



gazette

AUGUST 2026

What They Were Bred For



Follow the
GAZETTE ON
Facebook!



FCM Universal Championship

Four AKC International Dog Shows 2026

For AKC breeds fully recognized.

FCM Universal Championship

Special Attraction Dog Shows

FCM-recognized breeds or varieties only, which are not eligible to compete in the AKC-licensed show.



Expo Santa Fe. Mexico City



November 12–15, 2026

FOUR ALL - BREED DOG SHOWS

Championships Titles that will be offered for both males and females, for puppies, juniors, adults and veterans, during the FCM Universal Championship Dog Shows and the FCM Special Attraction Shows.

FCM - Panamerican Championship Title

(Thursday November 12th, 2026)

FCM - Continental Championship Title

(Friday November 13th, 2026)

FCM - Intercontinental Championship Title

(Saturday November 14th, 2026)

FCM - Universal Championship Title

(Sunday November 15th, 2026)

FCM - Mexican Championship Title

(All four days)

AKC - Championship Points

(All four days) <Only for AKC recognized breeds and varieties>

AKC - Grand Championship

(All four days) <Only for AKC recognized breeds and varieties>

This event will be conducted under AKC international rules for all breeds recognized by the AKC, (AKC Breed standards, Points and Ranking, in 7 Groups and BIS)

Breeds not recognized by AKC will be judged at Special Attraction Groups according to the standards of their country of origin. To compete for FCM groups and BIS.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

AUGUST 2026

Volume 143, Number 8



FEATURE

Where Fanciers Gather: “What They Were Bred For”

How does a breed’s original purpose affect the choices of breeders and judges?

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

SECRETARY’S PAGES

MASTHEAD

On our cover, black and tan bruisers do their thing.

UPDATES

FCM Universal Dog Show entries open; President’s Sportsmanship Award; New ANC prefix title; Recent events on AKC.tv

SLIDESHOW

Task Masters: Original Jobs of AKC Breeds

TIMES PAST

Type and Function Junction: A master breeder considers the link between original function and that elusive canine quality, type.

VIDEOS

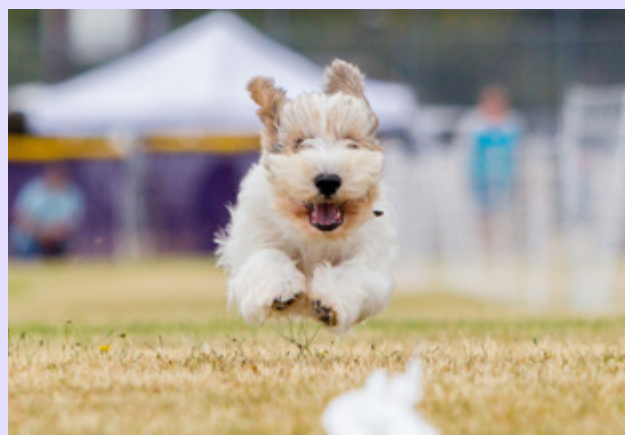
Dogwood Cluster; World Dog Show; Building Better Dog Shows; AKC Diving Dogs Team Challenge; George Alston; Family Dog Photo Contest

DOG PEOPLE

Luke Ehricht

PARENT CLUB PAGES

BREED COLUMNS



Hounds

Basenjis
Bloodhounds
Borzoï
Dachshunds
Grands Bassets
Griffons Vendéens
Greyhounds
Ibizan Hounds
Irish Wolfhounds
Otterhounds
Petits Bassets Griffons
Vendéens
Rhodesian Ridgebacks
Salukis
Scottish Deerhounds
Whippets

Terriers

Airedale Terriers

American Hairless Terriers

Australian Terriers

Bedlington Terriers

Border Terriers

Bull Terriers

Cairn Terriers

Smooth Fox Terriers

Wire Fox Terriers

Irish Terriers

Kerry Blue Terriers

Lakeland Terriers

Manchester Terriers

Norfolk Terriers

Norwich Terriers

Scottish Terriers

Sealyham Terriers

Skye Terriers

Soft Coated Wheaten

Terriers

Welsh Terriers

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and
Working Groups
January, April, July, and
October issues

Hound and
Terrier Groups
February, May,
August, and November
issues

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

COURTESY SHARON BETKER

HUSKER VALLEY CLUSTER

Stack. Stride. Shine. Show your best!



Friday, October 2, 2026

Hosted by:

Cornhusker Kennel Club

All Breed Shows: October 3 & 4, 2026

Entries Close September 16, 2026

Sandhills Global Event Center

Lincoln, NE

Superintendent: Onofrio.com

Note: NOHS Regional Points will be doubled for this event.

Specialty & National Shows on Friday

5 OB Trials - 5 Rally Trials

3 Days of Fast Cat



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Achievements and Opportunities

One of the greatest responsibilities we have at the American Kennel Club is ensuring that our sport continues to evolve while remaining grounded in the traditions and values that have defined it for generations. That means recognizing extraordinary achievement, creating new opportunities for exhibitors and breeders, and strengthening partnerships that advance the future of purebred dogs, not only here at home, but around the world.

This year reflects that commitment in several exciting ways.

Before looking ahead, I would like to extend my congratulations to the winners of the AKC National Obedience Championship and AKC Rally National

Championship. More than 800 outstanding dogs from across the country competed July 16–19 at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio, demonstrating the remarkable teamwork, precision, and dedication that define these sports. A special congratulations goes to 24-year-old Mara Wacker and her Golden Retriever, Swift, on capturing the AKC National Obedience Championship.

Winning a national title in one of the most technically demanding disciplines in the sport is an extraordinary achievement at any age, making Mara and Swift's accomplishment especially inspiring. Their success reflects the dedication, partnership, and excellence that continue to elevate the sport of dogs.



Recognizing achievements like these is one of the most important ways we honor the excellence that drives our sport forward. It is also why I am especially pleased to announce another milestone in AKC history.

The AKC is proud to introduce the AKC National Champion (ANC) title, a new prefix title that will be awarded to the dog earning Best in Show at the AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin. As the highest conformation title awarded by the American Kennel Club, the ANC recognizes one of the most remarkable accomplishments in our sport. It places this achieve-

© 2026 THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ment alongside AKC's most prestigious national titles across companion and performance events while honoring the exceptional

dogs whose names have become part of our history. We are equally pleased that this distinction will be awarded retroactively to

every previous Best in Show winner of the AKC National Championship, ensuring their accomplishments receive the lasting recognition they deserve.

