sheriff's office and rescued the 12 dogs in the kennel. (Later we learned that the two in the backyard had gone into the house and had been cremated.) Even though fire had burned on three sides of the kennels and got within 10 feet in some places, even though the daily temperature was

over 100 degrees, and even though their water containers had last been filled on Saturday, the dogs survived physically in great shape.

When the dogs saw us, they were ecstatic but were far less traumatized than I expected them to be. They spent their next 10 days at a strange place, in airline kennels except for a couple of daily exercise-periods. During their exercise time, they clung to me for assurance.

When we were finally allowed to move them back to their kennels, they were excited to be at home and, amazingly, gave little indication that they wanted to remember what had occurred two weeks previously. Their actions confirmed that “its people” is that which is most important to a Finnish Spitz. The breed’s true character was evident.

The comeback temperament of the amazing little red dogs with pointed ears and wagging curly tail reminds me continuously that, for them and for us, all signs on the road back from hell point ahead. —*Dr. Tom T. Walker; tomnmarg@onr.com; Finnish Spitz Club of America website: finnishspitzclub.org*

## French Bulldogs From the Archives

Mr. Charles G. Hopton, a founding member of the French Bull Dog Club of America, is thought to be the primary author of the first standard of excellence for Frenchies. Hopton, English by birth and initially a Bulldog breeder, became a prominent authority on Frenchies, frequently judging in the U.S. as well as in England.

The following letter from Hopton appeared in the December 1949 issue of *The Bulletin* of the Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, after he’d been a guest speaker at a meeting.

“With most pleasing memories of a most enjoyable evening spent with the enthusiastic members of the Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey and the fact that many of our best French Bulldogs were raised nearby in the Haworth kennels, the property of that delightful soul, Mrs. M.J. Riddell, may I express my gratification at the renewed

interest and improvement seen in the breed. Would that we might again see such an entry, 110 actual dogs that greeted me atop The Belvedere, Hotel Astor, April 1914, when history was made, for it was here that a very demure Debutante, Dear Mabel Riddell, showed her Dr. de Luxe, and won Best in Show.

“It is such victories of unknown dogs that is sadly needed today, for we are seeing far too many repeats, a sort of ‘follow the leader’ owing to Judges lacking the courage to take a dog from the classes to Best in Show. It gives a much-needed stimulus when a really good dog is so placed.

“It was at the subsequent Annual show of The French Bulldog Club of New England held in Boston, Nov. 1916, that I gave top honors, that is Best in Show over 140 dogs, the record entry ever seen of the breed; the winner, aptly named Faux Pas, shown by a stranger, took the Novice easily, then journeyed through to Best and was promptly protested by some local malcontents who were jealous of the dog. It was one of the most blatant cases of ‘Politics’ ever and aroused my anger so much that I did a bit of bayonet work in my efforts to clear the ring. I had just returned from the other side [of the Atlantic] and was on crutches. The brutal manner in which the local Veterinarian handled the dog in his futile attempt to locate the lameness was proof in itself that there was more in it than met the eye, hence my insistence that the dog remain in the ring for the Specials. However, the protest was carried to the AKC, who favored the local protest. I still maintained my stand and was consoled after many weeks of argument with the dog cleared and going on to top the others many times.

“It was at this show that Mrs. Emma Gridale, one of the most experienced dog fanciers, and unquestionably one of the most able authorities of the breed, brought out an exceptionally good youngster, Gotham Triumph, and won several classes. This sincere fancier for several years cleverly managed the La

France Kennels of Champions, owned by Mr. Fred Poffet.

“May I wish all a most Merry, Merry Christmas ... and beware of the Mistletoe!” —C. G. Hopton

—*Jan Grebe; greebeez@aol.com; French Bull Dog Club of America website: frenchbulldogclub.org*

## Keeshonden Making the Best of the Show Experience

That the world of dog shows attracts people who are competitive is a given. However, if we look at typical dog show, with an entry of about 1,200 dogs, at the end of the day there will only be one dog, the dog who wins Best in Show, who will remain undefeated.

Think about it. That means that 1,199 people that day will have the opportunity to lose with grace. They will congratulate the winner and then go on and enter the next show. Dog shows are a great place to work on being humble. There is so much opportunity!

Most entrants at a dog show do not aspire to the top prize of Best in Show. Their goals will be more modest. If you are showing your 6-month-old Keeshond puppy bitch for the first time, it is not likely that you will win Best of Breed over mature dogs—and it is even less likely that you would go on to place in the group, much less win it. Perhaps your goal for the day would be to win your puppy class, with perhaps a look from the judge for the points. If your puppy is exceptionally poised and well trained, you might think about Winners Bitch or Reserve. But with such a young dog that is not likely. You will have the opportunity to congratulate the Winners Bitch.

Every show can also be a learning experience. Observe the judging carefully, and see if you can find a pattern in the judge’s decision making. Does she favor larger or smaller dogs or bitches? Does he appreciate a beautiful expression, good color, or exceptional movement? In order to make these observations the entry must be good sized, and you will have to watch the



judging all the way through to Best of Breed.

Perhaps instead of entering the 6-month-old puppy you have entered a champion. You are winning consistently, placing in the group, and hoping for a high placement in the end-of-the-year awards. Now you have an opportunity to be an outstanding winner. When you win, do you take that as a signal to talk to the judge about your dog's many accomplishments and make negative remarks about the competition, then run home and do some more bragging on the Internet? Or do you accept your congratulations humbly and volunteer to help beginners with grooming and training tips? As a winner you can set the tone for competition in your breed. It can be an example for others to emulate that will make the show experience pleasant and encouraging for everyone.

Then there is your dog. He knows how you feel. Keeshonden are exceptionally attuned to our feelings. If you are disappointed in your placing, you must be extra careful in attending to your dog. Win or lose, give your dog a hug, and let him know you had fun. It can be just a few shows where you take your unwellcome third- or fourth-place ribbon, walk dejectedly back to your setup, and without a word put your dog in the crate and walk away, and he'll begin to think that dog shows are not that much fun after all. We have all seen the dogs with national campaigns who end up the year without any spark or light in their eyes. Don't let that be your dog.

Whether you win or lose, sportsmanship is the order of the day, and the way that shows are constructed, they offer many opportunities for us to practice with our dogs, our competition, and ourselves. —Debbie Lynch; dlnpoconsult@gmail.com; Keeshond Club of America website: keeshond.org

## Lhasa Apsos Better Bites

Decades ago, the standard answer to the question of how to examine a Lhasa Apso's bite was: "Very carefully." While significant progress has been made in improving breed temperament,

achieving healthy, correct bites continues to be a challenge.

Photos in *Hutchinson's Encyclopedia* of early 20th-century imports to England, combined with the earliest breed standard written in 1906, by Mr. Lionel Jacobs of the Northern India Kennel Club, give one an insight into the breed history of bad bites and the difficulty in improving them.

Jacobs's standard stated the mouth should be "Quite level, but of the two a slightly overshot mouth [scissor?] is preferable to an undershot one." He adds, "I have never yet seen an imported specimen with a sound mouth."

The Hutchinson photos show one very undershot Lhasa with teeth showing, and others whose bites cannot be determined, but one lacks chin.

The Jacobs standard prevailed until 1934, when the English standard was adopted. It said, "Mouth level, otherwise slightly undershot preferable." The AKC adopted an identical standard in 1935. In 1978, the AKC revised the standard to read, "The preferred bite is either level or slightly undershot."

*Level* is defined as having the upper and lower incisors (front teeth) meet edge-to-edge. *Undershot* refers to a jaw having upper incisors behind the lower incisors. *Slightly undershot* is subjective but mandates that the lower jaw not extend too far in front of the upper jaw; the lower teeth should not show when the mouth is closed. *Reverse scissors* means the outside of the upper incisors touches the inside of the lower incisors, and this is considered an ideal bite if the teeth are straight. While ideal, *reverse scissors* is not synonymous with *slightly undershot*, the latter giving a bit more leeway.

A *scissors* bite is a normal canine bite, where the inside of the upper incisors touches the outside of the lower incisors. An *overshot* bite, sometimes called a "parrot mouth," is the reverse of the seriously undershot bite—the upper incisors extend beyond and do not touch the lower incisors.

When evaluating bite, remember that it is just one part of the whole dog.

Breed character and health should be considered when making selections for breeding or show, but individual judgment prevails. Overshot and severely undershot bites pose health risks. A level bite can be problematic because permanent incisors erupt at different times, allowing slower-growing teeth to move forward or behind the level edge, resulting in a twisted bite that is neither level, scissors, nor reverse scissors, but a mix of the three. A level bite also causes premature wear on the teeth from constant friction. For these reasons, while a level bite is preferred in the AKC standard, some foreign standards fault it.

A Lhasa with an acceptable bite may catch his upper lip under his lower teeth, and this should not be penalized. A scissors bite or one that is more than slightly undershot, while less than desirable, may be forgiven if the bite does not negatively affect expression, especially if the teeth are strong and straight.

Full dentition is important, but are we better off with six scrambled incisors rather than four strong, straight ones? You decide.

If breeding ideal bites were easy, every Lhasa would have one. Meanwhile, breeders will keep working for improvement. —Cassandra de la Rosa; dlrcas@msn.com; The American Lhasa Apso Club website: lhasaapso.org

## Poodles A Question of Choices

Except for the proponents of chaos and anarchy, everyone agrees that organizations require the enactment of rules to provide a sense of order and direction. The degrees to which some regulations become necessary are subject to a multitude of opinions.

The American Kennel Club is probably more rigid a regulatory body than most other organization of its kind around the world. The absence of judges' critiques notwithstanding, AKC conformation shows are more formal than those held in foreign countries where I have judged. Most in the sport agree with the majority of the rules and disagree with a few.

Leaving aside the judging-approval system, which fortunately is finally being modified, my pet peeve is the rule allowing a dog bred or owned by a judge to be shown under that judge within a prescribed period of time following the dog's change of ownership. It's a no-win situation for the judge, the competitors, and for the AKC, which is understandably very concerned about upholding an image of competitive fairness.

Accordingly, breed clubs, especially national breed clubs such as The Poodle Club of America, have a responsibility to enact by-laws and policies that uphold the actual and perceived principle of fair competition. PCA judges had traditionally been chosen two years in advance by vote of the general membership, as counted by a tally committee chaired by the corresponding secretary of the club.

Over a decade ago, years before I was elected to the board of directors, I was invited to judge inter-variety competition at the PCA national.

My alternatives included Dog A, co-bred by the club's president, who although owned by others at the time, presumably under a lease arrangement, carried the president's kennel prefix and was eventually returned to the president after the completion of its show career. Dog A was awarded the variety by the then-vice president of PCA.

Dog B won his variety, which was officiated by the club's secretary, defeating the top two winners of his variety during the year. My eventual winner, Dog C, was a beautiful, typey specimen showing like a million, sent forward by the vice president's daughter. Although relatively unknown at the time, it went on to have an illustrious show career. At this show it defeated the top winner in this variety for the year. Although I hold these judges in the highest regard and suggest no wrongdoing on their part, appearances may have led some to reach other conclusions.

Immediately following my election to the PCA board of directors in 2006, a motion was made and approved to

exclude from the judges' ballot any judges sitting on the board at the time the election of judges for the show (to be held two years later) took place.

At present, 5 of the 11 members of the PCA board of directors are licensed to judge Poodles. Serving the club in various capacities within the board is an honor that requires sacrifices that we must be willing to make for the betterment of PCA. Not having the opportunity to judge this prestigious show is one of them, but it is a necessary one to maintain the spotless reputation that PCA has earned during the last few years.

To those who claim that the circumstances which I made reference to above are unlikely to be repeated, I bring forth the issue that the new policy also diminishes the opportunity to manipulate the judge's-selection process. As an additional safeguard, votes are currently sent directly to and tallied by a reputable CPA firm.

I believe that accepting a position of responsibility in a breed club carries with it the obligation to make those tough and not always popular choices in favor of fairness and integrity. —*Luis E. Aizcorbe; aizcorbel@bellsouth.net; Poodle Club of America website: poodle-clubofamerica.org*

## Schipperkes

This month's column continues the interview begun in the December 2011 issue with Schipperke breeder Mr. Charles Harris, of Michigan, sharing his experience and observations from attending the Nationale d'Élevage Schipperke event in France.

## Comments on the Nationale d'Élevage PART TWO

*Can you give us your overall impression of the dogs you saw?*

I think the dogs being exhibited had better shoulder layback than we typically see in the American Schips. Most had very good feet, but longer hocks. It is unusual to see weak pasterns there. I saw a few with longer necks, deeper chests, and more shoulder lay-in than I typically see here. Rears seemed not as

strong, that is with cow hocks, sickle-hocks, etcetera.

*How about topline? Length of body?*

A few were high in the rear both moving and stacked. However, most of the topline were good. Length of body varied. I saw a few with very short backs.

*What would you say about movement?*

It seems that most French judges pay less attention to movement than do American judges. They do not gait the dogs to the extent we do here, but I was able to see a few dogs who moved very well. Very balanced.

*Did you find the dogs to be larger or smaller than in the U.S.?*

A bit larger. The French really breed for a more Belgian Sheepdog-looking type of Schip, with longer legs and a longer head. Dogs of this type seem to be on the larger side. They do not appreciate any sort of toyish or Pom look. A key word in their standard is *lupoïde* (lupin), which translates to "wolflike." The Schips who did well at this particular competition seemed to be on the larger side.

*I understand heads are very important.*

Yes, what they consider a correct headpiece is very, very important. The ears are smaller, more triangular, and more tightly set. The eye shape is generally very good—small, yet sometimes lighter. The breeders are much more tolerant of lighter eyes than we are. The FCI standard requires the proportions of muzzle to topkull to be 40/60. The official position of the French Schipperke club is that breeders breed for a more "classical Belgian" type of 30 to 40 year ago. This is especially important in the headpiece. The club wants a longer muzzle, less stop, and a flatter, slightly less broad topkull than we typically prefer here.

*In closing, would you say that you saw dogs we would consider competitive here, and/or would our dogs be competitive there?*

Yes. Some of our more moderate dogs could compete there. Many of ours would be considered "overdone," having too much bone and coat and not enough leg for their taste. At the national, I saw perhaps two that I feel

would be able to easily finish their AKC championships.

*Thanks to Mr. Harris for sharing with us observations about his time in France. It is always interesting to learn about what is going on with our breed in other areas of the world. —Virginia Larioza; raffineeships@cac.net; Schipperke Club of America website: schipperkeclub-usa.org*

## Shiba Inu The National 2011

A national-specialty show offers breeders the opportunity to observe and examine their breed from regions outside their own area. It's a time to discuss with fellow breeders the trends that are evolving and the merits of each. Through these observations breeders can find out which kennels are producing qualities they themselves might need to improve upon or avoid within their breeding programs. Keeping the breed on track towards maintaining the features set forth by the standard is the ultimate goal.

The National Shiba Club of America's most recent annual show was held last November, with the theme "Shibas Reign in the Bluegrass." It was a pleasure to judge the sweepstakes and veterans classes on Friday and to have an occasion to see the quality entries, of which there were many.

I observed a number of improvements in the breed this past year. Breeders also expressed concerns regarding several faults that are being seen. These included incorrect dark reddish-brown coat color, unsuitable ears reversed in shape, and low-set tails accompanied by a slight roach to the topline. The point of this column is not about clarification of these problems but rather to bring these issues to the attention of all breeders in hopes of gaining awareness toward correcting them in our breed.

We all know eliminating defects that arise in a breeding program is a difficult step for some breeders, both emotionally and logistically. It's easy to get attached to your own dogs, thus resulting a tendency to want to work with those only. However, such attachment sometimes comes with a heavy price: lack of

advancement in the breeding program.

Most likely, all of us started out with some less-than-ideal dogs. What separates the stellar breeder from the rest is the understanding of the principles involved in dog breeding and the commitment to consistently apply those principles toward always advancing the breeding program.

And remember, the novice breeders can't see what they haven't been taught to acknowledge. I'm sure we all remember how intimidating it can be when as a novice we'd try to initiate a conversation with a well-known and successful breeder.

For the beginner who has attended the show seeking more knowledge, talking with those experienced breeders is never a wasted effort. Those of us who have been around for a while owe the novices our time and words of wisdom. Elitism should never be a factor at these national events.

