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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
We regularly celebrate our AKC breeders with competitions like Best Bred-By-Exhibitor in Show at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship and awards such as AKC Breeder of the Year, so this year I’m pleased to kick off 2012 by introducing the new AKC Owner-Handler Series.

The dedication of owner-handlers—those who do not make a living handling dogs professionally—to training, grooming, and exhibiting their dogs is often worked in around jobs, families, and other commitments. Yet still, owner-handlers comprise 80 percent of our show entries. Thank you for your support of AKC events!

The AKC Owner-Handler Series will take place after Best of Breed judging in each breed ring. All dogs in the BOB competition (including WD and WB) will stay in the ring after the judge makes their placements in BOB competition. After the professional handlers leave the ring, the judge will then select the Best Owner-Handler (BOH). The dog and its owner will continue to accrue points for any group placements or Bests in Show.

We’ll rank the dogs in the AKC Owner-Handler Series based on Best of Breed, group, and Best in Show placements in shows designated as part of the series and post the rankings at akc.org. At the end of the year, the top 10 owner-handled dogs of each breed and variety will be invited to compete at an end-of-year competition show for a Best Owner-Handler award.

The first events in the AKC Owner-Handler Series include the following shows: Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon (January 21), Oakland County Kennel Club (January 21), Sahuaro State Kennel Club (February 4), Colorado Kennel Club (February 19), and the International Kennel Club of Chicago (February 26). Stay tuned to akc.org as we set dates for March and the rest of the year.

I hope to see many of you out at the shows!

Sincerely,

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO
ORLANDO, FLORIDA—Judge Polly Smith selected standard Poodle GCh. Jaset’s Satisfaction (London) as the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Best in Show winner on December 18 at the Orange County Convention Center. London is the first Poodle to earn the National Champion title in the show’s 11-year history.

Ann Rairigh handled the black beauty to a red, white, and blue ribbon and $50,000 in prize money out of an entry of 3,938. London, who stays in peak ring shape by swimming and chasing a Frisbee, is owned by Beth Harris, Michel Molnar, and Jamie Danburg, and was bred by Sandra Tompkins and Chris Bailey.

The national specialty–winning London was put up as Best of Variety by Michele Billings and won the Non-Sporting Group under Frank Sabella before entering the BIS ring to face six fellow Grand Champions: Cocker Spaniel GCh. Casablanca’s Thrilling Seduction, Harrier GCh. Downhome Hitech Innovator, Boxer GCh. Winfall Brookwood Styled Dream, Wire Fox Terrier GCh. Steele Your Heart, Affenpinscher GCh. Banana Joe V Tani Kazari, and GCh. German Shepherd Dog Babheim’s Captain Crunch.

As is often said at this rarified level of the sport, any one of the seven group winners would have done the show proud as BIS. But distinguished judges like Mrs. Smith are used to making the tough decisions, and on this particular night this particular dog would not be denied.

London was sired by Ch. Jaset Sparks Will Fly, out of Ch. Cabernet Lets Go to Jaset, TP, and came to Orlando as the winner of 50 all-breed BIS and 13 specialties. He will turn 4 years old in March.

GCh. Australian Shepherd Propwash Reckon, last year’s National Champion, also made history, becoming the first AKC/Eukanuba Best in Show to win the Eukanuba World Challenge. Another first for the event was obedience and agility competition specifically for juniors.

Ann Rairigh takes London around; Chet the Harrier was among the formidable lineup that squared off in the BIS ring; Anneka Mikel Dahle and Shetland Sheepdog Taufie won the inaugural Juniors Agility Competition (12-inch).
WINNER’S CIRCLE

1. Best in Show
STANDARD POODLE GCH. JASET’S SATISFACTION
Owners: Beth Harris, Michel Molnar, Jamie Danburg
Breeders: Sandra Tompkins, Chris Bailey
Handler: Ann Rairigh
Judge: Polly Smith

2. Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show
AFGHAN HOUND GCH. THAON’S MOWGLI
Owners: Jay Hafford, James Blanchard, Ann Sterner, Debbie Rogers
Breeders: Jay Hafford, James Blanchard
Judge: James Reynolds

3. Best Junior Handler in Show
EMMA GRAYSON ECHOLS
Dog: GCh. Yorkshire Terrier Silkiss’D Lets Rock
Judge: Kimberly Meredith-Cavanna

4. Eukanuba World Challenge Champion
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD GCH. PROPWASH RECKON (United States)
Owners: breeder Leslie Frank, Judy Harrington
Judge: Enrique Filippini (Argentina)

5. AKC National Obedience Invitational Champion
OTCH GOLDEN RETRIEVER SPIRIT’S ZIM ZAM ZOOM, UDX6, OM4
Owner: Ward Falkner

6. AKC Agility Invitational Winners
8-INCH: MIXED-BREED MACH HONEY COME QUICK and DANA PIKE
12-INCH: POODLE CH./MACH5 RAVEN DUNE RIGHT ON TARGET, CDX, RAE, OF, and CATHI WINKLES
16-INCH: AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG MACH3 CARAZO’S ROGUE IN RED, NF, and STEPHEN CARAZO
20-INCH: BEARDED COLLIE CH./MACH4 COLQUHOUN’S NO TIME TO RELAX, RN, and KAREN BARRATT
24-INCH: DOBERMAN PINSCHER MACH8 THOMWOODS FLARE, CD, MXF, TQX, and YVONNE MANCINO
FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We are all aware of the trying economic times and their effect on so many aspects of our lives these days, and yet I can say unequivocally that we have much to be thankful for as dog lovers and as members of the wonderful community we know as the “fancy.” In 2011, we saw many exciting developments in our sports and in our organization’s educational programs.

Many devoted dog fanciers got their start in obedience, so it is fitting to begin a summation of the year’s highlights by acknowledging a special milestone in that challenging and rewarding sport: In 2011, AKC Obedience celebrated its 75th anniversary. As one of our foundation sports, obedience remains today what it was created to be: a proud demonstration of our dogs’ instinctual capabilities and talents as companions, and the embodiment of the human-canine bond.

Our cherished traditions in conformation saw an infusion of new enhancements in 2011. In April of this year we introduced the Grand Championship Achievement Levels to spotlight our highest achievers in the conformation ring. Over 2,000 dogs have earned bronze, silver, gold, and platinum Grand Championships to date.

We also conceived the AKC Owner-Handler Series, a competition specifically designed to celebrate the joys of showing one’s own dog. The series will comprise competitions at several dog shows and will culminate with an award for the year’s Best Owner-Handler. We feel this is an exciting way to recognize the hobby exhibitor and inspire more people to become involved in our sport.

In unwavering support of our breeders, who remain the backbone of our registry and the sport of purebred dogs, the AKC continued to provide enhanced services through our Breeder of Merit program. Now with more than 6,900 breeders participating, we are delighted to see growing numbers of breeders joining us in our quest to ensure the growth and integrity of our registry.

In the world of AKC Agility, we introduced two new titles, the “Time to Beat” titling class and the Preferred Agility Champion title. By creating ongoing enhancements to agility, we have seen the sport rise to new heights: In 2011 the AKC logged its one-millionth agility entry. Of course quantity cannot be outdone by quality. I am proud to say that our AKC agility team representing the United States won many accolades, including a gold medal, at the Agility World Championships in France this year.

It has been said by many a performance fancier that there is nothing quite like the thrill of witnessing a dog do what it was originally bred to do. Naturally, most of our performance activities are designed for specific breeds, with function and instinct in mind. But in 2011, the AKC Performance department gave all dogs and their owners an “equal opportunity” program with the new Coursing Ability Test. This introductory lure-coursing event is a fun, healthy activity open to all breeds and offers three new titles.

Comfort and Joys

Adding another link in the chain of the human-canine bond, the AKC brought the new Therapy Dog program to fruition in 2011. So far, more than 1,600 dogs have achieved our new therapy-dog title, which proudly recognizes those dogs who bring comfort and love to so many people in need.

AKC clubs did an incredible job of spreading our message about the joys of owning a purebred dog and the importance of responsible ownership. Together with our parent clubs, the AKC welcomed over 40,000 people to the Javits Center for AKC Meet the Breeds. Sponsored by PetPartners, the event was a record-breaking success, thanks to our hardworking clubs and staff.

Clubs remained hard at work educating the public year round, with a terrific showing in September with our largest set of Responsible Dog Ownership Days to date. More than 600 RDO Day events were celebrated locally, and a record-breaking number of Canine Good Citizen tests were a key part of the program. We are so grateful to our clubs for all their hard work and support.

I wish you all a healthy, happy new year. Here’s to another year of great shows, quality dogs, and wonderful friends. And please remember to watch the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship on television if you couldn’t make it to Orlando. The show will be broadcast on ABC during Super Bowl weekend, on February 4.

Sincerely,

Ron Menaker
American Kennel Clips

Dog Writers’ Night to Howl

The Dog Writers Association of America will hold its annual awards banquet at the Affinia Manhattan Hotel on February 12, the Sunday evening before Westminster.

The banquet will honor winners of the DWAA’s annual writing competition. Winners receive Maxwell Medallions, named for the late Maxwell Riddle, and special awards sponsored by leading dog-related businesses and nonprofit organizations.

AKC Publications has been nominated for 13 awards, including a Best All-breed Magazine nomination for AKC FAMILY DOG.

To purchase banquet tickets, contact DWAA Secretary Pat Santi (rhydowen@aol.com; 610-384-2436) or visit dwaa.org.

Clubs Honored for RDO Days

Three clubs have won AKC Community Achievement Awards for hosting exceptional AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day events.

Lone S.T.A.R. State

At its RDO Day on September 17, 2011, the Concho (San Angelo, Texas) Kennel Club held a Canine Good Citizen® demo and a “Dog Listener” safety-around-dogs program. The club promoted responsible dog ownership through the month with obedience classes, a CGC graduation, and the first-ever AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy class held in the area.

Additionally, the club sponsored a radio spot that warned of the dangers of leaving a dog in a hot car, and club members presented an RDO Day youth program at a juvenile-detention facility to discuss safety around dogs and potential canine careers.

Nonpareil in Iowa

The Council Bluffs (Iowa) Kennel Club wanted their September 18 RDO event to be a learning experience for dog lovers of all ages, especially the town’s youth.

A Responsible Dog Ownership proclamation, signed by Mayor Tom Hanafan, was read by Councilman Matt Walsh. The event received local TV coverage and was written about several times in Iowa’s Daily Nonpareil.

Best of the Best

The 2012 AKC Lifetime Achievement honorees received their awards at the Delegate Meeting luncheon in Orlando, Florida, on December 16. The recipients—Jean Fournier (Conformation), Patricia Scully (Companion Events), and Robert Fleury (Performance)—are seen here with (l. to r.) Executive Secretary Jim Crowley, Performance Events AVP Doug Ljungren, Companion Events AVP Curt Curtis, COO John Lyons, Vice Chairman Dr. Tom Davies, and President/CEO Dennis Sprung.
times past

"Where Are Their Eyes?"

Congratulations to the Old English Sheepdog Club of America, winner of Best Booth in Show at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. In tribute we reach way back to January 1928, when the GAZETTE’s OES breed columnist held forth on a topic of particular resonance for bobtail fanciers.

All of us who show bobs know the questions that are put to us at shows about the breed: “What kind of dogs are those?” “Can they see?” “Where are their eyes?” etc., ad infinitum, until it would seem the breaking-point of our patience in replying had been reached. Several years ago, at one of the big shows—Boston, I think it was—the inevitable question: “What kind of dogs are those?” was put by a couple of youngsters, whose looks indicated that they asked the question only from the point of view of the Irishwoman who greeted a neighbor one morning with the remark: “How are ye th’ mornin’, Mrs. O’Flaherty? Not that I give a d____, but just to make conversation.”

The question had been asked of the late Fred Leighton, then managing the celebrated string of bobtails belonging to Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Jamison, just as he was struggling to get two of his dogs through the densely packed aisles to the exercising ring. Tired after a day’s work in getting his dogs ready for the ring and showing them, and exasperated by numerous and oftentimes silly questions as to whether they possessed eyes or not, etc., Leighton snapped out: “Mousehounds!” I have often thought of the look of astonishment that manifested itself on the faces of the youngsters! —Mrs. Wilbur Kirby Hitchcock
Congratulations to Pluis Davern of Sundowners Sussex Spaniels fame, who was named 2011 AKC Breeder of the Year at the recent AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. This master breeder, respected judge, versatile trainer, and accomplished handler is not only among America’s most dedicated all-around dog people, she is among the best liked—making her Breeder of the Year win a most popular choice.
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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.

**Brittanys**

**Early Training**

If you plan to hunt or compete with your pup in the field, early training matters. Most well-bred Brittany pups are born with the pointing instinct, and the desire to hunt and find birds. You can help your pup be successful by developing these natural abilities when he is young.

To develop your pup’s desire to hunt and find birds, begin by developing prey drive by letting him catch a bird. Match the size of the bird to your pup. Quail work well for young pups, and bigger birds such as pigeons and chukar are better for older pups. Be sure your pup is confident on the ground before introducing him to birds by running him in the type of cover he will be hunting. If he is going to hunt quail, run him in open fields. If he is going to hunt grouse, run him in the woods.

Once he is running with confidence, you are ready to show him a bird. Take the bird and pull some wing feathers. Hold it by the feet so it flutters, and watch your pup’s reaction. If he tries to grab it, toss it down in light cover. Then, step back, be quiet, and stay out of the way. Let this experience be between your pup and the bird. Some pups point, some pounce and others bark. Let your pup do whatever he wants to do with the bird. Some owners may get excited if their pup points, but, to really develop prey drive, your pup has to be bold enough to get the bird in his mouth. It may take a couple of times, and this is fine. If he acts afraid, wait a couple of days before showing him another bird. Something powerful happens when a pup gets a bird in his mouth. You will see the predator awaken in him, and the pupils of his eyes will dilate. Once your pup is bold enough to catch the bird, let him carry it around and do whatever he wants with it. Some may even eat it. Let him enjoy the experience, and continue to be quiet and stay out of the way.

Once your pup is bold around birds, you are ready to develop his point. You need good flying quail that will get up if your pup gets too close. Toss a couple of birds down in light cover, and let your pup hunt for them. Every time he finds a good flying quail and chases it, he is learning to point. He is learning that his movements cause birds to fly and that he cannot catch them. As he becomes more cautious he begins to stalk them, and eventually the stalk becomes a point.

There are few things in life as enjoyable as taking a pup afield. By letting your pup catch a quail, you are developing his prey drive, and he becomes bolder and more focused on finding birds. By working him on birds that get up, you are developing his natural point. With your help, he is well on his way to becoming the successful bird dog that he was born to be. —Martha Greenlee; greenlee@touchva.net

**Pointers**

Our guest columnist is Pointer breeder Megan Johnston Lane.

**Straight to the Point**
Every breed experiences phases of “faulty trends,” where dogs are seen-
**German Shorthaired Pointers**

A Sign of the Times?

From 2001 to 2010 the number of AKC registered Shorthairs has dropped from approximately 13,000 to 9,000 dogs. One can speculate as to the reasons. One, breeders no longer maintain large breeding facilities with multiple brood matrons and one or two stud dogs. Two, the cost associated with maintaining more than a couple of dogs. And three, the continuous onslaught of restrictive laws backed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

In 2011 a bill was signed into law in the state of Texas that would require the licensing and regulation of dog and cat breeders who maintained 11 or more intact females. It is the law’s presumption that, if intact, the females will be used for breeding purposes. The onus is on the owner of said animals to prove otherwise and doesn’t take into account older retired champions that may not have been neutered or spayed for health or other reasons.

Many hobby and show breeders are electing to cut back on their breeding stock. Others have opted to relocate in another state without these types of restrictive legislation. Some breeders have expressed concern over how this type of legislation will affect existing breed gene pools over time, causing them to diminish and ultimately leading to the loss of important lines within a breed.

In 1952, Shirley Warren, of Pheasant Lane Kennels in South Dakota, wrote, “There was no pomp and circumstance heralding the arrival of the first importations, not any widespread publicity proclaiming the virtues of this breed. Gradually, over a period of years, the German Shorthaired Pointer found its way on its own merits. Having a steady rise in popularity with the sportsman, in 1951 it ranked 22nd in A.K.C. registrations out of a total of 105 breeds, and 5th among all the breeds in the sporting group.”

The early breeders were proud of the numbers as an indication the breed was gaining recognition also an indication they were producing healthy sound dogs for future generations to enjoy.

In 1990, an article was written in the parent-club magazine warning of the animal-rights activist and their push to legislate away our rights to own and breed purebred animals. Now in 2012 most purebred dog clubs have legislative committees, whose purpose it is to track and inform their members about onerous legislation sponsored by the animal-rights activist and the HSUS.

The licensing and regulation of hobby and show breeders with number limits will have an affect on the number of purebred dogs being produced and registered. It will also have an affect on gene pools found within specific lines of the breed. Our dogs are transitory, but for the breed to survive into the future and to carry forward a gene pool with enough diversity to keep it healthy and thriving we can’t remain on the sidelines or be complacent. How many current hobby and show breeder kennels comply with the USDA standards for commercial breeders? This has come to Texas via the signing of HB 1451 into law.

Is your state next? Is there any doubt this will affect the number of purebred dogs produced and registered in the next 10 years? One can conjecture the answer is a resounding yes. —Patte Titus; chessix@mac.com
BREED COLUMNS

German Wirehaired Pointers

Facebook Blunders

The World Wide Web and the Internet have transformed the way we interact with people. Twenty years ago, if someone was interested in purchasing a puppy, they would most likely look in their local newspaper or find an all-breed magazine with classified ads for puppies. If you were looking for a less-popular breed, it could be difficult to locate a breeder. Fast-forward to 2012. All it takes is a quick search using Google or Yahoo, and you can instantly find breeders with websites, and breed-club websites with breeder referrals.

The Internet has also enabled fanciers within a breed to easily communicate with others involved with the breed throughout the country. While in the past folks would mail letters or pay for expensive long-distance phone calls, breeders and exhibitors can now translate information almost in real-time using e-mail and social-networking sites such as Facebook. Most of us now have some sort of low-cost or unlimited minute long-distance phone plans (landline or cell phone) so we no longer have to keep our phone calls short and on a must basis. We can talk and visit, broadcasting the latest happenings to anyone who we think may care.

But, there is a dark side to all of this great new technology. One or two lined statements broadcast on Facebook and Twitter eliminate the tone of our voices and body language that can soften our opinions, and what remains is a broad statement that can easily be misinterpreted by a reader who has strong opinions. Something that may be a friendly exchange of ideas if communicated face to face can quickly lead to a heated argument and name calling.

We all have our likes and dislikes when it comes to our dogs—we each have our own picture of what the ideal dog should be. And, there are breeders and exhibitors we respect and those we don’t. This is normal, and there is nothing wrong with voicing your opinions to a small like-minded group or to individuals open to a discussion.

But when you publicly post your opinions, you can be sure they will eventually make it back to the breeder or owner of the dog you were talking about. And if those opinions are negative, it will instantly blow up and create deeper feelings of dislike or even hatred between you and the other breeder.

And, in the end, who does this benefit? Does it benefit the breed? Or you? I don’t believe it benefits anyone and, in fact, it will not only hurt your reputation but can cause damage to the breed as other breeders and exhibitors are forced to choose sides and breeders can no longer work together for the overall benefit of the breed.

It is so easy to post a note to Facebook, and before you know it the note has gone to hundreds of people involved in the breed, as well as many, many more who are not. And in my experience, people are even more sensitive when it comes to criticism of their dogs than they are of their kids! Please try to restrict your negative comments to phone calls and private messages.

Regardless of your intention, it is so easy for things to be misunderstood and cause hard feelings which take years to repair.—Jodi Quesnell; idawiregwp@isp.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Chesapeake Color

“The color of the Chesapeake Bay Retriever must be as nearly as that of its working surroundings as possible. Any color of brown, sedge, or deadgrass is acceptable.” Any permits a range of many colors. Preference, self-colored (one color all over, with or without lighter or darker shadings of the same color)

Brown includes light to dark brown shades, varied shades of brown, reddish and golden browns. Some brown shades are extremely dark, and in instances there are extremely dark hairs that appear almost black. Do not be fooled by this: These shades are a very dark brown. You would only find black coloring on a dog with a black nose. There is also a diluted brown that appears grayish, sometimes referred to as ash. This color sometimes appears with brown or taupe pigment. This color is not always a brown to the naked eye. When strictly ash/gray, I personally, would not include it within the category of preferred which is limited to self-colored dogs of brown, sedge, or deadgrass. I would consider the dog competitive, weighing his other attributes. It is a color in the breed—and while I do not consider it a preferred color, some do, while others may fault it more severely than I.

Deadgrass (by definition “varying in shade from tan to dull straw”) includes but is not limited to very light yellowish colors, tan shades, varied straws, and light to dark shades of deadgrass. Sometimes dogs will appear with brindle pattern or patterns that appear as markings on the face, around the neck, and/or other places. Extremely dark hairs in the coat are a dark brown and should not be mistaken for black hairs.

Sedge covers more colors which appear in the working surroundings of swamps and marshes. Sedge includes but is not limited to light to dark reddish, orange shades, and chestnut coloring. Sedge can also appear in varying shades, with some lighter or darker shades of Chesapeake colors on the same dog including masking or other patterns.

The self-colored dogs are preferred over the colors that have patterns such as masking, hound markings, brindled pattern, and multiple colors on the same dog. When judging the less-preferred coloring, consider the degree of the deviation. For example, some light masking does not put me off as perhaps distinct and heavy hound markings. In some cases, hound markings can be minimal and not that pronounced. These varying colors still contain shades of deadgrass, sedge, and brown.

Therefore, I contend that they fall into the realm of colors addressed in the standard as does a diluted color. Since these colors are not preferred, these dogs should still be considered competitive as one evaluates coat, balance, head, feet, movement, and so on.
Color is only 4 points on the scale of points and the fault should be applied accordingly.

The standard says, The color of the coat and its texture must be given every consideration when judging on the bench or in the ring. The color is a contributing factor when evaluating coat. So while color in itself is only judged as 4 points, while judging coat is 18 points, one must consider the color pigments that contribute to coat quality.

Comments are welcome. — Nathaniel Horn; kcboy0@yahoo.com

Curly-Coated Retrievers

Pat Stearns is our guest columnist this month and is sharing her challenging experiences with us when recently breeding her bitch.

Challenges of Curly Breeding

I have been in the breed for about 15 years. I co-bred my first litter about six years ago. That was the easy part as my co-breeder is an experienced breeder and did 99 percent of the work. We watched the pups grow, checked their overall health, and felt it was a success. After much consideration, I decided to breed my bitch on my own. I received all the required health clearances; did blood work to ensure that she was healthy, and started researching compatible stud dogs. I was interested in dogs that had equally good health clearances, good conformation, good temperaments, and attributes I thought would complement my bitch. I researched the pedigrees of both dogs to ensure I did not see any hidden maladies that could creep into my breeding program.

When my bitch came into season, I decided to go with the best reproduction vets in our region. After speaking with them, we thought that transcervical would give me the greatest chance for my bitch to conceive. I also decided to try a duel-sired litter, meaning that I used the sperm from two stud dogs. This gets a bit complicated since all dogs must have DNA testing performed. Once the pups are born, they must get a permanent mark and also be DNA tested to determine the sire. I wanted to see what my bitch would produce, and this was my best option. If she missed conceiving, I would have another opportunity to try again.

After progesterone tests and Brucellosis tests, the stud dogs’ “goods” arrived. Their sperm count and motility were excellent and the timing was right. We were able to perform three separate transcervical breedings. This is a process that is not for the faint of heart. It was tough on my bitch. I waited the four weeks for my first ultrasound, convinced that all went well and we were going to see pups. You can imagine my disappointment to find out she was not pregnant.

After further testing there was not a medical or scientific reason for my bitch not to conceive. The stress of the entire process may have been too much for her. This was the only logical conclusion, since scientifically we did everything “right.”

My lesson is to trust nature next time. I expect my bitch to come into season within the next few months. When she does, I plan to drive 1,700 miles to the stud dog and let nature take its course. One note: I did have tests done to check my bitch’s ovaries and thyroid. All is in good working condition. So a road trip is in order and love will be in the air. — PS.

Thanks, Pat, for sharing a most interesting article with us. — Ann Shinkle; annshinkle@aol.com

Flat-Coated Retrievers

Our guest columnist is Karen Peterson, who has had Flat-Coats since 1988 and does fieldwork with her dogs. She serves as co-chair of the FCRSA field committee.

In Memory of Sardou

Ch. Artic Sun’s Hot Tamale Baby, UD, MH, MX, MXJ, QAA, WCX

For over 12 years, I relied on her companionship and depths of stellar sweetness, and there’s so much I could write about her. What I want most to tell is a particular fond memory of a hunting trip.

Several years back, on a cold day in November, we took Sardou to the lovely grounds of Halter Wildlife Preserve, on the Wisconsin border. My husband and two friends made up the shooting party. (I prefer to focus on the dog handling.) There was also the guide, disgruntled that I intended to use my dog instead of his. He’d never seen a Flat-Coat before, and he eyed Sardou with suspicion. I made a deal, to placate him, that we’d bring his dogs out when mine got tired.

The cover was thick and waist-high, not yet pushed down by snowfall, but the grounds were lavishly planted with pheasant and Hungarian partridge, and Sardou had a fine time. The guns shot almost as many birds as they missed, and Sardou made some two dozen retrieves in the first three hours. The guide had to allow that she knew what she was doing, and that she didn’t seem to be getting tired. He asked again what breed she was. Magnanimously, I told him he could bring his dogs out to work with Sardou for the last hour.

They were brought out on a four-wheeler, two German Shorthairs and a Lab. Sardou had never hunted with pointing dogs before, and I was fascinated to see the natural way she fell into working with the young male Shorthair—they even backed each other, in an informal sort of way. But when the Lab flushed a rooster, dropped by the guns into a pond, all Sardou’s honoring manners fell by the wayside, and she beat the Lab into the pond.