The AKC National Championship has grown into North America's premier dog show, bringing together thousands of outstanding dogs and exhibitors each year. When we gather once again in Orlando this December, we will not only celebrate another remarkable competition, we will celebrate the continued excellence that defines our sport.

At the same time, we are thrilled to continue expanding our reach through meaningful international collaboration. Our new Mutual Cooperation Agreement with Dogs Australia reflects a shared commitment to responsible breeding, education, canine health and welfare, and the continued growth of purebred dogs worldwide. By working together, we

MELANIE HAID ©AKC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

strengthen opportunities for breeders, judges, exhibitors, event officials, and dog owners while reinforcing the values that unite our organizations.

This year, the AKC's annual Virtual Trick Dog Competition will welcome an International Class for the first time, inviting handlers and their dogs from around the world to showcase their creativity, teamwork, and training skills. To participate, dogs must be registered with the AKC or enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program, making the competition open to both eligible purebred and mixed-breed dogs. By opening this popular event to international participants, we are creating another opportunity to connect the global dog community while celebrating the extraordinary bond between dogs and their handlers. For more information, including entry requirements and deadlines, visit [akc.org/sports/trick-dog/](https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/).

International engagement

will continue this November when the inaugural FCM Universal Dog Show takes place in Mexico City.

Presented in partnership with Federación Canófila Mexicana, this historic AKC-licensed event represents an exciting milestone in international canine sport. The Universal Dog Show will bring together exhibitors from around the world to compete, learn from one another, and celebrate the diversity and excellence of purebred dogs. It also creates new pathways for participation, including expanded opportunities for Junior Showmanship competitors and international exhibitors seeking AKC recognition. More information: <https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/fcm-universal-championship/>

As our sport continues to grow, these initiatives demonstrate that preserving tradition and embracing innovation are not competing priorities, they are complementary responsi-

bilities. By celebrating the highest accomplishments in our sport, strengthening relationships with our international partners, and creating new opportunities for the global dog community, we are helping shape a future for purebred dogs that is vibrant, connected, and strong.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of the breeders, exhibitors, judges, clubs, volunteers, and enthusiasts whose passion continues to move our sport forward every day. Thank you for all you do to preserve the integrity of purebred dogs and to ensure that the next generation inherits a community that is every bit as strong as the one we enjoy today.

Together, we are not simply celebrating excellence, we are building the future of the sport.



Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club

BOW
W
O
W
!



**USE CODE AKC26 FOR 15%
OFF ALL WETPET TOWELS**

*OFFER LASTS TILL 01/31/27

800.526.1526 x WWW.RAYPET.NET

managing editor
BUD BOCCONE

senior editor
ARLISS PADDOCK

creative director
KATE MCCROARY

design projects manager
CHRIS ESPIRITU

archivist-librarian
KIM ROSS

FREE
AKC GAZETTE
SUBSCRIPTION

publications business
manager

VENUS RODRIGUEZ
venus.rodriguez@akc.org
212-696-8260

Write to the editors
gazette@akc.org

AKC GAZETTE (ISSN 1086-0940), August 2026, Volume 143, No. 8, published monthly at 101 Park Ave., New York, NY 10178, USA, by The American Kennel Club, Inc. Copyright The American Kennel Club, Inc., 2025. No portion of this magazine may be reprinted without permission of the publisher. AKC is a registered trademark of The American Kennel Club, Inc.

On Our Cover

What They Were Bred For

Why do we preserve the original working traits of purebred dogs, even when a breed's original work is obsolete? This month, we address this question.

Our annual "Where Fanciers Gather" roundup presents seven GAZETTE breed columnists—one from each group—who discuss how their dogs' original purpose affects the choices of today's breeders and judges.

In a feature-length "Times Past" article, we revisit our April 1999 issue and Bill Shelton's essay on the connection between type and original function. And our Gazette Gallery slideshow is a collection of vivid photos of purebreds doing what they were bred to do.

This issue's theme is proclaimed by our cover image: a brace of burly Gordon Setters built for a hard day's work on rugged terrain. About the Charles Olivier de Penne's watercolor, from AKC Museum



of the Dog curator Alan Fausel: "Now, regularly referred to as Gordon Setters, in the 19th century, especially in France, they would be Black and Tans.

"Although de Penne is primarily remembered for his hounds, there are the occasional pointers or setters that inhabit his works. A similar brace of Black and Tan setters appears in paintings among his works, making one believe they are the same pair."

AKC MUSEUM OF THE DOG



Xoloitcuintli mural, Mexico City

Entries are open for the FCM Universal Dog Show, an AKC-licensed event presented in partnership with Federación Canófila Mexicana (FCM), the official kennel club of Mexico. The inaugural event will take place November 12 to 15 at the Santa Fe Expo Center in Mexico City. Entries close at noon, CDT, October 14.

The milestone event marks a historic collaboration between the AKC

and Federación Canófila Mexicana. It will bring together top breeders, exhibitors, junior handlers, and dog enthusiasts from around the world to celebrate the excellence, diversity, and preservation of purebred dogs.

The four-day event will feature AKC-Licensed conformation competition, special attractions, and exclusive opportunities for exhibitors. AKC Junior Showmanship will be

offered each day, with the Best Junior Handler receiving automatic qualification to the 2027 AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin, pending all other eligibility requirements are met.

“The American Kennel Club is thrilled to partner with Federación Canófila Mexicana to present the Universal Dog Show,” AKC President/CEO Gina DiNardo says. “This landmark event represents the beginning of an exciting new chapter of collaboration between our organizations.

“Together, we are creating new opportunities for exhibitors, expanding the reach of AKC events internationally, and celebrating the extraordinary diversity and excellence of purebred dogs on a global stage.”

- [Premium List](#)
- [Regulations for AKC International Shows](#)
- [Juniors Regs and Guidelines for AKC International Shows](#)

UPDATES

Last Call: President's Sportsman Award

Nominations for the AKC's President's Sportsman Award will be accepted through Monday, August 17.

Now in its second year, the award honors an individual who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the principles outlined in the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility.