Show wins very seldom identify the worth of a breeder. The art of good breeding is not in how many champions you produce but rather in being able to recognize the quality, good or bad, of what you are producing. Consistently sending to the breed ring healthy, well-structured Shiba Inu who conform to the breed standard and can perform as the breed was developed to demonstrates the merit of a good breeder and presents to the judges good examples to choose from.

Working together as a group of people who love our breed, we should be able to iron out these few unwanted flaws over the next few years. As for myself, I am looking forward to next year's national and once again spending time reviewing our wonderful breed with good friends. —Patricia Doescher; hi\_jinx@itis.com; National Shiba Club of America website: shibas.org

## Tibetan Spaniels *Au Naturel*

*In the show ring it is essential that the Tibetan Spaniel be presented in an unaltered condition with the coat lying naturally with no teasing, parting, or stylizing of the hair. Specimens where the*

*coat has been altered by trimming, clipping, or by artificial means shall be so severely penalized as to be effectively eliminated from competition.*

The two sentences above are a critical part of the Tibetan Spaniel breed standard and one that most exhibitors take very seriously. So just what are you to say when a judge suggests that you straighten the hair on the ears of your bitch special to remove the crimps? I found myself biting my tongue, rolling my eyes toward the heavens, and thinking, *I don't even flat-iron my own hair.*

Have judges become so accustomed to seeing the generic show dog that they think all breeds should be presented the same way? Was it so long ago that said judge reviewed the Tibetan Spaniel standard that they forgot what the standard says concerning presentation of the Tibetan Spaniel in a natural state? Or did they think they were being helpful letting me know that the reason I was out of the ribbons was because my girl was having a bad ear day?

One of the things that attracted me to the Tibetan Spaniel was that they are "wash and go" dogs. All they need pre-show is a bath followed by blow-dry or air-dry, a manicure/pedicure, and a trim of the hair between the pads of the feet, which is allowed. (Removal of whiskers is not; and foot and ear fringes are prized and coveted, so their removal is sacrilegious in my book.) It gives me great pleasure to allow people to touch and pet my dogs ringside before showing. A quick brush or comb through the coat, and they are ready to show. With the other breeds I've owned that wasn't a possibility.

A hallmark of the breed is its natural presentation as called for in the standard. American Tibbies don't differ in look from their European cousins, relations from down under, or long-lost relatives at the roof of the world. That is a credit to the breeders and exhibitors worldwide, but especially American exhibitors.

In this country a fair number of show dogs are trimmed, stripped, feathered, and sculpted to look like the perfect representative of their breed. It's a chal-



non-sporting

lenge not to succumb to the norm and maybe by doing so becoming a bit more competitive at the breed and group level. Personally, I'd rather spending my time studying pedigrees, genetics, structure, and movement in order to breed better dogs than to spend that time grooming. Granted, it's only one person's opinion, but isn't the evaluation of breeding stock the purpose of dog shows?

Parent-club education of dog-show judges is one manner of getting the word out to them, but that trite old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" comes to mind in this instance. It is up to the Tibetan Spaniel fancy to exhibit the breed as required in the standard, *in an unaltered condition with the coat lying naturally with no teasing, parting or stylizing of the hair.* —Dianne Tyree; di24kk9s@wexfordgold.com; *Tibetan Spaniel Club of America website: tscs.wa*

## Tibetan Terriers

### Breeding: Art or Science?

If breeding dogs were a purely scientific endeavor, it would seem that almost anyone could learn the

methodology and get it right most of the time. Why, then do we hear of the breeding that failed to produce in spite of its beautiful pedigree? Or why is the less than wonderful dog kept just to retain a pedigree?

The science of breeding includes studying pedigrees and learning which ancestors, in theory, to double up on. A basic knowledge of genetics gives us insight into which traits are dominant or recessive. Tibetan Terriers are fortunate to have DNA testing available for primary lens luxation and neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, eliminating the chance of breeding dogs who are affected by or carriers of these conditions. We no longer need to rely on the stud dog to "tell us" when to breed, as running blood-progesterone tests for ovulation timing ensures maximum conception rates. Additionally, today we have access to fresh-chilled and frozen semen that eliminates the stress of shipping for the bitch.

Why, then, is the produce of some breedings so disappointing?

For starters, it isn't pieces of paper or pedigrees being bred—it's dogs. Every

litter includes a range of quality. The poorest specimen in the litter shares an identical pedigree with its potential Best in Show littermate.

While keeping pedigrees in mind, it is also necessary to know the individual dogs phenotypically. Being aware of both the strengths and faults of as many ancestors as possible increases the odds for success.

So what is the art of breeding? It's that special ability to consider a potential mating and accurately visualize the potential results of that combination. There exists a sixth sense that seems to come more naturally to some breeders than to others.

The art of breeding also comes into play when evaluating a litter. The breeder who can look at an 8- to 10-week-old puppy and see that same puppy as an adult in his mind's eye has a much better chance of selecting the best pup than the breeder who sees the pup only as it is right then.

Science or art? Each has a significant role in dog breeding. —Marjorie Wiker; bluvali@verizon.net; *Tibetan Terrier Club of America website: ttca-online.org*

herding

## Australian Cattle Dogs

### Take Advantage of the AKC's Obedience/Rally Judges' Seminar

Participation in companion events is rapidly increasing throughout the country as the AKC adds new and more exciting titles in both the obedience and rally divisions of the sport of dogs. The Internet is a superhighway linking interested newcomers to seasoned veterans, providing vast amounts of information and encouragement.

The best source of information on the requirements, rules, and procedures regarding these events and how they are to be executed, judged, and scored is an official AKC obedience/rally judges' seminar. These seminars are usually sponsored by local clubs. The seminars include PowerPoint presentations covering the various rules of the sport

and levels of competition. New rules, additions to the rules, and clarifications of judging points are explained by an AKC representative. These seminars are often two-day affairs, with the first covering basic obedience and the second devoted to the rally events.

AKC judges' seminars are inexpensive and offer an excellent place to meet both judges and other exhibitors. The obedience community is relatively large, but many of the events and activities will be more readily available if you have contacts within the sport. A seminar is a great place to find out where the local trials are held, as well as when and where additional seminars are planned. It also offers an excellent opportunity to learn about those clubs and individuals who host lessons, clinics, and workshops.

Sometimes it is very difficult to get connected with a sport, especially if you are new to an area. Most local clubs are

delighted to add you to their mailing list; however, you have to make the initial contact. All AKC judging seminars are listed on the AKC website, which makes it easy to locate seminars close to you.

In order to maintain a license to judge obedience or rally, all herding judges must attend one of these seminars every three years, therefore there are a number of the events across the country.

Exhibitors are learning that the more they know about the process of putting on an obedience and/or rally trial, the greater their appreciation of the club members and the contributions of helpful exhibitors. Knowing about the rules, regulations, and the process of putting on a trial may seem unnecessary to the beginner, but once she starts learning about all that goes into showing, she develops a much keener understanding of the sport and can make more positive contributions.

Because obedience does require a

considerable amount of training and dedication to obtain the various titles, going to the seminars is an excellent resource for understanding the rules and regulations of the sport and for meeting others with similar interests.

These seminars do not talk about training the dogs, but the average owner knows that Australian Cattle Dogs do better if trained with low-stress, no-force methods. The rules regarding the use of hand signals and talking to your dog are especially useful for working with this breed.

Check online for obedience/rally events in your area and for information on the 2012 ACDCA national at Purina Farms in the St. Louis area. Start them young, and keep them working! —*Dr. Mary Belle Adelman; maryba@toast.net; Australian Cattle Dog Club of America website: acdca.org*

## Australian Shepherds Herding With Aussies

Australian Shepherds were developed on the ranches and farms of the American West with the primary mission of herding sheep and other livestock. Their intelligence and biddability has made them prized for this kind of work. These same qualities, combined with their heritage, have also translated into great success in canine competition—including, naturally, herding trials.

The United States Australian Shepherd Association (USASA) strongly supports the breed in the herding-trial arena, because these contests exhibit the essence of what the Aussie is supposed to be—a premier herding dog. Every USASA national specialty features herding trials, and winning a High in Trial at the national is honored as a signal achievement, which of course it is. The show's Most Versatile Aussie competition, which requires entrants to perform across the spectrum of offered events, cannot be won without a qualifying score at the Aussie-only herding trial. Beyond trials, a breeder who wants their kennel accepted into USASA's Hall of Fame must breed at least two Aussies that attain the Herding Started title.

Acquiring and then training an Aussie to herding proficiency is not easy. To begin, one has to find the right dog. Generally, the best way is to go to a breeder who specializes in herding lines. This has three benefits. First, it improves the chances of finding a puppy or dog with herding instinct—important because not all dogs have it, even those from herding stock. Second, it helps in making the right choice of puppy or dog, depending on the type of function one wants it to carry out. Having an Aussie who will perform duties on a farm or ranch involves a very different upbringing from an Aussie who is intended for the trial ring, or for the town common, chasing away geese. An Aussie can perform all of these—and if that is the object, then that too factors into the choice of dog. Finally, an experienced breeder can and should be an invaluable resource in the raising and training of the young herding prospect.

It takes an average of about a year just to train an Aussie to the Started, or beginning, level of competence. It is critical that this is done right, since Aussies can easily be turned off herding if improperly introduced to the job. Again, the breeder can make a critical difference by supplying advice on both instruction and instructors.

The AKC sanctioned roughly 590 herding events in 2011, and there are additional trials sponsored by other organizations. While this is a fair number, as a matter of perspective, AKC sanctions many times that number of conformation shows in any given year. All of this means that depending on the part of the country one lives in, getting to these shows can sometimes involve hours of driving time. Nevertheless, Aussie herding folk are a dedicated lot, and obstacles of this kind don't seem to be a significant hindrance.

Perhaps the only thing more beautiful than watching a good Aussie-handler team working together in a trial arena or in a farm or pasture environment is being part of that team itself. There is a balletic beauty in a handler whistling over incredible distances, activating their Aussie to quickly and efficiently move

sheep or livestock this way or that, ultimately penning them at the end of a perfect run at trial or at the end of the day on the farm or ranch.

The bond between handler and Aussie that this activity creates is hard to match in any place where man and dog combine for a shared purpose. That is why the USASA and all those who love Aussies will always support herding as a recreation and as an occupation. — *Stevens Parr; stevens.parr@gmail.com; United States Australian Shepherd Association website: australianshepherds.org*

## Bearded Collies Getting Down and Dirty

When my parents named me Alice, I don't believe they had Lewis Carroll's heroine in mind. Nevertheless, I find myself disappearing into holes from time to time, courtesy of my Beardies rather than white rabbits.

Most memorable was the time Piper went missing on the day she was due to have pups. My frantic calls were finally answered by a muffled bark from underground. Behind a large bush, I found a tunnel whose dark recesses disappeared down beneath a concrete slab. Perhaps her feral ancestors raised pups in dens, but there was no darned way Piper was having her brood below ground!

Grabbing a slip-lead and a flashlight, I stretched my arms forward Superman-style and started to slither down a hole no wider than my shoulders. In retrospect, it might have been wiser to enlist assistance or at least let someone know of my intentions, especially when I realized the tunnel was more than eight feet long and I was entirely engulfed within its Stygian depths. Finally the flashlight's flickering beam focused on Piper perched on a slightly raised shelf at the end.

Operating in incredibly cramped quarters, I managed to toss the slip lead over Piper's head. Now to back out. That's when I made the distressing discovery the tunnel was too narrow to allow me to bring my arms back to propel myself backwards.

Thank doG I'm not claustrophobic—

however, I admit to some morose mutterings as I pondered the predicament. But Piper had a date with the stork, and I had to get her out. So, firmly grasping the lead with one hand, and using the other hand, my hip bones, and my toe-tips, I began to laboriously inch in reverse.

Slow going. Dislodged dirt sifted down the neck of my shirt and the waistband of my jeans, but cleanliness was not a concern at this point.

Eons later we emerged into the light of day, and Piper was treated to a bath.

Four hours later, her pups were born in a cozy whelping box in my bedroom.

My current crew has installed a veritable subway system in the front yard amid the roots of a plant that started life as a bush and has grown into a 30-foot tall tangle of trunks and branches. Just last month I heard a plaintive cry from Derry, my 15-year-old who suffers from doggy dementia. She had descended into one of the subterranean sectors and couldn't figure which way was out. She wasn't all that far down, but far enough that I had to go in part-way to extract her. The catch was, the dirt was very dry and crumbling wherever I touched to brace myself. Images of the whole works collapsing on us tiptoed through my mind.

Derry seemed to be wedged in place. A soft, wide slip-lead to the rescue (thank you, Purina). Looped around her hind legs, it made it possible to pull her far enough for me to get a grip on her. She wasn't happy about being unceremoniously dragged out, but I was relieved.

The gang has a tunnel that descends in one place and comes up in another. Friday, my youngest Bearded, thinks it's great sport to plunge underground and bark a few times before reappearing. I think she likes the acoustics. Maybe it's like singing in the shower. By the way, have you ever tried singing with your head in a Vari Kennel? Fabulous acoustics! It makes scrubbing them inside almost enjoyable.

One of the dangers of these tunnels is in not knowing exactly which direction they go underground (And I

thought moles were bad!) One day a fellow Bearded owner who was spending a few days at my place washed her vehicle and then offered to scrub my van. She drove it behind that front yard bush/tree, got out, walked around it, and disappeared into the ground. Well, actually she only went into the newly opened hole up to her waist. She was most chagrined the ground hadn't given way when the van drove over the tunnel, but dropped her in the dirt when she walked over the same spot!

I wisely refrained from comment.

Do you suppose there's some terrier blood in Beardies? —*Alice Bixler; alicjb@att.net; Bearded Collie Club of America website: bcca.us*

## Beaucerons National d'Élevage

Last September 23, the Beauceron National specialty took place in Grey Summit, Missouri. The show was well attended, with 45 entries and many promising young Beaucerons vying for recognition. These dogs will no doubt have a successful career in the show ring representing the breed. Some of them will continue to make their owners proud in their sporting and working life as service dogs, search-and-rescue dogs, and rally and agility partners. Congratulations to all participants for presenting to the public beautiful and sound representatives of the breed!

In France recently, the breed's National d'Élevage saw the participation of 603 dogs—247 males and 356 females—coming from all over Europe. As is customary, the judges have published their critiques. Their comments are very revealing of trends present in today's Beaucerons, trends that must be carefully monitored if the breed is to stay true to its standard. Since the American Beauceron gene pool still is relying heavily on European bloodlines, such comments must be heeded.

The main criticisms concerned the head. The judges especially objected to lack of chiseling of the head and incorrect shape and set of the eyes. The eyes were criticized for being too oval in shape, too slanted, and departing from

the correct horizontal set. Eye color was also mentioned as being at times too light, particularly with the Harlequins. Other faults they listed were skulls too wide and heavy, pinched muzzles, and lack of parallelism in the planes of the head. Poor head type clearly alarmed the judges.

Their other main concern related to the hindquarters. Weakness of the rear angulation, coupled with toeing-out, was blamed for a poor and less efficient shepherd gait. Years ago, French breeders, under the leadership of late president René Sauvignac, had actively and successfully worked on eradicating toeing-out in the breed. The old nemesis is now making its way back and becoming more prominent.

Several judges commented on the Harlequins. They cited lack of bone, light eyes, encroaching facial markings, and lack of clear marbling in the coat.

One judge objected to dogs being too tall and too long in the loin.

There is a consensus among judges to deplore the lack of homogeneity among the dogs they were presented. They also remarked on a lessening in the quality of Beaucerons they encounter in the show ring.

Given these comments, it is imperative that American Beauceron fanciers be very aware of what constitutes a correct Beauceron. Only strict conformation to the standard and elimination of marginally correct dogs from breeding ventures will maintain the Beauceron in this country and stop the development of the objectionable trends now being noticed in Europe.

In his critique, one judge ventured to say that too many young females were entered too early. He said, "As for young females, I believe only those close to the standard and having reached a certain maturity can aspire to receive the highest rating. The Beauceron is a slow to develop, one must give it time to mature."

It can take up to two years for your Beauceron to reach a finished, well-balanced look. This judge is asking owners to refrain from showing a dog who has not yet reached its potential. His role in



selecting correct dogs can only be fulfilled when he evaluates more mature and finished animals. Judges cannot foresee how a young Beauceron, however promising, will eventually turn out; this is especially true when it comes to height.