My proudest moment came when we were walking in—the hunters, carrying their guns open and empty, and engaged in comradely male conversation, and the dogs loping along, still following their noses. Sardou began to lag behind the other three, and I lagged with her. So I was the only one to notice when she got birdy and froze in front of a patch of tall dry stalks. I told her to go hunt ‘em up, and she went diving in, then came out with a broken-winged hen pheasant. Ever a
show—off—how she strutted that hen in front of the other dogs!

Now she goes on ahead, and only my mind’s eye can see the proud plume of her tail, and her turning to look back for me.—K.P.

—Sally Terroux; sjterroux@aol.com

Golden Retrievers
So Long

After 14 years, this will be my last Golden column. My thanks to those of you who have taken the time over the years to let me know what you think of my work or with suggestions. I have endeavored to cover topics that would be useful to both new and experienced Golden fanciers and judges as well, and have tackled some controversial issues. Hopefully, some reading caused you to think about the content and, perhaps, to learn something new or a new way of looking at a topic. If I have, then I have done my job.

It has been well over 40 years since I acquired my first Golden Retriever. In fact, it’s been nearly 40 years since I whelped my first Golden litter. Many things have remained the same since then, and just as many have changed. Perhaps this is a good time to reflect on what has happened in those years.

In the early 1970s, Goldens were not a widely popular breed. In the show ring on the East Coast, it took just seven dogs or nine bitches to make up a major. Just 15 years later, the numbers needed had climbed to the upper 20s. The tremendous increase in popularity, at least partially the result of Liberty, President Gerald Ford’s Golden, led to changes in the breed. Not all of them for the better. Seemingly overnight Goldens were in TV commercials and print advertising, and that attracted those interested in making money and led to breeding more Goldens to meet the public’s demand. Health issues, and unhealthy and unsocialized dogs resulted, and unfortunate dogs needing rescue services soon followed.

My goal in writing this column has been an attempt to provide an education to those interested in the breed and willing to following the guidelines set forth by the breed standard while avoiding the exaggerations and excesses that followed the breed’s popularity. As with other breeds, fads have become a part of showing dogs—some to the benefit of the breed and others to its detriment.

Two come to mind which may still be found. Sometime in the mid- to late 1980s, extensive grooming practices using various “products” in an attempt to enhance the outward appearance to minimize faults and create the impression of correct structure became accepted practice in the show ring. This went well beyond buffing of the coat to create a plush appearance (even if in direct conflict with the breed standard). Sculpting the appearance of correct length of neck and desired layback of shoulder in the silhouette of the dog through the use of coat products might fool the less experienced viewer, but it doesn’t change the incorrect underlying structure of the dog and doesn’t fool the knowledgeable breeder or judge. Too many exhibitors now follow this kind of preparation so that it now takes hours of work to get the Golden ready for the ring. In earlier times, it took minutes.

A second fad was moving dogs at a breakneck speed around the ring, as though good movement is dependent on the speed with which the legs move. Short legs move faster than the more correct longer leg, so short legs became desirable. This is the opposite of what is desired in a swimming breed. Further, short legs change the basic proportions of the dog so that it is longer in body—more rectangular—which, again, is contrary to the proportions given in the standard. Good movement is defined by the amount of ground covered with each stride with a minimum of wasted motion, not by how fast the legs move (feet flying in the air provide no propulsion and so waste energy).

As I leave you to my successor, I hope that some of my words these past 14 years have moved you to think about what is best for the breed and what is required by the standard. If this fits you, then I have met my goal—and I thank you.

My very best wishes to all. May you find successes in whichever venue you choose to enter with your beloved Goldens. I’ll be watching.—Jeffrey G Pepper, jg.pepper@hotmail.com

Labrador Retrievers
Nose Work

There is no doubt about it: Labrador Retrievers make great detection dogs. With their strong work ethic, good drive, and an unflappable nature, Labradors are often the breed of choice for detection work by the military, law enforcement, and scientific communities. What about the rest of us just plain folk? There is a new dog sport that brings detection work to the masses: Nose Work!

Originally a game for people looking to bond with their pets, Nose Work has evolved into a competitive venue. Since its origins in 2008 in Southern California, it has been progressing across the country. The reason for the increasing popularity is obvious: It is an all-positive training approach that builds confidence and enthusiasm and taps into the most basic instincts of all dogs—the joy of the hunt.

High drive is often admired in canine scent work, and this is a great venue for animals with lots of energy. However, it is not always the “fire breathers” that prove the most thorough and reliable competitors. There is ample opportunity for less dazzling competitors to prove their mettle—even blind, elderly, and otherwise handicapped animals can experience success and the feeling of worthiness every pack member needs. Competitive canine scent work also offers something for dogs whose temperaments are not well suited to most other events. While aggression is not condoned, unlike at a dog show or agility trial, competing animals are afforded generous personal space that avoids confrontations.

The official governing body for Nose Work trials is the National Association of Canine Scent Work
Noya Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers
The Toller Puppy

I'm not sure that there is anything cuter than a Toller pup; but I may be just a little bit biased. Wrapped inside that cute, fuzzy, sweet exterior, lurks a devil in disguise. That adorable exterior is there as a sort of bait-and-switch advertising. In a multi-dog household, it's hard to blame the little cutie for the big shredded mess left behind on some random floor. Nine times out of ten, the pup is the culprit.

Unsupervised puppies are a recipe for disaster. If there is something to get into, they will. Leave your pup out in the secure backyard for any length of time and you will find your flower beds in disarray, your hoses punctured from needle-teeth, and an ambitious hole heading for the other side of the world. (The pup was alone only for about an hour.)

Their curiosity can also cause harm when they get into things they shouldn’t, like eating a toxic plant or chemical, or getting into trouble by getting stuck somewhere or causing something to fall which could cause an injury. I’m reminded of this every time I vacuum, using an electric cord that had to be patched due to chewing. Good thing that it wasn’t plugged in. This curiosity could have led to the death of a perfectly healthy pup.

Toller puppies can also be pretty demanding. If new owners aren’t careful, they may find that the pup is running the household within a week or two of arrival. It’s hard to resist the screaming fit in the crate or exercise pen. But if an owner gives in, the slippery slope toward total Toller domination of your household is a very steep one and you will quickly lose all authority. The drama of an all-out Toller-puppy hissy fit is an experience that is hard not to succumb to, but you must hold strong, even when the pup resorts to cage rattling, howling, and crashing about.

They’re not all bad. The pup will probably be the smartest one in the puppy-kindergarten class. They’ll almost train themselves, initially.

Unfortunately, after such a promising beginning, they will get bored and start getting creative. It’s not enough for a Toller pup to do what is asked; they quickly start to put their own spin on training exercises. They can be precise, but it requires time and patience to get there. Play-training in multiple venues from the time the pup arrives is a great way to build a good training relationship. Precision can wait for maturity—the point is to keep their minds busy and create happy training experiences.

Tollers can be very intuitive and sensitive to the wants of their owners. The more time that is spent building a strong foundation of communication early on, the greater the benefit in later, more structured training, no matter what the venue. —Phyllis McDonald; tollerphyllis@comcast.net

English Setters
Agility: Antidote to Aging

Maybe not quite the fountain of youth, agility just may be an antidote to aging. It’s not unusual to see handlers in their 60s and 70s running agility. I’ve even seen a few in their 80s. Though in conformation and obedience an English Setter (and many other breeds) is considered eligible to enter the veteran classes at age 7, there is no such thing as a veteran class in agility. It’s not uncommon to see dogs running agility—and beating the youngsters in speed—when the dog is age 8 or 9.

Older dogs may slow down a bit, but when the time is right they can be moved to the preferred classes and jump a lower jump height and compete in agility with great success for many additional years. After earning multiple Master Agility Champion (MACH) titles as youngsters, many older dogs have continued to MACH to the age of 12.

Some of the reasons are obvious. Agility is a vigorous sport that requires frequent practice, which keeps dog and handler moving several times a week. These frequent practice sessions yield fitness for both human and canine.

Perhaps the biggest benefit to the...
human partner is the workout for the mind. Every agility course is different, so during a typical three-day trial weekend with three different events a day, the handler memorizes nine courses of 18 to 20 obstacles each.

While running the course, the human has to make decisions based on how the run unfolds in real time, constantly adjusting tactics, accelerating, decelerating, figuring out when to turn, inventing new moves on the fly, understanding instantly what the dog is doing, and deciding how to incorporate the dog’s behavior into a successful strategy. How’s that for mental exercise?

For the canine partner, being tapped to be an agility dog means that the breeder and owner have selected them for physical soundness. So, you start with a sound dog, feed top-quality food and keep him lean, and give him plenty of vigorous exercise all his life. Is it any wonder that agility dogs are healthy for a very long time? It takes so many years to develop a canine partner with top-notch agility skills that it would be a shame if that dog reached his agility prime without being able to use those hard-earned skills for many more years.

Being an agility dog also means that the dog spends a great deal of one-on-one time training with his human partner, leading to mental sharpness and optimal emotional health and happiness.

Sometimes agility dogs and people sustain injuries. Agility people practice preventive health care (using massage, warm-ups, cool downs, practicing safety first on course) for both themselves and their dogs, but if either one does sustain an injury, they take their dogs anywhere they must in order to get the best possible medical help available. If the human is the injured partner, she is inspired to do whatever it takes to get strong again to return to the fun of running agility.

If you are an agility addict, you know what I’m talking about. If you’re not yet into agility, maybe trying it would be just what the doctor ordered for top levels of physical, mental, and emotional fitness for you and your dog. —Jill Warren; Esthete.es@comcast.net

**Gordon Setters**

*Caveat Emptor!*

Have you ever checked the serial number of an appliance, or any item you are buying, to be sure you are getting a new model? I never did. But I learned; buyers must check serial numbers! Appliances like the fridge, washer, dryer, vacuum cleaner—used on a daily basis for the care and maintenance of our canine and human family members—are mainstays of our lives, as are electronic items like TVs, computers, printers, cell phones, and so on. All these items have serial numbers that denote the year of manufacture.

I recently purchased a 2011 appliance. It was delivered with a 2011 instruction-and-care manual. It malfunctioned within a week.

I received a “replacement” appliance under the manufacturer’s warranty. It looked just like the first appliance, and was delivered with a 2011 manual. I thought I was receiving another 2011 model since that is what I had purchased. Within a short time this appliance also malfunctioned, and damaged my property. I contacted the store from which I purchased the appliance. I was referred to their insurance carrier.

The insurance company turned down my claim, saying the “replacement” appliance was a used, 2-year-old model and that they could not be responsible for any damaged done to my property. The serial number of the appliance told them it was a 2009 model and not a 2011 model. I was shocked.

The store from which I purchased the appliance told me they warehouse unsold models from past years. Their stance is that these are still new models (not used), just not the current year’s new models. When customers think they are buying a new model, even though the customer is paying for a new model, the customer could be getting an older model without being told.

Under the Consumer Protection Law, if an item malfunctions and is replaced under the manufacturer’s warranty, the replacement item must be of equal or greater value than the item being replaced. In my case, the 2011 model was replaced with a 2009 model—and I was not told. This is clearly a violation of the law.

I sought help from the district attorney’s office for consumer protection in my county.

This office is a very helpful resource for consumers. Their staff will step in and interface with the store, manufacturer, or contractor with whom you are having issues. It was from this office that I learned about the legalities of replacing an appliance under the manufacturer’s warranty, e.g., the Consumer Protection Law.

I urge buyers to carefully check the serial number to determine the year of manufacture of any item you are buying. Ask the salesperson for the serial number; make certain they tell you how to read it to determine the year of manufacture. If the item is delivered to your home, check the serial number. Be sure you are getting what you paid for. Buyer beware! —Carolyn Gold; spell-bound24K@netzero.com

**Irish Setters**

*Great Memories*

National specialties have their individual personalities. They take on the venue, climate, time of year, personalities of the host clubs, and the enthusiasm expended by the participants and spectators.

Looking back at some of our most memorable nationals, the Irish Setter Club of America has accumulated plenty of memories since it was founded in 1891.

Not many of the early shows provide memories we can share, though some historical references contain pictures and descriptions of those forerunners of today’s shows. Irish Setter fanciers have continued to make their own histories. Here are a few of my memories of nationals past.

Our first independent national specialty was held near Dulles Airport, across the access road from the runways. The dogs did not seem to mind screaming engines taking off and land-
**BREED COLUMNS**

**Sporting**

That is until one of the redheads bolted out of its exercise pen and flew across the road onto the tarmac. He was followed by a horde of screaming people, some running to stop an oncoming plane, others focused on catching the happy, elusive dog. No one was injured, the flight took off, the dog was led back to more secure quarters and the show went on.

Then we move on to San Antonio, Texas, where on the morning of the show exhibitors were greeted by a howling wind and pouring rain. The judge was in mud up to her ankles! Then the tents blew away and the show was postponed until the following day.

There was the tornado in Michigan, and the most recent climate challenge came in Pennsylvania when a storm blew in, making the grounds impassable and the tents unsafe. Fortunately, the club had reserved an indoor facility “just in case.” When the doors opened at 7:00 A.M., the committee was greeted by a mass of sopping wet people and dogs. Good humor and lots of auxiliary electric outlets saved the day!

Moving on to New Orleans. We were housed in a high-rise hotel in which the fire sirens blew every hour or so all night. The room reserved for the show had no access except through the dining room. Startled guests were treated to a parade of red dogs sniffing at their food as they passed through.

Speaking of fire sirens, at the host hotel in New England the alarms went off and everyone was instructed to take their dogs and themselves down the closest staircase and outdoors. It was pitch-black night and raining, and the first person down the stairs came to the exit and put on the brakes. “I’m not going out in the rain,” the person announced, at which point several grumpy people behind pushed the recalcitrant guest out the door into the storm. It was fortunately a minor fire.

Best of all, was the year we were scheduled at a hotel in Dallas. The show chairman took a ride to the hotel about six months before the show was scheduled. He drove up the highway, no hotel. He drove further, no hotel, turned around and went the other way. It was definitely missing! Without notifying anyone, the hotel owners had torn the place down and we were left scrambling to find an alternate venue.

The moral of these stories: Always keep your cool and your sense of humor—especially if you are chairman of a grand event! Every club has tales to tell, and a good storyteller can make them come to life.—Connie Vanacore; fcvanacore@aol.com

**Irish Red and White Setters**

**Partners in the Field**

Over the years, having judged many Master and Senior-level pointing dogs at AKC hunt tests and upland bird hunting with friends, their dogs, and my own Irish and Red and White setters, I have had the opportunity to be part of and witness firsthand the good, the bad, and the ugly of a day in the field hunting with a bird dog. Which brings me to the point of this article: partners in the field.

Whether a newcomer or a seasoned hunter, the difference between a successful and fulfilling day hunting with our dogs or a day of frustration and an empty bird bag is that we and our dogs have different ideas as to what a hunt should be like. It’s the difference between the dog knowing what is expected of him and what he should do. It’s about being part of a team and a rewarding partnership. We have all witnessed dogs that race ahead flushing the birds as they go, causing us a missed shot (not good), dogs that will not honor another dog’s point, do not come when called in, refuse to retrieve a downed or crippled bird. We all have high expectations of our dogs and need to know and define what they are supposed to do.

In order to have a solid partnership the hunter and the dog must have a thorough understanding of what those expectations are. A good bird dog should go with you and pay attention to where you are and not hunt for himself.

He should hunt in front, quartering a field, working hedgerows, fence lines, or any likely places where birds can be found. As partners, this is where we have to trust our dogs. Remember, they have the nose and we have the gun.

Do not over-handle your dog; let him do his job, which is to find birds. Once he has done this, his job is to stop on scent and hold point until the bird is flushed and shot, which is our job. Ideally, the dog should stay motionless until released for a retrieve or, if a missed shot, move on.

If sent on a retrieve, the dog’s job is to go directly in the direction of the downed bird and promptly deliver it to hand, holding it until given the command to release as this will prevent a cripple from getting away if dropped prematurely. The bird must be delivered in good condition.

Another important job the dog has is that when he comes across another dog on point, he must stop and honor that dog as soon as he sees it. A dog that will not honor is going to cause you to miss shots and birds. Bird dogs were born and bred to hunt. A dog that respects you will hunt for you and not himself.

In conclusion, respect and understanding between hunters and their dogs is the key to a fulfilling partnership in the field.—Lee Robinson; robbie6@mynfairpoint.net

**Cocker Spaniels**

**Cornered**

The aspiring Cocker breeder is often given an almost cliché piece of advice by experienced breeders: “Don’t breed yourself into a corner!” Sounds simple, but isn’t.

Just what thoughts are the experienced ones trying to convey to the new ones? Do they mean don’t get so much of the same line that you are likely to double up on and solidify faults in your Cocker line? Do they mean don’t get so much of the same line(s) such that you have nothing new to breed? I don’t believe this is the core problem.

Experience (and that of our mentors) would tell us that in your effort to have a long-term Cocker breeding program you are always running between the rock and the hard place. Once you have,
**English Springer Spaniels**

**Live Long and Flourish**

Hallman’s Duchess Coosaw, CD, RN, CGC, was born in 1989 and departed this world in 2007. Coosaw’s 18 years with her breeders, Terri and Bill Hallman of Palmetto Springers (hallmaniti.com), was a life of celebration.

Terri credits Coosaw’s eagerness to be in the middle of all family activities as the secret to her longevity. “We felt Coosaw died of old age—she hadn’t had cancer, she still got around fine. We attribute her long and excellent mobility to swimming, which she took up later in life. She would get into the pool and swim from one end to the other with you. She loved to perform tricks. She went to the office every day with her dad, Bill. It was fun to let her show off.”

Her early obedience training stayed with her to the end of her days. “Coosaw loved to perform for an audience. She wrote the book on ‘Finish!’ She had flair when whipping around beside you into heel position.”

Coosaw expected attention to be paid to an old girl’s desires and opinions. Terri explains, “Coosaw was focused on what she wanted to do and when she wanted to do it! She was entered (at the ESSFTA national show) in Atlanta in Novice obedience. She and Bill had to wait about three hours because the judge was running extremely late. When Coosaw and Bill finally did get in the ring, Coosaw had already decided that she was not going to do as the judge asked. So the judge told Bill that he was wasting her time and Coosaw shouldn’t be in the ring. Bill advised the judge that she was only protesting because she’d had to wait for three hours on the cold, concrete floor.”

Old dogs need stimulation and the comfort of being with their humans. To be left alone to sleep while the younger dogs go out for fun, competition and companionship can sound the death knell for many elderly dogs. Terri remembers, “She always traveled with us and went along for the ride even short distances. We felt, as did she, that she was just part of the family. She needed a long life to give her time to get all the things in that she wanted to do!”

What are Terri’s top tips to support canine longevity? “Be consistent with their health care. Always watch for changes in their coats, ear odors, mouth odor. Feed a high-quality kibble.” (Terri feeds Iams, Eukanuba, and Taste of the Wild for younger dogs, and Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover’s Soul Senior for older dogs.)

“Never stop training—dogs always want to learn. Facilitate positive and frequent face-to-face interactions. Dogs are very social and need socialization experiences all the years of their lives.”

Terri is adamant in her belief that dog owners should be interviewed to judge how much time and hands-on attention a prospective puppy owner intends to give the dog. She wants her pups to go to homes where human hands will be loving and will be on the dogs often.

Whether young or old, Terri appreciates the benefit of massage and hands-on care and comfort between an owner and a canine companion. Daily exercise is a key to helping your older dog to live long and remain mobile.

Her very best advice for keeping your old dog young at heart? “Love them. Put your arms around your best friend and give while you receive.” — Sarah A. Ferrell saf@abrahamneal.com

**Field Spaniels**

**History in the Making**

As I write this, the FSSA just completed its 2011 national specialty in Indiana. The specialty committee prepared an ambitious and exhausting schedule starting with tracking and WD, WDX, and WDI tests on Tuesday, an agility trial on Wednesday, Sweepstakes and two obedience and rally trials on Thursday, the specialty on Friday, followed by two trailer shows at Columbus Kennel Club on Saturday and Sunday.

Complete results may be found on
Versatility Personified

This year we also had Therapy Dog International evaluator Shannon Rodgers test and pass the following handlers and dogs: Joanne Roehrs and Windwards Santa’s Bad Boy, Rachel Ertle and Nautica’s Got Game, Kathryn Hawkins and Winfarthing’s Clarissant, Nichole Dooley and Sandscape and Nautica’s Picture This, and Kathryn Hawkins and Kaleidoscope Wish Upon a Star.

The following Field Spaniels earned Tracking Dog (TD) titles: Kaleidoscope Wish Upon a Star, VCD1, TD, CD, RA, XF, AXJ, AX, handled by Kathryn Hawkins; Mulesugar Jalapeno Popper, TD, handled by Marie Bueche; and Upland Hey Sailor TD, handled by Roberta Furchak.

This year we offered “the all-around dog” designation. Not a competition, it showcases those dogs (and handlers!) who competed in multiple venues throughout the specialty week. Perhaps eventually we will turn this into a competition, but it was very rewarding to see so many dogs not only competing in multiple disciplines, but qualifying and winning as well. Kudos to the following:

Ch. Nautica’s Game On, RN, and Danielle Brewer; Ch. Calico’s If Looks Could Kill, CD, RE, GN, and Kylie Hirschy-Seivert; Ch. Nautica’s Wind River Gold, RN, and Nichole Dooley; Ch. Sandscape and Nautica’s Picture This, JH, WD, and Nichole Dooley; Ch. Winfarthing’s La Contessa, KBR, and Ilona Jury; Ch. Cadorini’s King James CD, RE, and Ilona Jury; Ch. Wicksford Lord Burke Kennmare and Lori Carver; Pemberley’s Night Prowler, BN, RN, and Daphne Stover; Seymour’s Molly Rox CD, RE, TDX, MXJ, XF; and Daphne Stover; Ch. Winfarthing’s Aislinn, CD, RE, OA, AXJ, OF, BN, and Daphne Stover; Capriole’s Because You’re Mine and Kathleen Raubacher; Dragonflys Dance With Dahlias and Patricia Cassidy; Dragonflys Sweet Alyssum and Patricia Cassidy; Ch. Windward’s Third Times a Charm, MX, MXJ, and Kathryn Barc; Ch. Cetera’s Hey Look Me Over and Kristy Hill; Ch. Cetera’s Simply Irresistible, VCD2, RE, CDX, AXP, SH, and Karen Balinski; Winfarthing’s Clarissant, RN, OA, OAJ, NE, and Kathryn Hawkins; and Kaleidoscope Wish Upon a Star, CD, RA, AX, AXJ, XF, and Kathryn Hawkins.

The 2012 FSSA national specialty will be held in late April–early May in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

All the information you could possibly want or need may be found at fieldspaniels.org/national_specialty_2012.html.

Hope to see you there! —Karin Cartwright; arborfield@hotmail.com

Irish Water Spaniels

Rosemary Sexton, of Realta kennels in Zimmerman, Minnesota, has been competing successfully in field events and in the show ring for over two decades. In 1989, she got her first IWS, Ch. Whistlestop’s Merry Greeley, from Colleen McDaniel of Bothell, Washington. “Greeley was awarded Best of Winners at my first national specialty,” Sexton recalls, “but later wandered from home and was never seen again.”

The dog had made such an impression that she began searching for another puppy to meet her dual-purpose requirements. “I put down a deposit for another male but, naturally, the litter produced only a single boy that the breeder would be keeping,” Sexton says with a laugh.

“Stella, Madcap’s Rising Star Stella, CDX, MH, WCX, was one of those truly once-in-a-lifetime dogs,” Sexton declares. Her short (but very successful) show career included an owner-handled win at just 10 months of age to WB/BOW the day after the 1995 national specialty and WB at the ’96 national.

As bright as she was beautiful, Stella returned to Minnesota that year an All-Around IWS (a champion in conformation, field, and obedience). Sexton laments that her foundation bitch was trained through utility, but a shattered pastern forced her retirement before the two had entered any competitions. “She was always a willing worker,” remembers Sexton, “and other than one winter-spring trip with a professional, she was always owner-trained and handled.”

With her championship out of the way, Stella’s capable handler was totally committed to working in the field, a first for Sexton. In the summer of 1996, the pair earned the JH title, quickly followed by the SH and MH.

Stella is the first IWS bitch to achieve the Master Hunter title (third IWS) a distinction she shares with two of her daughters: Ch. Realta’s SuperNova, CD, MH, WCX, QAA (Nova), and Am./Can. Ch. Realta’s Just Do It, CDX, MH, RE, VCD1, WCX, NAP, NAJP (Nike).

“Nova became my next field superstar,” Sexton boasts. “She was the first IWS bitch qualified to attend the Master National and the first IWS bitch to qualify All Age.” Nova is also the dam of the 2009 and 2011 national-specialty WB and BOW.

Sexton has put many titles on her IWSs, including JH, SH, MH, QAA, CD, CDX, UD, eight UDX legs, RE, OA, and OAJ. Each was a first for this mother of five.

More than most, Sexton understands the gentler technique that is required when training the IWS: “The breed is softer than the Lab and requires a knowledgeable handler since they’re quick learners and don’t tolerate excessive repetition.”
Sussex Spaniels
National Specialties

Having just arrived home from our national, I thought I would write a bit about not only what fun it can be, but about how important it is to attend.

Being that Sussex are a numerically small breed (not like back in 1970, when we got our first one!) but still small, attendance at an annual national is what most of us plan our year around. Just back from Indiana, we are planning next year’s trip to Pennsylvania, the year after to New York, and the year after that to California!

This year’s national was, from my viewpoint, laid out perfectly. On Thursday there were obedience and rally events, and we got the meetings, both board and general, over with.

Friday started with the judges’ seminar early and gave time for the judges and presenters to get to the show grounds and have dogs ready for judging at noon. The judges loved having the seminar in the morning and then being able to put what they had just learned to work in watching 60 Sussex competitors—more than they would see anywhere except the national!