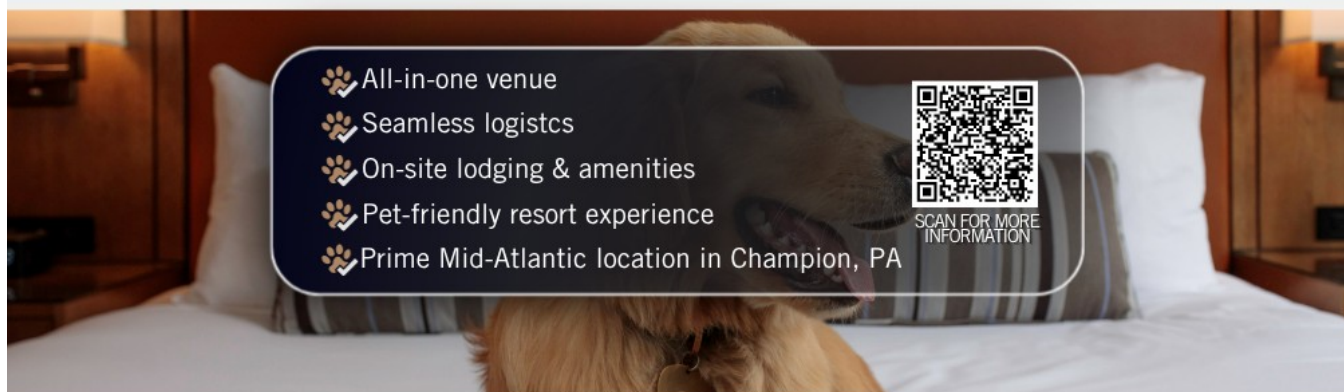
It seeks to recognize those whose conduct consistently reflects integrity, mentorship, and respect within the dog sports community. "We received an overwhelming response to the inaugural award, and we look forward to receiving another round of stellar nominations," AKC President/CEO Gina M. DiNardo says.

An independent selection committee will name **one adult** and **one junior** recipient.

Honorees will be invited to attend December's AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin, where the awards will be formally conferred.

[Nominate an Adult](#)

[Nominate a Junior](#)



UPDATES

ANC Prefix Title

AKC rolls out its highest conformation honor

The AKC has announced the AKC National Champion (ANC) title, a new prefix that will be awarded to the Best in Show dog at the annual AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. The title will be recorded as a prefix on the winning dog's official AKC record and will be granted retroactively to all previous ANC Best in Show winners. Also, title certificates will be issued to commemorate this

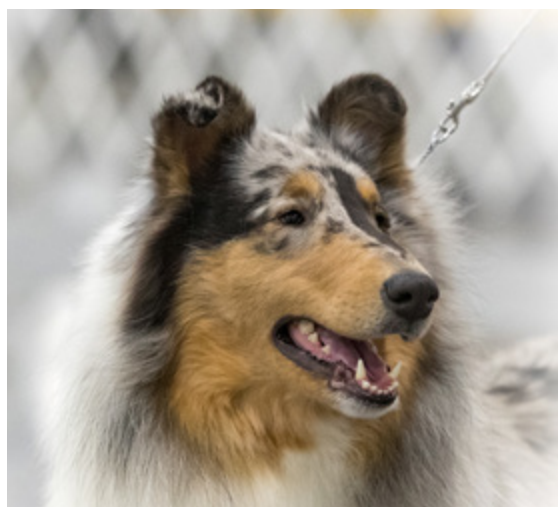


achievement.

AKC President/CEO Gina M. DiNardo says, “By establishing the AKC National Champion title as the organization’s highest conformation honor, we are formally recognizing this extraordinary accomplishment and

celebrating the exceptional dogs, breeders, owners, handlers, and judges whose dedication and excellence make it possible.”

The inaugural ANC title will be earned at the 2026 National Championship, scheduled for December 12 and 13 at Orlando, Florida.



New on **AKC.tv**

Enjoy these newly archived 2026 events on AKC.tv.

- Atlanta KC
- Lone Star State Classic
- National Obedience Championship
- Rally National Championship

TOP: STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC; BOTTOM: COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



familydog™

AKC'S
MAGAZINE to

**BRING
OUT
THE**



BEST IN YOUR DOG

Now an exclusively digital magazine, **AKC Family Dog** is emailed directly to subscribers —so we're with you and your dog wherever you go.

1 Year (6 issues) \$12.95

2 Years (12 issues) \$18.95

Another year just \$6 more.

BEST VALUE!

**CLICK HERE
TO SUBSCRIBE!**

NO RISK GUARANTEE!

Cancel at any time, for any reason. The AKC will refund your money for any and all unreceived issues, no questions asked.



For more than a hundred years, the GAZETTE has published art and photos depicting AKC breeds doing performing their original functions. Generations of artists and photographers have filled our pages with purebreds herding, carting, guarding, ratting, retrieving, and performing other tasks in the service of mankind. For this month's "Gazette Gallery" slideshow, we reviewed recent issues for vivid images of our best friends doing what they were bred for.

See the slideshow YouTube page for photo credits.



Where
Fanciers
Gather

*Wirehaired Pointing
Griffon*

“What They Were Created For”

*Seven breed columnists
weigh in on how their dog's
original purpose affects the
choices of today's breeders
and judges.*

DAVID WOO ©AKC

FEATURE

In the mid-1920s, when the GAZETTE was transformed from a stark rundown of AKC business into a full-fledged magazine, the editors launched a new department called “Where Fanciers Gather.” This roundup of news from the show world, contributed by AKC club members, soon evolved into what we now know as our “Breed Columns” section—a place where fanciers still gather.

Parent-club correspondents have contributed thousands of columns of breed-specific and general interest touching upon all things canine. Over the decades, the clubs have put forward accomplished and articulate members to represent their breeds in our pages. Occasionally, we excerpt their wisdom for these “Where Fanciers Gather” features built around a particular theme. Here, then, is a sampler from recent AKC GAZETTE breed columns on the topic of “original breed function.”

Carol Erdie, American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association

The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon continues to earn its reputation as a truly dual-purpose gundog—one that performs with honesty and intelligence in the field while maintaining the conformation, temperament, and structure our standard describes. As the breed grows in popularity and national visibility, including

Griffons such as Rosie, a 2026 Westminster invitee, we are reminded that recognition in the ring must always remain grounded in the breed’s original purpose.

When a Griffon can hunt wild birds all fall and then step onto the nation’s most visible stages with correct structure and moderation, we see our standard expressed exactly as intended. The balance between field ability and

breed type is the foundation we are responsible for preserving. ...