This advice coming from overseas should be heeded by Beauceron owners in this country, as it can only benefit the Beauceron breed in the long run. — *Claudia Batson*; [Claudia.Batson@hotmail.com](mailto:Claudia.Batson@hotmail.com); *American Beauceron Club website*: [beauce.org](http://beauce.org)

## Belgian Malinois

This month's guest columnist is Suzi Goodhope, who has trained Belgian Malinois to work in the detection of human remains.

## Noses Help Find Lost Civil War Soldiers

For almost 150 years, beautiful Thomasville, Georgia, has kept a secret: It is the location of the graves of an unknown number of Union prisoners of war who had been held at the infamous Andersonville Prison Camp during the Civil War. In 1864, 5,000 prisoners from the camp were taken by rail to a temporary prison camp at Thomasville. The prisoners were in poor condition, and many died of starvation and disease. Records show that a few of the soldiers were buried in local cemeteries, but the final resting place of the majority was never identified.

A portion of the five-acre site of the temporary prison camp is still preserved, surrounded by residential and commercial development. The site has no structures and is covered with mature trees. The original prison camp was bounded by a ditch six to eight feet deep and 10 to 12 feet wide, and a portion of it can still be seen running through the lot.

In early 2011, Thomasville officials heard of Human Remains Detection (HRD) dogs being used to locate graves associated with Indian mounds in Mississippi, and the officials decided to see if these dogs could find the remains of the long-buried soldiers.

In March 2011, four HRD dogs

went to work at the site of the prison camp. These were my Malinois, Shiraz, and my German Shepherd Dog, Temple, along with Lisa Higgins' Australian Shepherd, Maggie, and her Malinois-GSD cross, Dixie.

As the dogs took turns searching the area, each focused attention on a very small portion of the large ditch. Roots of trees extended out into the ditch, and the dogs literally stuck their heads deep into the tree roots and loudly sniffed. The dogs each gave a trained indication of human-decomposition odor detection within a short distance of each other.

Last November, in order to substantiate the dogs' indications, the site was explored with ground-penetrating radar. The signature of multiple burials was confirmed in the area of the dogs' interest. Four keen noses had helped to solve the mystery of where those long-dead soldiers rested. —S.G.

Thanks, Suzi. How amazing that the dogs could still detect the remains 150 years later!

On another note, Malinois Rescue continues to be inundated with heartbreaking cases of Malinois in kill shelters that need immediate foster homes. If you can help any of these animals, even temporarily, please contact Malinois Rescue at [malinoisrescue.org](http://malinoisrescue.org). — *Nancy Bennett*; [nancyb@ignnet.com](mailto:nancyb@ignnet.com); *American Belgian Malinois Club website*; [malinoisclub.com/abmc](http://malinoisclub.com/abmc)

## Belgian Sheepdogs Shipping Puppies PART ONE

There are many challenges a breeder faces when breeding a litter of puppies. In my own experience, I have found that shipping our most precious cargo on an airplane is one of my biggest concerns, and I am sure I am not alone in this.

As breeders we have spent time researching pedigrees to find the best suitable combination. We have raised the pups from infancy, put hours into socializing them and interviewing prospective homes, and then in an instant we lose all control when we put our babies on a commercial carrier to

send them to their new homes.

The best-case scenario is if your puppy buyers can fly to you to pick up their pups. I will touch on additional helpful hints on how to fly with your pup in cabin or in cargo as excess baggage later in this article. However, much of the information provided for shipping the pup as cargo can also apply to when the puppy is being flown in cabin or as excess baggage.

To prepare my puppies for their long journey and a new life, I begin by training them to accept being kenneled. Depending upon the size of the litter, at 5½ weeks the pups are either all kenneled at the same time, or they take turns being kenneled in their puppy pen while some of their siblings are able to walk around.

I start when they have already had a full day, their bellies are full, and they are ready to settle down. In most cases I will begin by having a pair of pups sleep together for awhile (usually in a larger kennel), and I gradually separate them until they are comfortable sleeping independently. Some puppies are more accepting than others.

Once I know that they are comfortable in a kennel, I begin to drive them around on very short trips. Depending upon the size of the litter, this is done every day or every other day from age 6 to 8 weeks in individual kennels, usually in the same kennels they will be shipped in. Each day the pups experience a longer trip in the kennel so that by the time they go to their new homes, they are comfortable settling quickly and have learned to accept their "den." In cases where a single puppy has problems settling during car rides, I will take that puppy by himself so as to not influence the rest of them.

In most cases my puppies leave here between 8 and 9 weeks. Requirements for shipping through the airlines are:

- Animals must be at least 8 weeks old.
- The shipping kennel or cage must meet standards for size, ventilation, strength, and design. The animal must have enough room to stand up and turn around. Kennels must be equipped with one food and water cup. Kennels

must be marked with shipper's name, address, and phone number, as well as the pick-up person's name, address, and phone number (if different from shipper). "Live Animal" stickers should be applied to the kennel, and the last time fed and watered indicated on an attached label. Place newspaper or absorbent material on the bottom of the crate. (*Tip:* For this I use puppy pee pads, and towels that the littermates have slept on.)

- The animal may not be exposed to temperatures of less than 45 degrees Fahrenheit unless there is an acclimation statement provided by a veterinarian.

- A health certificate must be issued by a licensed veterinarian and be no more than 10 days old. *Tip:* Travel within the same state may not require a health certificate. Check with your carrier.

- Animals may not be brought to the airline more than four hours before a flight.

- Animals less than 16 weeks of age must be offered food and water if transit is more than 12 hours. Older animals must have food at least every 24 hours and water at least every 12 hours.

- Animals over 16 weeks must have rabies shots current.

*Tip:* Pricing is dependent on the weight of your pet, the volume of the crate (length x width x height), and the total weight of pet and crate. Most airlines use a formula to calculate price based on these numbers. Often, the crate size can change the price dramatically. Remember, crate size is based on measured numbers, *not* the manufacturer's size designation. That is, a PetCo medium crate will be a different size from a Dog.com medium crate. So find the best size for shipping your puppies that will accommodate your puppy and airline requirements but will also be most cost effective. And buy the plastic dishes to go with the crate, as most airlines require them to be attached to the door. I usually buy extras, because these can get lost when the kennel is returned to me.

*Tip:* Small kennels can be returned to you by the puppy buyer by simply attaching a label with your address on it and sent through the USPS. They do not need to be broken down as long as

they are within the normal shipping sizes and weights for the postal service. I send the buyer premade labels in my puppy packet that I mail separately before the puppy is shipped.

*Tip:* It takes a dog an average of approximately three hours to process food. This means he'll have to eliminate about three hours after you feed him. Remember this time frame to plan his meal before his flight. The airline does not let your dog out of the crate for breaks.

*Tip:* The night before I ship a puppy, I freeze water in the cups that attach to the kennel. Just before leaving the puppy at the airport, I attach the frozen cups to the door of the kennel. This way the pup will have water as it melts without it spilling all over the place. I also put inside the crate with each puppy a toy that has the scent of his littermates on it.

*Tip:* I drill four small holes in the front of the kennel (two on each side) so that I can pass zip-ties through the holes and through the wires in the kennel door. The zip-ties I use are the easy-release kind, but they give an added amount of security so that the door cannot just open by mistake. I place one zip-tie in each corner.

*Tip:* During very hot weather, plan to ship your puppies when the temperatures are the coolest for departures and arrivals.

*Tip:* Never sedate a puppy for flying. Most puppies will fall to sleep naturally.

*Tip:* Take the booking information to the airport with you. I ran into a problem recently where they couldn't find the reservation because the agent who booked the flight entered the incorrect date. Have the AWB number with you for verification.

This topic will conclude with Part Two in the June issue. —*Andrae Kipin Acerra*; gmfarm8858@yahoo.com; *Belgian Sheepdog Club of America website*: bsca.info

## Belgian Tervuren Social Media

I admit it: I am getting old. I am turning out to be like my mother, who uses her computer only when she

has to and replies to her e-mail when she gets around to it. No instant replies there—or here.

Social media such as Twitter and Facebook enable folks to inform all interested "friends" of the most trivial details of their lives as the events actually unfold. For example, I was at a birthday party where there was a beautifully decorated cake, and a photo was uploaded to Facebook the instant the candles were lit. I was a little disconcerted by the presence of the camera and my lack of control of the image going up on the web—and this was posted by a person with only the best of intentions.

Later that summer, I was at a high-school graduation party where the photographer took the photos on her cell phone, intending to upload them later. It was a very hot day, and the guests were showing the strain of being out in the heat at an outdoor party. I requested to page through the photos and delete any that were not flattering to those in attendance. The phone owner grudgingly obliged. Like I said—I am getting old, and age has its privileges.

Often the message-poster is so caught up in the moment that they post without thinking of the possible repercussions. Every post stays out there, sometimes for the world to see. Those who choose to post the latest gossip have a wide audience, and the readers only see one side of the story.

The same goes for the posting of opinions of the merits of particular dogs and judges (or lack thereof). My good friend was thrilled to be back at the shows after a long absence, and decided to sign up for Facebook to get involved again. She has been surprised at some of the posts she has seen, especially those that seem to disparage the winners of the weekend.

Since I am getting to be like my mother, I had one thing to say to her. "I told you so!"

I have opted out and chosen to stick with the old standby of e-mail. And here's a novel idea: telephones can actually help you keep in contact. I know, I know; these two types of

communication only reach one person at a time. For those whose opinions require a whole audience, that is often not enough. That is fine, but please consider what you say, and also whether it actually needs to be said.

In the words of the old adage, ask yourself: *Is it kind? Is it necessary? Is it true?*

Think before you post. —Kate Bouffard; tervline@aol.com; American Belgian Tervuren Club website: abtc.org

## Border Collies

### The Next Dog

It's springtime, or will be soon, and for many of us that's when we start thinking about puppies. Most conformation and performance exhibitors select their future stars as puppies. A conformation breeder might run on a couple of likely prospects, but she usually has a pretty good idea of which one or two puppies are most likely to have the desired qualities by the time they're 8 weeks old.

Similarly, obedience and agility exhibitors often try to assess future talent in a young puppy. There are several tests you can use that measure temperament and other characteristics, although remember that an experienced tester should conduct the test. A good breeder can help evaluate structure to help give an idea of future soundness, and she should know a lot about each puppy's personality.

Success in obedience and agility has a lot to do with the trainer. A talented trainer can create a winning partnership even with a puppy that isn't quite perfect, because he or she can compensate for and train around weaknesses.

However, that's often not true in herding. A talented trainer can maximize the potential of a dog, but if a crucial quality is lacking, then at some point nothing more can be done to compensate for it.

It's practically impossible to determine a puppy's future herding talent. The qualities that make a superior herding dog are simply not evident at 7 or 8 weeks of age. Chasing brooms, trying to head off other puppies or people, and even stalking are cute

behaviors, but they guarantee nothing.

You can increase the odds by choosing a litter where the sire, dam, and grandparents are excellent herding dogs. Even then, however, not all puppies will turn out to be as good as them or better.

If herding is your passion, consider buying a young adult who's been started on sheep. You can assess his natural moves and attitude while working stock, decide if he looks like he has the potential to become what you want, and also see if he has the kind of personality that you want to work with. Or you can consider a fully trained dog and know exactly what you're getting. The trade-off of getting an adult dog, however, is that you'll miss out on the early months. You won't be socializing him or teaching him house rules and foundation skills.

It's important to carefully consider what your priorities are before you decide whether a puppy or a young adult is best. If you choose a puppy, are you willing to give up on lofty herding goals if he doesn't turn out? Will you be satisfied to do something else that your dog is capable of? If not, what will you do? Will you place him and start over? Are you willing to invest one to two years with no guarantee of outcome?

There is no right answer, but these questions are something to think about as you start to think about the next puppy or dog. —Terri Clinger; tcdogs315@gmail.com; Border Collie Society of America website: bordercolliesociety.com

## Bouvier des Flandres

We thank guest columnist Shelley Bowman for reminding us of the importance of Futurity. Shelley is Futurity chair and past ABdFC board member. In 1990, Shelley acquired her first Bouvier and was bitten by the "show bug." She bred her first litter in 1998, establishing Always Bouviers. Following her belief that Bouviers should be all they can be, she was proud to have both a dog honored in Top Twenty Conformation and a bitch in Top Twenty Performance in 2011.

### The Future Is in Futurity

Futurity competitions, usually held at national specialties, may vary in their details among different breed clubs. Their general purpose is universal, however: Futurities encourage the breeding of outstanding offspring.

Today's Bouvier is the result of years of experience and breeders' desire to produce puppies who will grow to exemplify the breed. The ABdFC's futurity program provides breeders and owners a place to show those dogs of whom they are most proud. It is also a showcase for up-and-coming young dogs who will hopefully have a positive impact on the breed.

For breeders the event is a forum to evaluate their breeding program against others and identify bloodlines that could best be incorporated into their own. It is the emergence of a new generation and provides an opportunity to find the breeding stock for yet another generation.

Our rules state that a bitch must be nominated before the litter is whelped. Within 30 days, the litter must then be nominated. Then each individual puppy must be nominated before reaching the age of 4 months. Proper forms are submitted, along with a payment for each nomination. After all, a futurity is in essence a "gamble." Each breeder who enters is betting that of all the nominated litters, his chosen dam and sire will produce the puppy that conform closest to the breed standard.

Further qualifications for futurity are that only puppies whelped from October 1 of one year to September 30 of the following year are eligible to compete at the annual competitions held with the specialty. The breeders and at least one owner of the puppy must be a member in good standing (or a pending member) of the ABdFC in order to nominate. There are also necessary health requirements that must be met.

Our first futurity was held in St. Louis on October 2, 1993. In the 18 years since, we continue to celebrate the best of our young Bouviers. The 2011 winners truly embody the reason for the

program. The Best Dog and Best Bitch of this Futurity are both the offspring of two previous Futurity winners.

Sabri Bouvier breeder and longtime ABdFC member Bev Riley had the foresight to see how important Futurity would be for our breed. It is due to her conscientious diligence to ensure the future excellence of the breed that we have the opportunity to celebrate our young dogs each year. From all of us, thank you, Bev. —S.B.

Thank you, Shelley. For more information, please visit [bouvier.org/futurity/Futurity%20Booklet.pdf](http://bouvier.org/futurity/Futurity%20Booklet.pdf) at [bouvier.org](http://bouvier.org). —Jeannette Nieder; American Bouvier des Flandres Club website: [bouvier.org](http://bouvier.org)

## Briards Appreciate Each Moment

*Remember to appreciate each moment for what it is, and be happy that your dog is there to share it with you.*

“That is a big life lesson,” reflects Tracy Thorleifson, after racking up the final legs on an RAE with her Briard, Ellie.

For those unfamiliar with Rally, earning an RAE entails qualifying in both Advanced and Excellent on the same day to earn a leg, and 10 legs are needed for the title. A team must first have acquired Rally Novice, Advanced, and Excellent titles before pursuing an RAE. So it’s a considerable investment of time, training, and money.

And for Ellie, there was one more obstacle to overcome: cancer.

Ellie had a very full and successful career right up until February 2011. In addition to earning both American and Canadian championships in conformation, the striking tawny female was also a group winner. And along with her show-ring appearances, Ellie scored an Am./Can. CD in obedience and an NA in agility, plus her rally titles.

Tracy and Ellie didn’t campaign for the RAE; it was more a case of picking up a leg here and there when the opportunity arose. But after collecting the eighth leg at the 2010 national specialty, Tracy thought it seemed silly not to go for the RAE title when it was so close. She planned to wrap it up in

March 2011.

But there’s an old saying about the best laid plans often going astray, and in February, unkind fate dealt Ellie a sledgehammer blow. She was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, and it was deemed necessary to remove her tumor-ridden spleen.

Following the surgery, she underwent chemotherapy for four months. The treatment took its toll. Her lush, flowing coat lost its luster and began to fall like autumn leaves in October’s first chill winds.

Though Tracy felt Ellie’s days of competing were over, the 10-year-old Briard tolerated chemo quite well. Because her immune system was suppressed by the chemo, Ellie was not allowed to attend classes, which she had always enjoyed for the camaraderie and fun, not to mention the treats. When the chemo ended, however, she happily went back to rally class and demonstrated that she still remembered the art of heeling.