The trailer shows on Saturday and Sunday were greatly improved by having the Sussex ring in the same building and ring (by itself!), as was the national. Thanks to Danita Slattery for all the thought and work she did on this. It gave us all the opportunity to talk and socialize and see dogs relaxed as well as in the ring—we weren’t being pushed to finish and get out of another breed’s way.

The meetings are reason enough for all club members to attend, but the awards dinner and auction are great fun! They are also effective fund-raisers.

I have to mention that a beautiful quilt was designed and made by club member Rosemary Cushman and raffled off raising a lovely amount of money! It depicted all the covers of the national catalogs from years past.

The very best thing, of course, at the national is to see all the dogs and shop and compare, so to speak. We saw dogs we had sold and could put hands on them and see how they had grown and matured.

We could compare brothers and sisters from different litters, thus seeing how that combination of sire and dam had produced.

We could see dogs we would love to include in future breedings. And best of all, we could see many of our very old, and very loved, beautiful veterans. I always get a shiver down my spine seeing the veterans in the ring, doing what they love.

From 6-month-old puppies to old, old dogs, a national is something everyone should try to attend. There is no other place you can accomplish so much in education in so little time. —Marcia Deegan; ZIYADAHreg@aol.com

Spinoni Italiani
Toplines, Croups, Tail-sets: Is There More?

The Spinone Club of America’s Judges Education committee recently published a letter in the judges’ newsletter to clarify the essential elements of the breed.

Conversations with judges indicated that their decisions were most often based on toplines, croups, tail-sets, and divergent head planes.

The following is an excerpt from that letter, bringing attention to other important traits of the breed that must be considered.

The almost-human expression, which is considered to be an essential trait of the Spinone, is created from widely placed, almost round, large and expressive eyes set on the frontal plane of the head, which is unusual and special to this breed. The stop, together with both the sub- and supra-orbital structure (brow and cheek chiseling), are minimally defined.

The above, together with the unusual, warm ochre color (in white and orange dogs) contribute to the human expression. Equally, in brown roan dogs the shade of brown for the eyes is warm and soft. A sharp or intense expression created by incorrect eye color, shape, or set (deemed typical in the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon and German Wirehaired Pointer) must be severely penalized in the Spinone.

The head is long, lean, and divergent. The head length is proportionally long compared to any other sporting breed, approximately four-tenths of the dog’s height.

The skull is roof shaped, with a marked occiput, well-defined interparietal crest (backskull/nape of neck), and gently sloping lateral walls. Particularly in profile, this area helps to define breed type for the Spinone.

From the front, the refinement of skull adds to the long, lean, and divergent shape. It is never Griffon-like (e.g., blocky, square, wide, well-defined stop, and intense expression).

The divergent planes can also be clearly viewed from the front, where the wide-open nostrils of this breed will obscure a clear viewing of the dog’s eyes in those exhibits that have the incorrect parallel or convergent (Pointer-like) planes.

Tip: Please take the time to lift the head of each exhibit and check for a soft, human expression and the divergence of planes. A clear view up the...
**BREED COLUMNS**

**Sporting**

“Looking for a Mate

If you’re active in the Vizsla world, sooner or later you’re likely to get e-mails or phone calls like these:

“I have a 3-year-old female Vizsla that I would like to breed but have not been successful finding a male. We are interested in providing ‘pick of the litter’ for payment.”

“Please forward to me any information you can regarding the Vizsla breeders in our area. I currently own an intact 5-year-old male who is at the upper end of the standard for height and weight and would like to breed him to a quality female.”

“We have a 5-year-old female Vizsla and would like to breed her, but we’re having trouble finding a stud. Do you help people make connections in that regard?”

“We have a 2-year-old Vizsla named F___. We were going to have him tested for hip dysplasia [they probably meant dysplasia] in preparation for him getting registered for a stud service. F___ is a rich rust color, very beautiful. He is very sociable and sweet.”

Yes, these are real examples. If you’re like me, these inquiries make you groan. After that initial reaction, though, I remind myself that there was a time when I didn’t know a thing about how reputable breeders plan their litters.

The challenge is to explain about responsible breeding without coming across as snobbish or condescending. These are people who love their dogs. If we put them down or make them feel stupid, that will only make it harder to educate them.

There’s no magic formula for answering these inquiries, but we can try to provide answers that will be helpful. With input from a lot of experienced breeders, I’ve come up with some points that I try to cover in a straightforward and respectful way when I answer these e-mails or calls.

1. Responsible breeders are looking for specific things before deciding if two dogs might be a good match for breeding, with a strong likelihood of producing sound, healthy puppies that are good representatives of the Vizsla breed.

They will look at each dog or bitch and its pedigree.

They will ask questions about the parents, grandparents, siblings, and so on, looking for details about temperament, health, hunting ability, and appearance.

Most will require a DNA certificate. All will require an OFA certificate indicating normal hips, and many require additional health clearances such as a thyroid test, CERF test for eyes, and others.

They want to be confident that the puppies will be carefully placed in appropriate homes.

2. The owners of the bitch are the ones who choose the stud dog. It almost never happens the other way around. Typically, there will be a written agreement or contract specifying each party’s responsibilities.

3. A breed club’s code of ethics provides a framework for decisions about responsible breeding.

4. Club meetings and events are good opportunities to meet knowledgeable people who are willing to share what they’ve learned. Helpful, reliable information can also be found on the websites of local clubs and parent clubs.

I also provide my phone number and encourage them to contact me with questions.

I wish I could say these folks get back to me, ask questions, or attend a club meeting. Mostly, they don’t, but at least they’ve received honest, respectful answers, and that’s a start.—Beth Nash; nash@pro.ns.net

**Weimaraners Run Fast, Run Clean**

What’s it like to run a Weimaraner in agility? I’ll tell you from personal experience that it’s a wonderful combination of teamwork, speed, excitement, and athletic accomplishment.

But doing agility with a Weimaraner is a lot more than that. Rarely do we get to do training and competing that is just simple, plain old fun. Both dogs and people have a wonderful time at this sport.

For those of you who haven’t had the good fortune to attend an agility event, let me describe a phenomenon that I observe at every trial. There are scores of dogs walking around, wagging their tails, looking bright and happy. The dogs exude energy and their enthusiasm is contagious. I’d hazard to say that it’s impossible to be gloomy at an agility trial because you are surrounded by so much canine glee.

Watching the videos of the agility competition at the most recent WCA
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Sporting

national, I was so impressed by the obvious joy and skill on the part of both dog and handler.

To get the observations and opinions of others who have the privilege of running Weimaraners, I e-mailed some of the top agility competitors in our breed and asked them to share some thoughts about what it’s like to compete with a Weimaraner. Here’s what they had to say.

Agility capitalizes on a Weimaraner’s love of running and eagerness to work with their handler.

The physical condition of your dog is important since they are athletes and require the correct muscle tone to successfully perform the obstacles. If they are overweight, it adds stress on all the joints and muscles each time they land after jumping.

Consistent practice is not just training, it is also creating muscle memory and providing the needed exercise to keep them performance ready.

Every dog has a favorite obstacle that whispers in the dog’s ear, “Forget the course, come over here and give me a try.” Positive reinforcement and attention training are key to keeping their minds on the course and preventing them from going off to do their own thing.

There’s a balance between controlling the dog and training the speed and drive out of them. When training a Weimaraner, it’s important to know that repetitive drilling does not work. A Weim gets bored easily and will shut down. Keep practice sessions short; it will keep them engaged and motivated.

There are personality differences among Weimaraners, but it’s typical that they have the desire to work with their handler. Having the dog and handler in sync is key to a successful team.

Doing agility makes you aware of how much a dog reads your body language. An amazing exercise we do in class is to run our dogs without saying a word. They read the handler’s body language and can successfully complete the course.

There is great camaraderie and friendly competition among agility enthusiasts. People are very supportive of other’s efforts. The only enemies are the clock and accuracy completing the course.

Are you tempted to give agility a try? One warning: It’s addictive. Both you and your dog will love the activity. Whether you compete or just try out the exercises at a class, I guarantee you’ll come away saying, “That was so much fun!” —Carole Lee Richards; ymar_column@yahoo.com

Wirehaired Pointing Griffons
Ralph Nodine, Griffonnier, 1922–2011

I first met Ralph Nodine in September 2003. He had driven nearly 1,500 miles from his home in Jonesboro, Maine, all the way to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, to attend the AWPGA’s 2003 “Great Event on a Great Lake” combined national specialty and “Great Griffon Gathering.”

I can still see Ralph standing next to his pick-up truck with Maine plates, his full head of dark hair, energetic as a man half his age. Where was this “legendary old guy from Maine” I had heard so much about? It was a great honor to meet Nodine, long-time griffonnier and breeder under the Duckpond prefix. He and I corresponded periodically over the years and I appreciated his wisdom.

Ralph was a frequent contributor as both guest columnist and columnist for the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon in the AKC GAZETTE throughout the 1990s. His columns reflected his varied interests in breeding, hunting, hunt testing, breed history, and even one on skijoring. Since Ralph’s death at age 89 this past September, I have enjoyed rereading his columns for they revealed the kind of man and breeder he was.

Ralph was an educated man, attending Harvard, Boston, and Clark universities. But his education didn’t stop at earning degrees.

He was a lifelong learner and collected a vast library of dog books. In a column about Griffon history, he refers to Selincourt’s 1683 Dogs of the Arquebus as the only gundog book not in his library, according to his long-suffering wife, Dorothy. He frequently referred to his beloved Dorothy in his columns, revealing his obvious devotion and love for her.

Above all, Ralph was an outdoorsman. He loved fishing, bird hunting, and training, especially with his Griffons. He had consistently bred solid working Griffons since the early 1970s based on a breeding program of constant assessment of the quality of offspring based on hunt testing, health testing, and critical analysis of breed traits.

Ralph was an early advocate of hunt testing that assessed a hunting dog’s innate abilities in the water, tracking, and field.

He believed that the AKC hunt tests did not go far enough to assess the versatile dogs because they lacked a water test and advocated for pointing dogs to also compete in retriever trials, which has recently become a reality for our breed. He encouraged Griffon owners to go for advanced titles, not just a JH.

In his columns he shared his wisdom as a breeder with a strong preference for careful line-breeding as a means to intensify a great genotype within a line.

Ralph wrote a few columns on coat, warning against a too-soft, wooly coat because of how impractical it was for the field. So concerned about coat in his breeding program, Ralph once traveled 1,000 miles just to see a potential stud dog’s coat in person!

As Ralph reflected on the 1988 centennial celebration of the original European Griffon Club he said, “Let’s not forget that we are the heirs of a great tradition and of many generations of griffonniers who put time, work, money and care into developing our breed.”

May we remaining griffonniers reap the benefits of your time, work, money, and care into developing our breed, Ralph Nodine. —Ann Allen; Ams2Allen@aol.com
**Working Akitas and Goodbyes**

Welcome to the new AKC GAZETTE online format! For those of you that have been reading the Akita Column for years, thank you. For those who will now have access to the column online, welcome. It is my sincere hope that you will find the column informative and maybe even get an occasional chuckle out of some Akita antics!

As we begin a new year, full of promise, it is my sincere hope that this finds you and your Akitas well and looking forward to new beginnings. As with all beginnings, there are also some endings. Our Akita family lost some great people this past year. We sadly said goodbye to Carol McKulski of Obisan Akitas, Allison Wyrick of Hilltop Akitas, Jackie Costello of Kismet Akitas, and Dr. Bob McCune of Kuroi Kao Akitas. To their families, may you find peace and light and hold their memories close to your heart. The Akita community grieves with you and their contributions will be missed.

Many of us lost special dogs this year, and though we grieve their loss we are thankful for their unconditional love while they were here.

We also said goodbye to the print edition of the GAZETTE, as we’ve known it for so many years, as it moves forward into the technological age! I am excited to be able to reach more people within the fancy through the new online format and look forward to the opportunities that this format will provide!

In October, the 2011 national specialty was held in Tucson, Arizona. Since the national had not taken place yet before deadline, I do not have the winner’s name to post but I am sure we all had a fantastic time in the desert! Looking forward to the 2012 national specialty to be held in Indianapolis in the fall of 2012. For more information, please check the Akita Club of America’s website at akitaclub.org. The site is full of information about the breed and happenings within the club.

I’ll close this column with a reminder about giving canned pumpkin to dogs with loose stool since we are just getting through the holidays and your Akita may have gotten into too many goodies, just like we do! Canned pumpkin is great for both constipation and the “opposite.” One tablespoon with each meal for a couple of days usually clears up any difficulties. Of course, you should always check with your vet before giving any supplements and rule out anything medical.

Happy New Year! —Julie Strawburg-Mayes; DarqWitch@aol.com

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**Anatolian Shepherd Dogs**

Through the Ages

Six thousand years ago, the Molossi people of northwestern Greece began to use large-headed, large-bodied, rough-coated dogs from Tibet for boar hunting and to protect their flocks and villages from predators and intruders. The Molossi also kept Laconian or Spartan dogs. These swift, sleek, smooth-coated dogs were used for deer hunting. Conjecture has it that the Molossi crossed the two breeds to get large-headed, powerful-bodied dogs of great speed and endurance that became known as the Molosser dogs. They were the forerunners of all Mastiff-type breeds, so named in the 18th century.

Around 3,000 B.C., the great Sumerian traders took the Molosser dogs with them across Asia Minor along the Silk Road. The dogs protected their caravans as they travelled, sometimes remaining with the people of the areas that the Sumerians visited. Since the Sumerians were also agrarian people, they used the dogs to protect their flocks and villages, as did the Assyrians around 2,000 B.C. who depicted them in their bas-reliefs, which can still be seen today at the British Museum in London.

The nomadic Turks, who have travelled the Anatolian Plains through the ages, bred these Mastiff-type dogs that eventually evolved into their “Shepherd’s Dog” or Coban Kopegi (Choban Kopeyi). The Turks still use these dogs to this day to protect their flocks and settlements from bears, wolves and two legged predators. While the Turks are fiercely proud of the dogs, they consider them to be functionaries. Shepherds will not tolerate dogs that are not independent, able to make their own decisions, and earn their keep. The dogs live with the shepherds and their flocks in the extreme conditions of the Anatolian Plains. If the dogs need shelter and food, they dig themselves huge holes in the ground and forage for small varmints such as gophers. Necessity has created a strong, hardy dog with few specific requirements.

The Turks routinely crop the dogs’ ears for fighting advantage against predators and to reduce the risk of infection. After their first wolf kill, the dogs are given spiked iron collars to wear when they are on guard. Additionally, the shepherds expect the dogs to help ewes with lambing and also to nurture and protect the lambs, thus they have become ideal mothers, gentle and nurturing, quick to discipline and fiercely protective. The Turks regard the dogs so highly that they have created a national stamp and coin depicting the Coban Kopegi, which we know in the United States as the Anatolian Shepherd Dog. —Karen Sen; sunflowerewq@q.com

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**Bernese Mountain Dogs**

Therapy Dog Title

Last year, the AKC began accepting applications for the new suffix title, Therapy Dog (THD). It recognizes the wonderful work of dogs and owners who give freely of their time to improve the lives of others. Berners have long demonstrated their remarkable ability to serve as therapy dogs. Their gentle nature and amazing ability to assess the needs of the infirm, whether physically or emotionally, makes them well suited to therapy work. They are particularly adept with children.

Among the first Berners to earn the title, is 3-year-old Murphy, officially Wyemede’s Proper Imperial Pint, THD, CGC, who, with his owners, Welton and Kristin Seal of Salisbury, Maryland, has logged far more than the required documentation of 50 volunteer visits. As a Pets on Wheels of Delmarva therapy
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Dog. Murphy has gotten his paw through the door of places never before permitting therapy dogs. Murphy visits Coastal Hospice patients and their family members in their homes and at Coastal Hospice at the Lake, a 14-bed in-patient unit. He was the first therapy dog to be utilized by Coastal Hospice in its 30-year history.

At Deer’s Head Hospital Center, a chronic-illness and long-term care facility, Murphy brings comfort to patients and residents in their rooms, the rehab center and common areas. With his owners, Murphy hosts “Murphy’s Pub” on weekends and holidays in the volunteer-operated Deer’s Head Snack Bar, patronized by long-term care residents, visitors, and staff members. Patients routinely order snacks and ring their wheelchairs around Murphy, surrounding him with his circle of friends.

Media coverage and medical staff observations of Murphy’s successful work with patients and their families opened a door at the local hospital that previously had been closed to therapy dogs. Resultantly, Peninsula Regional Medical Center’s Transitional Care Unit invited Murphy for weekly visits where he entertains patients with tricks and one-on-one interaction in the rehab area and makes rounds to comfort bed-bound patients. A photo of Murphy with a couple of his patient pals, which appears in a current TCU promotional brochure, attests to the TCU’s recognition of the value of therapy dogs in patient recovery.

When Pets on Wheels of Delmarva inaugurated “Tales for Dogs” in the local public-school system, Murphy was ready. The concept of this animal-assisted reading-therapy program is that a dog can serve as a motivating and reassuring listener to second-graders working to improve their reading skills. Kristin recalls, “One of the first students to read with Murphy nervously opened his book and began in barely a whisper. As he started petting Murphy, his voice became increasingly more audible. Then he spread his book across Murphy’s back and finished it while using Murphy as a ‘reading desk.’ By the term’s end, the boy was reading with Murphy in a stronger, confident voice.” The success of Tales for Dogs has expanded to another school, with Murphy among the dogs invited to introduce the program.

This tail-wagging Berner’s weekly schedule includes a Special Education Unit with lower elementary students, where Murphy provides a supportive presence during individual counseling sessions. At the school’s spring carnival, Murphy, by popular student demand, dunked the assistant principal by smacking the dunking booth trigger with his big paw!

Murphy exemplifies the wonderful things therapy dogs do. —Julia Crawford; cvyemede@dmv.com

Boxers Lifesaving

Last night I received a phone call from a distraught friend who found her 9-year-old Boxer bitch dead—having passed away in her sleep. There were no warning signs, according to the owner. It was on the tip of my tongue to ask her when she had her last Holter reading, but I kept silent in the face of her grief.

A Holter monitor is an electrocardiography device that is externally strapped to the dog and measures the heart rhythm over time.

Knowing my friend’s particular home situation, I doubt that any Holter reading has ever been taken on any of this family’s dogs. And it is also true that we will never know why their beloved pet died. It could have been from a ruptured aneurysm, or a sudden erosion of a blood vessel from a cancer—but more likely, it was from a heart arrhythmia that likely could have been controlled with antiarrhythmic medication. We are aware that such drugs do have potential side effects and are not foolproof—but in many instances of Boxer cardiomyopathy (arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, or ARVC) these medications extend happy fulfilled lives for many months and, in several cases, many years.

Now we have the ability to do a simple blood test to check for inherited tendencies toward this disease. Not everyone is convinced of the accuracy of some results, but testing for the ARVC-1 gene is available at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine for $51 (abfoundation.org/ARVC_Testing_in_Boxers.html for details). We applaud the scientists for helping us to decipher the genetics of this condition so that breeders can hopefully avoid it in future generations, but it is important to remember that aside from the science of prevention, we must be equally attentive to the science of preserving existing life. Many of the same researchers working on genetic testing have offered us effective and inexpensive drugs to control otherwise fatal arrhythmias in the Boxer. But it is up to the owner to take his pet to the cardiologist for Holter monitoring over at least a 24-hour period to check for potentially fatal interruptions of the normal heart rhythm. Armed with this knowledge, oral medication can be instituted.

I do not mean to oversimplify here—not all dogs respond equally well to medication, but many do. It is still up to us as the caretakers of the dogs we love to test at least yearly (and some cardiologists recommend every 6 months). Especially as Boxer ages, Holter monitoring should be instituted.

Auscultation (listening with a stethoscope) at the veterinarian’s office is a good thing but does not take the place of a sustained electronic or digital tracing of the heart rhythm for 24 hours. Some cardiologists even apply the Holter for up to seven days at a time, having found that some Boxers demonstrate abnormal rhythms at only widely spaced intervals.

Science is a wonderful thing. Imagine, we can test for genetic defects and hopefully breed away from them; we can search for new cures for illness now considered terminal; empirically, we can avail ourselves of sound treatments discovered already for existing diseases; and we can use diagnostic tools developed for specific conditions.

In the case of the Boxer, diligent
Working owners need to remind themselves that the simple, noninvasive Holter monitor can potentially help to save or extend the life of the dog who sleeps on our couch and enriches our life. —Stephanie Abraham; landmarks.properties@snet.net

Doberman Pinschers
Bad Temperament Should Not Be Rewarded
At a recent show I was watching Doberman judging. The judge had a class of two, and the first dog didn’t want the judge to view the mouth and wouldn’t stand still. The handler finally got control and the dog was moved. He was not stellar in that category.

The second dog stood for exam without any problems. The judge gave the first dog the class. I was incredulous, so I wrote the judge a letter. I explained that temperament is a breed-defining characteristic. She wrote back saying she didn’t feel threatened by the dog. I am writing to set the record straight: This is companion guard dog, and shyness and viciousness are serious faults!

From the inception, the Doberman was prized for his temperament and character. They didn’t really look like the breed, but they acted in a certain way. They were noble and proud, of great temperament, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient. This has not changed.

A Doberman must act like a Doberman.

When being judged, the dog must own the ground around him and he must be confident. This is best observed on a loose lead in a free stack. The judge should walk around the dog to assess his response. Is he curious, confident, at ease, in charge, proud? Or is he nervous, darting his eyes, fearing an approach from the rear? If he shows any reluctance he should not be the winner on that day. Of course you can be more lenient with a puppy. But a shy pup should not win top awards either.

We have spent many an hour discussing how to test for temperament in the show ring. In FCI countries, dogs cannot become a champion unless they pass breed-specific temperament tests. This testing includes the dog’s reaction to an unfriendly stranger, a gunshot, a crowd of people, and various surfaces. In the United States, we have a Working Aptitude Test our Dobes take. If they are champions and can earn an obedience title and pass the WAC test, they become Register of Merit dogs.

Breeder’s temperament test puppies to ascertain their potential. We always say all dogs can’t be champions but should be good companions. If judges make excuses for poor temperament, how are we to uphold the standards of the breeding stock we are adjudicating?

Actually you should feel awed by a Doberman considering their potential. He is so alert, noble, and in command that you know he is in control. You don’t have to push a dog to prove a point. Once you see the whites of his eyes or notice his skin roll at your touch, or see him push into his handler, that is enough. He should no longer be considered. You can give him a wide berth on the free stack as he has already flunked!

But, some will ask, what if he is the best dog in the ring? If there isn’t a close second, withhold before you award questionable character.

Owners must socialize their dogs. This is not a breed you socialize in the ring unless you don’t plan to win. You need to expose the dogs to many different situations. Breeders can only do so much. They breed a good temperament to a good temperament. They socialize the pups and then send them to their homes. It is up to the new owner to continue the process and bring out the potential.

Judges, please reward good temperament. Remember shyness or viciousness are deal breakers. —Faye Strauss; sherluckmm@msn.com

German Pinschers
Why Ringside Mentoring?
The AKC began ringside mentoring in January 2000. “It has been highly successful and controversy-free. Ringside mentoring is the most frequently used aspect of mentoring already listed under the mentoring component, and it encourages dialogue with multiple breed experts.”

The AKC Ringside Observation program is a way that a Parent club can educate judges about its breed, making sure that judges receive the correct breed information. Such mentoring assists judges to increase their knowledge when judging their AKC breed.

Additionally, ringside mentoring is an educational tool for judges, breeders, and exhibitors to assist them to form a correct image of the ideal dog in a specified breed and to promote a better understanding of and an appreciation of that breed.

A judges’ education committee (JEC) is dedicated to formulating effective, reliable, and objective breed presentations for aspiring provisional and approved breed judges. The goal of a parent club’s JEC is to conduct and support presentations in various areas of the United States to facilitate the judges’ needs. The planned result is for continuing education for judges who can successfully evaluate a specific breed as per its standard.

Breeders and judges should always emphasize the positive. Breeders have the responsibility to try to breed dogs as described in the standard. Judges must find and place those dogs that best represent the qualities expected via a club’s AKC-approved standard. Breeders and judges must consider the whole dog, not overemphasizing any one part. Reward the virtues and rebuke the faults to the extent of the deviation from the ideal.

The purpose of a ringside-mentoring session is to provide judges an opportunity to observe a large number of dogs in a short amount of time. This allows them to realize the diversity of type within the breed that is acceptable under the AKC standard.

It is crucial that the mentors who assist in the ringside mentoring sessions present the breed in a positive manner to the judges. To accomplish this task, the mentors must be willing to be objective and avoid any impression of lobbying for a certain type or dog.

Parent clubs and potential mentors must be familiar with the AKC rules for official ringside observations. The AKC
requirements for ringside mentoring include, but are not limited to:

Judges and potential judges may observe with parent club-approved mentors or individuals with a minimum of 12 years’ experience breeding and exhibiting the specific breed.

Approved judges with regular status in the breed for 12 years may also mentor ringside.

Observations involving mentors not meeting the established AKC criteria will not be accepted.

Mentors document their own experience on the Ringside Observation Form when they sign it.

Forms will not be accepted without comments. Comments are mandatory.

AKC parent clubs select potential mentors based on AKC guidelines. A parent club forwards mentor information to the AKC for approval. Parent clubs may add additional guidelines for mentors. They must, however, adhere to established AKC rules.

The German Pinscher is a mediumsized dog, 17 to 20 inches (dogs or bitches). There is no height DQ in the standard. Twenty (20) inches is the top of the standard. Judges should not award taller examples of the breed. It does not represent the German Pinscher. —Dr. Laura Van Horn;
SDPinschers@vistanet.net

Great Pyrenees
Making Dog Clubs Democratic

What is the purpose of a dog club? All AKC clubs will include a statement in their bylaws about the reasons for creating this particular club. The Great Pyrenees Club of America includes all the important and usual goals that clubs describe. The GPCA will promote the breed and the use of the official breed standard while encouraging ethical behavior in the breeding and placing of puppies, including health issues and education of breeders and the public. The sponsoring of events that show off the breed and reward excellence in breeding and performance is also a major goal. These are all worthy endeavors and are all things that the GPCA and the regional clubs do very well. We love our dogs and our breed, and we want only good things to happen to them. But there is another reason for having dog clubs, and while it is not listed in the first article of the bylaws, it may be even more important than the official reasons. We have dog clubs in order to meet and interact with other people with whom we share a passion.