The Griffon’s hallmark harsh coat, moderate frame, and cooperative, close-working hunting style were developed for practical, functional reasons. These traits are not decorative—they are tools that allow a Griffon to operate effectively in thick cover, withstand harsh weather, and remain in partnership with its handler during long days in the field.

Correct structure—balanced angles, a strong topline, efficient movement—translates directly to endurance. When we evaluate Griffons in the conformation ring, we are not simply judging appearance; we are assessing whether the dog before us could *do the job* the breed was created for.

Tiffany Cannon, Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

If you’ve never had the opportunity to see your dog

FEATURE

doing the job it was bred for, you really should add it to your bucket list.

PBGVs have been bred in France for hundreds of years for the purpose of rabbit hunting. They are still used in many countries in Europe for this purpose today. The PBGV Club of America has made it a priority to embrace the breed's original purpose and has developed hunting trials where we judge our dogs against a matrix of ideal hunting characteristics. These include searching ability, determination in cover, pursuing ability, use of voice, honoring the pack, and other hallmarks of a successful hunt.

Imperative to breed preservation is making sure our PBGVs retain their instinctive ability to hunt. It is truly an amazing sight to see the light bulb turn on when a young PBGV first participates in a pursuit on a hot rabbit trail. You are witnessing hundreds of years of genetic instinct



*Petit Basset Griffon
Vendéen*

waking up, turning on, and clicking into place ... and it is beautiful.

Watching the dogs hunt is also an incredible educational experience for breeders. Seeing the hounds search, move, and pursue helps a breeder visualize the standard and understand the reason for certain points described as ideal conformation.

Bonnie Postovit, Giant Schnauzer Club of America

Giant Schnauzers and other Working Group dogs were developed for a wide diversity of tasks. Our Giants served as farm guardians and livestock drovers. They were also known to pull carts. And no doubt there was a vermin-dispatching aspect to farm work!

FEATURE



Giant Schnauzer

Structure of working breeds reflected their job requirements and the environment in which they originated. This explains the huge differences in appearance among breeds in the group. But the

founders of each breed also endeavored to instill characteristic temperament and inherited behaviors—the “software,” if you will—that contributed enormously to their dogs’ purpose.

A conformation judge must swiftly make award decisions based on physical structure and locomotion. There is limited ability to decipher the aspects of temperament and behavior that made a breed so useful to its developers.

Dog sports and working trials are the venues where a dog’s temperament, physical ability, tenacity, and focus can truly be evaluated. Participation in AKC’s companion and performance events, and other dog sports and tests, can help demonstrate whether a dog has the appropriate inborn characteristics for its breed, in order to preserve instinctive working traits just as we strive to preserve structural breed type. ...

It would be a wonderful testament to our breed to see more top Giants with titles at both ends!

Jo Lynn, Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America

The homepage of the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

FEATURE



Glen of Imaal

of America website says, “According to legend, the Glen of Imaal also has a unique task which it was expressly designed for: It was a turnspit dog. The turnspit was a large wheel which, when paddled by the dog, would turn the spit over the hearth—a canine-propelled rotisserie, if you will.” ...

This often-debated part of Glen lore, whether you accept it or not, functions quite effectively as a hook, which according to Merriam Webster is “a device especially in music

or writing that catches the attention.” I believe it is no coincidence that Bruce Sussman, who is extremely skilled at both of those things, was highly instrumental (pun intended) in bringing our breed to recognition. ...

I just smile when someone asks me about my turnspit dogs. I have seen the images of dogs in wheels above open hearths and have no reason to doubt that dogs could have been used that way at one time. There is even a drawing of a turnspit and a mention

of Glens being used for this purpose in the book *The Native Dogs of Ireland*, copyrighted by The Irish Kennel Club in 1984. In reference to the Glen’s purpose, it says, “In addition (to hunting badger and foxes), he had to spend long hours propelling dog wheels (a treadmill used for operating dog churns or fire spits). The Glen of Imaal Terrier’s short, crooked front legs and his powerful rear made him ideally suited to this task.”

Considering the size of the Glen and the Wicklow farmers’ small cottages, it seems more likely that they could have been used to run a butter churn on the ground than to be lifted up above a hearth.

In any case, this one small part of their story does not define them. Their true worth today is in their versatility, loyalty, intelligence, and companionship—all so much more valuable than being a dog who could turn a spit.

COURTESY REE SMYTH

FEATURE



Shih Tzu

Jo Ann White, American Shih Tzu Club

Did you ever wonder what the markings on your Shih Tzu symbolized in China, where the breed developed?

Patches of color on a white background were called “flowers,” while a broad band of solid color around the mid-section represented a sash worn by high-ranking officials. The Chinese referred to a black dog with white feet as a “sable cloud over snow.” A band of color on the back extending down the sides was called, as it is today, a “saddle,” and was highly prized, as the lion dog was the symbol of the

lion which, according to legend, was Buddha’s steed. A symmetrical white blaze on the forehead represented the button worn on the top of the hats of officials—the emperor’s button was a large pearl.

In a poem by the Manchu Dowager Empress Tsu His (Cixi) about the lion dogs (“The Lion Dog of Peking”), she asked that the dogs be golden like the lion, or the color of red, black, or white bears, or striped like a dragon, “so that there may be dogs appropriate to every costume in the Imperial wardrobe, whose fitness to appear at public ceremonies and functions shall be judged by their

colors and their artistic contrast with the Imperial robes.”

Times are somewhat different today, and we often have difficulty convincing judges that all colors and markings are equally acceptable in our breed standard. However, with Shih Tzu still ruling the household the way they do, perhaps we should match our clothes to our dogs so *they* will consider *us* fit to appear at their side!

Allan Reznik, Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

We occasionally see Tibbies in the show ring who are larger than we’d like. ... On the other hand,

FEATURE



Tibetan Spaniel

we occasionally see overly small Tibbies, with slight rather than moderate bone, and an overall appearance that I would describe as “ornamental.” Let’s keep in mind that the Tibetan Spaniel is in the AKC Non-Sporting Group, not the Toy Group. The breed had a job to do in ancient Tibet, perched on the roof of the Buddhist monastery, keeping a sharp eye out for anything suspicious and alerting the Tibetan

Mastiffs on the ground when needed. The weather was often harsh, and to this day we value our Tibbies for their hardy constitutions. They are affectionate and loving, but the life of a lapdog reclining on silk cushions was not their purpose, unlike smaller, dainty toy breeds like the Pekingese and Japanese Chin, which were bred to be the companions of royalty.