“Why not?” thought Tracy, wondering if she could get over the idea of taking a virtually hairless dog into the ring.

She entered both days at the Olympic Kennel Club shows in August. *Veni, vidi, vici*—she came, she competed, she qualified. Ellie became Am./Can. Ch. Deja Vu Sense and Sensibility, Am./Can. CD, NA, RAE.

“But doing this with Ellie, under these circumstances, felt totally different than at past shows and rally trials,” remembers Tracy. “I can get impatient or exasperated at stupid mistakes (mine or the dog’s), rue lost points, plan the next training strategy, and focus on how to get better. That didn’t happen this weekend. I was pleased with the decent scores (98, 97, 96, and 95) and thrilled with third place in such a large class (21 entries), but mostly I was just grateful to be there with Ellie one last time. I appreciated her and her efforts and was happy with what we accomplished. A small brag, but a big life lesson.”

We all like happy endings, but sometimes nature doesn’t accommodate our wishes. The cancer returned. In late November, Ellie died at age 10 and

three-quarter years. That “three-quarter” meant a lot to Tracy, who described it as a “long hello, rather than a long goodbye.” Tracy spoiled Ellie more than ever, taking her to rally class to play and have fun, going on long walks, and being more than generous with treats. Those months together were special.

“There is a hole in the fabric of my daily life that will take time to heal,” Tracy reflects, “and a hole in my heart that will be there forever. The spot on the sofa is empty, the foot of my bed is cold.”

Ellie, the Briard who could never bypass a perfectly good mud puddle, is gone now, but she lives on in happy memories.

Now, go hug your dog! —Alice Bixler; [alicejb@att.net](mailto:alicejb@att.net); Briard Club of America website: [briardclubofamerica.org/bca](http://briardclubofamerica.org/bca)

## Canaan Dogs The Challenges of Training the Independent Canaan Dog

When asked about the toughest part of living with a Canaan Dog, most owners will readily respond that the breed’s independent behavior is the greatest challenge. Some even describe their Canaans as “reincarnated cats,” a fair portrayal of the breed’s autonomous and occasionally haughty nature. Canaans believe that an action must be worth the bother, either in terms of food, toy, or another positive reward, before they will even consider yielding to a command. If the reward is not attractive enough, the Canaan will ignore the request no matter the bribe.

This hard-wired autonomy sets up a dilemma for owners who treasure the breed for its self-reliant nature, because it underscores the meaning of a true partnership rather than sycophantic servitude by their dogs—even though it requires creative solutions to training problems. While this self-determination does not imply that the breed is “unbiddable,” it does mean that the owner must be at least as smart as the dog.

Training can be complicated by what



seems like a contradiction to many owners: This highly independent and easily bored breed may choose the time and place for rewards or develop its own ritual behaviors. For instance, a behavior repeated once can become practice if the perceived reward is highly desired.

Obedience training is highly recommended for every Canaan, whether the dog's future is in the breed or performance ring or as a family pet. Owners should know that the first rule of owning a Canaan Dog is that force cannot be used to make the dog respond to the owner's wishes, because "A Canaan will forgive, but never forget." Those who have tried to physically force a Canaan to their bidding have usually had disastrous outcomes.

Long periods of repetitious training are almost as ruinous as physical force. The Canaan Dog is highly intelligent and can rapidly learn what is required, if the owner is patient and makes the lesson as a game rather than an exercise in robotic precision. Being highly intelligent also means that the dog can get easily bored. However, unlike some breeds that get frustrated when presented with another tedious repetition of the same exercise, Canaans instead tend to mentally shut down and totally ignore their owners for the rest of the lesson—or longer. To illustrate: One of the top herding Canaan Dogs once got bored with continuously doing practice outruns and decided to blast through the flock instead, scattering them so that he could chase and play with them. During his spree, he thoroughly disregarded commands and returned to the owner only when he tired of the game. The owner learned her lesson: Limit the number of outrun practices.

A Canaan of a less dominant nature is no less independent than a more dominant one, and the challenge of training such a self-governing breed remains the same. Canaans have high prey-drive and a historical instinct for survival; some work better for a toy reward, while others work better for food treats. Whichever category the dog falls into, owners should work their dogs in very short sessions, even ending the lesson

after a few minutes if the dog starts to show signs of mental shutdown.

While training a Canaan for any purpose can be a challenge, the rewards of achieving a true partnership far outweigh any difficulties. —*Denise A. Gordon; desertstarcanaans@yahoo.com; Canaan Dog Club of America website: cdca.org*

## Cardigan Welsh Corgis

### Breed Temperament and Personality

I have often touted the loving, devoted nature of the Cardigan, and how he makes a wondrous companion for families and individuals. One thing Cardigan owners and breeders deal with on a regular basis, however—at shows, walking in a neighborhood, and elsewhere—is an invitation to explain the breed's temperament and personality.

For the purposes of this column, I'm going to define *temperament* as the definition of the breed's general attitude, and *personality* as to how each individual Cardigan navigates the world.

According to the standard, the Cardigan's temperament should be *even-tempered, loyal, affectionate, and adaptable. Never shy nor vicious*. Considering one of the primary jobs of this breed when developed in Wales was to be a good family watch dog, temperament is a vital ingredient.

Personality, on the other hand, dictates the individual dog's behavior. Most Cardis are extremely happy, cheerful, loving, intelligent, and biddable companions. It should also be noted that Cardigans are often very silly dogs with a pronounced sense of humor! Their love of play never fades, but they are not in general what one would call "hyperactive" or utterly "job-driven." Cardigans greet people they know with enthusiasm and happiness, but after that first celebration of the visitor's arrival, they will go lie down and gnaw a chewy or curl up on the couch to monitor the behavior of the humans under supervision. Or go to sleep.

One of the tasks is explaining to oth-

ers that the Cardigan's temperament is usually different from that of the Pembroke. My own personal description is that the Pembroke is the outgoing, popular, bouncy high-school cheerleader, while the Cardigan is president of the chess club. (And one may see everything in between!) Neither is better than the other; it's simply a different temperament, and those interested in acquiring a corgi should examine their personal lifestyle to determine which may be best for them. The Pem tends to be more active, while the Cardi is considered more laid back. (Obviously, there are exceptions!)

In the show ring, exhibitors have for years done what they could to make their Cardis more showy. The Pem's natural demeanor is to be on the go, and this is very appealing in the group ring. For decades the Cardigan has been considered very workmanlike. He trots around the ring nicely, but he doesn't in general *ask* for the win. This is a normal function of the correct Cardigan temperament as a serious working dog. It took a discerning judge to see the overall quality of the Cardigan and not make a selection based on showiness. Nowadays, if we intend to special a Cardi, we reward a more outgoing personality and flashy movement.

Far more puppies go on to live in pet homes than see the show ring, however, and it's vital that we explain the breed's natural temperament, particularly to the prospective first-time owner. Buyers must also understand that this is a breed with a boatload of intelligence, plus reasoning and improvisational abilities. Precocious children can be a challenge; so can the precocious Cardigan Welsh Corgi. —*Jennifer Roberson; www.chey-suli.com; Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America website: cardiganorgis.com*

## Collies

### The Merle-to-Merle Dilemma

The ability to critically evaluate where we are in conformation, temperament, and health issues is essential to the future of dog breeding in general and our breed specifically.

Two interests principally emerge from our passion as breeders: preserving breed type, and dog showing as a measure of our success. Creating a better show dog might be one of the goals, but it should never be the singular goal.

Those defending merle-to-merle breeding argue that it creates genetic diversity, that it is the only way to preserve certain qualities, and that breeders must be able to remain autonomous in their decisions. Whether we like it or not, however, those of us who champion the purebred dog take on additional burdens of responsibility that the invisible breeders of shelter dogs never have to face.

If it's a question of probability, compare dogs with Collie eye anomaly to the risk of detached retinas. Based on CERF exams from 1991 to 1999, 1.88 percent of Collies have detachments. In a merle-merle breeding the probability is 25 percent for double-dilute dogs. This is not measured in one litter, or one person's experience, but in the total number of merle-to-merle breedings. So one may escape unscathed, but most certainly another will bear the "fruits" of the breeding. Unfortunately, we do not have statistics on the percentage of double dilutes who are blind and/or deaf.

Groups that share a common interest and the same objectives also share the same ideology and form a culture around those ideologies. Sometimes ideologies go too far, though. At the risk of using an extreme case, I think it makes a point. For example, polygamy might be an arguable ideology when between two or more consenting adults, but when it begins to include 12-year-olds, we morally draw the line. When we use our intuitive, instinctive sense of right and wrong, we must come to the conclusion for ourselves what is good or bad, what will be tolerated, regardless of where the criticism comes from, regardless of what ideology is promoted.

Moral and ethical questions evolve with the times, but shouldn't common sense tell us that breeding dogs who can't breathe well, breed or whelp naturally, walk normally, or see or hear is

wrong? Aside from the breeder's perspective, what about the person willing to take on a blind or deaf dog, or even the dog's point of view? The argument that these dogs live good, happy lives ignores the fact that they are still unnecessarily handicapped and have a compromised life. The dog's quality of life is restricted as a consequence of human actions. Because a dog can adapt or because we say we accept responsibility for our act is not an absolution for their existence in the first place. Public perception will not go away, and it is time for us to start taking control of the message. If we don't behave consistently and clearly as though the health of our dogs is of primary importance, there are those who will take control of the message for us.

As someone with the experience of owning a blind and deaf Collie said recently, "Each dog should have the expectation of a quality of life." Let's not be afraid to discuss and debate these issues and keep an open mind.

For a succinct overview of ethical thinking, go to [scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html](http://scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html). —Marianne Sullivan; mill-knock@embarqmail.com; Collie Club of America website: [collieclubofamerica.org](http://collieclubofamerica.org)

## German Shepherd Dogs

### The Breed's Coat

*The ideal dog has a double coat of medium length. The outer coat should be as dense as possible, hair straight, harsh and lying close to the body. A slightly wavy outer coat, often of wiry texture, is permissible. The head including the inner ear and foreface and the legs and paws are covered with short hair, and the neck with longer, thicker hair. The rear of the forelegs and hind legs has somewhat longer hair, extending to the pastern and hock respectively.*

Faults of coat include soft, silky, or too-long outer coat, and wooly, curly, and open coat.

Of what importance is the correct coat of the German Shepherd Dog?

- It provides protection against the elements.

- A dense coat makes it difficult for fleas and ticks to penetrate to the skin
- Hot spots are less prevalent.

- With proper coat the GSD can work in less than optimum conditions (in freezing rain, snow, and so on) when doing his herding job.

Inheritance of the long-coat gene is via a simple recessive pattern. Many people brag about their dogs being "coat free," and many spay and neuter long-coat puppies. Several other top breeders have kept their long-coated puppies and bred them to dogs who do not carry the recessive gene for long coat, resulting in litters with beautiful furnishings.

Judges often overlook a dog with a long coat when it is only a simple fault—no greater than any of the other minor faults as listed in the standard. This is wrong and must be brought to the attention of all who judge our wonderful breed.

The SV, the worldwide parent organization of the German Shepherd Dog located in Augsburg, Germany, has recently approved classes for all ages of the Long Hair German Shepherd Dog. This dog *must* have a dense undercoat. It has often been noted that they have a smoother disposition and appear to be mellower. Yet at the last Sieger show in Germany, many of the top protection dogs who were exhibited on Friday were Long Hair German Shepherds. One of the reasons for this could be that more attention was paid to working the dog for the performance titles than for the conformation.

We are always looking for ways to increase entries in the AKC ring. Why not encourage the AKC and the GSDCA to develop a separate class or classes (6–12 months, and 12 Months and Over) for the long-coated dogs with dense undercoat?

I often wonder what will happen if we continually breed "coat-free" German Shepherds to "coat-free" German Shepherds. Will we get what the old-timers used to call "seal coats"? Have you noticed a higher incidence of skin problems when this practice is followed? This is food for thought. —

Helen Gleason, GSDCA Education  
Chair; helengleasonus@yahoo.com;  
German Shepherd Dog Club of America  
website: gsdca.org

## Icelandic Sheepdogs An Interview With Breed Expert Guðrún Ragnars Guðjohnsen

Breed expert and FCI judge Guðrún Ragnars Guðjohnsen recently attended the annual Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation (ISIC) meeting. We thought we'd ask her about the "state of the union."

*How is the Icelandic Sheepdog doing worldwide?*

We have accomplished many good things for the breed in the 16 years that the ISIC has worked together. There are now 10 breed clubs from 10 kennel clubs and 10 countries working for the Iceland Dog on type, health, temperament, and working ability, which is typical of the breeds in the FCI's Group 5 (Spitz and Primitive Types), Section 3 (Nordic Watchdogs and Herders).

One of our most important accomplishments is our worldwide database that includes over 11,000 Icelandic Sheepdogs. This allows us to look at the breed as one population rather than separate populations by country and helps us make sound breeding decisions.

*What would you improve upon?*

Maybe it is not a question of improving but more to protect the good things we already have. All breed clubs are working together towards that goal, meeting annually, discussing issues and working openly together. Each country's breed club sends two representatives to the yearly seminars: the president of the club, and the genetic or breeding committee chairperson. I am extremely grateful and happy for the serious and good work that goes on in ISIC.

*AKC judges often ask us what "one thing" they should focus on in the ring. What would you tell them?*

The overall expression and type—and even though the breed is not a "head breed," the mild, friendly, and almost smiling expression with the expressive dark eyes is very typical for

the breed.

A well-curved and high-set tail carried over the back is also an important breed detail.

Proportions are important: The length of the body from the point of shoulder to the point of buttock is greater than the height at the withers, depth of chest is equal to the length of the foreleg, and the muzzle should be clearly shorter than the skull.

Good angulations for a Nordic herding Spitz, good bone, strength, and stamina are also important.

Common faults often are thin-boned dogs with narrow heads, snipe noses, not dark enough eyes, and too-big ears. We also have to aim for straighter legs, mostly in the rear.

*In terms of this, how do you think that breeders worldwide are doing?*

I think we are on the right track with our worldwide database: genetic work and unique cooperation between breed clubs in ISIC and close contact with Iceland, the breed's homeland.

In my visits to the U.S., I met some of your judges, all of them very competent and lovely people, and I think the breed is in good hands in the U.S., with your competent judges, the AKC, and your breed club, the ISAA. I also met many breeders and dog owners with their lovely dogs, all serious about doing the best for the breed. Give my best to all these nice people, and I wish you all the best of luck and success with this wonderful breed in the future.

*Thank you. —Donna R. McDermott, MPPA; eyjahunda@gmail.com; Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America website: icelanddogs.com*

## Norwegian Buhunds Buhunds in AKC Events: The Past Five Years

It has been five years since the Norwegian Buhund was first accepted into the AKC Miscellaneous classes in January 2007, and three years since Buhunds joined the Herding Group. As I look back over this time, it is amazing to see how many Buhunds have been showing in AKC conformation, companion, and performance events. In

2009, seven Buhunds finished their championships. The number more than doubled in 2010, with 16 champions. Today Buhunds continue to show in breed, with more than seven new champions in late 2011.

With the advent of the grand championship program, we saw the first two Norwegian Buhund grand champions in 2010: GCh. Kimura's Dortha, owned by Sandra Krupski and M. Phyllis Wright, and GCh. Randalyn Spring Jada, RN, owned by Catherine Mazzotta and Ellen Yacknin. Last year, several more of the breed finished their grand champion titles. I hope the numbers continue to grow in future years.

The breed has also been competing in AKC companion events. Since 2007, one Buhund has achieved the Master Agility Champion (MACH) title: MACH Jorund Kinzi, CD, RAE, MXF, THD, owned by Jasmine Tata and Sameer Prasad. Five others have completed the Novice Agility (NA) and Novice Agility Jumpers with Weaves (NAJ) titles. Of those, four have gone on to complete their Open Agility (OA), Open Agility Jumpers with Weaves (OAJ), Agility Excellent (AX), and Agility Excellent Jumpers with Weaves (AXJ) titles, and three have completed the Master Agility Excellent (MX) and Master Excellent Jumpers with Weaves (MXJ) titles.