All dog clubs have business meetings where the work of the club is done. But all dog clubs also have totally social events where the membership gets a chance to eat a meal or a snack; share information about who is breeding to whom, and talk endlessly about dog food, dog sex, and dog health issues. For those of us who are committed to the dog world, these events are just as important as marking our catalogs with the latest winners of the big shows. Maybe even more important, friends that are made at dog events can easily become friends for a lifetime. Although we may only see some of them once a year at the national specialty, we look forward to seeing them and share e-mails and phone calls during the rest of the year.

Of course, there are other people with whom we don’t share opinions about important issues affecting our club or our breed. Rescue groups are supported by the whole club, but the practices and techniques of rescue are often controversial. Health issues can result in strong feelings. How the money is spent or where the show will be held can result in strong differences of opinion. How can we balance these differences while still keeping our friends and being civil with each other? How do we decide what to do at the next club meeting while not excluding those who have a minority opinion?

In a free society, differences of opinion are both necessary and good. It is the debate about the value of an idea that helps us all make the best decisions possible. When dissent is stifled, bad decisions usually result.

There is a very good way to ensure that democracy reigns at all dog-club meetings, and my personal bias comes from my experience with these clubs. Learn parliamentary procedure and use it in your meetings. Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised has just been released in the 11th edition. It is the official authority for the AKC and for the GPCA.

If you aren’t as dedicated as I am and don’t want to earn a parliamentary registration, you can even buy a very inexpensive shorter version that contains only the things likely to come up in ordinary meetings.

When you use proper parliamentary procedure in your meetings, everyone will feel included in the final decision, even when they are outvoted by the majority. The result will be members who like each other better, decisions that are better for us and for our dogs, and most of all, the business will get done faster so there is more time for that all important social time. —Gail Knapp, Ph.D., J.D.; Gail.knapp1@gmail.com

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs
Obesity in the GSMD

“How much does your dog weigh?”

In 9 times out of 10 times that is either the first or second question out of the mouth of someone meeting a GSMD. If the first is “What kind of dog is that?” the second is “How much does he weigh?” The higher the number, the more impressed the observer tends to be.

This is a very unfortunate trend in a breed where obesity is one of the major preventable health issues. We live in a society where bigger is perceived as better, and that carries over into the world of large-breed dogs.

Unfortunately, bigger is correlated with a weight on the scale that may be far too high to be appropriate for the individual.

Veterinarians consider obesity one of the major health concerns in today’s dogs. Obesity is now thought to affect at least 25 percent of the canine population, with that number running higher in the GSMD and other breeds that easily lend themselves to obesity. Obesity in
dogs is a serious medical problem. 

Overweight dogs are more at risk in surgery, more prone to injury, and have more stress on heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and joints. Excess weight can worsen osteoarthritis, cause respiratory problems during exercise, lead to diabetes mellitus, and generally lessen the quality of life for a GSMD.

In young dogs, being overweight has now been proven to be as influential a factor if not a larger factor than heredity when it comes to orthopedic problems, especially hip and elbow dysplasia and OCD, yet many new puppy owners and some breeders seem to be in a race to fatten up their puppies quickly. It is very hard to convince them that a lean puppy is a healthy puppy.

This is a breed that matures very slowly. It is not uncommon for them to take three to four years to reach their mature weight. In old age they are going to weigh less than their ideal mature weight because of loss of muscle mass. That loss of muscle mass should not be replaced with fat. This breed is very prone to spondylosis, and carrying extra weight in old age aggravates that condition.

There seems to be no simple solution to the epidemic, because big (a higher weight on the scale) is equated with better and food is equated with love. Most GSMDs will always eat everything they are given and generally they do this very rapidly. They tend to be easy keepers with many maintaining proper weight on two to three cups of food a day. They approach every meal like it will be their last. Many owners fall prey to the “I’m starving to death” trap and feed more.

Managing obesity can be very difficult for some owners when in reality it simply involves feeding less food. Green beans, carrots, or some other low-calorie food can be added for additional bulk. Increasing exercise is also helpful.

Obesity can take years off the life of a GSMD and lead to many health problems, especially as puppies and in old age.

It would do owners and breeders a great service to throw away their scales and start looking at their dogs. — Catherine Cooper; shadetregsmd@embarqmail.com

Komondorok Rescue

Recently I had dealings with another rare breed working group rescue organization, which quickly turned into a nightmare. It’s too long and complicated to go into all the details. My point is, I was looking for breed-specific information to assist a bitch who unexpectedly whelped a litter of puppies. While not an ideal situation, it was definitely not a rescue. One extremely passionate person would not let go of the idea this was a rescue and things escalated. Yikes! Talk about no good deed goes unpunished!

The Komondor Club of America has an unsung hero managing our breed rescue, Sandy Hanson. After the above occurred, I contacted Sandy to find out what she would have done. Sandy repeated one phrase several times, common sense. Offer any assistance at any time, provide names and phone numbers, and give breed-specific information. This approach made sense to me and I wanted to highlight more of KCA rescue.

KCA breeders are very responsible, according to Sandy, and nearly all takes back or rehomes Komondorok from their breeding. The Komondorok coming into rescue are those from non-member breeders, typically people who imported a pair from an overseas online puppy supplier.

In today’s world liability is a main concern. A Komondor who has gotten can’t be put into rescue, and most breeders are very cautious in rehoming these dogs. Sadly, with the number of Komondorok ending up in rescue and the lack of available homes, we can’t place Kom crosses. Sandy’s commonsense perspective is applied to every potential Komondor coming into rescue. Things like age, health, and sociability affect the dogs’ eligibility for KCA rescue.

Once accepted into KCA rescue, those Koms are spayed or neutered, and receive health clearances and vaccines. Our donations received from placements help to maintain funds. With limited numbers of KCA members widely distributed across the country, Sandy’s first go-to people are the regional directors. Large geographic areas make it physically challenging to get eyes on the dogs, and not all directors can assist. That’s when Sandy contacts individual club members.

I’m asking all KCA members and lovers of the breed to assist rescue if Sandy contacts you. Leave passion at home and think common sense. Many “doodle” crosses are ending up in shelters, making proper identification rescue’s first concern. Look at the dog. Is it a Komondor? Not a show Kom? So, judge the overall look. Is it close to standard size (some are smaller)? White in color? Yes, puppies may have some buff, but many crosses are definitely not white. Temperament should be a bit cautious or wary. Most Komondorok are not bubbly (some exceptions). If looking at photos have a size determiner, like a yardstick, in the photo next to the dog.

I want to give kudos to Sandy and all the people who help make KCA rescue work. Without this team effort, many Komondorok would not be in their existing homes. — Adrienne Freyer; kburgkom@aol.com

Kuvaszok

Your New Breed Columnist

It is with excitement and a touch of trepidation that I write this article today. The Kuvasz Club of America’s GAZETTE columnist position became available recently. The board of directors quickly sent a message to club members asking that candidates send a letter of interest, along with a writing sample. I have written many articles for our club newsletter, The Kuvasz Quarterly, and so sent my “Westminster for Dummies” article from spring 2004—a lighthearted romp through an overwhelming event.

I found out this morning that the board chose me for the position from among three candidates. Problem? Today is October 18, well beyond the deadline for submissions for this edition! I e-mailed the GAZETTE staff asking if I could squeak in a quick article and was told to send something fast, they’d see what they could do. So, here it is!

Please allow me to use this forum to
introduce myself. My name is Beth Lenoski. My kennel is Elsö Kuvasz. I’d like to share my history in the breed.

I got the bug to show dogs in the sixth grade, as my best friend’s family raised and showed Shelties. The shows were wonderful family fun in 1972; more like big organized picnics, with people and dogs on blankets under huge shade trees. I got a delightful pet-quality Collie with my babysitting money when I was 17 and (foolishly) bred her when I was 19.

Fast-forward to 1985. I realized that breeding a pet-quality dog was not the right thing to do and so embarked on a treasure hunt for my breed-worthy puppy. But, ah, you ask, Collie to Kuvasz? I wanted something rarer, something that didn’t already appear to me. I wanted a breed I could be a part of improving. Being a single woman, I was also interested in a dog that would protect me should the need arise. I unearthed the Kuvasz in the AKC’s Complete Dog Book.

I found Ghosthill Kennel and waited two years for my first Kuvasz. Since then, my Kuvaszk have come from or been bred to Rocky Mountain High, DejaVu, Peachtree, Casablanca, and Szumeria Kuvaszok. Together with Peachtree and Glacier Creek Kuvaszok, I imported a dog from Holland.

I have made it my mission to study the pedigrees of dogs, as well as canine genetics and hereditary diseases. My breeding mission is to produce exceptional-quality—in temperament, health, structure, type, and soundness.

My Kuvasz successes include winning Best of Breed at Westminster, multiple group placements, having the first and second Kuvasz to earn rally titles, and most recently, Best Puppy in Show, always owner-handled.

My greatest successes in Kuvaszok are that my “furkids” are my family, sharing my home and life, and that nearly all the people that matter in my life I’ve found through these dogs. I hope I can impart some interesting, fun, and useful information via this column. —Beth Lenoski; elsokuvasz@gmail.com

Leonbergers
Utility Player

Often, the most valuable athletes on any team are the “utility” players—those talented, reliable, solid team members who are able to shift from position to position, performing each job on the team with skill and ease. If one were to choose a utility ballplayer from the Working Group, the first-round draft pick would have to go to the Leonberger.

Herr Essig, the German alderman credited with developing the breed, no doubt had the German equivalent of the term utility in mind when he bred and sold the first Leonbergers as farm dogs and family companions.

Today, that label has never been more apt. At various times throughout their approximately 170-year history, this canine jack-of-all-trades has, in various capacities, performed a wide variety of utilitarian duties from nanny to wartime medic, from water rescuer to service dog, from draft animal to shepherd.

Like the Great Pyrenees, Newfoundland, and Saint Bernard breeds from which our breed was developed, Leonbergers excel at jobs in which they work in partnership with their human companions.

In dog sports like water rescue, obedience, rally, agility, flyball, and draft work, Leonbergers have convincingly joined the ranks of all-purpose working breeds which share their utilitarian roots. Speak to any Newfoundland, Bernese Mountain Dog, or Greater Swiss Mountain Dog person who’s ever seen a Leonberger perform in a draft or water test sponsored by another breed club and you’ll no doubt hear the same thing: “Those Leonbergers are great working dogs!”

However, it’s in one job in particular that the calm, gentle demeanor of the multitalented Leonberger really shines. Leonbergers are naturals at therapy work. From literacy programs with children to bringing comfort and warmth to hospice patients, Leonbergers just seem to know that their sweet presence soothes and supports those who need them the most.

The Leonberger Club of America is proud that so many of our members are active therapy teams. The club gives special recognition to teams who log many hours touching hearts and healing spirits. The many recipients of the LCA Therapy Award bear witness to the fact that this utilitarian working dog can compete with lightning speed on an agility course on Saturday, then throttle down and pull a cart through a children’s cancer wing on Sunday. It’s a truly versatile breed.

Several years ago, in my capacity as president of the Leonberger Club of America, I was asked by AKC officials about the working abilities of this gentle breed. “But what do they do?” I was asked. The honest answer I gave then is the same one I give now to folks who are interested in the breed: They do it all!

—Astrid Robitaille; astridrobi@gmail.com

Mastiffs
Parent Club Membership

In my last column I mentioned how the fluctuating economy has presented some challenges for breed clubs. In some cases the money has just not been there for some to attend their National Specialty, or if they have attended the time spent there and number of events entered has been reduced. Fund raising for health programs and breed rescue have also found those in attendance less able to support such causes. I have found that membership has also declined slightly in our organization and that seems to be generally true in other clubs.

I had at some point wanted to discuss the various positions often expressed when it has come to the question of just who should be a member of a breed club and why. Since we are experiencing a period when memberships are declining, it seems that now might be appropriate.

Over the years I have listened to some very sincere, dedicated members of our club argue that a breed club should be very selective in just who they allow to become members. Their position is that only those who are truly knowledgeable as to the history of the
breed and what constitutes a good representation of the breed should be able to call themselves members. They would set criteria that would first screen those applying for membership, then set up a rather long period of “associate membership” where any decision making with respect to the breed would be withheld until, I guess, they would have proven themselves worthy.

On the other hand, there are those who take literally that section of our constitution where it says, “to do all in its power to advance and protect the interests of the breed” and feel that a breed club can only do this if open to all who would want to become members and would make becoming a member a fairly simple process. As a member, that person would be bound by a code of ethics, would be (hopefully) active in showing and be more apt to associate with those who are bound by the common principles of our club.

There are, of course, always a few who will seek membership in a breed club for the sole purpose of them being able to advertise membership much like the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. There is no way of knowing this and a breed club’s only defense is the enforcement of its code of ethics.

The realities of any discussion of membership and the criteria set to allow such membership must be tempered by the financial truism that any organization needs members for their dues, their financial support at their specialty, and requests for specific financial support.

There is also this: Without members to do the work, there will not be much accomplished, although it seems to be true throughout any club that no matter how large the membership, there is a small core group that can be counted on to do the work.

Beyond the board of directors and their committee chairs and the few committee members, the rest are the dues-paying portion and they do put their trust in those willing to step up and assume the responsibility for the direction a club takes. —Charles Cuthbert; rydalmtmastiffs@aol.com

Newfoundlands

Thanks to guest columnists Donna Zink, chair of the NCA Rescue Prevention committee, and Maredith Reggie, NeufTide editor.

Educating New Owners

The rapid evolution of Internet sales of puppies has had a profound effect on purebred dogs and their parent clubs. For example, based on AKC-registration figures, member-breeders of the Newfoundland Club of America are now responsible for approximately 25 percent of Newfoundland litters produced, compared to 75 percent in the late 1980s.

The novice buyers who obtain their puppies through Internet typically do not have contact with NCA breeders. Do these Internet sales also inhibit involvement in parent clubs? A survey of NCA members in 2007 by the NCA Rescue Prevention committee seems to support this contention since it revealed that NCA members acquired their first Newfoundland through common venues, such as newspaper ads and informal breeder referrals, but not from Internet sources.

How does the Internet purchaser learn more about the breed without contact with other Newfoundland owners and fanciers? How do the Internet purchasers learn about parent clubs and their important roles? Sustaining parent clubs, which protect the breed and its standard and promote activities supporting the breed, requires embracing new owners. These owners are essential to the lifeblood of the club and evolve into breed enthusiasts and breed-club members.

The Rescue Prevention committee began looking for a path to learning for new buyers. Their initiative was to offer new owners a free copy of the NCA’s quarterly breed publication, NeufTide, and for the past two years, a coupon for the magazine has been included on the insert about the breed that is included in the AKC puppy-registration packet. The committee felt that NeufTide was a valuable tool to share with new owners, because it would provide photos of well-bred Neufs and information about health and training issues, regional clubs and their events, and activities new owners can do with their Newfoundlands.

Since the beginning of the program, approximately 5 percent of buyers per Newfoundland registered, representing about a third of all litters, have taken advantage of the offer. Some are now subscribers and several have become members.

The NCA feels that those who take the simple step of submitting a coupon may be those who are willing to learn more about the Newfoundland breed and become more committed to the future of this magnificent breed.

Portuguese Water Dogs

Listen to Your Dog

Listen: 1. To make a conscious effort to hear; 2. To give heed; take advice.

Observe: 1. To notice something; 2. To arrive at as a conclusion; 3. To examine scientifically.

—Webster’s New World Dictionary

Remember these definitions as you observe your dogs. Attempt to listen or understand if they are trying to tell you something. Many times they are!

At age 5 years, my PWD started slowing down on our daily walks. Temperatures were not beastly hot but uncomfortable, so my first thought was—heat!—she’s telling me it’s too hot to walk. As summer progressed, with increased temps, after a half mile she would lie down to rest. She looked fine, no outward symptoms. After a short rest and water to drink, she was up, ready to go. Troubled, I decreased our walks when temps were high. In cooler weather I restarted longer walks, noting her need for resting disappeared. Soon we were back to our winter walks of 3-plus miles with not a single problem or symptom.

Summer came and once again her need for rest stops began. My first thoughts were maybe a cardiac problem. Our vet did blood work, an EKG, a cardiac ultrasound, and X-rays, and...
nothing was apparent in my yet other- 
wise healthy dog.

We discussed that Casey was trying to 
tell me something. She knew when a rest 
was needed, would stop and lie down. 
Once rested, she was up and we would 
continue until the next rest was needed. 
Walking near the vet office she needed a 
rest after about a half mile and did.

After a time she did rally and we 
walked slowly back to the waiting vet 
and technicians who repeated all the 
tests. EKG and Ultrasound were per- 
factly normal. Fortunately the tech 
turned Casey’s head for more X-rays and 
at last we discovered the problem—a 
redundant esophageal membrane that 
swells when she pants, placing pressure 
onto the trachea, which then narrows 
down, decreasing the ease of air 
exchange. With rest, the swelling of the 
membrane goes down, the trachea 
reopens, and breathing becomes easier. 
(Note: This is explained in very basic lay- 
men’s terms, not medical terms).

Fortunately, the technician had good 
insight and technique. Once the diagno-
sis was made, we planned our treatment. 
I opted for the medical not surgical 
treatment, thus a change in Casey’s 
lifestyle. We switched to a harness instead 
of a collar and now do long walks in cool or cold weather with only short, 
slow walks in hot, warmer weather.

When needed, we stop, rest, have water, 
and wait until Casey is ready to continue. 
This works fine for us. Even though she 
could not speak or bark to tell me her 
problem, she was letting me know by her 
actions. I as the owner had to be a good 
observer and listen to her.

A more serious, somewhat similar 
condition is tracheal collapse. Certain 
conditions can cause the tube-like struc-
ture to collapse, similar to when a soda 
straw is sipped on too vigorously. When 
the trachea collapses, air can no longer 
move freely through it. Sometimes, the 
animal breathes with difficulty and a 
honking cough-like sound is made. 
Various conditions may cause this. Most 
cases occur in middle aged or older, 
overweight, small-breed dogs. 
Occasionally this can be a congenital 
problem. Large, overweight dogs can also 
be affected. Treatment will depend on 
the severity and frequency of the breath-
ing difficulties.

Please remember to listen to your dog, 
be observant. In some situations your 
dog may be trying to tell you something 
(i.e., not wanting to swim, or to do 
agility or obedience work). The dog may 
even act differently in the show ring or 
under normal circumstances at home. Be 
patient, be considerate, and evaluate each 
circumstance carefully. You may receive a 
message from your dog—they can com-
municate in their own special way. — 
Carole Pangle-Mclvor; cpnjpm@aol.com

Saint Bernards 
Be Prepared—But

Being a native Californian and 
growing up with earthquakes, 
wildfires, and flash floods you learn to 
be prepared. I try to do the same thing 
when traveling with my dogs.

A few years ago my friend Lori and I 
were going to the national. We planned 
for all kinds of scenarios. We were each 
taking a dog, and a good friend asked us 
if we would be willing to take a dog for 
him. The dog had been shown when he 
was younger, had a few points, and had 
shown some promise, but due to the 
owner’s health issues the dog had not 
been shown for over three years. Of 
course we agreed.

We picked up the dog on our way 
north. He hopped right into the wire 
crate with no issues. Air conditioner 
blasting to keep the dogs cool and calm, 
we were chatting up a storm. We were 
really on our way! I noticed that the 
new dog didn’t lie down in the crate, 
but just sat there. I assumed it was 
because he was the new guy and didn’t 
really know us or the other two dogs, 
which were also crated.

We stopped after a couple of hours to 
walk and water the dogs. After driving 
for another three hours we stopped for 
the night in Medford, Oregon. The new 
dog was still sitting up in his crate. We 
decided to feed him in his crate since he 
seemed a little uncomfortable with the 
situation. We fed our dogs and put them 
back in their crates in the van. We 
unpacked the van for the night and 
went to dinner. Before turning in for the 
night, we went out to walk and water 
the dogs. While Lori was walking her 
dog, I opened the crate to take the new 
dog out, slipped on the leash and he 
hopped out of the van took two steps 
and fell over … dead! OK, nothing can 
prepare you for that.

Lori raced over and was checking him 
over trying to do CPR, but he was gone. 
What do we do now? I stayed with the 
dog while Lori went to the hotel lobby 
to find the nearest vet. We thought we 
could leave the body with the vet and 
then pick him up on the way home, or 
have him cremated and pick up the 
remains on the way back.

Lori made the dreaded call to the 
owners. They were devastated and could 
we please bring the dog back home now. 
OK, now what do we do with the dog?

Luckily, I had packed an extra tarp 
and we decided to wrap the dog up and 
put him in the van. Here are two 
women in the dark, except for the light 
coming through the door of the hotel, 
dragging and trying to lift into a van 
something wrapped in tarp that looks 
like a body. After a few minutes we 
finally got the dog into the van.

We packed up our room and loaded 
up the van. On the way back to the 
dog’s owners it snowed, rained, and there 
was heavy fog. The owners were very 
sad, but grateful that we agreed to make 
the return trip to bring their dog home. 
Be prepared, but expect the unexpected. 
—Pam Leighton; sierrasaint@sbcglobal.net

Samoyeds 
Judges: The Laying of Hands

Sometimes a person may wonder 
what in the world is a judge seeing 
or doing when they place a certain dog. 
A lot can be said for the human being’s 
ability for observation, but a person’s 
eyes can play tricks on you. If a judge is 
not careful, his perception of a dog’s 
movement can be influenced by a 
person’s assumption. Sometimes what 
looks like good movement, is only an 
illusion.

A point to watch in Samoyeds is the 
need for this true working dog to have 
the correct amount of leg required to 

BREED COLUMNS

G7

working
allow the dog to single track. The standard calls for 55 percent of its height to be leg. This length of leg allows the dog to get his feet under himself to properly single track front and rear.

The problem occurs when a judge uses his eye alone to make this judgment. What can seem like a short-legged dog can be misleading due to the amount of coat a dog may have. A judge must make this determination by placing his hands on a dog to locate where the leg actually is in association with body and chest.

A dog with a shorter coat and the same amount of leg will look much different than one with the same proportions but may carry longer furnishings or longer coat. This perception must be confirmed by feeling the dog and its structure. While many judges will check head, and shoulders in examining the Samoyed, I find very few are running their hands under the chest or to locate where the elbow truly is in the dog they are judging.

Another issue with the eye and perception can occur while watching a dog move from the side. A shorter-legged dog may look like its movement is more fluid and free flowing because its front will never interfering with the rear. A shorter-legged dog is never correct for this working breed. If the back is a bit longer, or the leg is a bit shorter, you will not see a dog sidewinding or crabbing, but the longer length of back is a true weakness for a sledge dog and is never suitable for the breed.

A true correct dog will have the length of leg required and the timing front and rear to not interfere with itself. You want the back leg to find the position of the front leg when gaiting. You never want to see a dog reaching with its rear to place its leg in front of where the front leg hits the ground. This is not correct, but may look flashy. If the dog is truly balanced front and rear, you should be able to see an effortless gait in the proper proportions. Again, the laying of hands can confirm length of back and shoulder and rear angles to confirm what you are seeing.

So, exhibitors and judges, don’t always trust what you are seeing. Let your fingers do the walking and get your hands on the dog to determine where the leg truly is. Remember, you cannot always trust what your eyes may be telling you.

The laying of hands is important in making your decision. —Debby Jahnke; stardansams@yahoo.com

**Siberian Huskies Past, Present, and Future**

The theme of the Siberian Husky Club of America’s 2011 national specialty was “The Homecoming.” Held in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, it welcomed Siberian enthusiasts to the region of the country so closely linked to the evolution of the breed.

The Siberian has a rich and well-documented historical connection to New England, beginning in 1927 when Leonhard Seppala came to race in Poland Spring, Maine, and continuing with the 1938 incorporation of the SHCA in Wonalancet, New Hampshire, and the establishment of the early kennels whose names are now synonymous with the breed.

The Yankee Siberian Husky Club hosted back-to-back specialties before the start of the national, combining for a week of seminars, competitions, and special events showcasing Siberians of all ages. Through the efforts of the SHCA and YSHC show committees, all who attended returned home with a new or renewed appreciation and understanding of the Siberian Husky.

My mentors cherish the Siberian’s ancestry and have shared stories and photographs of the early kennels, successful breeders, and well-known dogs, many of which still appear in early generations of today’s pedigrees. I have never forgotten a phrase constantly repeated by a favorite college history professor: “We need to know where we’ve been and how we got here, to understand where we’re going and how to get there.”

Too often newcomers to the breed, and occasionally experienced breeders, admit their interests are limited to kennels and dogs that are successful today. The mantra “It’s the here and now that matters” is becoming more popular as demands on personal time increase.

To ensure that the Siberian Husky has a bright future, today’s breeders need to be knowledgeable about all aspects of the breed and consider what made great dogs from the past such outstanding Siberians; what did their breeders learn in the process; which lines blended well and which ones did not; what health issues were of concern; what were the good traits and which ones were deemed undesirable; and how was this information used in future breedings?

The SHCA is fortunate to have many longtime breeders who are still active members. I would hope that even after the national, newcomers and less-experienced breeders would seek out these individuals to ask what has changed in the breed over the years, what problems do they see, what traits were valued, what lines consistently produced good dogs? Get to know the dogs in a pedigree and what contributions they made to the breed—on the trail, in conformation and performance events, and in the whelping box.

The future of the Siberian Husky is in the hands of today’s breeders. No one is ever too experienced to learn a new thing or two. Embrace lessons learned from the past to help understand the present and to influence the future.