Any suggestion of fragility or toyishness is absolutely

wrong for our breed. We don’t want dogs too frail to play safely with young children or to whelp puppies naturally. Many of us in Tibetan Spaniels also have a larger breed, or came from a larger breed, and we love that Tibbies can hold their own in our households, absolutely fearless with no sense of their smaller physical size. We must never sacrifice moderate bone and substance in our quest for an in-size Tibetan Spaniel. Our breed standard gives us some wiggle room to appreciate, keep, and show Tibbies on the slightly smaller or slightly larger side who still exhibit all the hallmarks of classic breed type.

Vicki Bemont, German Shepherd Dog Club of America

The German Shepherd Dog was originally developed as a dog to be used in tending stock. Unlike many other herding breeds, the shepherd was designed to keep stock in a graze area

JOHN RICARD ©AKC

FEATURE



German Shepherd
Dog

by patrolling in a steady, quiet manner.

The breed then morphed into a breed prized by the military and law enforcement for a variety of tasks, including patrol and detection work.

With the correct nerves and temperament, there is no end to the work or sport in which this breed can excel.

Because German Shepherds were developed

for long, tiring tasks, the dogs' movement is critical. The opening statements of the standard are among my personal favorite descriptors of the breed. Descriptors like *strong*, *full of life*, and *having the appearance of nimbleness* are just a few.

... The core work of the German Shepherd is done at slow to moderate speeds. Some esteemed members of

Quarterly Breed Columns Schedule

Sporting/Working Groups

January, April, July,
October

Hound/Terrier Groups

February, May, August,
November

Toy/Non-Sporting/ Herding Groups

March, June, September,
December

our fancy describe this as a “tending” speed. Quite honestly, if a German Shepherd Dog approached a flock of sheep at the extreme speeds we often see in the show ring, it would be a total disaster. Our breed should be judged at a slow, working speed—a speed that truly highlights the qualities we so treasure in one of the greatest working breeds ever developed. **GZ**

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



familydog



THE 2026 AKC PHOTO CONTEST — NOW OPEN TO ALL!

Are you an accomplished shutterbug (or aspiring to be one)? Then we invite you to enter the 2026 AKC Photo Contest! Our theme this year is **"The Great Outdoors."** As always, the entries are based solely on creativity, quality, and originality. The top winners will take home cash prizes! For more on that and other details, check out the [contest rules](#).

The 2026 AKC Photo Contest starts April 27, 2026. Entries must be sent via email or postmarked no later than Oct. 31, 2026. Email your high-resolution photos to photocontest@akc.org — please include your name and the breed of the dog (if applicable).

Start snapping!



"Corgis Herding," by Art Smith

Type and Function Junction

By Bill Shelton

In this extended edition of "Times Past," we go back to our April 1999 issue, where master breeder and judge Bill Shelton held forth on why he considers original function to be the cornerstone of that most elusive of canine qualities: type.

It was recently discovered that the domestic dog existed during the Cro-Magnon era. We have no visual image of the dogs of that era, but we know through DNA that they were present. Long before stud-books, written standards, or dog shows were imagined,

specific breeds, some of which are extinct today, existed and flourished. Because survival of the fittest and natural selection were the order of the day, a dog without a strong drive to pursue prey would not survive.

In the early days of the

TIMES PAST



*"Ch. Christopher of Notts
and Ch. Cackler of Notts," by
Maud Earl*

evolution of dogs, people depended on their canine partners to help them achieve their daily tasks and improve the quality of their lives. And as people selected animals to serve them and live with them on the basis of the animals' behavioral characteristics, the animals' progeny began to exhibit physical characteristics

similar to those of their parents. Because the ability to function was paramount, soundness was probably the trait that primarily determined the desirability of a particular dog. Thus, the principal force behind the development of any group of dogs was the ability to fulfill an important purpose.

SELECTIVE BREEDING

Selective breeding was the tool people used to ensure the continued presence of dogs that would be useful to them. Human beings thereby determined the evolutionary course of dogs, creating a vast number of breeds and varieties to assist in daily life. Not only were we able to influence a dog's

TIMES PAST

"Unkennelling the Royal Hounds on Ascot Heath," by Henry Bernard Chalon



form to make it more adept at performing specific tasks, we were also able to design attributes identifying a dog or family of dogs by geographic region of origin or even owner. Many breeds (e.g., spaniels, setters, etc.) even had distinguishable subtypes. A person's occupation or station in society could often be identified by

possession of a type of dog.

Nowadays, few dogs spend their lives doing what their breed was originally designed to do. There are some dogs that still perform, at least part of the time, the function for which their breed was developed, but they are the exception rather than the rule. The conformation events we created to validate

our progress in breeding have perhaps become the chief purpose of existence for a large population of dogs today. If those of us who are conformation-event aficionados wish to preserve and test the essence of type, which is what we breed for in order to do well at dog shows, we must now consider performance events to be more

PUBLIC DOMAIN

TIMES PAST

important than ever before in a number of breeds. We must use our breeding stock for its intended purpose and encourage others to do the same, rather than idly wait for the next dog show.

Although breeders and judges alike make their choices based on standards written for a particular purpose, many have never watched the breeds in question actually perform the tasks for which they were originally designed. There are many handlers, breeders and judges whose *only* point of reference for type is the dog show. As dog shows become ever more popular, but also isolated within their own world, the true purposes of many breeds become more elusive.

Judges at these shows evaluate the anatomies of dogs in great detail. A judge is expected to do this within two minutes, limiting most inquiries of character to whether an exhibit is shy or aggressive. However, a judge who has extensive



experience with a breed will possess a deep-seated intuition regarding the breed. A breed's original purpose should always be foremost in a judge's mind. But safeguarding the essence of type remains the province of the breeder.

Unfortunately, we increasingly see the generic behavior that many associate with show dog temperament being rewarded by judges across the board. However, showmanship as it is generally valued and demonstrated may very well conflict with a breed's intended character.

Nowadays, the word *type* is used frequently at shows to substantiate opinions, often by people who wish to create the illusion they have insight into the character of a breed.

HOW IMPORTANT IS TYPE?