Buhunds also enjoy competing in obedience. In the past five years, several have completed the Companion Dog (CD) title, while two have gone on to complete the CDX (Companion Dog Excellent) title. I hope we see more of the breed competing in obedience and perhaps even achieving the OTCH.

Buhunds enjoy rally as well. Numerous dogs have completed the Rally Novice (RN) title, nine have completed the Rally Advanced (RA) title, seven have completed the Rally Excellent (RE) title, and one completed the Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE) title.

What changes will the next five years bring for the breed? For one thing, we should see more dogs competing at performance events such as herding. So far we have one Buhund who has com-

pleted the HT, but have several more in training for herding. After all, herding is the breed's original purpose. And I am sure we will see many more new Norwegian Buhund champions and grand champions. —*Jasmine Tata; Jtata2@yahoo.com; Norwegian Buhund Club of America website: buhund.org*

## Old English Sheepdogs

Remembering Hugh Jordan, MD

The Old English Sheepdog community has lost a valued and beloved member. Hugh Jordan, MD, passed away last October. A member of OESCA since 1966, he was given the highest accolade the club can bestow, the Honorary Membership.

Hugh's life with the OES began when he married Linda Slaughter in 1964. Lucy, their first OES, was his wedding gift to his new bride. Two of their first OES earned obedience CDs, and they soon started showing in conformation.

Breeding on a select and limited basis under the Loyalblu kennel name, the Jordans bred, owned, and exhibited a top-winning line of show dogs, including over 60 champions, multiple specialty and top BIS winners, numerous record-holders and ROMs, obedience-titled dogs, and outstanding junior-handling dogs. The Jordans bred and Linda owner-handled Ch. Loyalblu Hendihap, the top-winning OES in the history of the breed of his time. His wins included BISS at the OESCA national specialty in 1977 and Working Group I at the Westminster Kennel Club.

Ever-mindful of the breed's health and welfare, Linda and Hugh utilized OFA screenings as they became available. They also supported OES rescue, providing funds and facilities for rescue activities.

Hugh served the OESCA as president, Western Region director, and AKC Delegate. He founded the first independent OESCA local club, the OESC of Southern California, and he served as its first president and was responsible for 46 of its independent specialties. On the national scene, he initiated the first OESCA independent national specialty

and served as show chair for four of those events.

In 1998 Hugh established the OES Top Twenty competition, which has become a fixture at OESCA national specialties. For the breed's exhibitors, an important goal is an invitation to this elegant and prestigious event.

Hugh was also a founder of the all-breed Rio Hondo Kennel Club and served as its president for 26 years.

Hugh became a licensed judge of OES in 1973. He officiated at the breed's 1975 national specialty, and in 1976 he was elected by the parent-club membership to judge OES at the AKC Centennial show. He judged many OES specialties throughout the U.S., as well as in Europe, England, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. He also served as mentor for AKC judges' educational seminars and "hands-on" testing.

Hugh was born in 1926, in Enid, Oklahoma. He grew up on a small wheat farm in nearby Carrier and graduated from Carrier High school as valedictorian, with special honors for 11 years of perfect punctuality and attendance. Following graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served during World War II. Later he earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Creighton University Medical School, then moved to California and opened a family practice in Whittier. He returned to medical school and completed a specialty in anesthesiology.

In 1960 he was selected to serve aboard the *U.S.S. Hope* on her maiden voyage for "Project Hope," touring the Indonesian Islands to teach hundreds of doctors and nurses, and treating thousands suffering from cancer, leprosy, infections, and malnutrition.

Upon his return, Hugh joined the staff at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital and pursued research and therapy in pulmonary disease and ventilation. He was a founding member of the Doctors Surgery Center in Whittier.

Upon his retirement, Hugh continued to serve the breed and its supporting clubs in many ways. He also loved gardening and antiques and most of all his family, taking great joy in the growing

tribe of grandchildren to which he devoted countless hours.

Hugh was a kind and genteel man who had a passion for his family, friends, travel, adventure, the arts, and Old English Sheepdogs. He had a tenacious determination to get the most out of life and a total commitment to excellence. He is sorely missed and lovingly remembered. —*Marilyn O'Cuilinn; Marilyn@skybeamm.com; Old English Sheepdog Club of America website: oldenglishsheepdogclubofamerica.org*

## Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Guest columnist Vicki Kirsher is performance chair for the breed's 2012 national specialty, to be held September 21 through 29 in Portland, Oregon.

## The 2012 Triathlon Challenge

Those of us responsible for hosting the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America's national specialty are working very hard to make 2012 a national to remember. We have secured wonderful venues, all of which are located in close proximity to the host hotel, the Portland Airport Holiday Inn. Rally, obedience, sweepstakes, and conformation events will be held at the hotel's conference center. The TD/TDX tests will be held approximately one hour away, while all remaining off-site events (herding, VST, and agility) are less than a 30-minute drive. In addition, two all-breed agility trials will be hosted at a site within 25 minutes of the hotel.

This year we are especially excited to be offering a Triathlon Challenge to recognize and honor the most versatile Pembroke competing at the national specialty. To be eligible, a dog must be entered and compete in at least three of the following events offered at the specialty: agility, herding, obedience, rally, tracking, or conformation (not including sweepstakes). Any combination of three events is acceptable, but participants must pre-register to identify the events in which their Pembroke will be competing.



This weeklong competition is open to everyone, from the beginner novice stepping into an obedience ring for the very first time to the experienced dog-handler team competing at the highest level of their respective sport. Pembrokes entered in performance events earn Triathlon points based on the score awarded by the judge, even if not a qualifying score. Since dogs entered in conformation do not receive scores, points are awarded based on the number of dogs defeated in competition.

The Pembroke earning the highest total number of points during the national specialty week will be the winner of the Triathlon Challenge and will be recognized at Saturday evening's banquet.

Do you have a talented Pembroke you think can do it all? If so, put on your training shoes, and start preparing for the fun and excitement of the Triathlon Challenge! Who knows? Your favorite four-legged friend may be the one to take home the honor of being the most versatile Pembroke competing at the 2012 national specialty!

We sincerely hope you will reserve the following dates and start making preparations to "Take the Oregon Trail" to Portland:

September 21 (Friday)—TD and TDX tests

September 22 and 23—herding trials and tests

September 22 and 23—all-breed agility trials (not eligible for Triathlon points)

September 23—VST test

September 24—agility trial

September 25—rally and obedience trials

September 26 and 27—sweepstakes classes

September 27 and 28—conformation classes

September 29—Best of Breed

Complete information about both the rules and the established point schedule for the Triathlon Challenge will soon be on the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America website, [pwcca.org](http://pwcca.org). In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information at

[vkirsher@comcast.net](mailto:vkirsher@comcast.net).—V.K.

Thank you, Vicki! —Lynda McKee; TifflynLDM@aol.com; Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America website: [pwcca.org](http://pwcca.org)

## Pulik Researching Health Information

We have previously spoken in this column about selecting the right stud for your female (December 2010 GAZETTE, "Selecting the Right Stud"). We will continue with that topic by guiding the breeder to find necessary health information about the prospective sire. It is important to consider not only the stud's health clearances but also to look at all available information about his close relatives. Specifically, the health issues of concern to Puli breeders are the following: hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, luxated patellas, eye abnormalities and degenerative myelopathy. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals maintains databases with information on Pulis who have been tested for these known diseases, as well as thyroid and cardiac problems. It is worthwhile for a breeder to spend some time perusing the organization's website, which can be found at [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org). (Note the two "f's.")

The OFA website is easy to use once you know some shortcuts. Use the Quicksearch feature on the home page to quickly locate the dog of interest. You can enter all or part of the name or the registration number, then click on the arrow to search. Once you have found the individual dog's records, don't stop there. Click on the dog's name in the database, and you will be redirected to the dog's family information. This will tell you the results of any tests that were done on the following related dogs: sire, dam, offspring, siblings, and half-siblings. Thus, you learn about the individual dog's close relatives as well.

To see the results of all Pulik tested, you have to click on Advanced Search on the home page. You will be redirected to a page titled "Search OFA Records." On this page, click on "Herding Group" in the right column, and select Puli in the list of Herding breeds. Scroll down

the page, and select the specific database you wish to see. Next to Report Type you will find Hips, Elbows, and Patellas listed under "Osteopathic," as well as headings for Eyes, Thyroid, and Cardiac. Next to the heading "Rating," you can scroll down and find Degenerative Myelopathy—Clear, Carrier, and At Risk.

By holding down the Control key and clicking on all three DM lists, you will be directed to a complete list of all Pulik who have been tested to date. However, it is important to remember that the lists only display the names of dogs whose owners gave permission for release of results. That is why the Statistics Report for DM testing of Puli shows that 46 individual Pulik have been tested, but only 33 are listed with results of their testing. The Statistics Report shows that of the 46 tested, 33 are clear (72 percent), 10 are carriers (22 percent), and three are at risk (7 percent).

To find the Statistics Report for DM, on the Home Page, under Disease Info, click on OFA/MU DNA TESTS, then click on DM in the drop-down menu, scroll down to Information and Stats, and click on DM Test Results Statistics. Next, scroll down to the Puli statistics in the list of breeds.

It takes a little patience, but the information you will find is well worth the trouble. With a little perseverance, you can garner a wealth of information about the dog you are considering as a breeding prospect. —Sherry Gibson; [gibsons@blomand.net](mailto:gibsons@blomand.net); Puli Club of America website: [puliclub.org](http://puliclub.org)

## Pyrenean Shepherds Yes, They Can Do Well in Obedience

Since Pyrenean Shepherds excel so visibly in agility, obedience aficionados occasionally ask if the little herders are good prospects for competitive obedience, too.

The answer is yes, if that's what their handlers like.

The best-known obedience Pyr Shep among fanciers is the late RoseHaven Chica de La Brise, UDX8, OA, OAJ, HIC, HT, HSAs. Tiny Chica, who

jumped just 12 inches in agility, attended the AKC Obedience Invitational five times and qualified to go more often than that before she died unexpectedly in November 2010.

A veterinarian determined that the 9-year-old had ingested rat poison, most likely at a motel, on one of the trips from Connecticut to Arizona that her owners make each fall.

It was a terrible shock to her owner and handler, Marilyn Abbett, who had such a good time with her little teammate.

"It was just such fun working with her," reminisced Abbett. "She enjoyed all the obedience exercises."

Abbett started showing Chica in obedience trials when the little dog was 15 months old. Before Pyr Sheps were approved for AKC companion events in 2003, the team earned both the Australian Shepherd Club of America and United Kennel Club obedience trial championships. Once AKC approval arrived, Chica and Marilyn quickly made their way through the obedience levels and began working on UDX titles.

Chica's enthusiasm for obedience training and showing never waned, Abbett recalled, although she expected her competition partner to get bored as time went on. "I thought she would start goofing off, but instead she just kept getting better."

Chica was 3 months old when they met, and they bonded quickly and permanently. "It was love at first sight," Abbett said.

She had just gotten Lucy, her second Pyr Shep, when Chica died. Lucy, now 15 months old, "has energy like I've never had with another dog," Abbett said. She's finding that Lucy is friendlier than Chica and completely fearless, as well as very bright. "This little dynamo was a surprise." Lucy already is working on utility exercises, with great success.

Another Pyr Shep owner, Deb Rabuck, also is doing Utility work with her dog. While Ch. La Brise Alexander the Great, VCD2, AX, AXJ, MXF, RAE earned his Open obedience title in three straight shows, she first had to iron out some worries with the handler-out-of-

sight stays required for in the exercises.

"We had to eat some entries because he panicked and would run out of the ring after me," she said. "He never did that in training at home or at my club, so it was difficult to resolve."

He also enjoyed herding his handler through the novice heeling exercises, she said, but she learned to help him stay calm by maintaining a calm demeanor herself.

Alex earned his RAE with just one non-qualifying entry, and that was because she forgot a sign, Rabuck said. "He is such a loyal, fun little guy—he is a joy to train."

Like Abbett, Rabuck's first experience with the breed ended with her being bitten by the Pyr Shep bug: She now has three of them. —*Kathleen Monje; cognitivedog@epud.net; Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America website: pyrshclub.com*

## Swedish Vallhunds Networking

In many walks of life, networking with other people can unlock doors, serve as a safety net, and be a hugely valuable information resource. Years ago, before people had Internet access the way they do now, dog fanciers stayed in touch by visiting each other, talking on the phone, seeing each other at dog shows, and mailing and faxing each other.

I recently attended the Swedish Vallhund Club of America's national specialty, and even though I like to think I am fairly in touch with many others in my breed, I realized that there are so many people in my breed I had never met, e-mailed with, spoken to on the phone, nor even knew much about beyond their websites or their contributions to our various online-discussion lists. I made new friends, found bloodlines that I might like to use in my own breeding program, and networked with other breed fanciers in a way I hadn't really realized I wasn't doing on the Internet.

You can learn a whole lot more about people and dogs by seeing them in person. A dog you liked the looks of in pictures might not be what you were looking for in person, while another dog

you'd never considered might be the one you *must* have a puppy from. A person whose communication style might be a bit brusque online might be someone you adore in person. And many of us are willing to talk in person about things we might not be willing to include in e-mails (which can be forwarded, taken out of context, or otherwise misused or misread).

Networking has a dark side; in person and online, it is important to stay vigilant and learn to differentiate between the truth and malicious gossip. It is truly shocking how easily people can be tarred and feathered by a few well-placed rumors or out-of-context stories, especially nowadays when gossip and rumor can spread across the world like wildfire via the Internet, leaving the victims unable to defend themselves without launching a damage-control campaign.

One thing an online breeder friend of mine says is that the more experience she has in the dog world, the less judgmental she becomes. I see a lot of truth in that, especially when I reach out to people for one-on-one conversation. I have talked to people I had a negative opinion of and changed my mind; I have also talked to people I had a positive opinion of and changed my mind. And people whose practices I disagreed with might now be people whose practices I can see the merit in, especially if I have the opportunity to talk to them about why they do what they do and think what they think.

We have an eye issue in the Swedish Vallhund that has been a subject of much discussion for almost the entire time I have been a fancier. Networking with other breeders around the world, and with fanciers of other breeds who may have faced a similar issue, is one of the many ways we can help each other formulate a strategy for addressing this and other matters.

Language is one of our greatest assets, and today we have more ways than ever before to reach out to each other, even if we don't speak the same language! —*Amanda Lowery; amanda@alkemi.org; Swedish Vallhund Club of America website: swedishvallhund.com*



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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 Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, beginning at 9:00 am.

### Delegates Credentials

**William I. Christensen**, Palm Springs, CA,

Australian Terrier Club of America

**Marilyn E. Currey**, Reddick, FL,

American Chinese Crested Club

**Frank Holloway**, Foxfire Village, NC

Chow Chow Club

**Graafin Ginger Leeuwenburg**,

Sterling, CT, South County Kennel Club

**Vivian Andre Moran**, Waddy, KY,

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Ann Arbor Kennel Club

**Diane Pearson**, Honey Brook, PA,

Bedlington Terrier Club of America

**Bonnie Pike**, Durham, NH,

Cocker Spaniel Breeders Club of New England

**Rebecca P. Poole**, Hixson, TN,

Bull Terrier Club of America

**James W. Smith**, North Collins, NY,

Washington State Obedience Training Club

### Notice

Mrs. Dannielle Romeo (Radford, VA) Action was taken by the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship for conduct in connection at its December 17, 2011 event. Mrs. Romeo was charged with disruptive behavior at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee's report, found it in order and set the penalty at a public reprimand and a \$100 fine.

### Notice

Mr. William Keith Hacker (Acampo, CA) Action was taken by the Green Valley

Spaniel Club for conduct in connection with its January 15, 2012 event.

Specifically, Mr. Hacker was charged with verbal abuse (inappropriate, abusive or foul language) directed personally to a judge, and inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating a lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee's report and set the penalty at a two month event suspension and a \$100 fine, effective January 15, 2012.

### Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has reprimanded Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" Brown (Plantersville, TX) for certifying an AKC document on behalf of another without filing a properly completed Power of Attorney form. (Poodle)

### Notice

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for six months and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusing to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested:

Effective February 10, 2012

Mr. Micki Jacquot (De Soto, IL) Multiple Breeds

Mrs. Vanessa Jacquot (De Soto, IL) Multiple Breeds

### NOTICE REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of reprimands and/or fines imposed on clubs for late submission of applications.  
Chapter 2, Section 4 & 9.