The successful breeders of today will be tomorrow’s history. Become part of it! —Jane Steffen; klonaquay@fairpoint.net

**Standard Schnauzers What’s in a Name?**

Juliet said, “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose/ By any other name would smell as sweet.” (William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet: II, ii, 1–2).

Yes, but—Take the name natural, as in natural foods, natural ears, natural tails. From 15 definitions of natural in the online Webster’s Dictionary, the second is a) being in accordance with or determined by nature; b) having or constituting a classification based on features existing in nature.

But thinking of natural makes one ponder unnatural, which has severe negative connotations. This naming issue produced a great discussion during the
SSCA annual meeting at the SSCA national specialty in Ventura, California, last July.

Consider “natural foods.” Doesn’t that imply foods you’d want to eat or have your dog eat: whole grains, wholesome vegetables and fruits grown without pesticides and chemical fertilizers, meats and poultry without antibiotics or added hormones? Doesn’t it also make you shudder to think of “unnatural foods”—full of pesticides, chemicals, mystical drugs, unnecessary hormones, genetic modification to improve shelf life that destroys flavor, and a plethora of other unwholesome things?

Back in the days when dog breeding was a gentleman’s sport—back when “animal group” meant the AKC and similar organizations, before the days of political animal-rights activism, before PETA and other extreme animal organizations came into existence—some dog ears were cropped and some dog tails were docked; those that were left alone were called “natural.” Standard Schnauzers and more than 60 other breeds have been shown docked and either cropped or uncropped in this country. There were good reasons for cropping and docking, depending on the dog’s function or use to which the dog was put. Now cropping and docking are the center of a controversy that has raged in the United States for years.

Personally, we’ve chosen not to crop our Standard Schnauzers since 1985, although we cropped from 1967 until then. We think the attractiveness and range of expression of uncropped ears is worth the extra difficulty in finishing our thinking and verbiage in these days of politically based animal activism. Animal extremists will jump on the idea of “natural ears and/or tails” to promote political legislation that negatively affects our rights as dog fanciers and, indeed, affects the entire dog fancy. Can’t you imagine activists making the public and our legislators wonder about just what “unnatural ears and tails” might be?

The answer, of course, is to call a rose a rose—in other words, speak of “cropped or uncropped ears” and “docked or undocked tails.” To do otherwise invites the wrath of those animal extremists who strive to end dog breeding and the sport of purebred dogs. Fight them with neutral, noninflammatory language. Together we can make this happen.

Start today! —Suzanne T. Smith; stepers@aol.com

**Tibetan Mastiffs**

**Pack Acceptance**

The Tibetan Mastiff is often referred to as a primitive breed because it retains many of the instincts possessed by its wild cousins. This was brought home to me forcefully, when a new dog was added to our little pack of three. The new family member adjusted beautifully to life here, flittering and bouncing around cheerfully with his new friends. But when his previous owner left, after supervising his adjustment for several days, I witnessed a behavior I have never seen before, or since.

As her car disappeared down the road, his demeanor suddenly changed and he began to wail and fling himself against the window. He howled frantically, as though his heart was breaking, and his distress was so terrible that I almost called the car back. I’ve never seen a more wretchedly unhappy dog in my life, and was genuinely alarmed for him.

My other dogs looked on with grave concern. They tried to lick and reassure him, but he wanted none of it. They worriedly looked at me, enquiring whether he knew something they didn’t. I reassured them that nothing was wrong. They looked back at him and attempted to comfort him again. He was inconsolable, and his cries were desperately sad. My other dogs looked back at me, troubled. Again I reassured them. They seemed to believe me that all was well, but they were at a loss as to how to calm him down.

Then something happened for which I was utterly unprepared. The three dogs suddenly moved as if they had been exchanging signals with each other and knew exactly what to do. They surrounded their new friend—one at each side, and one behind. Then they very gently positioned themselves in close physical contact with his sides and back. If he moved, they all moved, as one. They remained in this formation for hours, never leaving him alone for a moment. If he seemed more distressed, they’d lick his face and press in harder, and if he relaxed, they gave him a bit more room.

It was one of the most touching examples of pack acceptance and solidarity that I have ever witnessed. It was as if they were saying to him, “Don’t cry, little dog. We’re here. We’ve got your back, we’ve got your flanks, and we won’t let anything happen to you. We’re your family now.”

I am sure this behavior demonstrates a basis for the calming effect seen with the use of anxiety wraps for dogs, and swaddling of human infants. Temple Grandin has written about the use of gentle pressure to relieve fear. What I witnessed was so spontaneous and so effective, it can only have been a natural and intrinsic behavior, drawn from the repertoire of social canines.

The effect on me was equally profound. It is currently popular among animal behaviorists to dwell on assumptions about dominance and submission, as if those were the only ways dogs relate to each other. The ability of my Dokhyi to show concern and to comfort a troubled friend provides a special insight into our very limited understanding of canine behavior.

I am still marveling, as I write. —Mary Fischer; meryt@worldnet.att.net
DELEGATES FORUM

SYNOPSIS OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2011 DELEGATES FORUM

The Delegates Forum is an informal meeting of Delegates that provides an opportunity for open discussion and the expression of ideas. No official business is transacted, a quorum is not required and no attendance record is kept.

MEETING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

The December 2011 Forum consisted of questions directed to candidates for the AKC Board of Directors who are to be elected in March 2012. The candidates fielded questions on topics including but not limited to: talents they would bring to the Board; their opinion on having a presence in New York; and how they would meet their legal fiduciary obligations to the organization while remaining responsive to their fellow Delegates.

DELEGATES’ QUARTERLY MEETING

QuARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB DECEMBER 16, 2011

DENNIS B. SPRUNG, President

American Maltese Association, Inc.—Mr. Richard W. Glenn
American Manchester Terrier Club—Robert Berman
American Pointer Club, Inc.—Mrs. Karen R. Spey
American Pomeranian Club, Inc.—Dr. Geno Sisneros
American Rottweiler Club—Mr. Peter G. Pisz
American Sealyham Terrier Club—Kenneth W. Mader
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—Majorie Tuff
American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—Mrs. Sally L. Vilas
American Tibetan Mastiff Association—Martha Feltenstein
American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—Dr. Lisa Boyer
Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America—Karen Sen
Anderson Kennel Club—Phillip D. Sample
Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Ms. Patricia A. Sample
Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Inc.—Mary A. Broecker
Arkansas Kennel Club, Inc.—Panela J. Arwood
Asheville Kennel Club, Inc.—Janie Mulvey
Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—Ann Wallin
Atlantic Obedience Club, Inc.—Gail A. L’aBerge
Austin Kennel Club, Inc.—Bette D. Williams
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—Joyce Rowland
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Kim Occhiuti
Back Mountain Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Nina Schaefer
Baltimore County Kennel Club—Lucy C. Campbell-Gracie
Basenji Club of America, Inc.—Mr. Jon Curby
Battle Creek Kennel Club, Inc.—John A. Studebaker
Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.—Gloria Marshall
Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—Kathy Coxwell
Bedlington Terrier Club of America—Mrs. Marjorie M. Hanson
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—Barbara Swisher
Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—Carole Wilson
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—Sara Karl
Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—George Sikes
Birmingham Kennel Club, Inc.—Maartha Griffin
Border Collie Society of America—Ms. Carol Clark
Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—Barbara O’Neill
Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Kathleen M. Kelly
Bryan Mawr Kennel Club—Ruth A. Williams
Butler Terrier Club of America—Dr. Dale R. Schuur
Bulldog Club of America—Robert L. Newcomb
Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.
Cairn Terrier Club of America—Pan Davis
California Collie Club, Inc.—Robette G. Johns
Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club—Mr. Wayne F. Harmon
Canaan Dog Club of America—Panela S. Roman
Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Eugenia B. Bishop
Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—Janie Ashby
Catoctin Kennel Club—Whitney Coombs
Catonsville Kennel Club—Beverly A. Drake
Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc.—Julian Prager
Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.—Sally Allen
Channel City Kennel Club, Inc.—Claire K. Steidel
Chaparral Kennel Club, Inc.—Pam Goldman
Charlestown Kennel Club—Sylvia Arrowood
Chatanooga Kennel Club—David Gฐtrup
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—Marge B. Calltharp
Chintimini Kennel Club, Inc.—Nick Pisias
Chow Chow Club, Inc.—Mrs. Ginny Atkinson
Cincinnati Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Patricia H. Haines
Clarksville Kennel Club—Robert A. Schroll
Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—Dr. Stephen Lawrence
Clearwater Kennel Club—Daniel T. Stolz
Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—Marjorie Underwood
Cleveland All-Breed Training Club, Inc.—Mrs. Maureen R. Setter
Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—Judy Hiler
Collie Club of America, Inc.—Mr. Harold W. Sundstrom
Colorado Kennel Club—Mrs. Louise Leone
Colorado Springs Kennel Club—Sidney L. Marx
Columbia Missouri Kennel Club—Robert Brown
Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—Norma J. Ryan
Contra Costa County Kennel Club, Inc.—Barry D. Cavanna
Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—Michael Houchard
Corpus Christi Kennel Club, Inc.—Shirley J. Ray
Cudahy Kennel Club—Don H. Adams
Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—Larry Sorenson
Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—James W. Smith
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Karen Dorn
Dayton Dog Training Club, Inc.—Barbara L.
delegates’ quarterly meeting

Mann
Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—Sandra Groeschel
Del Monte Kennel Club, Inc.—Melvin A.
Gins, D.C.
Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc.—Andrew G. Mills
Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—Dr. A. D.
Butherus
Des Moines Obedience Training Club—Lee
Sorah
Devon Dog Show Association, Inc.—Meg
Weitz
Doberman Pinscher Club of America—Mrs.
Naomi R. Shorr
Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—
Mrs. Patty L. Strand
Dog Owners’ Training Club of Maryland—
Kathrynann Sarvinas
Durham Kennel Club Inc.—Linda C.
Wozniak
Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club,
Inc.—Mrs. Joan Tabor
Elm City Kennel Club—Dr. Gregory J.
Paveza
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America,
Inc.—Barbara A. Penny
English Setter Association of America, Inc.—
Mr. John P. Nichols
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of
Illinois—David H. Hopkins
Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Terrie
Breen
Field Spaniel Society of America—Katherine
Sullivan
Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Margaret B.
Pough
Finnish Spitz Club of America—Kim Raleigh
Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Almira B.
Dallas
Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—Charles Arnold
Fort Worth Kennel Club—Mr. Harry G.
Ottmann
Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—Connie
S. Clapp
German Shepherd Dog Club of America—
Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia
German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America,
Inc.—Ms. Patricia W. Laurans
Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—
Dr. Carmela L. Battaglia
Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Bonnie
Lapham
Golden Retriever Club of America—Ellen
Hardin
Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—Nance
O. Skoglund
Great Dane Club of America, Inc.—Thomas
Sandenaw
Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.—Dr.
Robert M. Brown
Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc.—Ms.
Karen J. Burgess
Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara
Shaw
Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club—
Patricia B. Staub
Greater Lowell Kennel Club, Inc.—Virginia
McEvoy O’Connell
Greater Munsterfors Kennel Club, Inc.—
Margaret DiCorletto
Greater Naples Dog Club—Steven D.
Gladstone
Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—Linda
LaFrance
Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers
Association—Marlene Steinberg
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of
America, Inc.—Mary Jo Rasmussen
Greenville Kennel Club—Linda A. Know
Greenwich Kennel Club—Margaret K. Curtis
Greyhound Club of America—Melanie S.
Steele
Harrier Club of America—Kevin Shupenia
Harrissburg Kennel Club, Inc.—Cindy Miller
Hathboro Dog Club, Inc.—Mr. Robert D.
Black
Havanese Club of America—Jane F. Ruthford
Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—Patricia M.
Cruz
Hockamook Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy Fisk
Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Carol A.
Williamson
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Dick
Blair
Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—Gwen
McCullagh
Ibizaan Hound Club of the United States—
Luanne V. Williams
Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—Rita J.
Biddle
International Kennel Club of Chicago, Inc.—
Susan Olsen
Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—
Karyolynne McAteer
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—Evelyn
M. Van Uden
Jaxon Kennel Club, Inc.—Sally McNamara
Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri—
Cledith Wakefield
Kenadasaga Kennel Club—Mrs. Beverly M.
Nosiglia
Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—Mr. John
D. Sawicki
Kennebec Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—
Thomas Powers
Kennebec Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—Margaret
Dexter
Kennebec Kennel Club of Riverside—Sylvia A. Thomas
Kennesaw Kennel Club—James F. Gibson
Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Virginia
Van Doren
Ladies’ Dog Club, Inc.—Kathi Brown
Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—Diana
Skibinski
Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—Bruce
Walsh
Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Crecia
C. Clason
Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—Carolyn M.
Vack
Land O’Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Jan Croft
Langley Kennel Club—Ms. Dianne F. Franck
Lawrence Jayhawk Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr.
Bryant C. Freeman
Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—Robert N.
LaBerge
Lewis-Columbus Kennel Club, Inc.—Sue
Goldberg
Los Encinos Kennel Club, Inc.—David M.
Powers
Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—Judy R. Melear
Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Sandra
B. Barker
Manatee Kennel Club—Pat Edgington
Manitowoc County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Romana Arnold
Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. J. C.
Garvin
Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—Dr. William
R. Newman
Mensona Kennel Club, Inc.—John S.
Fitzpatrick, D.V.M.
Merrimack Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—
Jeanette Nager
Mid-Hudson Kennel Association, Inc.—Gayle
Bontecou
Middleburg Kennel Club—Shelley C. Roos
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—
Goelle Simonds
Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.—
Sandeer White
Minneapolis Kennel Club, Inc.—Ralph
Hoganamp
Mississippi Kennel Club—Mrs. Blackie
H. Nyen
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—Gretchen
Bernardi
Mhawak Valley Kennel Club—Sandra Haber
Mount Bachelor Kennel Club—Lynette Blue
Mount Vernon Dog Training Club—Mrs.
Ruth W. Crumb
Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms.
Rebecca S. Stanovich
Nashville Kennel Club—James Efton
National Beagle Club—Eddie Druk
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs.
Catherine B. Nelson
National Shiba Club of America—Maggi
Strouse
New England Dog Training Club, Inc.—
Virginia Rowland
Newfoundland Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs.
Mary W. Price
Newnan Kennel Club—Willie Crawford
Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Diane F.
Taylor
Norfolk Terrier Club—Marjorie B.
McTernan
North Shore Kennel Club—Richard F.
Coletti
Norwich Terrier Club of America—Betty
McDonnell
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club
(USA)—Marile A. Waterstrat
Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—
Ms. Patricia C. Scally
Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—Burton J.
Yamada
Orlando Dog Training Club—Mary L. Jensen,
Ph.D.
Otterhound Club of America—Joellen
Gregory, D.V.M.
Pacific Coast Bulldog Club, Inc.—Mr. Link
Newcomb
Papillon Club of America, Inc.—Miss Arlene
A. Czech
Pasco Florida Kennel Club—Patricia J.
Lombardi
Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—Dennis J. Gallant
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America—Anne Gallant, Ph.D.
Pharaoh Hound Club of America—Dominic P. Corato
Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—Larry Wilson
Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—Joachim N. Blutreich
Plainfield Kennel Club—John McCullagh
Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—William E. Ellis
Pocono Mountain Kennel Club, Inc.—Sandra Krieger
Poodle Club of America, Inc.—Mary Ellen Fishler
Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Robert A. Amen
Portland Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Joan Savage
Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Janis C. Watts
Progressive Dog Club—William H. Blair
Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—Frances Stephens
Ramapo Kennel Club—Mrs. Rose J. Radel
Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—Gerard Bauder
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—Michael F. Tedling
Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—Jan M. Ritchie
Rio Grande Kennel Club—Joxi Buff
Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—Ronald H. Menaker
Rubber City Kennel Club—Cathy Gaidos
Sagenhein’s Retriever Club—Katharine B. Simonds
Sahuar State Kennel Club—Rita L. Mather
Saluki Club of America—Monica H. Stoner
Samamish Kennel Club—Dr. Robert C. Gloster, M.D.
Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—Mr. John L. Ronald
San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club—Anthony Vasquez
Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—Abbe R. Shaw
Santa Clara Dog Training Club, Inc.—Barbara L. Norton
Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, INC.—Audrey Sutton
Santa Maria Kennel Club, Inc.—Laurence J. Libeu
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—Kay Allday
Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.—Heather Smith
Scottish Terrier Club of America—Helen A. Prince
Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—Sandra Frei
Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Sharyn Y. Hutchens
Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—Susan L. Hamil
Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Donna Beckman
Silver Bay Kennel Club of San Diego—Nancy Dandrea
Silver State Kennel Club—Daniele Ledoux-Starzyk
Sioux Empire Kennel Club, Inc.—William Buggen
Sioux Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Jean Evonoff
Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Inc.—William J. Feeney
Skokie Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Pat Grossman
Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—Gloria Shaver
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—John Mandeville
South Jersey Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Linda B. Wilkon
South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—Linda C. Flynn
South Windsor Kennel Club—Margarette (Peggy) Wambold
Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club—Ricky Blackman
Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—John V. Ioia
Southern Colorado Kennel Club, Inc.—Lee Arnold
Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—Glenda Stephenson
Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Thomas M. Davies
St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Deborah J. Wilkins
St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—Dr. Gerry Melsels
Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America—Jenny Merritt
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America—Holly S. Stump
Standard Schnauzer Club of America—Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser
Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—Miss Susan M. Napolady
Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr. Robert Eisele
Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—Marcy L. Zinger
Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—Thomas D. Parrotti
Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Florence Duggan
Tampa Bay Kennel Club—Mary Manning-Stolz
Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—Catherine Bell
Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Stacey La Forge
Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern California—John Shoemaker
Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—Christopher L. Sweetwood
Troy Kennel Club, Inc.—John J. Cadalso, Jr.
Tualatin Kennel Club, Inc.—James S. Corbett
Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—Patricia C. Sarles
United States Australian Shepherd Association—Leon B. Goetz
United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III
United States Lakeland Terrier Club—Alfred J. Ferruggiaro
Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—J. M. Haderer
Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club, Inc.—Sharon Sakson
Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Carol Fisher
Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association—Mr. William F. Dumas
Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—Lynn Worth-Smith
Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.—Suzanne Gray
Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—Mary A. Eschweiler
Weimaraner Club of America—Judy Colan
Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—Donald Ong
West Highland White Terrier Club of America—Thomas Barrie
Western Fox Terrier Breeders Association—Torie Steele
Westminster Kennel Club—Harvey M. Wooding
Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc.—Colleen McDaniel
Wichita Kennel Club, Inc.—Treva Faires
Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—Frederick R. Vogel
Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association—Mrs. Karen Mays
Wisconsin Amateur Field Trial Club, Inc.—Fred T. Kampo
Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—Rosann Sexton

**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**

**Delegates Meeting**

**December 16, 2011**

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dais: Chairman, Ronald Menaker; Vice-Chair Dr. Thomas Davies; Doris Abbate, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Jim Crowley, Executive Secretary; and Lisa Gerlach, Court Reporter.

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

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, the Nominating Committee, Harold Miller, American Foxhound Club, Chair, Erik Bergishagen, Detroit Kennel Club,James S. Corbett, Tualatin Kennel Club, Dr. Patricia Haines, Cincinnati Kennel Club, Ruth Winston, Ladies Kennel Association of America, appointed by the Board of Directors at its...
August 2011 meeting, has nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 13, 2012. There are three vacancies in the Class of 2016: William J. Feeney, Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Thomas Powers, Kennel Club of Beverly Hills, Lynn Worth Smith, Vizsla Club of America.

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegates have been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancy on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2016, to be filled at the next annual meeting on March 13, 2012: Patricia M. Cruz, Heart of the Plains Kennel Club, James Efron, Nashville Kennel Club, John L. Ronald, Samoyed Club of America, Robert A. Schroll, Clarksville Kennel Club, and Larry Sorenson, Dachshund Club of America. I have been notified by James Efron that because of personal commitments he will not be able to devote the necessary time to the Board and has therefore withdrawn his nomination.

Candidates spoke in alphabetical order and no questions from the floor were entertained

Patricia M. Cruz, representing the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club, spoke as follows:

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Delegates. Good morning. For over 40 years, I have had the good fortune to be deeply involved in many aspects of this sport we all love so much from breeder to owner-handler to AKC Rep to AKC judge to dog writer.

While I don’t know all of you, our shared commitment to our dogs brings us together with common bond. For that reason, this isn’t a speech, but more like a little straight talk among friends.

Today the American Kennel Club, our sport, our clubs and our breeders, are under intense pressure. The challenges will not be solved by simply talking about the problems. We know them all too well. They will be solved by creating innovative solutions and energizing people around them. I can help do both. I have a unique combination of hands on experience, specialized expertise and a proven track record; plus a motivating focus in my life — “You make a difference by getting things done.”

What has to get done starting now? Three things, each one dependent on the other, each one attainable right now and each one I have the know how to help get done.

First, we must be more innovative in selling our sport, our clubs and our purebred dogs in general. As a former sales manager for a radio station in the New York market, I know how to sell with the best of them. I created promotions and motivated a sales force. I drove listenership, advertising, and revenues up. I know our world and I know how to sell.

Second, we must mobilize large groups of people to stand with us for our sport and in our legislative efforts. As the former civilian union president in one of the east’s largest police departments and the elected representative of over 10,000 county wide employees, I know how to mobilize people and get behind a program.

Third, we must better communicate amongst ourselves and with the public. As a writer about the sport of dogs for four New York newspapers and a Board member of the Dog Writers’ Association of America, I know how to create communication that yields understanding and motivation.

Forty years ago, I recognized the potential impact that a large group of dedicated, but unconnected fanciers could have on our sport. Along with a few other people, I helped found the Owner Handlers Association. I am extremely proud of its growth, commitment to education and the encouragement of juniors, - the future of our sport. My role in establishing OHA is a good example of my life’s motivating focus — “You make a difference by getting things done.”

Today we have serious problems and we need serious people to solve them. I have the know how to make a difference in the AKC. I’m deeply committed to making that difference. With your support, I’m ready to get things done. Thank you very much.

William J. Feeney, representing the Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, spoke as follows:

My fellow Delegates, my name, again, is Bill Feeney. I’m from the Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club.

I’d like to start this morning by acknowledging the many terrific things the AKC does for our world. Spend a little time on the AKC website, read the annual reports, and attend the thousands of AKC events every year, and we all can appreciate the hard work the organization does. Sometimes, things can be better.

We know that since 1997 registrations have been declining and the loss of income is taking its toll on the AKC. Economic conditions are difficult right now. Even the political and financial leaders in the world’s capitals continue to be challenged by stubborn economic conditions. But sometimes, as I said, things can be different and things can be better.

To succeed in our challenges, the AKC leadership and we, ourselves, need to be open to new ways of doing things and new ways of approaching things. In other words, we all need to think a little differently.

I stated when answering questions earlier that I’d like to see AKC registration be more exclusive by demanding higher quality in exchange for registrations— telling the world that not every dog is eligible for AKC registration. This presents a win win situation for the public, breeders, and, most importantly, the AKC.

You know; this may at first appear counterintuitive, that if you make registrations exclusive the AKC won’t make as much income.

However, if the AKC demands higher quality in exchange for registration, then demand is going to be higher. People will want a dog with AKC registration because it is the best indication of parentage, health and quality.

They are going to stand in line to get one just like people do for Apple products.

In 1997, Apple was teetering on the brink of existence with stagnant sales and $1 billion in losses. By demanding excellence, Apple products have since been in high demand, and today Apple rivals Exxon as the world’s most valuable company. Apple provides a lesson for the AKC.

Another thing I’d like the AKC to consider is individual, nonvoting associate membership in the AKC. This would be a source of additional income, and also political influence to help fight legislation that threatens our interests.

I’d also like the Board of Directors to take a new interest in the fair administration of discipline, so those who do and those who want to participate in our sport will feel confident that the AKC is a dependable ally.
The AKC is a unique organization. It's a business for sure, but its survival is dependent on a varied constituency: Breeders, exhibitors, fanciers, kennel clubs, parent clubs, judges, to name a few. Indeed, these constituencies depend on the AKC as well. The AKC must give a true ear to its constituents' concerns and to the greatest extent possible include constituents in its decisions. Yes, ultimately decisions are made by the AKC, but those decisions will be more successful if the AKC and its constituencies work together. For those of you who know me, you know I don’t go around patting myself on the back, but this is an election. I ask you to indulge me in reading a few sentences from an article that was written about me long after my presidency of the Golden Retriever Club of America: “Every organization needs a visionary, someone who has a notion that things can be better and that problems can be solved by taking positive action. But lucky is the organization when that visionary has the ability to define the problem precisely and do the detail work necessary to lead people in the right direction. These are the people who begin a tide of action that make a true difference.”

Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like an opportunity to make a true difference here at the AKC, and I respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you very much.

Thomas Powers, representing the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills, spoke as follows:

Good morning. Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, fellow Delegates.

I was not born in a whelping box, but I was born very close. When I came home from the hospital as a wee child, I was greeted by my father’s collie. As a kid, I had a beagle from the Du Ponts. But about 50 years ago, our family got its first Irish Wolfhound. We’ve been happily stuck in that breed ever since. My wife and I still today breed and show dogs. We finished dogs in seven or eight breeds, which I won’t bother you with now.

I don’t know all of you; although, I hope to get to know many more of you. I know many of you very well some of you so long that you still call me Tommy.

I’ve been a president and club chair. I served as chair of the Trial Board for the AKC. But, most importantly, 70 to 80 percent of my weekends have been spent either at a dog show, showing at a dog show, judging a dog show or producing a dog show. I’ve literally spent my entire life in this business.

That’s not why you want me to be a Delegate though. The reason I should be a Delegate has to do with my professional background. I practiced law for 35 years. Never been indicted or went to jail — a successful career. In addition to that, I’ve had quite a lot of business experience. I’ve run a number of businesses where I was the principal, but I’ve counseled both as an attorney and as a consultant in a number of businesses, many of whom were in financial straits. We haven’t saved all of them, but we have saved quite a number of them. That experience, I think, is very important.