As a judge, what importance do I ascribe to type in a particular breed? Before deciding, I must first have a clear understanding of the breed's purpose and know the reasons for its physical form and its temperament. Form follows function, a principle that leads a Bulldog

COURTESY BONHAM'S

TIMES PAST

and a Basenji, for example, to be so different from one another *physically*. Similarly, the “merry” Cocker Spaniel will *behave* quite differently than the Rottweiler. The ideal form, once perceived, must be visualized clearly in the mind’s eye.

Second, I have to know something about the breed’s history that will give me insight into the path its evolution has taken and the reasons behind any variations breeders are familiar with. A simple but distinctive example is the Bullmastiff, which is 40 percent Bulldog and 60 percent Mastiff. When a Bullmastiff’s dominant characteristics show an excessive amount of either progenitor’s influence, it is a fault.

Third, I must identify those traits that have been so accentuated within a breed that they have become faults. If judges reward such dogs, it may encourage other breeders to follow the same path. Such extremes, like the topknot in Shih Tzu,

the unwarranted length of coat in Cockers, or excessive soft furnishings on Giant Schnauzers, are only a few examples out of many that are currently prevalent. Such trends have no relevance to the breed’s purpose.

Fourth, although I admit I tend to overemphasize detail myself, a breeder’s stock must first of all possess a sound foundation, predicated upon specific forms. Fifth, as the great breeder Beatrice Godsol wrote, “All the grooming and skillful handling cannot change a mediocre dog into a top one, nor are beauty treatments transmitted.”

THE CORNERSTONE OF TYPE

How do I see type? Part of it can be almost illusory at first glance. A dog with an otherwise ideal physique that does not possess its breed’s distinct demeanor will not be a wholly acceptable example of its breed. These behaviors are often insufficiently studied by

and known among judges. On the more tangible side, a dog must also display a distinct form to be instantly identifiable as its breed. Beyond this we have many styles within a breed, all of which may still possess type.

As a judge it is my duty to seek out type by continuously studying and increasing my familiarity with each breed I judge. A judge has the responsibility to be a guardian and student of the standards and a confidante to breeders. We may never all agree on what *type* really means, but there is no denying that the original purpose of a breed should be the cornerstone of our definition. Fortunately, throughout history the concept of type has been held in the hands of those who cherish and guard its very existence.—**B.S.**

Bill Shelton is the founding breeder of Coventry Pembroke Welsh Corgis. He is a columnist, lecturer, and judge.



AKC[®]tv

Sit. Stay. Watch.

Visit AKC.tv to see the
latest dog show events.

AKC[®]tv



Also available on

Roku



fire tv

Search AKC in the APP/Channel Store



Walking the Dogwood

DOSWELL, VIRGINIA—PawsFab has posted lots of video from June's Dogwood Cluster. 12:40



Dog Ciao!

BOLOGNA, ITALY—De Giuliani Claudio judges Best in Show at the 2026 World Show.

VIDEOS



You Can Do It

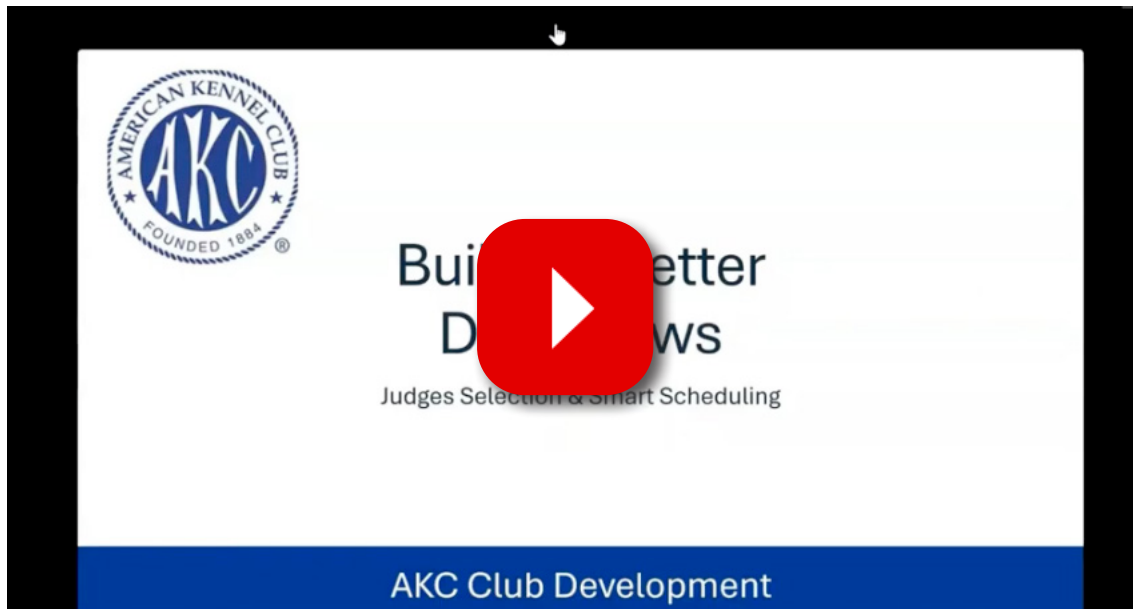
George Alston delivers his famous handling seminar for owner-handlers. 1:20:09



Splashdown!

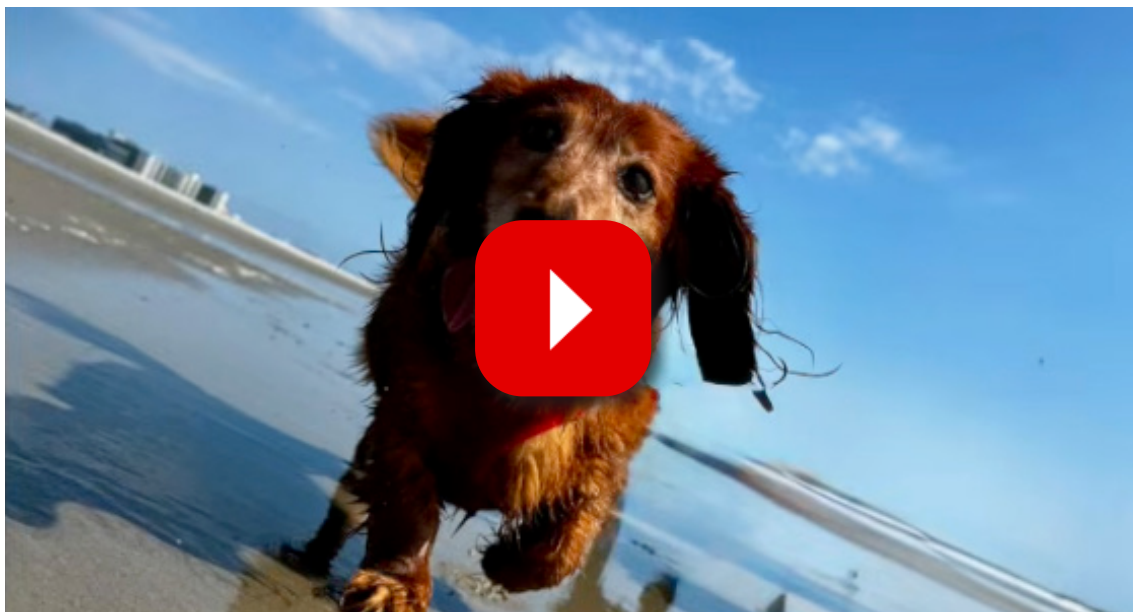
PHILADELPHIA—Highlights from the AKC Diving Dogs Team Challenge include Misfit the Whippet's 31-foot, 8-inch, jump. 7:14