Timber Ridge Obedience Club of Wisconsin (4 events X \$50.00/event) \$200.00

Trinity Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club (2 events X \$50.00/event).....\$100.00

Terre Haute Kennel Club (3 events X \$100.00/event) .....\$300.00

Bloomington Indiana Kennel Club (3 events X \$90.00/event).....\$270.00

Notification of reprimands and fines imposed on clubs for late submission of judges' panel, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 4, Section 1.

Timber Ridge Obedience Club of Wisconsin (4 events X \$50.00/event) .....\$200.00

Notification of reprimands and/or fines imposed on individuals for failure to comply with Benching Rules, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 13, Sections 1 & 3, Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Inc., November 2011.

Evan M Threlfall (3 dogs) .....\$750.00

## Approved Tibetan Mastiff Breed Standard

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Noble and impressive: a large, but not a giant breed. An athletic and substantial dog, of solemn but kindly appearance. The Tibetan Mastiff stands well up on the pasterns, with strong, tight, cat feet, giving an alert appearance. The body is slightly longer than tall. The hallmarks of the breed are the head and the tail. The head is broad and impressive, with substantial back skull, the eyes deep-set and almond shaped, slightly slanted, the muzzle broad and well-padded, giving a square appearance. The typical expression of the breed is one of watchfulness. The tail and britches are well feathered and the tail is carried over the back in a single curl falling over the loin, balancing the head. The coat and heavy mane is thick, with coarse guard hair and a wooly undercoat.

The Tibetan Mastiff has been used

primarily as a family and property guardian for many millennia. The Tibetan Mastiff is aloof and watchful of strangers, and highly protective of its people and property.

### SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

*Size:* Dogs – preferred range of 26 inches – 29 inches at the withers. Bitches – preferred range of 24 inches – 27 inches at the withers. Dogs and bitches that are 18 months or older and that are less than 25 inches at the withers in the case of dogs or 23 inches at the withers in the case of bitches to be disqualified. All dogs and bitches within the preferred range for height are to be judged equally, with no preference to be given to the taller dog. *Proportion:* Slightly longer than tall (10-9), (i.e., the length to height, measured from sternum to ischium should be slightly greater than the distance from withers to ground). *Substance:* The Tibetan Mastiff should have impressive substance for its size, both in bone, body and muscle.

### HEAD

Broad, strong with heavy brow ridges. Heavy wrinkling to be severely faulted; however a single fold extending from above the eyes down to the corner of the mouth acceptable at maturity. A correct head and expression is essential to the breed. *Expression:* Noble, intelligent, watchful and aloof. *Eyes:* Very expressive, medium size, any shade of brown. Rims to be black except in blue/grey and blue/grey and tan dogs, the darkest possible shade of grey. Eyes deep-set, well apart, almond-shaped, and slightly slanting, with tightly fitting eye rims at maturity. Any other color or shape to be severely faulted since it detracts from the typical expression. *Ears:* Medium size, V-shaped, pendant, set-on high, dropping forward and hanging close to head. Raised when alert, level with the top of the skull. The ear leather is thick, covered with soft short hair, and when measured, should reach the inner corner of the eye. Low-set and/or hound-like ears to be severely faulted. *Skull:* Broad and large, with strongly defined occiput. Broad, flat

back skull. Prominent, bony brow ridges. *Stop:* Moderately defined, made to appear well defined by presence of prominent brow ridges. *Muzzle:* Broad, well filled and square when viewed from all sides. Proportions: Measurement from stop to end of nose to be between one-half to one-third the length of the measurement from the occiput to stop. Longer muzzle is a severe fault. Width of skull measured from ear set to opposite ear set, to be slightly greater than length of skull measured from occiput to stop (i.e., just off square). *Nose:* Broad, well pigmented, with open nostrils. Black, except with blue/grey or blue/grey and tan dogs, the darkest shade of grey and brown dogs, the darkest shade of brown. Any other color to be severely faulted. *Lips:* Well developed, thick, with moderate flews and slightly pendulous lower lips. *Bite:* Scissor bite, complete dentition, level bite acceptable. *Teeth:* Canine teeth large, strong, broken teeth not to be faulted. Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot bite.

### NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

*Neck:* The neck is well muscled, moderately arched, sufficient in length to be in balance with the body, and may have moderate dewlap around the throat. The neck, especially in mature dogs, is shrouded by a thick upstanding mane. *Topline:* Topline level and firm between withers and croup. *Body:* The chest is well developed, with reasonable spring of rib. Brisket reaching to just below elbows. Underline with pronounced (but not exaggerated) tuck-up. The back is muscular with firmly muscled loin. There is no slope or angle to the croup. *Tail:* Well feathered, medium to long, not reaching below the hock, set high on line with the back. When alert or in motion, the tail is always carried curled over the back, may be carried down when dog is relaxed. *Faults:* Double curl, incomplete curl, uncurled or straight tail. *Severe faults:* Tail not carried in the proper position as set forth above.

### FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders: Well laid back, muscular,



strongly boned, with moderate angulation to match the rear angulation. Legs: Straight, with substantial bone and muscle, well covered with short, coarse hair, feathering on the back, and with strong pasterns that have a slight slope. Feet: Cat feet. Fairly large, strong, compact, may have feathering between toes. Nails may be either black and/or white, regardless of coat color. A single dewclaw may be present on the front feet.

## HINDQUARTERS

Hindquarters: Powerful, muscular, with all parts being moderately angulated. Seen from behind, the hind legs and stifle are parallel. The hocks are strong, approximately one-third the overall length of the leg, and perpendicular. Feet: A single or double dewclaw may be present on the rear feet. Removal of rear dewclaws, if present, optional.

## COAT

In general, dogs carry noticeably more coat than bitches. The quality of the coat is of greater importance than length. Double-coated, with fairly long, thick coarse guard hair, with heavy soft undercoat in cold weather which becomes rather sparse in warmer months. Hair is fine but hard, straight and stand-off; never silky, curly or wavy. Heavy undercoat, when present, rather woolly. Neck and shoulders heavily coated, especially in dogs, giving mane-like appearance. Tail and britches densely coated and heavily feathered. The Tibetan Mastiff is shown naturally. Trimming is not acceptable except to provide a clean cut appearance of feet and hocks. Dogs are not to be penalized if shown with a summer coat.

## COLOR

Black, brown, and blue/grey, all with or without tan markings ranging from a light silver to a rich mahogany; also gold, with shades ranging from a pure golden to a rich red gold. White markings on chest and feet acceptable. Tan markings may appear at any or all of the following areas: above eyes as spots, around eyes

(including spectacle markings), on each side of the muzzle, on throat, on lower part of front forelegs and extending up the inside of the forelegs, on inside of rear legs showing down the front of the stifle and broadening out to the front of the rear legs from hock to toes, on breeches, and underside of tail.

Undercoat, as well as furnishings on breeches and underside of tail, may be lighter shades of the dominant color. The undercoat on black and tan dogs also may be grey or tan. Sabbling, other than wolf sable and sabbling in a saddle marked color pattern, is acceptable on gold dogs. Large white markings, to be faulted. Disqualification: All other coat colors (e.g., white, cream, wolf sable, brindle and particolors) and markings other than those specifically described.

## GAIT

The gait of a Tibetan Mastiff is athletic, powerful, steady and balanced, yet at the same time, light-footed and agile. When viewed from the side, reach and drive should indicate maximum use of the dog's moderate angulation. At increased speed, the dog will tend to single-track. Back remains level and firm. Sound and powerful movement more important than speed.

## TEMPERAMENT

The Tibetan Mastiff is a highly intelligent, independent, strong willed and rather reserved dog. He is aloof with strangers and highly protective of his charges and his property. In the ring he may exhibit reserve or lack of enthusiasm, but any sign of shyness is unacceptable and must be severely faulted as inappropriate for a guardian breed.

## FAULTS

The foregoing description is that of the ideal Tibetan Mastiff. Any deviation from the above described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

### **Disqualifications**

*Dogs under 25 inches (and 18 months or older). Bitches under 23 inches (and 18 months or older).*

*Undershot or overshot bite.*

*All other coat colors (e.g., white, cream, wolf sable, brindle and particolors) and markings other than those specifically described.*

**Approved February 10, 2012**

**Effective February 29, 2012**

## 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](mailto: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**

**Ms. Sally A. Birgl (94665) PA**

(610) 756-3576  
sbdelite@hotmail.com  
Vizslas

**Mrs. Faye E. Richardson (94109) IN**

(317) 339-6456  
empirebulldogs@aol.com  
Bulldogs

**APPROVED BREED JUDGES**

**Mrs. Marcia Bittner (17448) NV**

(775) 267-9494  
mbittner2819@charter.net  
Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs,  
Belgian Tervuren, Border Collies,  
Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Old  
English Sheepdogs

**Mr. Troy Clifford Dargin (15445)**

**MO**  
(402) 415-5651  
troydargin@yahoo.com  
Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers,  
Brussels Griffons, English Toy Spaniels,  
Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chin,  
Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Silky  
Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers)

**Mr. Randy E. Garren (17218) NC**

(919) 362-9799  
k9pro@aol.com  
Balance of Terrier Group (American  
Staffordshire Terriers, Bedlington  
Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cesky Terriers,  
Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox  
Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish  
Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers,  
Miniature Schnauzers, Russell Terriers,  
Skye Terriers, Staffordshire Bull  
Terriers)

**Mrs. Sulie Greendale-Paveza (7516)**

**CT**  
(203) 891-7788  
suliegp@comcast.net  
Balance of Hound Group (American  
English Coonhounds, American  
Foxhounds, Basenjis, Beagles, Bluetick  
Coonhounds, English Foxhounds,  
Greyhounds, Harriers, Ibizan Hounds,  
Pharaoh Hounds, Plotts, Redbone  
Coonhounds, Treeing Walker  
Coonhounds)

**Ms. Nancy S. Hafner (7295) AL**

(256) 381-5744  
nancyshafner@aol.com  
Border Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers,  
Wire Fox Terriers, Norfolk Terriers,  
Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell  
Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Soft Coated  
Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire Bull  
Terriers, Welsh Terriers

**Mr. William L. Hickerson (5763) TN**

(931) 967-0065  
billdee.hickerson8@gmail.com  
Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boxers,  
Bullmastiffs, Mastiffs, Rottweilers

**Mr. Ronald V. Horn (65755) CO**

(303) 797-8642  
vnnewf@gmail.com  
Alaskan Malamutes, Boxers, Great  
Pyrenees, Portuguese Water Dogs

**Mr. David Jay Hyman, Esq. (7102)**

**MD**  
(301) 831-5554  
djhyman@comcast.net  
Beaucerons, Belgian Malinois, Border  
Collies, Briards, Canaan Dogs,  
Icelandic Sheepdogs, Norwegian  
Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,  
Pulik

**Ms. Victoria M. Jordan (7084) OH**

(614) 395-3641  
k9judgevicki@gmail.com  
Afghan Hounds, American Eskimo  
Dogs, Keeshonden, Norwegian  
Lundehunds, Canaan Dogs, Cardigan  
Welsh Corgis, Icelandic Sheepdogs,  
Norwegian Buhunds, Pembroke Welsh  
Corgis, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Sandra E. King (44817) IL**

(309) 787-6363  
sandyking@mchsi.com  
Bouvier des Flandres, Old English  
Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis,  
Shetland Sheepdogs

**Ms. Janice L. McClary (4812) CA**

(562) 697-6212  
ourwayceramics@aol.com  
Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese  
Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs,  
Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu

**Ms. Elizabeth Muthard (6689) VA**

(703) 396-7405  
sunup1001@gmail.com  
Anatolian Shepherds, Bernese  
Mountain Dogs, German Pinschers,  
Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Greater  
Swiss Mountain Dogs, Kuvaszok,  
Mastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Saint  
Bernards, Tibetan Mastiffs, Australian  
Shepherds, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

**Mrs. Marianne Reder (1826) OH**

(330) 928-8403  
inomine@att.net  
Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers,  
Flat Coated Retrievers, Clumber  
Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels,  
Sussex Spaniels

**Mr. Ronald N. Rella (1838) NJ**

(973) 992-5536  
relwintoo@aol.com  
Airedale Terriers, American  
Staffordshire Terriers, Australian  
Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Border  
Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cairn Terriers,  
Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont  
Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire  
Fox Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers,  
Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers,  
Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers,  
Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature  
Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich  
Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers,  
Russell Terriers, Scottish Terriers,  
Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft  
Coated Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire  
Bull Terriers, Welsh Terriers, West  
Highland White Terriers

**Mr. Michael Staley (5608) KY**

(859) 525-7699  
bstaley@zoomtown.com  
Dalmatians, French Bulldogs

**Mr. Harold (Red) Tatro III (31708)**

**TX**  
(817) 297-2398  
redglen@sbcglobal.net  
Bedlington Terriers, Cairn Terriers,  
Kerry Blue Terriers, Norfolk Terriers,  
Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell  
Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten  
Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

## **JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE**

**Dr. Krista V. Hunt, DVM (94655) TX**  
(281) 277-6553  
wallysputnik1@aol.com

## **PROVISIONAL ASSIGNMENTS COMPLETED**

The following persons have **completed** their Provisional Judging assignments in the breeds listed, and their names have been added to the list of regular **approved** judges.

## **NEW BREED JUDGES**

**Mr. Alan R. Arthur (65781) TX**  
(817) 431-2835

alan.r.arthur@verizon.net

Scottish Deerhounds, Whippets

**Mrs. Vala (Peggy) Breckley (92744) CA**

(805) 482-1155

vbreckley@aol.com

Bulldogs

**Mrs. Lydia Castagna (56263) CA**

(847) 323-8269

dogshofrek@aol.com

American Staffordshire Terriers

**Mrs. Deborah D. Conradt (92361) MI**

(810) 325-1688

mwconradt@yahoo.com

Rottweilers

**Ms. Carol Jean Hathaway (46027) MN**

(612) 709-7175

aspeness@aol.com

English Springer Spaniels

**Mr. James A. Moses (93094) GA**

(770) 329-4768

jmoses0924@aol.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels,

Poodles, Australian Shepherds, Border

Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Briards,

German Shepherd Dogs

**Mr. Joseph Napolitano (92786) FL**

(813) 949-5762

tmpajoe@aol.com

Labrador Retrievers, Akitas,

Bullmastiffs, Great Danes, Mastiffs,

Rottweilers, Siberian Huskies,

Dalmatians, French Bulldogs

**Mr. Larry Pagacz (91686) KS**

(913) 814-7007

lpagacz@hotmail.com

Great Danes

## **APPROVED BREED JUDGES**

**Mr. Hal T. Biermann (3643) NJ**

(973) 635-0114

kidadadox@aol.com

Balance of Hound Group (American

English Coonhounds, Black and Tan

Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick

Coonhounds, English Foxhounds,

Harriers, Ibizan Hounds, Irish

Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds,

Plotts, Redbone Coonhounds,

Scottish Deerhounds)

**Mrs. Jane M. Bishop (4906) VA**

(804) 462-9815

jmbishop53@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, Whippets

**Mr. Van D. Blevins (47891) TX**

(940) 781-6159

vanb@clearwire.net

French Bulldogs

**Mr. John R. Boozer III (23972) NC**

(910) 232-6610

pell-mellsmoothfox@juno.com

Airedale Terriers, Bull Terriers, Kerry

Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers,

Miniature Bull Terriers, Soft Coated

Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire Bull

Terriers, Welsh Terriers

**Ms. Judith Bradley (6163) TX**

(972) 315-5888

judybradley@verizon.net

Weimaraners

**Ms. Kathi Brown (55262) MA**

(978) 897-4717

kmbrownsience@verizon.net

Cairn Terriers, Norfolk Terriers,

Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell

Terriers

**Mrs. Janet D. Cherne (7256) CO**

(303) 980-1970

cloud9k9s@comcast.net

Collies, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Houston (Toddie) Clark (4759) TN**