When I come to make a decision or make a vote on the Board, I take my lawyer training and I try to emotionally detach myself and give a reasoned judgment that’s best for the organization. Yes, I have a very deep emotional commitment to this. What I try to bring to this Board is reasoned, sober, detached judgment. Our problems that we all talked about all morning are very difficult and very hard to solve, but I think we can do it.

When it first came up when I first was asked about this nomination, I talked it over with my wife. She said, “Do you want to be the guy who presides over the demise of AKC?” I said, “No, I’m not going to be that guy.” She said, “Why not?” I said, “Because there’s several hundred people in this room who, working together, are not going to let that happen.” I think that’s the key to the future.

We have to do things that allow this corporation to survive for the next 125 years. And I’ll do my best to do that for you. Times up, so, remember, vote for Tom. Thank you.

Mr. John L. Ronald, representing the Samoyed Club of America, spoke as follows:

I’ve been up here before so you’ve seen my credentials in Finance, Judging, as a Delegate and as a 4th generation purebred dog person. I love dogs. I love this sport and AKC. This is an important election. We’re losing our Board’s top management and most experienced member. AKC is servicing its customers with a reduced Staff level at a time when we are trying to attract more registrations and entries. Because of the challenges facing AKC, whoever we elect needs to be able to join the Board and contribute immediately. In my 24 years as a Delegate and a judge, I’ve come to know a great many of you — including the current Board members. We’ve worked together for decades. I know what they’re striving to accomplish and share their desire to improve AKC. Essentially, while dog ownership and the pet industry have been growing in the last decade, AKC hasn’t benefitted from this growth. There are new customers out there, and we need to increase programs, marketing and PR to reach them. We need innovative thinking that also preserves AKC’s traditions. I’ve shown that kind of thinking through my motion to create the Delegate Committees, serving as Perspective’s Editor for 6 years, my work with local specialty and all-breed clubs, and efforts on committees such as Future Nature of the Delegate Body, Parent Clubs, All Breed Clubs and the Coordinating Committee. Speaking as a Delegate, when I cast my vote in this election, I’ll look for candidates who will have a short learning curve once they join the Board; especially in finance, marketing and customer retention skills. I want my vote to elect someone who’s been successful in the sport and has deep roots with AKC. Someone who’s still active in the grass roots dog show community. Someone who will keep your club’s and customer’s needs in the forefront, because that’s where our revenue comes from — our customers. So, as a Delegate, when I vote, obviously I’ll be voting for myself because I meet these important criteria. I hope you agree with me how important this election is and will cast your vote to bring my skills to the Board as well. Thank you.

(Applause)

Robert A. Schroll, representing the Clarksville Kennel Club, spoke as follows:

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for allowing me to address you. For those of you who do not know me, I’m Robert Schroll and I’m the Delegate for the Clarksville Kennel Club in Clarksville, Tennessee. For nearly the last 40 years, I have been breeder/owner/handler of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. In fact, I was instrumental in getting the breed recognized by the American
Kennel Club and now the breed places among the most popular. As I say, I represent a small kennel club in Tennessee, but still consider myself a Yankee, as do most Southerners. Unless you were born there, you can never truly be a Southerner.

It was in Connecticut, while I was working at Ted Young’s farm, that I was first introduced to the sport of purebred dogs. It was at Ted Young’s farm that I met many of the fancy’s true greats and, sadly, many of those are gone now. This presents me and you with a dilemma.

In the early 70s, the AKC was in its heyday. It was basically the only game in town. Now there’s so many registries and so many new breeds almost one a month and I’m too familiar with the problems this presents, as Cavaliers did not come in willingly, but were dragged in kicking and screaming every step of the way.

As far as my experience goes, I have worked with the Staff for years through my all breed club and through the Cavalier club for over 30 years, holding every position except treasurer, in my all breed club, including 15 years of show chair and being its first and only Delegate, then getting my breed recognized, as I said, writing the standard, the bylaws, filming the video and so on. I have been a Delegate for 12 years with 10 spent on the Dog Show Rules Committee, being elected three times by you who I thank.

So what separates me from the others seeking a seat on the Board? I believe that it is with my experience, combined with my representing a small club and military community with transient membership struggling to get by. I am what is missing in the Boardroom I am very typical of the majority of you as Delegates and there is no one like that at the table at present.

So that is what I bring my experience in the sport with great population, which is affected by every single decision the Board makes, every nickel it spends, be it in registration, entry fees or dwindling memberships. With your help, I would like to be the voice of that small club on the Board, trying to stay afloat while I breed and show my own dogs.

Remaining on the Board reminding the Board how its decisions affect clubs like mine and yours and keeping the American Kennel Club with a premier registry in the world. We’re doing a good job and it would be my honor to keep it moving into the future. Thank you.

Larry Sorenson, representing the Dachshund Club of America, spoke as follows:

My name is Larry Sorenson and I am asking for your vote. I love dogs and our sport. I have 50 years’ experience in conformation, obedience, field trials, Earthdog, CGC and professional handling. I’ve served as president of the Dachshund Club of America for five years and I’m currently an AKC judge.

Following my 30 year Navy career, I served over 10 years as Director of Public Education and Club Education for AKC. It was a wonderful experience. It gave me the opportunity to work closely with hundreds of dog owners, breeders, exhibitors and handlers, the people who make up the backbone of our sport. I learned a lot.

Now I want to give back to an organization that gave me so much. I have a deep respect for AKC’s traditions and I want the opportunity to share my ideas, leadership, experience and help AKC face a challenging future.

AKC is at a crossroads. The decisions made during this class of Board members will determine whether or not we remain a successful, strong, respected brand. In the last 15 years, we have seen our sport erode and a sharp decline in revenue, while other organizations have taken our rightful place in the public’s heart, mind and pocketbook.

We can turn this around, but we must act soon and with determination. First, we cannot appease the animal rights activists who come at us and put us on the defense. They will not listen to facts and statistics. We must find our passion, expertise and love of dogs. We must protect and reclaim our right to own and breed dogs.

Second we must re imagine our direction as an organization, while carefully examining our core values and mission. Every organization gains from a periodic evaluation. Ours will too.

Third, we must increase revenues and revenue sources. We cannot ignore the millions of America’s dogs, while not purebred, are an important part of the family. These individuals are not aware of AKC as the premier dog association and the many programs we have to offer. I want AKC to be known as the go to organization, promoting the joys and responsibility of dog ownership.

Finally, we must be more relevant to the individuals and the clubs who made us who we are. We must ask clubs hundreds of clubs and thousands of members who toil at the local level how can the AKC be more valuable to you and then listen to the best of their ideas.

If elected, my 50 years of experience and dedication to the sport will guide my decisions. I will be fair and impartial in my voting. I pledge that, if I am elected, that I will work hard to ensure the best days of the AKC are still to come. Let’s put fun back in the sport of dogs.

Lynn Worth Smith, representing the Vizsla Club of America, spoke as follows:

Good Morning. I am the Delegate for the Vizsla Club of America and have served in this capacity since 1993. I have a long history of involvement in Performance Events, am an AKC field trial and hunting test judge and have served as secretary of the Delegates Field Trial & Hunting Test Committee for over a decade – as well as on the editorial Staff of “Perspectives”.

The interests of the Board of Directors should reflect AKC’s major activities. Presently there is no Board member that represents Performance Events.

AKC’s Core Values include “We uphold high standards for the administration and operation of AKC and We recognize the critical importance of our clubs and volunteers.” I believe our clubs and volunteers represent a great source of knowledge. Working within the vision and priorities articulated by the Board, within the administrative practicalities that are best understood by the Staff in charge of making things happen, I believe that the AKC in collaboration with our clubs and volunteers can assure that AKC will thrive for another 125 years.

My priorities are honest and open communication with AKC’s customers and Delegates, keeping AKC financially sound, assuring the health of purebred dogs and working to encourage younger people to become involved in AKC activities. I feel the future growth of the AKC lies in Companion and
Performance Events. Activities such as Agility, Obedience and the new Coursing Ability Test, when done by a healthy and conformationally correct dog, are good examples of fun and stimulating activities. While conceiving and implementing new activities can be difficult, I feel this is an area that needs emphasis. We must respect our traditions yet at the same time meet the demands of today’s dog owners by providing enjoyable activities or activities that apply their dog’s instincts in ways that are socially relevant. The new Therapy Dog program is a good example of a socially relevant activity.

I have a degree in Journalism; have worked in that field as well as public relations and community service. I believe my experience, both professionally and with Performance Events, might I add, I did breed a Best in Show dog) can make a contribution to the AKC Board of Directors as we move forward in today’s world.

Thank you for your support.

The Chair reported on the passing of two Delegates. Virginia Grefe died on November 13th. She was the Delegate for the Alaskan Malamute Club of America since June of 1987. Joyce Klamut died on November 8th. She was the Delegate for the Buckeye Beagle Club since November of 1994.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

- Dr. Lisa Boyer of Loomis, California, to represent American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association
- Juxi Burr, Albuquerque, New Mexico, to represent Rio Grande Kennel Club
- Kimberly Demchak, Mayer, Arizona, to represent Giant Schnauzer Club of America
- Margaret Doster, Hamburg, New York, to represent Kennel Club of Buffalo
- Jacqueline Fogel, West Bend, Wisconsin, to represent Kettle Moraine Kennel Club
- Raymond P Harrington, Venitia, Pennsylvania, to represent South Hills Kennel Club
- Anne Midgarden, DVM, Wapakoneta, Ohio, to represent Lima Kennel Club
- Stephen Owens, Cumberland, Rhode Island, to represent Providence County Kennel Club
- Shirley Ray, Corpus Christi, Texas, to represent Corpus Christi Kennel Club
- Catherine Rubens, Apex, North Carolina, to represent Fayetteville Kennel Club
- G. Robert Stevens, Hancock, New Hampshire, to represent Cheshire Kennel Club
- Carolyn Vack, Gordonville, Pennsylvania, to represent Lancaster Kennel Club

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

- Dr. Lisa Boyer of Loomis, California, to represent American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association
- Juxi Burr, Albuquerque, New Mexico, to represent Rio Grande Kennel Club
- Dominic Carota, Selkirk, New York, to represent Pharaoh Hound Club of America
- Kimberly Demchak, Mayer, Arizona, to represent Giant Schnauzer Club of America
- Margaret Doster, Hamburg, New York, to represent Kennel Club of Buffalo
- Shirley Ray, Corpus Christi, Texas, to represent Corpus Christi Kennel Club
- Karen Sen, Springfield, Oregon to represent Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America

The minutes of the September 13, 2011 Delegates meeting were published on the online Gazette in October. The complete transcript was posted on the Delegates Portal on the AKC website. The minutes were approved as published.

AKC Board Chair Mr. Menaker, gave his report as follows:

Good morning. It is a pleasure to be with you in Florida once again, as we begin to set the stage for the 11th AKC Eukanuba National Championship. I would like to begin by expressing how much we appreciate your being here, to represent your clubs and to ensure the growth and integrity of our Registry.

In the world of AKC Agility, we introduced two new titles, the “Time to Beat” titling class and the Preferred Agility Champion title. By creating ongoing enhancements to Agility, we have seen the sport rise to new heights: In 2011 AKC logged its one millionth agility entry. Of course quantity cannot be outdone by quality. I am proud to say that our AKC agility team representing the USA won many accolades including a gold medal at the Agility World Championships in France this year.

It has been said by many a Performance fancier that there is nothing quite like the thrill of witnessing a dog do what it was originally bred to do. Naturally, most of our performance activities are designed for specific breeds, with function and instinct in mind.

But in 2011, the AKC Performance Department gave all dogs and their owners an opportunity to participate in activities such as Obedience, Rally, and Flyball. Our cherished traditions in Conformation remain today what it was created to be – a proud demonstration of our dogs’ instinctual capabilities and talents as companions, and the embodiment of the human–canine bond.

In unwavering support of our breeders, who remain the backbone of our Registry and the sport of purebred dogs, AKC continued to provide enhanced services through our Breeder of Merit program. Now with almost 7,000 breeders participating in this important program, we are delighted to see growing numbers of breeders joining us in our quest to ensure the growth and integrity of our Registry.
“equal opportunity” program with the new Coursing Ability Test. This introductory lure coursing event is a fun, healthy activity open to all breeds and offers three new titles.

Adding another link in the chain of the human–canine bond, AKC brought our new Therapy Dog program to fruition in 2011. So far more than 1600 dogs have achieved our new therapy dog title which proudly recognizes those dogs who bring comfort and love to so many people in need.

AKC clubs did an incredible job of spreading our message about the joys of owning a purebred dog and the importance of responsible ownership. Together with our parent clubs, AKC welcomed over 40,000 people to the Javits Center for AKC Meet the Breeds.

Sponsored by Pet Partners, the event was a record-breaking success, thanks to our hardworking clubs and Staff. Dennis will tell us more about this terrific program later in the meeting.

clubs remained hard at work educating the public year round, with a terrific showing in September with our largest set of Responsible Dog Ownership Days to date. More than 600 RDO Day events were celebrated locally and a record-breaking number of Canine Good Citizen tests were a key part of the program.

We are so grateful to our clubs for all your hard work and support. Volunteering is certainly a year-round pursuit in the dog world, and so many hours will be logged here in Orlando. On behalf of AKC, thank all of you, your clubs and your members for coming forward to steward, represent your breeds at the Meet the Breeds booths, and take on numerous important roles at the AKC Eukanuba National Championship. To all our volunteers who will be with us this weekend — your participation is truly appreciated.

We are thrilled to be in our new location, the Orange County Convention Center — along with the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay, the Brevard Kennel Club and the Central Florida Kennel Club — as we bring an unparalleled dog experience to life this weekend with the 11th annual AKC Eukanuba National Championship.

With a record-breaking entry of 4,975 dogs to be exhibited in Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Junior Showmanship, and the Eukanuba World Challenge, this AKC flagship event truly has something for every dog lover to enjoy.

I am particularly pleased to make note of the Show’s popular Bred by Exhibitor class. Now more than ever, breeders come to the AKC Eukanuba National Championship to exhibit their own dogs in the ultimate testament to the art and science of responsible breeding. This year we have 1,328 dogs – 35% of our entry — that will be proudly shown by the individuals who bred them.

I hope you will enjoy yourselves in Orlando as much as I will. Please remind your members and friends that this year’s Show will be broadcast on ABC during Superbowl Weekend, on February 4th. I wish you all a healthy, happy holiday season. Here’s to another year of great shows, quality dogs and wonderful friends.

AKC President, Dennis Sprung gave his report as follows:

Picking up from where we left off at our last meeting, we received dozens of requests from Delegates for a DVD of my presentation regarding the American Kennel Clubs numerous accomplishments following 9/11. Staff heard you and we had one made. To provide this positive communication to each member club, Susan and I donated the funds to make copies for everyone. So please avail yourself of one after the meeting and share it with your club.

Over the next two days, you will witness the creativity and expertise of 176 parent clubs working as a team with Staff to stage Meet the Breeds, Orlando style. We appreciate each and every volunteer and the expert management of Gina DiNardo and Michael Canalizo at both venues.

For those of you who missed last month’s Meet the Breeds at the Javits Center, I’ll share a brief description. We planned, we communicated our responsible ownership messages consistently on Good Day New York, News New Jersey, New York 1, CBS, Fox & Friends, Connecticut News and Martha Stewart.

And then we waited. One can summarize the results using either of two well known quotes “If you build it, they will come” or “Location, location, location.” Indeed they came. They kept coming and they continued arriving for two days without stop.

Parent Clubs offered a broad scope of educational opportunities. Our presenting sponsor, PetPartners, providing pet care plans, spearheaded the more than 100 vendor booths and 15 additional sponsors.

AKC’s Government Relations Department welcomed some of the 110 elected officials serving as honorary chairs along with their staff members and families.

Hundreds of Girl Scouts enjoyed the dogs while earning an AKC Merit badge. Two days of ongoing demonstrations, included Earthdog, Obedience, Agility, US Customs and Border Protection, United States Police Canine Association, the AKC’s Humane Fund ACE Awards and the Best Booth.

Tens of thousands of dog lovers of all sizes and shapes were educated in numerous ways about the American Kennel Club, AKC CAR, The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation and a bit about cats as well.

Once again, the Board and the Staff thanks all volunteers, Parent Clubs and their very special dogs.

Over the past several months, Board and Staff have worked collaboratively on research relating to conformation events, entries and the moratorium that was in place. Despite the labor intensiveness of this work, there was a substantial amount of learning as a result of the thorough manner in which the project was carried out. To share the findings with you, I will ask the individuals who led the staff efforts, John, Charles and Robin, to take over.

AKC Chief Operating Officer John Lyons spoke as follows:

Thank you, Dennis, and good morning everyone.

As you know, there’s been some concern among the fancy about the size of entries at our shows. This has, in turn, led to the question: Do we simply have too many Conformation dog shows?

When we started to look at this question, here’s what we knew. Although some of our clubs are experiencing higher entries and some were low some were up and some were down when you considered all shows in the aggregate across the country, there was no question that there was a decline in the
average entries per show. Also, we continued to received input from our exhibitors that they were having trouble finding majors in shows. But it is a complex picture.

We have different shows in different geographic regions. Some stand alone, some within clusters, some back to back, specialties, group shows and a range of sizes in our All Breed shows. Some, out of necessity, are operating out of their traditional territory. Some have been with us over 100 years. Others just started recently, but are already valued by the fancy.

Clearly, some research was needed to better understand a complicated situation for which we knew that there would be no simple solution, because a “one size fits all” response was never going to work. Of course, simply eliminating the shows would not serve the best interest of so many of our clubs that depend on their first or second show for their club’s economic survival. Nor would the elimination of that show necessarily result in a migration of an entry from one show to another, especially when that entry was based on the convenience of the original show’s location.

So at the February Board meeting, the Staff requested and the Board approved a moratorium on the approval of new licensed clubs and additional show applications. This provided Staff with the time to drill down and look at this issue to determine the facts and to recommend workable solutions that, going forward, would improve the situation without making matters worse by implementing a change that contained unintended negative consequences. During the following months, a number of data points were analyzed and Staff’s conclusions were shared with the Board.

I would also like to point out that we were pursuing a parallel course regarding entry questions. Obviously an increase in entries in general has always been one of our goals, and Staff, working with the cooperation of the Board, had already begun to introduce new initiatives to help our clubs and enhance the dog show experience.

Some examples the Grand Champion Title, the four to six month puppy class, the Open Show Concept and the owner/handler Series. All of these initiatives have now been implemented or will go live in the coming year. But specific to the question of too many shows, Charlie and I will now talk about some interesting learning that came out of research and helped to form our decisions. Following that, Robin Stansell will talk about the recommendations for change that were brought to the Board, which, by the way, led to a lifting of the moratorium at the November Board meeting.

Charlie, what do you have for us?

Chief Information Officer Charles Kneifel spoke as follows:

Preliminary data was presented to the Board in May of 2011 and the Board came back with a series of questions. They wanted us to mine the database to look at what’s happened in the past to help us understand how to prepare for the future. Specific questions that were asked do exhibitors move to other events when a club changes their date or ceases holding events altogether? How do events more than 200 miles away impact a club’s entry? How do specialty events impact entries both standalone specialties, designated specialties and conflicting specialties where the breed is not allowed to compete in the nearby all breed show? How do these effects vary by where you are in the country? How did we analyze this? We went through a systematic approach, harvesting the database in our databases, to look at events that had changed their dates, changed their cluster, ceased holding events, changed their sites, added specialties or group clubs as part of their cluster, removed specialties or group clubs, had other clubs change to their weekend. We looked at those both on a national and a regional trend.

So we looked at events just outside the 200 mile excluded zone, 400 to 500, up to 750 miles, and then compared those to national trends on the same weekend across all breed clubs. We sliced and diced our way through the data. We spent many hours educating the Board in the May, July and August Board meeting.

We created maps to help visualize how things work. We looked at entry trends across multiple events, multiple weekends, with and without all the different add ons. We looked at stickiness of the exhibitors to a club when the club changed its show date. When a club changed its show date, where did the exhibitors go? 80 percent of the exhibitors are within 200 miles of the event. We saw that the median distance traveled to the event was less than 200 miles. That distance was lower in the Northeast than it was out in Utah or North Dakota or other places where are fewer clubs.

What did we learn? As we’ve heard before, location is important. All dog shows are local. We looked at events that are increasing year to year and found that accessibility and quality of the site were very important.

What did we learn about competing events that are held on the same weekend? Everybody had assumed, if you had a new show that was only 200, 300, or 400 miles away, it would attract exhibitors away from the established shows. We found that competing events are not as important as originally thought. A new event can occur, but it takes several years for a new event to take hold and that’s another takeaway we kept coming back to.

New events do have an impact, but it’s not a migration of exhibitors to the new event. Our research found that clubs that stopped holding events or changed their dates did not have a significant effect on nearby clubs. If I had an event that was in competition with you and I ceased holding that event, the exhibitors to my event did not migrate to your event.

What did we learn about specialties? Specialties are very important for supporting entries at all breed events. Both designated specialties and specialties held in conjunction with an all breed event (and also now with concurrent specialties) are great ways to improve the overall entries at an all breed show.

Conflicting specialties those that block the entry of that breed at nearby all-breed shows, have a negative impact on the all breed entries, so there is data that shows that those dogs who competed on Saturday at the specialty are going to be at the all breed show on Sunday.

What about exhibitors? Exhibitors stick to a club and have a preferred region. I prefer to stay in my region. I’ll go 200 miles, 250 miles to a show, but I’m going to be constrained by geography and access to interstates.

Can entries grow? We looked at events that
have had growth in their entries over multiple years. Events that had increases were those that had good sites, had good partnerships with local specialty clubs or group clubs and anecdotally were exhibitor friendly sites and clubs.

What other event elements help events grow? Events that do not change their dates on a regular basis have much more stable trends in their entries than those that change their date or site. If you change your site or change your date, you have an impact on your entries for at least three years.

At this point, I’m ready to turn it over to Robin, but I’m going to be clicking for him. So if there are any problems with the slides being out of sync, it’s my fault.

Vice President Show Events Robin Stansell spoke as follows:

Thank you, Charley. Are there too many dog shows? The answer is: It depends. In densely populated areas, there are too many shows, while other areas are underserved. There’s no simple solution to this question.

The Board established a moratorium on the licensing of new clubs in order to avoid new shows contributing to the problem and for staff to collect data from the past events to analyze the problem.

The first limitation requires four open show weekends within the division. Why do we do that? Because when there are fewer than four open weekends, there are sufficient shows to satisfy the needs of the exhibitors. Divisions without open weekends have no flexibility to change dates or temporary changes, such as a loss of venue or any other interruption to their normal show schedule. The 300 mile restriction will reduce the opportunity for competing events even across division boundaries.

New all breed clubs are encouraged to invite specialties or group clubs to join their cluster. Why? Because specialties add entries to all breed shows. By clustering with existing show weekends, group shows do not block available all-breed show dates.

Group clubs were approved with limitations as well. Why? Group clubs serve the needs of a specific group within a geographic area. Group clubs can increase entries for clusters; and, again, they won’t block the date for all breed shows if held with existing shows or clusters.

Specialty clubs were also approved with limitations. Specialty clubs serve the need for specific breeds, generate interest in that specific breed, and, again, they’re probably one of the best ways for an all breed show to increase entries. And by clustering with an all breed show, it’s not a competing event.

Certainly a specialty can coexist, as in the case of a national specialty, or, if they own the date first, the all breed club has to exclude that breed. With new clubs, we’re not going to permit that. New clubs will have to be in conjunction with other shows.

The recently approved concurrent specialties present additional opportunities for all breed shows to cooperate with the specialties and both will increase their entries.

As John mentioned, difficulty in locating majors is one reason for complaints. We must first understand the divisions. Divisions are a grouping of adjacent states that share the same schedule. However, there are exceptions. Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico are comprised of single states because of their geographic location.

The schedule of points is based on the previous year’s entry in each division. Because of this, the schedule of points lags behind what’s actually happening. So when entries are decreasing, your schedule of points is based on up until last year the previous three year average. So it was always a little higher than it should’ve been since the entries were decreasing.

Previously the computations included a three year average and, in 2010, the Board changed to a one year consideration period. That makes the entries of the requirements spike up and down more quickly. But at a time of decreasing entries, it makes it a better opportunity to gain those majors.

Previously computations excluded only national specialties. This was changed to exclude all parent club specialties. Even designated specialties by the parent club won’t be included in that computation.

And, finally, local all breed shows held three days prior the AKC National Champion Show, such as the past three days, are also included because it provides undue entry in that particular division. Finally, the divisions were realigned based on the data collected in order to minimize the difference between entries in the states within each division. This allows a more equitable opportunity for majors within each division.

You’ll see that Division 13, we stretched that as far as we could to include New Mexico with the other low states. We’re calling that a contiguous state, even although it’s only touching the corner.

Event operations and judging operations worked together to develop the Grand Championship Program that’s generated $3 million of revenue for clubs because of increases of entry in the Best of Breed competition. The Grand Champion Program also provides an opportunity for a broad variety of champions to continue to exhibit. This includes veterans as well as exhibitors that only show locally.

The bronze, silver, gold and platinum achievement medals Ron mentioned were introduced to recognize dogs that continue to be competitive beyond achieving the Grand Championship level. We’d like you to visit the AKC booth this weekend to see charm bracelet replicas of these medals that are now being offered for sale at a reasonable price. I might add.

Events introduced the four to six month beginner puppy competition increase entries, attract new exhibitors, socialize puppies with introduction to AKC Conformation games. On average, clubs that offered this special attraction enjoyed a five percent increase in entries of these puppies. Many of these were first time exhibitors and potential new club members.

The Open Show is an upgrade from the currently approved Sanctioned Match and is more receptive to exhibitors, FSS and miscellaneous breeds. An electronic invitation to new owners was sent from AKC informing them of the educational training opportunities in both the four to six month puppy and the open show. It should be noted that no champions or professional handlers are permitted in these events. It’s truly targeting the new exhibitors. Both of these special attractions are approved to become AKC sanctioned events in July 2012 and to offer a beginner’s title. That’s the Certificate of Merit that’s currently being offered to competitors in the miscellaneous class.