VIDEOS



Building Better Dog Shows

An AKC Club Relations webinar offering tips and strategies for enhancing the dog-show experience. 32:14



Picture Perfect

Here's a slideshow of winners from the 2025 AKC Family Dog Photo Contest. 1:28

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



The most successful dog book ever published, with over two million copies sold, **The New Complete Dog Book** is the American Kennel Club's bible of dogs, a celebration of every breed—over 200 recognized by the AKC. This volume offers readers:

- Official standard for every AKC-recognized breed
- Over 800 exceptional color photographs of adults and puppies
- Spotlight on finding well-bred puppies, sports, and activities for dogs and owners

This **23rd edition** of The American Kennel Club's **The New Complete Dog Book** belongs in every dog lover's home, the library of every town and institution, and dog club reference section in America.

Available at *Amazon* or in the AKC Shop at *shop.akc.org*



Luke Ehricht

“Right off the bat, he started winning,” says Ehricht, handler and co-owner of Comet the Shih Tsu, 2023 AKC National Championship BIS. “He just excelled in all the things that are really important to us in the breed.” Comet is among the National Champions who will have the new ANC prefix title attached to his record.

Luke and Diane Ehricht, of Hallmark Jolei Shih Tsu, have built a dynasty of top winners. “I’ve always been attracted to the long hair, the glamour,” Luke says of the breed. They kind of make you smile just to be around them.”

BUD BOCCONE ©2026

BREED COLUMNS

Edited by **Arliss Paddock**

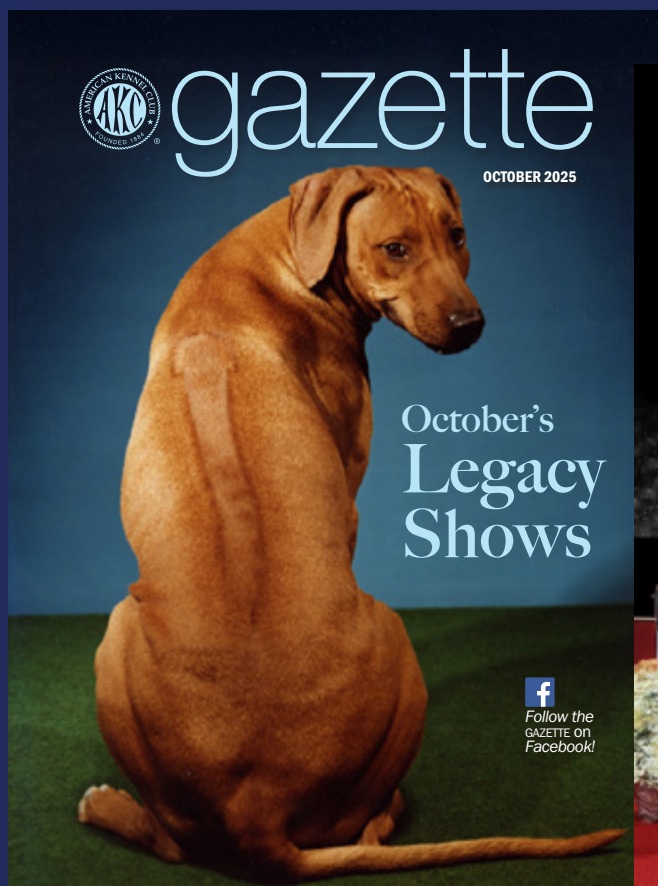


This month, the Irish Terrier Club of America's Michael A. Kowalczyk profiles one of his breed's American forefathers, Jerry O'Callaghan, seen here in 1935 with Joe Cronin of the Boston Red Sox.

COURTESY GERRY MULLIGAN / ITCA

ADVERTISE YOUR UPCOMING CLUB EVENT!

NEW AKC GAZETTE AD RATES EXCLUSIVE TO AKC CLUBS!



UPCOMING DEADLINES

SEPTEMBER ISSUE: August 14 for space reservations and August 17 for materials.
Emailed **September 1**

OCTOBER ISSUE: September 15 for space reservations and September 17 for materials.
Emailed **October 1**

RATES FOR CLUB ADS

Full Screen \$400
Half Screen \$200
Quarter Screen \$125

AKC advertising contact: Venus Rodriguez | 212.696.8260 | venus.rodriguez@akc.org

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

The breed columns are a time-honored feature of the AKC GAZETTE. Each columnist is appointed by the breed's national parent club, which preserves the breed's standard and helps to educate breeders, judges, and the public about the breed's traits, history, care, and training. A national parent club is made up of dedicated breeders and fanciers and represents many years of collective experience in the breed. Columnists are asked to write about topics of interest to serious dog fanciers in general as well as those of specific interest to judges and devotees of the breed. The breed columns rotate quarterly by group so that each breed's column can appear four times a year. Information and opinions expressed in the breed columns represent the views of their authors, not necessarily those of the breed's parent club or the AKC. For questions about the breed columns, e-mail Arliss.Paddock@akc.org



THIS MONTH

Hounds

- 38 Basenjis
- 41 Bloodhounds
- 43 Borzoi
- 45 Dachshunds
- 48 Grands Bassets Griffons Vendéens
- 50 Greyhounds
- 52 Ibizan Hounds
- 54 Irish Wolfhounds
- 56 Otterhounds
- 58 Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens
- 61 Rhodesian Ridgebacks
- 63 Salukis
- 65 Scottish Deerhounds
- 66 Whippets