(423) 334-1700

akccclark@gmail.com

Airedale Terriers, American

Staffordshire Terriers, Bedlington

Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cairn Terriers,

Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Smooth

Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,

Miniature Bull Terriers, Soft Coated

Wheaten Terriers

**Mrs. Nancy S. Cowley (7131) CT**

(860) 928-2626

nancycowley@att.net

Pugs

**Mr. Norbert Dee (31419) VA**

(703) 777-6559

ndeedogs@gmail.com

English Setters, Gordon Setters, Vizslas

**Mr. Thomas J. Feneis (0645) NJ**

(732) 598-0840

woodsong73@optonline.net

Dogues de Bordeaux

**Mr. Tomas Gomez (0816) TX**

(830) 535-4161

classicsshelties@yahoo.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Irish Red

& White Setters, American Water

Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Sussex

Spaniels)

**Mr. Richard E. Grant (76185) RI**

(401) 397-4689

ricairns@aol.com

Scottish Terriers

**Mr. Lloyd Graser Jr. (16626) WI**

(608) 655-1942

bluhvns@msn.com

Balance of Herding Group

(Beaucerons, Belgian Malinois,

Belgian Sheepdogs, Canaan Dogs,

Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Entlebucher

Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds,

Icelandic Sheepdogs, Norwegian

Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,

Pyrenean Shepherds, Swedish

Vallhunds)

**Ms. Karen Mills Heron (27706) NY**

(845) 452-8929

kmills\_heron@yahoo.com

Chihuahuas, Pekingese, Pugs, Silky

Terriers

**Mr. David L. Hiltz (17240) WA**

(360) 687-9285

dlhiltz@earthlink.net

American Foxhounds, Bloodhounds,

Norwegian Elkhounds, Petits Bassets

Griffons Vendeens

**Mr. Earl Karas (70879) MO**

(816) 935-2518

anasazisisiberians@aol.com

Australian Shepherds

**Mrs. Diane R. Landstrom (36322) AZ**

(623) 935-4214

dlandstrom01@cox.net

Great Danes, Mastiffs, Siberian

Huskies, Chinese Shar-Pei

**Mrs. Elaine J. Lessig (7626) NJ**

(908) 713-6205  
melessig@att.net  
Labrador Retrievers, English Setters,  
Irish Setters, Clumber Spaniels,  
Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker  
Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels,  
Weimaraners

**Mrs. Chris A. Levy (6368) OR**

(503) 390-4864  
chris@abiquadogs.com  
Balance of Non-Sporting Group  
(American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons  
Frises, Boston Terriers, Finnish Spitz,  
Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Norwegian  
Lundehunds, Poodles, Xoloitzcuintli)

**Mr. Carl Gene Liepmann (2934) MI**

(810) 639-7075  
carl2@comcast.net  
Balance of Working Group (Anatolian  
Shepherds, Black Russian Terriers,  
Cane Corsos, Doberman Pinschers,  
Dogues de Bordeaux, German  
Pinschers, Komondorok, Kuvaszok,  
Leonbergers, Neapolitan Mastiffs,  
Tibetan Mastiffs)

**Mr. James (Jim) S. Martin (52863) PA**

(724) 321-9933  
jimsmartin@aol.com  
German Wirehaired Pointers,  
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-  
Coated Retrievers, Irish Setters,  
Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker  
Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels,  
Sussex Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

**Mr. Brian Meyer (15140) IL**

(815) 332-4848  
bckennel@aol.com  
Brittanys, German Wirehaired  
Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers,  
Curly-Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia  
Duck Tolling Retrievers, Cocker  
Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Sussex  
Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

**Mrs. Pamela B. Peat (5894) AZ**

(480) 473-4776  
pampeat@cox.net  
Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers,  
Bedlington Terriers, Cairn Terriers,  
Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox  
Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Parson  
Russell Terriers

**Mr. Timothy S. Robbins (5365) TX**

(281) 424-0373  
robbsdale@aol.com  
Afghan Hounds, American  
Foxhounds, Basenjis, Black and Tan  
Coonhounds, Borzois, Greyhounds,  
Harriers, Ibizan Hounds, Salukis

**Ms. Linda Robey (6621) MO**

(636) 677-6644  
lrobey@swbell.net  
Balance of Sporting Group  
(Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Irish  
Red & White Setters, Boykin Spaniels,  
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons),  
Dogues de Bordeaux, Dalmatians

**Mrs. Carolyn Schaldecker (52811) IA**

(319) 848-4517  
imagine@southslope.net  
Boston Terriers

**Ms. Elizabeth Simon (75554) OH**

(513) 732-1001  
mastiff803@aol.com  
Havanese

**Mrs. Christie C. Smith (22596) OR**

(503) 639-8403  
xtiesmith@comcast.net  
Balance of Working Group (Anatolian  
Shepherds, Black Russian Terriers,  
German Pinschers, Komondorok,  
Kuvaszok, Neapolitan Mastiffs),  
Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs

**Mr. Luis F. Sosa (45668) LA**

(504) 813-5175  
sosaphoto@charter.net  
Bullmastiffs, Bichons Frises, Chinese  
Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Dalmatians,  
Keeshonden, Schipperkes, Tibetan  
Terriers

**Ms. Charlene Trost (22525) NJ**

(732) 863-1474  
steib@optonline.net  
Brittanys, Pointers, Chesapeake Bay  
Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers,  
Irish Setters, Irish Red & White  
Setters, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas,  
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGES**

**Mrs. Erin D. Bogulski (18000) NY**

(716) 867-8345  
hunt631@aol.com

**Mr. Mikael L. Matteson (74404) CA**

(805) 868-4018  
blueirish01@aol.com

**Mr. Trevor Miller (91334) CA**

(530) 200-4245  
tevrofarms@c-zone.net

**BEST IN SHOW**

The following persons, having success-  
fully **completed** the required Group  
Assignments in the first Variety Group  
for which they are **approved**, have been  
added to the list of judges eligible for  
approval to judge Best In Show.

**Mrs. Kathy Beliew (18970) CA**

(909) 792-2122  
bischows@imaginechows.com

**Mrs. Priscilla A. Gabosch (7266) NJ**

(856) 858-6227

**Mr. Larry F. Mackai (5310) MN**

(952) 881-5080  
larrymackai@comcast.net

**Mrs. Florence A. Males (5461) CA**

(925) 932-3875  
weebly@aol.com

**Mrs. Sandra Walker (5115) MA**

(978) 562-2554  
pettimarq@yahoo.com

**REINSTATED JUDGE**

The Judging eligibility of the follow-  
ing person has been reinstated.

**Mr. Ronald N. Rella (1838) NJ**

(973) 992-5536  
relwintoo@aol.com  
Toy Group, Non-Sporting Group, BIS,  
JS

**RESIGNED JUDGES**

Mrs. Tracie Laliberte  
Mr. Thomas H. Luke

**DECEASED JUDGES**

Mrs. Alberta Booth  
Mr. Robert Ligon

**PROVISIONAL  
OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES**

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

**Donna Eddins 75954 (TN)**

(901) 219-9405  
dogwoods4dogs@aol.com  
Obedience - Open



**Anita Eisthen 92984 (OH)**

(513) 777-3831  
amangold0@gmail.com  
Obedience - Novice

**Nancy Grimm 42091 (AZ)**

(520) 241-3170  
grimmy@greydayz.com  
Obedience - Utility

**Kyla Smay 47191 (CA)**

(707) 537-7687  
ksmayters@aim.com  
Tracking Dog Excellent

**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.

**Donna Blews-Pappas 47791 (MA)**

(413) 204-1107  
Wdpap01@comcast.net  
Obedience - Novice

**Robin Gruenwald 91486 (CA)**

(619) 659-2155  
Rhounds4@aol.com  
Tracking Dog

**Russell Hornfisher 65706 (MI)**

(734) 673-8366  
hornfisher@aol.com  
Rally - All

**Pat Pierce 80854 (GA)**

(770) 667-5175  
mamafirebird@yahoo.com  
Rally - All

**Suzanne Schwab 19383 (WA)**

(509) 236-2210  
sschwab@icehouse.net  
Tracking Dog Excellent

**Lucinda Seeley 90148 (FL)**

(772) 871-1752  
Happytrackingk9s@bellsouth.net  
Tracking Dog Excellent

**Ronald Seeley 18975 (FL)**

(772) 871-1752  
Happytrackingk9s@bellsouth.net  
Variable Surface Tracking

**Patricia Strong 19096 (IN)**

(317) 849-0177  
p.a.kelly@comcast.net  
Obedience - Utility

**Adele Yunck 33509 (MI)**

(734) 476-5441  
adele@dundee.net  
Obedience - Novice

**DECEASED JUDGE**

**Robert T Self Sr.**

**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:

**SPICEWOOD** - Mastiffs - Gina M. Moore  
**HIGHTIDE** - Australian Shepherds - Jillayne C. Karras  
**RYBA** - Australian Terriers - Susan B. Bachman & Teresa A. Schreeder  
**BUCK MOUNTAIN** - Australian Shepherds - Holly I & Bob M. VanDuys  
**IMAGINE** - French Bulldogs - Carol S. Johnson  
**SOKOLDALU** - Vizslas - Carla M. Slabaugh  
**DREAMLAND** - Australian Shepherds - Kasey J. Mora  
**LITTLE HUNTER'S** - German Shorthaired Pointers - Jami Moore  
**DAMARHOFF** - Staffordshire Bull Terriers & Rottweilers - Mark Darwish  
**HEAVENLY ANGELS** - Shih Tzu - Tresa L. Horrocks  
**TEMPLE GATE** - Pugs - Sarah Woodworth  
**TILER** - Miniature Pinschers - Jonathan DeBelen  
**KOBYS** - Bulldogs - Wendy M. & Steven J. Kobrzycki  
**LUNAVALLEY** - Australian Shepherds - Laura S. Richardson  
**DUCKFLAT** - Labrador Retrievers - Chris J. Hoffman  
**LIBERTY RUN** - Entlebucher Mountain Dogs - Anna Wallace  
**WILLOWWOOD** - Cavalier King Charles - Susan J. Tomsich  
**HEAVENSENT** - Bullmastiffs - Cheryl & Paul Peavey

**Registered Name Prefixes Granted**

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

**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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
February 10, 2012**

The Board convened on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present, as were the Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Executive Secretary. Copies of the January 2012 minutes were made available to all Directors. The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 9 - 10, 2012 meeting. Upon a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the January 2012 Board minutes were unanimously adopted.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel matters.

**AKC Staff Participation in Delegate  
Committee Meetings**

There was a discussion on the subject of staff participation in Delegate Committee meetings. Following a

motion by Mr. Kalter, seconded by Dr. Newman, it was VOTED (unanimously) to have the Chairman designate four individuals from the Board and AKC Staff to meet with the representatives designated by the Delegates Coordinating Committee to discuss future Staff participation with Delegate Committees that is efficient, effective, and in the best interest of AKC. The Chairman designated Mr. Kalter and Mr. Amen from the AKC Board and Mr. Sprung and Mr. Lyons from the AKC Staff.

### **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 entries have increased over the last ten years by 20%. Total entries for 2011 were 3,130,561, which is an increase of 3.8% from the previous year. Agility topped the one million entry plateau for the year. This is the first time that any sport other than Conformation has achieved this level. Miscellaneous Class was up 55 % in 2011.

#### **My Dog Can Do That**

There was a discussion of the "My Dog Can Do That" concept of spectators bringing their dogs to AKC shows and being able to go through Companion Event exercises. The discussion focused on how to expand this popular activity, designed to bring new participants into the Sport, without greatly increasing AKC Staff travel expenses. Ideas like instructing training clubs or trainers to put on these events, which would benefit from enrollees in their classes, or of paying local club members, were considered.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Jim Stevens, Chief Financial Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Annual revenues for 2011 totaled \$54.7 million, which were \$1.6 million (3%) less than the prior year. 2011's total operating expenses of \$54.8 million were

reduced by \$2 million (3.4%) from 2010. This resulted in an operating deficit of \$94,000 for last year, which was an improvement from the previous year's deficit of \$413,000.

Our investments incurred a loss of \$2.1 million (2.4%) in 2011 due to adverse stock market conditions.

### **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 January 2012.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Following discussion, there was a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Ashby, and it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

#### **Delegates**

The following Delegates were approved:

Bo N. Bengtson, Ojai, CA  
To represent American Whippet Club

Sally Birgl, Kempton, PA  
To represent Berks County Kennel Club

Ann Mariah Cook, Jefferson, NH  
To represent Siberian Husky Club of America

Daniel Cunningham, Minoa, NY  
To represent Onondaga Kennel Association

Deidre Gannon, Oaklyn, NJ  
To represent German Pinscher Club of America

Ann Lettis, Staten Island, NY  
To represent Grand River Kennel Club

Patricia Peel, Lennon, MI  
To represent Alaskan Malamute Club of America

Gary Sarvinos, Catonsville, MD  
To represent Maryland Kennel Club

### **Clubs**

The following Club's application for AKC Membership was approved:

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club

### **Berger Picard**

The Board VOTED to approve a request, from the Berger Picard Club of America, to advance the breed to the Miscellaneous Class effective January 1, 2013

### **Chinook**

The Board VOTED to approve a request, from the Chinook Club of America, to approve the breed's acceptance into the AKC Stud Book effective December 1, 2012. AKC will maintain an open registry for the breed until January 1, 2018. The breed will be eligible to compete in the Working Group on January 1, 2013.

### **Lagotto Romagnolo**

The Board VOTED to approve a request, from the Lagotto Club of America, to advance the breed to the Miscellaneous Class effective January 1, 2013.

### **Portuguese Podengo Pequeno**

The Board VOTED to move the Portuguese Podengo Pequeno from the Foundation Stock Service to the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on December 1, 2012. AKC will maintain an open registry for the breed until January 1, 2018. The breed is eligible to compete in the Hound Group on January 1, 2013.

### **Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 6, Entry Changes**

The Board VOTED to approve a staff recommendation to amend Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 6, to allow superintendents and show secretaries using AKC entry verification to correct entries as appropriate. These corrections to the exhibitor's entry data would be limited to data fields that concern breed, birth date, breeder, registration number, name, sex and color. This will be read at the March 2012 Delegate meeting for a vote at the June 2012 Delegate meeting.

### **Associated Breeds to Hold Herding Event**

The Board VOTED to approve a Staff

recommendation to allow specialty clubs to hold Herding events that are open to their breed as well as "associated breeds" on a special request basis. Associated breeds for this purpose would be those breeds with a common heritage. The special request must be approved by the Performance Events Department.

Effective date: April 1, 2012

#### **Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America Hunt Tests**

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America (PBGVCA). Titles earned in the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America's Hunting Test program will be acknowledged and recorded by the AKC. Three of the club's working certificate titles will be recorded – PCJH, PCSH, and PCMH. Titles earned back to January 2007 will be acknowledged by AKC. This is effective March 1, 2012.

#### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting, while David Roberts, AKC Staff participated via video conference.

#### **Progressive Dog Club Amendment**

The Board reviewed a letter from the Progressive Dog Club which stated that the club is withdrawing its proposed Amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows at this time.

As the amendment has previously been noticed, it will be withdrawn at the March 2012 Delegates meeting, without objection. In the event there is objection, it may be withdrawn by majority vote.

#### **Proposed Tibetan Mastiff Breed Standard Revision**

The Board considered the results of the American Tibetan Mastiff Association's membership ballot received subsequent to the publication of the proposed changes. The matter had been tabled at the January 2012 meeting. There was a motion made by Mr. Gladstone to direct the President to investigate the American Tibetan Mastiff Association, or any other Parent Club, where there might be restrictive membership policies. There was no second to the motion.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Kalter, it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Goodman, Ms. Scully, Mr. Ashby, Dr. Newman, Mr. Amen, Mr. Arnold; opposed: Dr. Smith, Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Garvin, Dr. Davies) to remove the matter from the table to consider it at this meeting.

There was discussion on the specific changes to the Tibetan Mastiff standard, the procedure for approving standard changes, and public comment received on the proposed changes after publication.

There was a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Davies, to table the matter of the Tibetan Mastiff breed standard changes. The motion failed (affirmative: Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Davies, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Arnold; opposed: Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Amen, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Goodman, Dr. Newman, Ms. Scully, Dr. Smith).

After a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Kalter, it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Goodman, Mr. Ashby, Dr. Newman, Mr. Amen; opposed: Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Scully, Mr. Arnold, Dr. Smith, Dr. Davies) to approve the changes to the Tibetan Mastiff breed standard as published, effective, February 29, 2012.