Charley will have an electronic tool to work with clubs to submit results online in order
for AKC to report on the Certificate of Merit points for the exhibitors that are at these events. This is a tool that’s being developed for specialty clubs to use as well. It was just tested by show secretaries this past week submitting specialty results. Speak to Karen Burgess for more information on this developing online tool. She was one of the first people to use this new opportunity.

Although many of the entries at dog shows are sent by professional handlers, over 80 percent of the dogs being exhibited are family dogs shown by their owners. The AKC owner/handler series is a non titling competition for dogs that are exhibited by their owners that are not professional handlers. All dogs that are not owned or exhibited by professional handlers meet the requirement for that competition.

The purpose of this series is to showcase quality dogs at a series of special competitions offered at dog shows across the country for these handlers to compete against their peers. The top ranked dogs for this competition will be posted on the AKC website. The top ten owner/handler dog series will be invited to compete at the end of year competition show.

Ranking of dogs competing in the series will be based on Best of Breed, Group and Best in Show placements in this particular series.

In summary, the Board established a moratorium on new clubs approved in order for staff to collect data and analyze this information. Extensive data were collected from past events concerning entries, distance between events, distance exhibitors traveled, impact of specialties and entry for show by state.

The moratorium was lifted with restrictions specific to specialty clubs, group clubs and all breeds that restrict new clubs in saturated areas and permit new clubs to form in underserved areas.

The divisions were realigned based on the data collected in order to allow a more equitable opportunity for majors. These changes restrict the formation of new clubs where needed and allow growth in underserved areas.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Sprung introduced Marketing and Communications Director, Sharon Sharo who spoke as follows:

Thank you, Dennis. I’m very excited to be here today to present to you and give you an update on the Breeder of Merit program. As John Lyons knows, since I joined the marketing department in January, I kept coming up with proposals and ideas that would bring me to a national show and I finally got to come, so I’m very excited because I’ve never attended one. I’m really excited about this opportunity.

As Dennis mentioned, I work with Lisa Gonzalez. My main area of responsibility is in marketing efforts for the fancy. I’ve done a lot of learning since I joined the AKC. I wanted to take a moment to share a story with you. It happened on the way to the show. I believe in my heart that dogs create a special connection between people and other animals and just with everything about them. As I was waiting in the area to get before I got on Board, I noticed a young man who was part of our military sitting by himself. So I sat beside him and we started talking. After we commiserated about (inaudible) on Southwest, he started telling me about himself. He was young. He was just getting done with his training. He was headed home for the first time for the holidays headed back to Arizona. He was really excited to get back. He started to tell me about when he gets done with his furlough that he’ll be going to Afghanistan. I said, “Oh, gosh, that must be very scary for you.” I could tell he was kind of nervous about it, of course. He told me he was a paratrooper. He said, “You know, I’m scared and I’m nervous to do this, but the one thing that makes me feel safe is my dog.” Here he’s a paratrooper. He has a military dog that’s his responsibility that he takes into battle with him. He said that makes him feel safe. It kind of really touched me.

Also, I noticed when I didn’t end there either. When I got to the lobby of the hotel I used to travel about 75 percent of the time in my old job. Never have I traveled and gone into a hotel of hotel where just this energy and the dogs were everywhere these gorgeous dogs every breed. People were really engaged with each other. People that even weren’t involved with the dog show were talking and walking up to dogs. And just this energy was unbelievable. It was kind of addicting.

I think that’s the special thing about dogs that really impact all of us. That’s why I’m really excited to be part of the marketing team with this. I want to just take a minute and share with you. My first AKC purebred dog was an Airedale. How many of you have ever had an Airedale in your life? They’re fantastic dogs. I have to say that I went into owning an Airedale I was pretty naive about the process. Let me tell you. The Airedales are very true to their breed, I learned very quickly. But I was very fortunate in finding an AKC breeder who I bought my puppy off of and they educated my husband and I on what an Airedale is all about, how to successfully raise an Airedale in a household without destroying everything. They’re just huge personalities and we learned that very quickly and made it very successful. The breeder very much partnered with us on making sure that it was a successful transition into our family. It was a wonderful, wonderful experience.

Now I have a new best friend, who is an AKC registered greyhound, a retired racer. She too is very true to her breed. I found out that you can’t raise your voice to a greyhound. They’re very sensitive. We don’t do that. She’s a wonderful member of our family.

I just have to tell you a quick story. We moved into a new house about four years ago. I noticed our neighbors they have these little white Fox Terriers. Every time they came out, the terriers had those lampshade things on their heads. I thought, “Oh, my gosh, they have some skin disorder. This went on for a couple years that I noticed it.

So, finally, we were over at their house and I said, “I feel really bad about their skin disorder. That must be hard to handle.” They said they make them wear those because they were afraid they would go through the fence and my greyhound would chase them.

This went on for two years and we had no clue. They ended up taking them off after that. I didn’t know they thought my dog was a threat. I didn’t want to bring pictures of my family, but I have a red headed nine year old too at the house.

My purpose is to bring you up to speed on what’s happening and how the program has evolved since last October. As you remember I think Lisa talked about this program was developed because AKC wanted to figure
I just want to highlight some of the benefits of the program. Do you see the pin in the corner there? This is in addition to some personalized service. We have a special services team headed by David Roberts and Mari Beth O’Neill, who provide personal support to Breeders of Merit. They call in on a special number. They can also email and be provided special support.

We also have customized web banners for them for breeders to use on their websites. You get a Certificate of Distinction with your designation as a Breeder of Merit. You also have all of the Breeder of Merit designation as part of its showcased on your registrations and certificates and dog applications.

Also, there’s a free online breeder classifieds, and you can see the designation as circled there. The Breeders of Merit who have dogs that are advertised in the classifieds, they go kind of to the top of the list within that breed. So that’s really a nice benefit as well. Also, a $20 credit every month for reports on My AKC. The special services group can help anyone who’s a Breeder of Merit to use those credits.

The Inner Circle is a newsletter that’s just dedicated to the Breeders of Merit in the program. And so we wanted to provide a way to recognize the Breeders of Merit and get everyone kind of familiar with everyone in the group. There’s some special parts of the newsletter I want to highlight. One is the Breeder’s Notebook. This is really some tips and advice that are coming from the 2011 Breeder of the Year honorees. It’s a series that happens every month covering a variety of topics. It’s been very well received. You can see all the individuals. I think you know all the individuals who are the nominees for this year.

We also provide additional breeder recognition. We sent out a request for folks to submit pictures of their dogs and puppies. Within like an hour, we had over 200 pictures. The pictures were fantastic. It was just wonderful. Even, as you can see in the banner of The Inner Circle, we use pictures that send to us of their dogs and litters. We change it every month. We can kind of highlight some of those pictures. We have a puppy gallery. We’ve had that a number of times in the newsletters.

We also have a series of special interviews, exclusive interviews with some really highly recognized breeders. We also want to recognize breeders as well in The Ring With. We do an interview with In the Ring With. You can see a number of individuals we have highlighted so far.

We also have appreciation gifts. Now we have an exclusive Breeder of Merit stationery set that is available. And the new puppy folders, which haven’t quite launched yet, but I wanted to show it to you. It should be out in the next month. It highlights to your puppy buyers that you’re a Breeder of Merit. The one thing that I think is more exciting there’s a letter on the inside to the puppy buyer saying, “This puppy was bred by a Breeder of Merit.” Here’s why that’s important. It really highlights the distinguished credibility of the breeder. It highlights that so the puppy buyer understands what that means.

And we have special announcements that come out regarding events or other offers. And I want to give a sneak preview of what you’re going to see in the show. This is the first time that a Breeder of Merit has a presence at the show. We have a booth, and I’ll be at the booth, along with (inaudible). You’ll see these displays around and we’ll have posters of all the different events across the show. So come to the table and see us. We’ll be taking applications. There’s also a raffle for all Breeders of Merit. You can fill out a survey. Of course, we want information. And then you’ll enter a raffle. You can get some Breeder of Merit items.

And this you’ll see in the show ring. We really want to make this visible, so we’ll be in the show ring with Breeder of Merit pins. We wanted to make sure there was a presence in the Breeder Best in Show.

We also are handing out banners or pennants. These are like 11 by 17. They’re fairly large. We wanted breeders to be able to distinguish themselves within the groomers, parades or whatever. So we’re handing these out at the booth for Breeders of Merit who are participating in the show.

And club outreach this is a really important thing that’s coming up starting in January. First off, understanding that there’s over 500 plus officers that are Breeders of Merit in the clubs. We know that clubs have the most accomplished breeders in the sport. We wanted to kind of acknowledge some more of
the club members and get more clubs engaged in the Breeder of Merit program. So we are sending out communication with clubs to help us support that. That will start in January. That’s why you guys can really play a key role in supporting that. Can I depend on your support for that? Thank you for your time today and please stop by the booth and see us.

The Chair introduced Jim Stevens who presented the Chief Financial Officer’s report. A summary follows:

Mr. Stevens provided an update on an article he had previously prepared for Perspectives in March 2008 on the need for AKC to retain a New York headquarters. The lease for the headquarters expires in 2018. A number of factors were reviewed in substantiating the benefits of having a headquarters location in New York. Management will conduct a comprehensive review in 2016 of the feasibility of combining AKC’s two offices into one location as the current lease expires. Total revenues of $49.1 million for the first eleven months of 2011 were 6 1/2% lower than last year. The major sources of our revenues continued to be adversely impacted by a shrinking number of breeders, limited sponsorship and licensing opportunities and a dwindling number of affinity credit card holders spending less money. Successful ongoing cost containment efforts resulted in total year-to-date expenses being slightly less than the previous year.

This resulted in a year-to-date operating deficit of $4.4 million. However, our operations maintained a positive cash flow of $1.5 million during this period. This was due to certain expenses being of a non-cash nature, such as depreciation.

A difficult stock market environment over the past few months of this year resulted in a year-to-date investment loss of $1.7 million. This represented a negative return of (minus) 2.1%.

The Chair called on AKC Board Member, Alan Kalter, and AKC Board Member and Chair of American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Lee Arnold who spoke as follows:

Mr. Kalter: Good morning. The one thing you might have noticed this morning from some of the presentations is not necessarily new to you – the good use of information. Going out in the marketplace, gathering data, and then utilizing that information to further the AKC’s cause. We saw that in John’s presentation, Robin’s presentation, and Sharon’s presentation – how we are using what we’re learning from every one of our customers and also from our potential customers. We did some research with a group we really haven’t spent much time talking to. We wanted to learn and hear from them and understand how the AKC fits into their lives. That group is basically our puppy buyers who do not exhibit. We wanted to talk to the general public who own purebred dogs to understand how they feel about the American Kennel Club.

It was a fascinating piece of research. We learned a lot and it’s helping us understand how to activate that potential customer base to generate some additional revenue.

Here’s some good news: they have an incredible amount of respect for the American Kennel Club. They really do. They think we are experts, they’re not too sure we’re very relevant to their lives. We’re good at what we do – putting on dog events. But they say – “That’s very nice, but I don’t participate in any of your events. I just love my dog.”

We did some further research and found that there are things that we can provide for them that they’re going to love and they will actually support financially. Things like training for one.

Getting a little closer to that customer, we wanted to understand how we can resonate just a little better with them and go from not just respect, but go to being liked by these people — even though do not currently participate in our events.

As we pursued that, we learned that there’s one thing happening between Americans and dogs today that I’m sure is of no surprise to anybody in this room – people love to rescue dogs and they honor the people who rescue dogs. To them, it’s one of the most noble of things you can do.

There’s a little bit of disconnect here because, when we talk to them about the American Kennel Club – “oh, you’re about purebred dogs, you’re about breeders, right? You are about dog shows, right?” That was it. Nobody knew that we’ve ever rescued a dog. The general dog-owning public believes HSUS rescues dogs, but they don’t think we rescue dogs.

But they don’t and we do. Here’s an interesting fact. Because of the good work of all of our parent clubs, we are actually – as the American Kennel Club through our parent clubs – the largest rescue network in America and nobody knows that. So we’re going to start telling everyone.

Lee and I had a conversation in the boardroom about this. We can’t spend any money, but we want to do something. We decided to create a PSA public service announcement, which you basically get aired on radio for free. Then what we had to do was get it produced for free. So we made a little pact. I said that I would write the commercial and all we had to do then was find a great voice. Fortunately, our resident radio voice expert is right here. So Lee, tell them what we did.

Mr. Arnold: Alan had the message. We needed a voice. But we needed a voice that was recognizable, that was highly identifiable. On television, when you have sports people that are the spokesperson, you see the face, you hear the voice, you see it. On radio, you have to know immediately who that voice is.

So when Alan and I discussed the project, the first thing that came to my mind was country music basically my whole career with artists, managers, publicists and songwriters I said, “Who would be the perfect person who can be identified to the entire world, whose name is instantly recognizable and his voice is also instantly recognizable?” The first thing that popped in my mind was Willie Nelson.

So I called Willie’s manager, who’s also a good friend, and I said, “I have a very interesting proposition for Willie. When can we get together?” He said, “It’s funny you called, because I was going to call you today. You’re on my list.” He said, “Willie is being honored with a big industry lifetime achievement award in Nashville in two weeks. We would love for you to say a few words about Willie when he’s presented the award.” He said, “You’ll have the great opportunity to sit at his table and pitch your idea.” I said, “Okay.”

So we went, we had the dinner, I talked to...
Willie about our rescue program, what we had in mind, how he would be perfect for this. I said, “Can I lean on you to do it?” He said, “Lee, I’m in.”

So fast forward a couple months ago, we sat in his bus, we recorded a 60 second PSA spot for the American Kennel Club.

Hi. This is Willie Nelson. These days we all know people all around us that are having some hard times losing a job, losing a home. And we hear about how many have to move just to look for work, certain to lose their home. For many, they’re also losing a beloved family member, a pet, their dog. These dogs don’t understand what’s happening to them. Fortunately, there are wonderful people who do the people and rescue clubs of the American Kennel Club, the largest network of rescue groups and volunteers throughout America. And they rescue all kind of dogs, not just purebreds. These are good people and the AKC finds forever homes for all kinds of breeds and it gives people one less thing to worry about, knowing that their pets are going to a caring home. It’s a little piece of mind that goes a long way for dog lovers.

To find out more, go to www.akc.org/rescue-groups

No matter how hard times get, remember how good dogs make us feel. They love us rich or poor. Let’s return that love by making sure they have a place to stay forever. This is Willie Nelson. Thank you, AKC.

Mr. Arnold: There’s more. Let me finish. Since I had him on the bus, I said, “Wait a minute. There’s another great message we have at the American Kennel Club. What about the American Kennel Club’s Canine Health Foundation, the wonderful work we do in research. Willie and I had a conversation about that. I said, “Willie, are you up for it?” He says, “Yeah. That’s incredible. Let’s do it.”

Hi. This is Willie Nelson. Do you want your dog to live a long, healthy life? Together we can make that happen. Over 4 million dogs are diagnosed with cancer each year. Through groundbreaking research, the AKC Canine Health Foundation is finding ways to prevent, treat and cure canine diseases like cancer, epilepsy and heart and eye disease. This is Willie Nelson. For more information, visit the AKC Canine Health Foundation website at www.akcchf.org.

Mr. Arnold: The cost is zero. The result, I think, is priceless. By the way, stay tuned. There’s more to come. Thank you.

The Delegates considered the proposed amendment to Chapter 7, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, which would eliminate the prohibition of a person connected with dog food, dog remedy or kennel supply companies in the capacity of solicitor or salesman, from becoming an AKC judge.

The proposal was read at the September 2011 meeting. It was published in two issues of the Gazette. The proposed amendment was brought forward by the Colorado Springs Kennel Club and was not approved by the Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Sidney Marx, Delegate for the Colorado Springs Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Good morning, Delegates, and Happy Holidays. Since I first brought this proposal on behalf of the Colorado Springs Kennel Club, I have received many emails and phone calls in support of it, understanding that this is an archaic rule that needs to be changed. However, there seems to be a need to simplify it. And for that reason, I want to amend my proposal. All I want to do is take out the words “connected with” and change it to “employed by.” Our goal in this is very simply that we feel that those good breeders and exhibitors who may have a retail booth at a show, who may sell some dog food retail, should be allowed the same opportunity to apply to judge as everybody else. We just want to eliminate that problem.

So at this point, all I want to do is change “connected with” to “employed by.”

Mr. Sprung: What we have now is a proposed amendment that would be within the scope. We want to retain the current sentence changing the words “connected with” to “employed by.” Is there a second? (Response in the positive.)

The amendment to the proposed amendment was adopted.

The Delegates voted on the original amendment as amended, which now had the words “employed by” added.

There were not two thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was not adopted.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1, new sixth paragraph, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows which would create a new three point major for the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch at one national specialty each year, provided the number of dogs competing in the Reserve Winners sex qualifies for a five point major, specified by the AKC Breed Parent Club.

This amendment was brought forward by the Progressive Dog Club and the AKC Board of Directors has not made a recommendation. It will be published in two issue of AKC Gazette and voted on at the March 2012 meeting.

Editor’s note: The proposed amendment, which actually requires that there be at least twice the number required for a five-point major follows:

RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS
CHAPTER 16, SECTION 1
NEW SIXTH PARAGRAPH

Section 1. At one National Specialty each year, specified by the AKC Breed Parent Specialty Club at the time the event application is submitted to AKC, the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the reserve Winner’s sex totals at least twice the number required for a five point major, in the region in which the event is held.

There were no questions on the proposed amendment.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, Section 3, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Shows Defined which would remove Section 3, with all references to shows restricted to previously placed dogs and puppies, with remaining sections renumbered to reflect this deletion. This amendment was brought forward by the
Dog Show Rules Committee and is approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and voted on at the March 2012 meeting. There were no questions on the proposed amendment.

The Executive Secretary gave an overview on the amendments pertaining to the Group Realignment as follows:
The effect of the amendments will be to increase the number of variety groups at an all breed show from seven to eleven. The changes include splitting the Sporting Group into two groups, the Hound Group into two groups, and the Working Group into three groups. The full list of the proposed groups are included on the worksheet previously distributed and is on the Portal. You will be asked to vote on increasing the number of groups as well as the name of these groups. The actual assignment of breed groups will be made by the AKC Board, considering the recommendations of the Realignment Committee and all pertinent input from the breed Parent Clubs.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 6, Section 3, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows Premium Lists and Closing Entries, which would remove all references to seven groups and eliminate a specific number. This amendment was brought forward by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and voted on at the March 2012 meeting.

The Chair recognized Patricia Laurans, Delegate for the Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, who spoke as follows:
This is a request, not a question. As a result of discussions held at the Parent Club Committee meeting, we understand the role and responsibility of the Board to assign the breeds to a group. We request that the breeds assigned to each group, which would be approved by the Board, be made public to all of us so we can contact our clubs to be able to do a more knowledgeable vote at the time of the March meeting. Thank you.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 2 of the Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline Registrable Breeds by Group, which would increase the number of groups from seven to eleven. This amendment was adopted by the Board of Directors and it will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and voted on at the March 2012 meeting.

The Chair recognized Gretchen Bernardi, Delegate for the Mississippi Valley Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
I think I know the answer, but I would like the answer in the record. I’d like a clarification because all of these amendments regarding realignment have come from the Realignment Committee. Our bylaws do not allow an ad hoc committee to bring forth an amendment, only a standing committee. I presume this is really a Board proposal. Could we have clarification on that?
Mr. Crowley: Correct. That was my misstatement. The Realignment Committee was a Board appointed committee that made the recommendations to the Board. It was actually the Board that adopted the proposed recommendations to the changes, so it’s from the Board of Directors.
The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows Dog Show Classifications, which would increase the number of groups from seven to eleven. The amendment is made by the Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2012 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 15 20, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows Dog Show Classifications, which would remove all references to seven groups and eliminate a specific number. The Delegates must still approve any increase in the number of groups listed in Chapter 3, Section 1, so that all of the references to a number are unnecessary. This amendment was made by the Board of Directors and will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and voted on at the March 2012 meeting.

The Chair recognized John Lyons, Delegate for the Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, who spoke as follows:
John Lyons announced the fourth quarter AKC Community Achievement Awards and a Walter Bebout Award for Excellence in Canine Legislation, and spoke as follows:
The fourth quarter Community Achievement Awards honor AKC clubs and federations holding exceptional AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day events. Each of the honorees will receive an AKC Certificate of Recognition, and the AKC will donate $1,000 to each club or federation. Details about the honorees’ events will be published on the AKC website.

The special fourth quarter RDO day honorees are: Savannah Kennel Club, Concho Kennel Club and Council Bluffs Kennel Club, with honorable mentions for Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club, Trapp Falls Kennel Club and Collie Club of Maine.

Please join me in congratulating these honorees.
We are pleased to announce that the recipient of this quarter’s Walter Bebout Memorial Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation is the Colorado Federation of Dog Clubs. Please join me in congratulating this federation.

The President reported that the annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at the Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel. The March meeting will be the annual election of the Directors for the Class of 2016. We will be emailing hotel information and also placing it on the Delegates Portal.
The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

David Hopkins, Delegate for the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois, spoke on behalf of the Coordinating Committee, confirming to the Delegate body that the formal letters from The Bylaws Committee and the Coordinating Committee calling for amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rule to reinstate liaisons had been given to Ron Menaker. Unless an agreed-upon resolution is achieved, it will be resolved by the vote of the Delegate body at a future meeting.

He indicated that all other committee chairs joined him in feeling that the door is wide open to explore whether we can deal with this impasse and achieve an agreed-upon result.

Carl Ashby, Delegate for the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, spoke as follows: I’m speaking today on behalf of the PAC Committee and also the Legislative Support Fund.

I want to talk about one thing I ran across in our local paper, interestingly called Your Business. It is our business because we had a picture of a billboard out in Los Angeles that’s been put up by the ASPCA talking about “adopt, don’t shop.” Of course, it talks about what they define as puppy mills, but they’re really talking about us. What they’re really saying is, “Don’t ever buy a puppy. Adopt a puppy.”

We also heard today a lot about what AKC’s Public Relations is doing. There’s also another group that’s supporting their efforts in a very tangible way that you can help. Aside from the fact that you work very diligently in your local clubs, you also have the opportunity to financially support us. There’s two different ways.

Number one, of course, is the PAC. The AKC PAC is not large. The important part is it’s going to take a lot of money to make a real difference here. $500 well spent gets you a lot of access, particularly at the state level. All the members of your club have the opportunity to consider a PAC when considering your year end giving.

I hope you’ll take that message back. I hope you independently will decide to support our PAC. All our Board of Directors and our key Staff have all stepped up and I hope you will consider stepping up before the end of the year. Sheila will be here tomorrow. Be sure to stop by Government relations and do that. But that’s not all. The Canine Legislative Support Fund, which is an adjunct, anyone can give to. That means your clubs can give to it. That’s important, because all the clubs, depending upon the club, do have assets and maybe (inadvisable) simply don’t have available to donate.

So how would that money be used? Facilitation and training. Many of the things that were talked about today are a direct result of your generosity in the past of the Canine Legislative Support Fund. I hope you also consider supporting that. I especially hope your club will as an entity because it can. The club can’t give to PAC. The club can give to Canine Legislative Support Fund. But what’s in it for you? Oh, the raffle the Westminster raffle is $25. You get there and we’ll take care of you wonderfully through the generosity of a lot of donors. You get nights in a hotel, you get tickets, you get a box. You’re set. So I do hope you’ll do that. Five for $100, one for $25, two for $50. You do the math. This is a great opportunity to support the Legislative Support Fund and have the opportunity. There’s 1,000 of them, so you have a one in 1,000 chance. You buy five, you have a much better chance. You buy 100 you’ve got a one in ten chance. So we really are asking you all for support on behalf of the Canine Legislative Support Fund. We will be available today and tomorrow. Thanks for your past support. We appreciate it.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you for the information on those good causes.

Dr. Robert Brown, Delegate for the Great Pyrenees Club of America, spoke as follows. The Board of Directors of the Great Pyrenees Club of America has asked me to record this club’s board’s very staunch opposition to the new concept of Parent Clubs paying for the m ajor for Reserve Winners at National Specialties with the entity of more than twice the five points required.

Marge Calltharp, Delegate for the Chinese Shar Pei Club of America, spoke at length on the club’s desire to remain in the Non-Sporting group.

Dr. Davies: As Mr. Crowley indicated in his
initial comments on this topic, the Board of Directors will be handling that particular aspect of the change should it come to pass. I think it's very nice that you shared it with us. Would you please make sure that Mr. Crowley has that information?

Gloria Marshall, Delegate for the Bayshore Companion Dog Club, wanted to publically say how much she appreciated having the opportunity to bring the DWD back to her club so she can show them what she had been telling them about the great job the AKC does.

Sherry Wallis, Delegate for the Akita Club of America, spoke against the additional registration fee for co-owners, particularly for Breeders of Merit who use it to mentor new people in their breed.

Blackie Nygood, Delegate for the Mispillion Kennel Club, indicated there have been a lot of requests, particularly from older people to have a hard copy of Perspectives for which they will pay. She also asked if there will be another printed Delegate Directory.

Carol Williamson, Delegate for the Houston Kennel Club also referenced requests from people for Perspectives to be provided in a printed form.

Since the publication has been distributed at this point, they have become aware of some other issues that they are investigating and she would be studying the research and there would then be further discussion. She asked that those needing a printed copy to please try to contact her following the meeting.

She reported that Sylvia Thomas would be coordinating the next issue. Her email address is in the last issue of Perspectives. She told the Delegates that if they had trouble downloading that issue, they could contact her or Sylvia directly.

Glenda Stephenson, Delegate from Space Coast Kennel Club, thanked AKC for making them a part of the AKC Eukanuba National Championship Weekend.

Ms. Laurans thanked Ron Menaker for paying attention and Paula Spector for getting on the job, and providing buses for a continuous loop between hotels and the show.