#### **Delegate Occupational Eligibility**

Staff presented a review of the current criteria for Delegate Eligibility and recommended the removal of certain occupations from the list of occupational exclusions to become or remain a Delegate. Any such changes would require a Bylaws amendment. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

#### **Breed Standard Revision Guidelines**

Based on a request from the Board, Staff presented a revised procedure for the consideration and approval of breed standard changes. Proposed revisions to the standard will now be published for comment prior to the AKC Board granting approval to the Parent Club to ballot its membership. In doing so, the Board will be provided with any concerns that may exist within the fancy

regarding the proposed changes prior to its vote. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

There was a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Scully, and it was VOTED (unanimously) 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) to adopt the Breed Standard Guidelines in Attachment A, effective immediately.

#### **FSS Guidelines**

The Board reviewed suggested revisions to the Guidelines for the Approval of a Breed for Regular Status. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

#### **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mark Dunn, AKC Staff participated in this portion of the meeting, while Lisa Gonzalez, and David Roberts, AKC Staff, participated via video conference. David Roberts gave an update on Registration initiatives. Mark Dunn gave an update on the AKC Canine Partners Program. Lisa Gonzalez gave a presentation on the focus of AKC's marketing program.

#### **CONFORMATION**

Robin Stansell, participated in this portion of the meeting, while Lee Herr, Bobby Birdsong, and Bri Tesarz, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

#### **AKC Owner-Handler Series Eligibility**

The Staff presented the feedback it has received from the first few AKC Owner-Handler Series events. Mr. Stansell reported that without objection, staff will amend the AKC Owner-Handler eligibility as follows:

Professional handlers, their assistants and household members of a current professional handler are ineligible to enter this class. *Professional handler is defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers' organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay or received payment for handling dogs.*

There was also discussion on confusion and delays when the Owner-Handler Series special attractions are held concurrently with other Group-related special attractions. Staff indicated that it would monitor such situations to ensure that there was sufficient space and that scheduling was handled properly.

## CLUBS

### Delegates for Publication

William Christensen, Palm Springs, CA

To represent Australian Terrier Club of America

Current Delegate Kim Occhiuti

Marilyn Currey, Reddick, FL

To represent American Chinese Crested Club

Current Delegate Simon Dickerson

Anne Palmer, Dexter, MI

To represent Ann Arbor Kennel Club

Current Delegate Mary Ann Brocius

Rebecca Poole, Hixson, TN

To represent Bull Terrier Club of America

Current Delegate Dale Schuur

## JUDGING OPERATIONS

Darrell Hayes, Lee Herr, and Tim Thomas, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting by video conference.

### Adjunct Breed Applications

The Board reviewed an amendment to the Judging Approval process for Adjunct breeds for approved judges. Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Kalter, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following in regard to the Adjunct judging application process:

### Revised Adjunct Application

#### Procedure:

- An Adjunct application does not affect any other application.
- New Applicants, (non-AKC judges) must have 10-12 years of breeding experience, judged at AKC or Non-AKC events with sufficient entry and acted as an assigned steward at 6 AKC member or licensed shows (Applicant

must pass Procedural and Anatomy exams before continuing with the application process).

- Approved Breed Applicants must have several years of owning/breeding/exhibiting/judging or handling experience for each adjunct breed.
- Application must be submitted with a \$25 non-refundable processing fee per breed.
- All applicants must have a final interview.
- Following the interview, the Staff Committee reviews the application. Upon assessment by the Judges Review Committee, the number of breeds to be approved will be determined by evaluation of the complete application process and the result of the interview with the Executive Field Representative. Adjunct breeds will be approved either as permit or regular status. Judges will be informed by mail or email of their status. Passing the breed interview is mandatory in order to be considered by the Judges Review Committee. Failure of any breed interview will result in that breed being pulled from consideration. Failure of wicket or scales during the breed interview will result in a second wicket or scales demonstration needed before application is reviewed by Judges Review Committee. Judges may not accept assignments until they have received official notification of their status. The judge's file and AKC's Website will be updated and the judge's name, number and the breeds granted on a regular or permit basis will be published in the next available issue of the GAZETTE. Status of applicant to be determined by the following:

- Regular Status is granted to Adjunct applicants who currently have regular status for one complete group or more. They are not subject to the permit status assignment requirements. Their names will be published as regular status for the applied Adjunct breed and they may now accept assignments.

- Permit Status is granted to Adjunct applicants currently approved for less than one complete group. Their names will be published and they may now accept assignments. Adjunct applicants granted permit status must meet the criteria defined in the Judging Approval Process in order to request regular status. Regular judging status will be accorded to only those permit judges who adequately demonstrate their competence as a judge to the satisfaction of the American Kennel Club through their permit judging assignments.

- In order to facilitate the processing of judging panels for events judges approved for the complete group in which breeds are entering will be forwarded the breed standard exam and requested to complete the exam. Judges will be granted regular status pending the completion of the exam, receipt of a passing grade and the submission of a \$25 processing fee per breed. The breed(s) will be automatically added to the records of those group judges five to six months prior to the breed entering the group (Groups in which the breeds are entering). Failure to complete the exam and/or submit the \$25 processing fee prior to the acceptance date of the breed will result in the loss of group approval status.

- Additional breed applicants that have applied for a balance of a group in which an Adjunct breed would automatically be added upon approval of the balance of that group by the Judges Review Committee will be required to be submit a non-refundable \$25 processing fee per applicable adjunct breed(s) prior to being scheduled by staff for their interview on all applied breeds with an AKC Executive Field Representative. Failure of the interview on any applied breed, including Adjunct, will result in that breed being pulled from consideration by the Judges Review Committee.



## COMPANION EVENTS

Curt Curtis, and Doug Ljungren, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### Lifetime Agility Title

Mr. Curtis reported that without objection, the new Lifetime Achievement title (July 1, 2012 implementation date) would be applied retroactively to dogs earning the title requirements after January 1, 1999, and prior to July 1, 2012. A fee of ten-dollars (\$10.00) will be charged for owners that want an actual grandfathered title certificate to be printed and sent to them. Dogs earning the title after implementation will have the title certificate print automatically similar to other agility titles. There was no objection.

## COMPLIANCE

Margaret Poindexter participated in this portion of the meeting while Jack Norton, AKC Staff, participated via video conference.

### Deficiencies in Care and Conditions of Dogs Policy

The Board reviewed Staff recommendations for revision to the current Deficiencies in the Care and Condition of Dogs policy. There was discussion on the guidelines to be included in the policy. This will be considered further at the April 2012 meeting.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

***(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)***

## NEW BUSINESS

### New Specialty Clubs

Mr. Kalter reported on a concern expressed at the Parent Club Committee that new regional specialty clubs approved after the removal of the new club moratorium could only hold shows that were held in conjunction with All-Breed and Group shows. This precluded them from being able to host a National Specialty and to hold its own independent show in conjunction with it. This issue was referred to the Events

Operations Department for consideration.

### Last Meeting

Mr. Gladstone expressed his appreciation to Mr. Menaker, Mr. Goodman, and Dr. Davies who were attending their last Board meeting. This sentiment was echoed by the entire Board.

### AKC Meet the Breeds

The Board discussed recommendations that a stand-alone Meet the Breeds be held at a location other than New York. Staff indicated that they are open to and welcome any specific proposal that included sponsorship commitments to cover the cost.

It was VOTED to adjourn Friday, February 10, 2012 at 3:45 p.m.  
Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

## ATTACHMENT A

### Guidelines for Writing Breed Standards

*\*Excerpt from The American Kennel Club By-Laws, Article IV, Section 4:*

*It shall be the duty and privilege of each parent member Specialty Club to define precisely the true type of the breed of pure-bred dogs which it was organized to promote and improve and its definition when approved by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club, shall and will be recognized by the American Kennel Club as the sole standard of excellence for which such breed of pure-bred dogs shall be bred and by which specimens of such breed must be judged in the awarding of prizes of merit.*

*The standards of excellence of all breeds of pure-bred dogs now adopted by parent member Specialty Clubs and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club shall not be changed in any respect until the wording of any proposed change or changes first has been submitted to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club and*

*its approval of the same has been obtained.*

## Breed Standard Revision Procedures

A revision consists of any change, deletion, interpretation, or clarification to a standard. Once the Board of Directors has approved a standard there is a five year moratorium on revisions.

## Parent Club

A. Breed Standard Committee is formed to review and formulate revisions.

B. Notify staff of the American Kennel Club that the club is in the process of reviewing the standard.

C. Submit revisions to AKC staff for input while being developed. Staff will present final revisions to The Board of Directors for their comment. At this time the proposed revisions will be published on the Secretary's page of the AKC Gazette, allowing 60 days for comment.

D. Following publication, comments received and response to such comments from the club will be presented to the AKC Board for approval to ballot the membership.

E. The membership will be balloted in accordance with Club's Constitution and By-Laws. The sample letter and ballot will be submitted to staff for review prior to balloting the membership and must inform the membership of the five year moratorium.

F. Submit results of balloting, copy of the ballot, cover letter, and standard to the AKC. If the proposed revisions do not receive the sufficient numbers of votes to be approved notify AKC Staff with the tabulated results.

G. Ballot results that support a revision to the standard will be scheduled for inclusion on the agenda of the AKC Board for approval. The approved

standard will be published on the Secretary's Page and the club will be notified in writing of the final approval with the reminder of the five year moratorium.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER IN WRITING BREED STANDARDS

1. The purpose of a standard is to be a guide for breeders and judges. As such, it is important to keep in mind those features that make the breed unique, those qualities the breed must possess to do the job for which it was created. A standard should emphasize what is important in the breed. Conversely those qualities that are of little or no importance are mentioned only in passing or not at all.
2. The text of the standard must be as clear and concise as possible. Sentence structure should be simple and straightforward. When verbs are used they should to the extent possible indicate the present tense: "is" or "are" rather than "should be".
3. *The Complete Dog Book Glossary* is the reference source for terminology. Every word used must have the same definition as in the glossary in the **AKC's Complete Dog Book**. Because of the encyclopedic nature of these references, some words cited may not be acceptable for use in standards. For example, words like forechest, breastbone and prosternum all describe the same thing. A concerted effort is being made to use the same word, with the same definition, from standard to standard. The concern with terminology is to be certain that what needs to be communicated is actually being communicated. There is no desire to limit language or the special flavor standards communicate about their breeds.
4. Any fault to be cited should be included under the appropriate

descriptive section of the standard. Care ought to be taken to list only faults that are of special concern to the breed. In general, there is no need to list faults which are obvious from the positive description of the dog. For instance, if the positive description reads, "topline straight and level", it would be unnecessary to state that, "a roach or sway back is a fault." Standards listing many of the more common faults can be misleading because any omission from the listing could be interpreted that this particular problem is not considered a fault.

5. Disqualifying faults should be listed in the appropriate sections in the body of the standard. (AKC summarizes all disqualifications in italics at the end of the standard in our standard booklets for judges and in *The Complete Dog Book*.) Thorough consideration should be given before a specific fault is made a disqualification. **A disqualification must be clearly stated, defined, or measurable with no room for interpretation.**
6. **Those faults which AKC rules make disqualifications for all breeds are not necessary to list in a standard.**
7. Disqualifying heights, like all disqualifications, should be put in a standard only when a club is completely satisfied that disqualifying a dog over or under the specific limit is the best way to deal with size.
8. In describing the bite, the standard should refer to the position of the teeth rather than of the jaws, since it is the teeth which judges will examine and on which they will make their decision.
9. The standard should specify whether tails may be, or should not be, docked; in the case of any newly recognized breeds, the club will be encouraged to include a description of the natural

tail if a docked breed. The standard should specify if dewclaws may be, are generally, should be, or should not be, removed, distinguishing between dewclaws on the forelegs and those on the hind legs in each case.

10. For those breeds of which the ears are usually or sometimes cropped, whether the ears may be cropped; in the case of any newly recognized breed, the club will be encouraged to include a description of the natural ears. This is necessary so that the application of Chapter 14, Section 9 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows to the particular breed will be clear. This section requires disqualification of any dog that has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed.
11. In the case of new breeds being accepted into Miscellaneous, the standard must conform with the ***Guidelines for Writing Breed Standards*** in the format below. There **must** be descriptions for all major headings and for the italicized subheadings. Some commonly used subheadings have been listed. These have been included for illustrative purposes only and do not have to be used. Other subheadings appropriate for the specific breed may be used in all sections.
12. Breeds recognized prior to 1989 may make a revision to the breed standard without reformatting.

## STANDARD FORMAT

- General Appearance.* This is the most important paragraph in the standard, in the sense that it should spell out what the breed's most important qualities are. The General Appearance section should describe the breed's purpose and emphasize those qualities that are critical to fulfilling its function. In a sense, everything in a standard should relate form to

function. Remember, the General Appearance section is not the standard. It is the place to cite the breed's most important qualities. These features would then be fully described under their appropriate heading in the body of the standard.

*II. Size, Proportion, Substance.* Height is described in inches measured from the ground to the highest point of the shoulder blades. In those breeds where weight is important it is given in pounds. Proportion is the ratio of height to length. Length is usually expressed as the distance from the point of the shoulder to the rearmost projection of the upper thigh (or point of the buttocks). Practically speaking, breeds are either square or rectangular. Some breeds are just "off" square, while others are extremely rectangular. Some indication of what is appropriate for the breed should be included, even if the indication is that a wide range is acceptable. Substance includes the amount of bone.

### *III. Head*

- i. Expression
- ii. Eyes (include color and rim pigmentation)
- iii. Ears
- iv. Skull
- v. Stop
- vi. Muzzle
- vii. Planes (Muzzle and Skull)
- viii. Nose (include pigmentation)
- ix. Lips
- x. Flews
- xi. Bite
- xii. Teeth

### *IV. Neck, Topline and Body*

- i. Neck
- ii. Topline
- iii. Body
- iv. Chest
- v. Ribs
- vi. Underline
- vii. Tuck-up
- viii. Back
- ix. Loin
- x. Croup
- xi. Tail

### *V. Forequarters*

- i. Angulation
- i. Shoulders
- iii. Shoulder Blades
- iv. Point of Shoulder
- v. Upper Arm
- vi. Elbow
- vii. Legs
- viii. Pasterns
- ix. Dewclaws
- x. Feet
- xi. Toes
- xii. Pads
- xiii. Nails

### *VI. Hindquarters*

- i. Angulation
- ii. Legs
- iii. Upper Thigh
- iv. Stifle
- v. Second Thigh
- vi. Hock Joint
- vii. Hocks (Rear Pastern)
- viii. Dewclaws
- ix. Feet
- x. Toes
- xi. Pads
- xii. Nails

*VII. Coat.* Include under this heading the description of the hair on all parts of the dog, and describe any trimming of the coat.

*VIII. Color.* Include under this heading the color and markings of the coat (and the skin under the coat if skin color description is to be included). In breeds where multiple colors or color combinations are acceptable, but not all colors are permitted, the complete list of all acceptable colors and color combinations must be included in the standard. In such cases, any color or color combination not mentioned are unacceptable, and judges are to pass judgment on this basis. Color of eyes, eye rims, mouth, lips, nose, nails, etc., are to be given under their respective headings.

*IX. Gait.* A complete, positive description of the breed's gait should be given. Care should be taken to adequately express the importance of the breed's overall ability to move, which is usually best evaluated from the side.

*X. Temperament.* Such temperament description as is appropriate for the breed would not, in any way, bear on the following examination requirements of any dog brought into the show ring. (All dogs in all breeds are expected to stand for examination by a judge, such examination to be as thorough as deemed necessary by the judge, including close inspection of the bite and thorough feeling for muscle tone, testicles and any other factors the judge desires to check. Breeds normally judged on the table are expected to stand for examination on the table. In addition, all dogs must gait for the judge's examination.)

# Parent Club Links

## Sporting



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



# Parent Club Links

## Hound



Afghan Hound



American English  
Coonhound



American  
Foxhound



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan  
Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick  
Coonhound



Borzoi



Dachshund



English  
Foxhound



Greyhound



Harrier



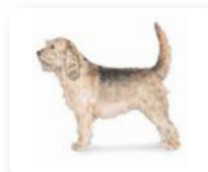
Ibizan Hound



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



Wire Fox  
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](http://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/jr_clinics.cfm)

[http://www.akc.org/handlers/adult\\_clinics.cfm](http://www.akc.org/handlers/adult_clinics.cfm)