Cledith Wakefield, Delegate for the Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri, wanted to make note that the City of St. Louis and its Missouri region lost a wonderful dog person in September, esteemed judge, longtime Poodle and Miniature Pinscher judge, Bob Stern, who judged the Toy Group. They lost him from their Gateway cluster and it will be a big miss for them. She said he would be sorely missed by the fancy and indicated that cards or letters to his wife Alice would be appreciated.

(The meeting concluded at 12:55 p.m.)

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.
Attention Delegates

Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel on Tuesday, March 12, 2012, beginning at 9:00 am.

Membership Application

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club

Delegates Credentials

Bo N. Bengston, Ojai, CA, American Whippet Club
Sally A. Birgal, Kempston, PA, Berks County Kennel Club
Anne H. Boves, Duxbury, MA, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America
Ann Mariah Cook, Jefferson, NH, Siberian Husky Club of America
Daniel R. Cunningham, Minoa, NY, Onondaga Kennel Association
Deidre E. Gannon, Oaklyn, NJ, German Pinscher Club of America
Homer Russell Hastings III, Westfield, PA, Elmara Kennel Club
Charles D. Kerfoot, Vinton, VA, Roanoke Kennel Club
Bonnie Lane, Commack, NY, Riverhead Kennel Club
Ann Lettis, Staten Island, NY, Grand River Kennel Club
Patricia Peel, Lennon, MI, Alaskan Malamute Club of America
JD Rowell, Highland Park, TX, Trinity Valley Kennel Club
Gary Sarvinas, Catonsville, MD, Maryland Kennel Club
Lynn W. Schmitt, Aptos, CA, Monterey Bay Dog Training Club

Notice

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

Mrs. Zez Dasilva (Chotchaw, OK)
Mrs. Patti Maca (Wildwood, MO)

Notice

Mrs. Sabrina Novarra (Rochester, WA) Action was taken by Gig Harbor Kennel Club for conduct in connection with its September 25, 2011 event. Specifically, Mrs. Novarra was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating a lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee’s report, found it in order and set the penalty at a one month event suspension and a $200 fine, effective November 2, 2011. (Tibetan Mastiff)

Notice

Mr. Garry Towne (Lacona, NY) Action was taken by the Basset Hound Club of America for conduct in connection with its October 4, 2011 event. Mr. Towne was charged with neglect at or in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee’s report, found it to be in order and set the penalty at a three month event suspension and a $500 fine, effective October 4, 2011. (Basset Hound)

Notice

Mrs. Dawn Towne (Lacona, NY) Action was taken by the Basset Hound Club of America for conduct in connection with its October 4, 2011 event. Mrs. Towne was charged with neglect at or in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee’s report, found it to be in order and set the penalty at a three month event suspension and a $500 fine, effective October 4, 2011. (Basset Hound)
was taken by the Siberian Husky Club of America for conduct in connection with its October 25, 2011 event. Mrs. Leblanc was charged with disregard of published club regulations. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the report and set the penalty at a reprimand and $100 fine. (Siberian Husky)

**Notice**
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Diane Oringer (Coxsackie, NY) from all AKC privileges for five years and imposed a $1000 fine, effective December 12, 2011, for non-compliance with AKC’s record keeping and dog identification requirements, and the AKC’s Care and Conditions Policy. (Multiple Breeds)

**Notice**
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Betty McClandon (Rosenberg, TX) from all AKC privileges for six months and imposed a $500 fine, effective November 7, 2011, for refusing to make her dogs and records available for inspection when requested. (Pomeranian)

**Notice**
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Melanie Phillips (Adel, GA) from all AKC privileges for one year and imposed a $1000 fine, effective December 12, 2011, for non-compliance with AKC’s record keeping and dog identification requirements, and the AKC’s Care and Conditions Policy. (Multiple Breeds)

**Notice**
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Janet Hollins (Dale City, VA) Pomeranian and Mrs. Betty McClandon (Rosenberg, TX) Multiple Breeds from all AKC privileges for one year and imposed a $1000 fine, effective December 12, 2011, for refusing to make her dogs and records available for inspection when requested. (Multiple Breeds)

The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mrs. Mary Crane (Tenaha, TX) from all AKC privileges for fifteen years and imposed a $3000 fine, effective November 7, 2011, for conduct prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or to the best interests of the American Kennel Club based on her violation of the AKC’s Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy. (Multiple Breeds)

**Proposed Amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows**
The Board of Directors has approved the following amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1, (New Sixth Paragraph), of the Rules Applying to Dog Show, to be voted on at the March 13, 2012, Delegates Meeting.

**Chapter 16**
**SECTION 1, (new sixth paragraph).**
At one National Specialty each year, specified by the AKC Breed Parent Specialty Club at the time the event application is submitted to AKC, the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the reserve winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five point major, in the region in which the event is held.

In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.

**Proposed Amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows**
The Board of Directors has approved the following amendment to Chapter 1, Section 3, (deleted) of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Shows Defined, to be voted on at the March 13, 2012, Delegates Meeting.

**Chapter 1**
**SECTION 3.**
A member or licensed all-breed club may apply to The American Kennel Club for approval to hold a show at which championship points may be awarded with entries restricted to puppies that are eligible for entry in the regular puppy class and dogs that have been placed first, second or third in a regular class at a show at which championship points were awarded, provided the club submitting such an application has held at least one show annually for at least ten years immediately prior to the year in which application for a show so restricted is made, and further
provided that there shall not have been less than 900 dogs entered in its show (or in one of its shows if the club holds more than one show a year) in the year preceding the year in which application is made for its first show with entries so restricted.

When an application for this type of restricted entry show has been approved by The American Kennel Club the only dogs eligible for entry shall be puppies that are eligible for entry in the regular puppy class and those dogs that have been placed first, second or third in a regular class at a show at which championship points were awarded held not less than sixty days prior to the first day of the show at which entries will be so restricted.

However, a club making application to hold a show restricted to entries of dogs as specified above may further restrict entries by excluding all puppies or all puppies six months and under nine months and/or by excluding dogs that have placed third or dogs that have placed second and third, provided the extent of these further restrictions is specified on the application.

Any club whose application has been approved to hold a show with restricted entries as described in this section shall indicate the extent of the restrictions in its premium list.

**Proposed Amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows**

The Board of Directors has approved the following amendments to Chapter 6, Section 3, of the Rules Applying to Dog Show - Premium Lists and Closing of Entries, Chapter 7, Section 13 & 19, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges, to be voted on at the March 13, 2012, Delegates Meeting.

**Chapter 6**

**SECTION 3.**

Except at specialty club shows, the general classification of recognized breeds divided into groups and in the same order as set forth in Chapter 2, of the Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline, with the varieties of distinct breeds as described in Chapter 3, Section 1 added thereto, in their proper groups and alphabetical position, shall be published in the premium list.

**Chapter 7**

**SECTION 13.** The maximum number of conformation entries assigned in the breed judging to any judge, in one day, shall never exceed 175 except that a judge of a specialty show may be assigned a maximum of 200 entries. If the specialty is held as part of an all-breed show, the increased limit will only apply if the judge is not assigned any other breed, a Group or Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

If a show-giving club so elects, it may place a limit of its own choosing lower than any of the limits provided for in the rule notifying The American Kennel Club of its intention at the time the judging panel is submitted for approval. This limit will then govern the need for additional judges if, when the entries for the show have closed, any judge on the panel has drawn more dogs than the limit set by the club.

When the entries have closed, if the entry under any judge exceeds the above limits, the Event Committee must select some other judge or judges to whom sufficient breeds can be assigned, to bring the total assignment of every judge within and as close as possible to the limit without removing provisional breeds listed in the judge’s contract without the judge’s agreement. The removal of any breeds is to be discussed with the assigned judge. If a judge is assigned four or fewer breeds, the assignment shall be reduced first by reassigning to other judge sufficient classes from one breed to eliminate the overload, with any non-regular classes in that breed being the first removed. The same procedure shall then be followed for as many breeds as necessary until the overload is eliminated. This will apply whether or not the breed in question involves varieties.

Notice must be sent to the owner of each dog affected by such a change in judges at least five days before the opening of the show, and the owner has the right to withdraw his entry and have his entry fee refunded provided notification of his withdrawal is received no later than one half-hour prior to the start of any regular conformation judging at the show, by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries.

**SECTION 19.** Only one judge shall officiate in each Group Class and only one judge shall select the Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

The Board of Directors suggests that whenever possible the Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show be determined by one who has not already judged any breed or group class of said show.

Except in hardship cases, when an exception may be approved for a specific show, a judge will not be approved to judge a breed and, at the same show, the Variety Group of which the breed is a part and Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

**Proposed Amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows**

The Board of Directors has approved the following amendments to Chapter 3, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications, to be voted on at the March 13, 2012, Delegates Meeting.

**Chapter 3**

**SECTION 1.**

The following breeds and/or varieties of breeds, divided by groups, shall be all the breeds and/or varieties of breeds for which regular classes of The American Kennel Club may be provided at any show held under American Kennel Club rules. The Board of Directors may either add to, transfer from one group to another, or delete from said list of breeds and/or varieties of breeds, whenever in its opinion registrations of such breed and/or variety of breed in the Stud Book justify such action.

**GROUP 1:**

SPORTING – POINTERS AND SETTERS

**GROUP 2:**

SPORTING – RETRIEVERS AND SPANIELS

**GROUP 3:**

SCENT HOUNDS

**GROUP 4:**

SIGHT HOUNDS
GROUP 5:
WORKING - UTILITY

GROUP 6:
WORKING - MOLOSSER

GROUP 7:
WORKING - SPITZ

GROUP 8:
TERRIERS

GROUP 9:
TOY

GROUP 10:
NON-SPORTING

GROUP 11:
HERDING

Proposed Amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Board of Directors has approved the following amendments to Chapter 3, Sections 15 - 20 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications; to be voted on at the March 13, 2012, Delegates Meeting

Chapter 15
SECTION 15. A club or association holding a show may give group classes not divided by sex, such groups to be arranged in the same order and to comprise the same breeds and recognized varieties of breeds, as herein before set forth in Chapter 3, Section 1. All dogs designated by their respective breed judges as Best of Breed or Best of Variety as the case may be at shows at which these group classes shall be given, shall be eligible to compete in the group classes to which they belong according to this grouping. All entries for these group classes shall be made after the judging of the regular classes of The American Kennel Club as being distinct breeds of purebred dogs eligible for registration in the Stud Book of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 16. A club giving group classes must also give a Best in Show, the winner to be entitled “Best Dog in Show.” No entry fee shall be charged but the group winners must compete.

SECTION 17. A club or association holding a show, if it gives brace classes in the several breeds and recognized varieties of breeds, may also give brace group classes, not divided by sex; such groups to be arranged in the same order and to comprise the same breeds and recognized varieties of breeds as herein before set forth in Chapter 3, Section 1. All braces of dogs designated by their respective breed judges as Best of Breed or Best of Variety as the case may be at shows at which these brace group classes shall be given, shall be eligible to compete in the brace group classes to which they belong according to this grouping. All entries for these brace group classes shall be made after the judging of the regular classes of The American Kennel Club as being distinct breeds of purebred dogs eligible for registration in the Stud Book of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 18. If a club or association holding a show shall give these group classes, it must also give a “Best Brace in Show” in which the braces of dogs winning the first prizes in the group classes must compete, but for which no entry fee shall be charged. The winner shall be entitled “The Best Brace in Show.”

SECTION 19. A club or association holding a show, if it gives team classes in the several breeds and recognized varieties of breeds, may also give team group classes not divided by sex, such groups to be arranged in the same order and to comprise the same breeds and recognized varieties of breeds as herein before set forth in Chapter 3, Section 1. All teams of dogs designated by their respective breed judges as Best of Breed or Best of Variety as the case may be at shows at which these team group classes shall be given, shall be eligible to compete in the team group classes to which they belong according to this grouping. All entries for these team group classes shall be made after the judging of the regular classes of The American Kennel Club as being distinct breeds of purebred dogs eligible for registration in the Stud Book of The American Kennel Club.

Effective January 1, 2005. A team is defined as four dogs of the same recognized breed or variety that are similar in appearance, performing in unison, and presented by a maximum of four handlers. All dogs competing in team competition must have at least one common owner.

SECTION 20. If a club or association holding a show shall give these group classes, it must also give a “Best Team in Show” in which the teams of dogs winning the first prizes in the group classes must compete, but for which no entry fee shall be charged. The winner shall be entitled “The Best Team in Show.”

Proposed Amendment to Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Board of Directors has approved the following amendment to Chapter 2 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Registrable Breeds by Group; to be voted on at the March 13, 2012, Delegates Meeting

CHAPTER 2
The following breeds divided by groups shall be all the breeds now recognized by The American Kennel Club as being distinct breeds of purebred dogs eligible for registration in the Stud Book of The American Kennel Club.
CHAPTER 9

NEW SECTION 8. Grand Field Champion Title (GFC). To be eligible to earn points toward a Grand Field Champion title a dog must have previously been recorded an AKC Field Champion.

To be recorded a Grand Field Champion, a hound must win two first places and 90 points in classes with not less than six starters at AKC selected trials. A list of the selected trials can be found on the AKC website at www.akc.org/to be determined. The GFC title is a prefix title that will appear in addition to the Field Champion title.

Upon completion of the GFC requirements, the title will be affixed to the dog's record. The owner will be notified but no title certificate will be issued unless ordered by the owner. The cost of the title certificate will be determined by the AKC Board of Directors.

Note: If a dog earns its Field Championship title at one of the selected trials, the points in excess those needed to earn the FC title will not count toward the GFC title.

The total number of wins and points necessary for a Beagle to be recorded a Grand Field champion shall be periodically reviewed and possibly revised by the AKC Board of Directors.

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.

Proposed Amendment to Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests

The Board of Directors has approved the following amendment to Chapter 9, New Section 8, Grand Field Champion Title (GFC) of the Proposed Amendment to Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests — Entry Requirements and Eligibility; to be voted on at the March 13, 2012, Delegates Meeting.

The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may add other breeds to the foregoing list whenever in its opinion sufficient evidence is presented to said Board to justify its belief that such other breeds have been in existence as distinct breeds for such length of time as to justify being designated pure breeds. The Board of Directors also may remove any breed from the foregoing list or may transfer any breed from one group to another group whenever in its opinion sufficient evidence is presented to the Board to justify such removal or transfer.

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

Mrs. Sandy Weaver Carman (94535) GA
(770) 310-6932
golffindogs@att.net
Siberian Huskies

Ms. Marla J. Doheny (94509) CT
(203) 415-4193
valhalacfs@yahoo.com
Flat Coated Retrievers, JS

Mr. Jason Edward Huff (93869) KY
(812) 454-4953
jason@mysticpug.com
Pugs, JS-Limited

Mrs. Louise Leone (94619) CO
(303) 663-8440
rightlyso@msn.com
Norfolk Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Mrs. Charlene G. Rutar (94495) IN
(765) 534-3002
whiteriver@embarqmail.com
German Shorthaired Pointers

Ms. Christiane J. Scarpino (94443) MA
(978) 827-6704
whelom@verizon.net
Boston Terriers, JS

Approved Breed Judges

Mrs. Leah Bertagnolli (82939) UT
(801) 540-5985
lwndkst@aol.com
Irish Setters, English Springer Spaniels
Mrs. Sharon L. Clark (76781) SC
(864) 862-2537
sbeagles@bellsouth.net
American English Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Plott's, Redbone Coonhounds, Salukis, Whippets

Mr. James A. Fehring (90519) OK
(918) 366-1096
jimfehring@olp.net
Brittany, English Springer Spaniels, JS

Mr. Patrick Garcia Jr. (34211) CA
(760) 749-5382
torrondi@att.net
Afghan Hounds, Borzois, Irish Wolfhounds, Whippets

Ms. E. Susan Godek (6796) AZ
(480) 614-5768
figodek@hotmail.com
Balance of Working Group (Anatolian Shepherds, Black Russian Terriers, Bullmastiffs, Cane Corsos, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinchers, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Tibetan Mastiffs)

Mrs. Judi Hallbeck (82517) MN
(763) 631-2121
judihallbeck@yahoo.com
Kerry Blue Terriers, Skye Terriers

Ms. Nancy Olson Handgraaf (91720) WA
(360) 686-3079
handgraaf@centurylink.net
Pem-broke Welsh Corgis, JS-Limited

Ms. Janet Jackson (59587) CA
(760) 345-4151
steppingboulders@msn.com
Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Havaneses, Italian Greyhounds, Manchester Terriers, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers)

Mrs. Leah D. Lange (44516) PA
(724) 327-4770
dobrgal@windstream.net
Akitas, Boxers, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies

Mr. Dennis McCoy (17219) NC
(919) 362-9799
dogpro@aol.com
Balance of Terrier Group (American Staffordshire Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Russell Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers)

Mrs. Murrel Purkhiser (7496) TX
(210) 497-0759
murrel@me.com
Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervuren, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mr. Lawrence (Larry) J. Sinclair (7419) WA
(509) 922-8173
lj_sinclair@msn.com
Balance of Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Petit Basset Griffons Vendeens, Plott's, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds), Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs

Mr. Jon Titus Steele (55162) MI
(989) 642-5093
jonauroral@gmail.com
Basenjis, Beagles, Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otterhounds, Petit Basset Griffons Vendeens, Scottish Deerhounds

Mrs. Carolyn Taylor (17376) IL
(217) 262-3266
jbrw1@prairieinet.net
Airedale Terriers, Border Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Mrs. Lisa Warren (6013) PA
(610) 285-6425
lwdox@ptd.net
Balance of Sporting Group (German Wirehaired Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels), Bichon Frises, Bull Dogs, Shih Tzu

Dr. Carol White-Moser (7344) TX
(903) 567-4470
carolwlv555@gmail.com
Beagles, Irish Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Petit Basset Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets

Mrs. Melanie D. Williams (6705) FL
(352) 324-2165
shelterjudge@aol.com
Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Miniature Pinchers, Poodles, Pugs, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers

Mrs. Sally Yancey (17981) NC
(336) 282-5733
scyancey@aol.com
Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mr. Howard M. Yost (4215) NC
(336) 722-0717
lyost@triad.rr.com
Havanese, Japanese Chin, Papillons, Yorkshire Terriers

Junior Showmanship Judges
Mrs. Michelle Alameda-Wilkinson (94463) CA
(916) 206-8782
kellods@yahoo.com
JS

Mrs. Sarah Hemphill-Taylor (94941) CO
(720) 240-8642
dlh224@yahoo.com
JS

Mrs. Carol J. Rice (94503) FL
(318) 393-3779
ricecarol@aol.com
JS

Mr. Warren T. Rice (94505) FL
(318) 218-3165
ricecarol@aol.com
JS

Mr. Bruce E. Shirky (57889) TX
(210) 633-2430
bshirky@texaskachina.com
JS-Limited

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
Ms. Vicki E. Allenbrand (91374) GA
(770) 822-2832
blackjackdogs@earthlink.net
Bullmastiffs

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Arthur (91416) TX
(817) 431-2835
stargr@verizon.net
Scottish Deerhounds, Whippets

Ms. Linda Bednariski (90763) OH
(740) 815-1948
linda@tullamorelabs.com
Labrador Retrievers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Ms. Elizabeth Bowron (90454) SC
(843) 559-4755
fortune@mindspring.com
Labrador Retrievers

Ms. Delores Burkholder (5355) IL
(815) 624-7357
dcburkholder9@msn.com
Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chin, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinchers, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Poodles, Pugs, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers), JS

Mr. Patrick D. Glover (81564) ME
(207) 584-2196
greywoode@msn.com
Border Terriers

Mr. Lawrence J. (Larry) Kaplan (91400) NY
(631) 581-0566
lkplan91400@gmail.com
Akita

Mr. Jim Owens (92926) NC
(919) 649-9035
drydogdogs@gmail.com
Rottweilers

Ms. Carole Lee Richards (91784) NJ
(856) 854-6336
zarasweim araners@yahoo.com
Vizslas, Weimaraners

Approved Breed Judges
Mrs. Karin B. Ash (5601) FL
(386) 624-6663
kashe4@cfl.rr.com
Poodles
Mrs. Jacqueline M. Rayner (19275) NJ
(609) 587-2586
jaken5995@aol.com
Anatolian Shepherds, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Giant Schnauzers, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, St. Bernards, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers

Mr. Eric J. Ringle (6564) FL
(954) 717-4133
eringle@msn.com
Brittanys, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, English Springer Spaniels, Vizslas, Weimaraners

Mr. Barry L. Roland (5813) GA
(404) 241-1504
excaliburants@earthlink.net
Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Portuguese Water Dogs

Dr. Kevin T. Shimel (80431) NJ
(201) 653-0885
kevcatdoc@aol.com
Salukis

Ms. Karen A. Shivers (26119) TX
(903) 491-6572
stonefox@1starinet.com
Shetland Sheepdogs

Mrs. Lawrence J. (Janet) Sinclair (7418) WA
(509) 922-8173
lj.sinclair@msn.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels

Ms. Dorothy B. Taylor (6231) NH
(603) 883-2634
dorothybtaylor@myfairpoint.net
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chinese Cresteds, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Pekingese, Pugs

Mr. Lawrence C. Terricone (4908) NJ
(908) 766-7139
lcterricone@verizon.net
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chinese Cresteds, Pugs, American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, Lhasa Apos, Shiba Inu

Ms. Denise Van Driessen (68029) PA
(610) 847-5344
dvandriec@fast.net
Bulldogs

Mrs. Judith Voran (21971) AZ
(928) 476-3972
byoran@gmail.com
Akita, Great Danes, Rottweilers, Samoyeds

Mrs. Sandra Walker (5115) MA
(978) 562-2554
pettima@yahoo.com
Balance of Toy Group (English Toy Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, Pomeranians, Toy Fox Terriers)

Ms. Susan Willumsen (52119) NH
(603) 642-5893
willcare@comcast.net
Golden Retrievers

Junior Showmanship Judge
Miss Kelley Lynne St. John (63412) MA
(781) 779-6263
kellyestjohn22@gmail.com

Best In Show
The following persons, having successfully 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.

Mr. John F. Booth (6914) TX
(210) 487-0805
dbboxer@aol.com

Mr. Bernard L. (Ben) Helfrich (22608) PA
(215) 680-4564
bballantynn@comcast.net

Emeritus Judges
Mrs. Betty Ann Griffin
Mrs. Barbara Ridgway

Deceased Judge
Mr. Robert Naun
Miss Nancy Pollock

Provisional Obedience/Rally/Tracking Judges
The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of regular approved judges.

Ken Barna (66579) OH
440-834-8351
Churchholy@aaahawk.com
Tracking Dog Excellent

William Craig (81590) MA
413-743-1579
hawkdogud@gmail.com
Obedience - Novice

Barbara Doering (32285) PA
215-328-9311
barbrott@verizon.net
Obedience - Utility

Sandy Forneris (18255) IA
515-986-3938
grimes312@mchsi.com
Obedience - Utility

Nancy Grimm (42091) AZ
520-241-3170
grimm@greydayz.com
Obedience - Open

Bethany Lange (92183) MI
517-651-6437
lovetervs@gmail.com
Tracking Dog

Charles Marcantonio (90224) NJ
856-665-0415
insurrectr@aol.com
Obedience - Novice

Sue Mills (27459) OR
541-913-3541
tervs@clipper.net
Rally - All

Barbara Selton (90892) MN
952-893-1493
BAW4305@aol.com
Obedience - Novice

Marty Siegrist (90916) MI
517-881-9078
orcnel@voyager.net
Tracking Dog

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:
BLUMYST – Silky Terriers – Maureen D. White
ORLEANS – Miniature Schnauzers – Darlene T. Petche
UYAK – Alaskan Malamutes – Harold B. Schwartzapfel & Paula Honigman
KARIBA-PRIDE – Rhodesian Ridgebacks – Yolande LaFrance-Martinez & Dennis Martinez
CREGHOLLOW – Smooth Fox Terriers – Richard W. Metts & H. Creg Kelly
STARRING – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Jennifer Flowers Foster
SNOWSHOE – Tibetan Terriers – Joyce Killinger
CHARNWOOD – French Bulldogs – Dr. Sarah B. Lagan & Marjorie W. Lagan
BRESA – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Teresa R. Bresset
DZATA – Rhodesian Ridgebacks – Michelle E. Cavanaugh
BETVET – Poodles – Dr. Betsy R. Oesch
RUSSIAN BEARS – Black Russian Terriers – Helene M. Haldi
BONNY BLUE – Old English Sheepdogs – Sonja K. Pianka
SUGAR-N-SPICE – Australian Cattle Dogs – Rochelle A. & Todd L. Gribler
ROYAL HEARTS – Pembroke Welsh Corgis – Linda Wenger
UNDER MNT – Doberman Pinschers – Danielle M. Pauvre
CA-MAJESTIC – Bernese Mountain Dogs – Linda Wenger

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

NORTH HAWK – Tibetan Mastiffs – Efrain Torres & Susan Abrams
SWEETBRIAR – Spinoni Italiani – Dana & Daniel Graff
BAR-LAR – Shih Tzu – Barbara Ann & Larry Ewer
KIZMAR – Vizslas – Kathy A. Rust
PSCOT – Scottish Terriers – Judy & Phil DiGirolamo
CREEKWOOD – Collies – Virginia Reed-Mehr & Robin B. Reed
EXMOOR – Yorkshire Terriers – James J. Hupp & Bret E. Walker
WINDBYHILL – Havanese – Julie Souza
BLACKAMOOD – Labrador Retrievers – H. Price & Sherry S. Jessup
BLISSFUL – St. Bernards – Tricia A. Kenworthy
SILVERVEIL – Boxers – Catherine L. Harber
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

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
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
The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here: http://www.akc.org/handlers/

To view the AKC Registered Handlers Membership list, click here: www.akc.org/handlers/states/allstates.cfm

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics: http://www.akc.org/handlers/jr_clinics.cfm
http://www.akc.org/handlers/adult_clinics.cfm