Terriers

- 68 Airdale Terriers

- 71 American Hairless Terriers
- 75 Australian Terriers
- 77 Bedlington Terriers
- 79 Border Terriers
- 81 Bull Terriers
- 82 Cairn Terriers
- 85 Smooth Fox Terriers
- 88 Wire Fox Terriers
- 90 Irish Terriers
- 92 Kerry Blue Terriers
- 94 Lakeland Terriers
- 96 Manchester Terriers
- 99 Norfolk Terriers
- 101 Norwich Terriers
- 103 Scottish Terriers
- 105 Sealyham Terriers
- 107 Skye Terriers
- 109 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
- 112 Welsh Terriers

COURTESY SHARON BETKER

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

Basenjis

A LIFE OF QUIET ADVENTURE AND ACHIEVEMENT: SUSAN COE, 1944–2025

In a 2006 “Meet Your Breeders” [article](#) in *The Basenji* magazine, Susan Coe, of Akuaba Basenjis, described one of her contributions to the breed as “helping a few people get started as fanciers.” Those who knew her will recognize the modesty in that answer. Susan was a wonderful mentor, and her influence helped shape a community.

The tributes posted in Susan’s honor speak of her qualities: “inspiring,” “quiet,” “wise,” “knowledgeable,” “friendly,” “helpful,” “gentle,” “amazing,” “generous,” and “kind” (on Facebook, see [Remembering Susan Coe](#)). To newcomers, she was welcoming. To experienced breeders, she was a respected colleague whose opinions carried weight because they were grounded in knowledge and integrity.

Susan also mentioned publications as part of her

contributions to the breed—another understatement. Her written work preserved history, organized knowledge, and made information available to generations of Basenji fanciers. After an early home-grown publication in 1975, *Curly Tales and Other Basenji Nonsense*, she purchased *The Basenji* magazine in 1978 and published it until 2001.

From Jon, her husband of 62 years:

“When she made the bold move of purchasing *The Basenji*, we were in the Dark Ages of home publishing. Most readers today can’t imagine typing everything on a museum-piece manual typewriter and gluing strips of type onto card stock around photo negatives. Typos were corrected by retyping the entire page and re-gluing it. Finally, she would take it to the printer and take even longer addressing each magazine using a stencil machine from the 1930s.”

In 1979, Susan and fancier Melody Russell began

work on *The Years of the American Basenji*, a compendium of breeding in the United Kingdom and the U.S. Concerned by the lack of accessible information on Basenjis of the past, they gathered photographs and typed pedigrees for 535 dogs and collated them all into a three-ring binder. Sounds simple enough; took forever. The compendium grew to thousands of dogs before going online.

Around 1987, Susan was asked to write an overall breed book. The result was the painstakingly researched, over 350-page *The Basenji: Out of Africa to You*, first published in 1994.

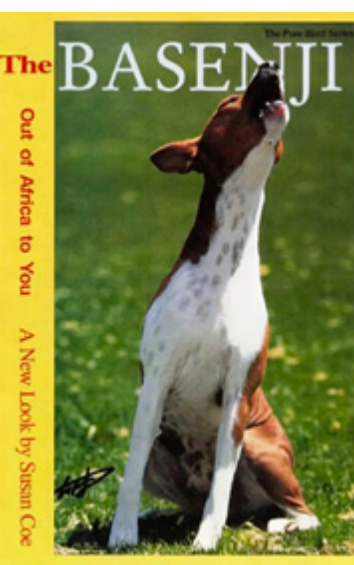
From Jon:

“Susan was an early adapter to a home computer, learning ‘Control-C’ for this and ‘Control-F’ for that. These skills, and her endless energy and determination, enabled her to take on this enormous project.”

The Basenji: Out of Africa to You won the runner-up award at the Dog Writers Association of America

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Photos from Susan Coe's life over the years: (1) Daughter Alyssa with Suni, Sprite, and Flyer in 1977; (2) family photo in Philadelphia, 1984; (3) in the 1980s, (L-R) Jean Martin, Kim Brown, Jane Williams, Iris Craven, and Susan; (4) Susan winning one of five Best in Shows with Nate in 1989; (5) Susan's 1994 book *Out of Africa to You*; (6) with Iris Craven—Susan had a great sense of humor; (7) judging at Evergreen, with Andrea Stone handling Phaser; (8) Susan working on a stream in their garden in Australia, February 2013; (9) the grand finale mosaic project, water tanks in the garden, 2024; (10) on the sofa with Basenjis Robin and Ginger and Saluki Poppy, a year before Susan's death; (11) dogs on the sofa without her, Sept. 2025; (12) granddaughter Estelle, daughter Alyssa, and Basenji Cookie at work finishing the mosaic in 2026.

COURTESY FAMILY

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

annual banquet that Susan and Jon attended in New York City. The book's greatest honor, however, may be how many people have learned from it.

Although Susan never traveled to the Congo region, she strongly supported the importation of African stock and understood its importance to the Basenji's future. She was deeply involved with the Basenji Club of America's African Stock Project Committee, which organized the first—and since ongoing—African Exhibition at the 1994 BCOA national specialty.

Susan then set out to establish a historical record of the dogs being imported to ensure the pedigrees were effectively managed. *The African Stock Project*, a renewable loose-leaf compendium, was published in 1998. Once again, Susan conserved history.

Her final major written work was the Basenji University, hosted on the BCOA website. As chair of the Breeders Education

Committee, Susan developed an online home-study program for owners, breeders, and judges, with information on breed history, health, behavior, and standards.

As a fellow writer, I am awestruck by the amount and breadth of her writing and her tenacity.

Susan's life with Basenjis

Susan and Jon, both landscape architects, married in 1966 and served in Brazil with the Peace Corps before settling in Calgary. They bought their first home in 1970 and welcomed their first Basenjis. Drawn to the breed's primitive, wild-canine qualities, they had also met and liked their coworker's Basenji. The breeder of that dog was Lois Cox, Utah, and the Coes got a puppy from her and a puppy from the co-worker. Susan started showing that same year.

The family moved to the Seattle area, and daughter Alyssa was born in 1972. Susan joined the Evergreen Basenji Club and traveled

the Pacific Northwest dog-show circuit in a small Toyota pickup with a camper cover.

Jon: "We had a large wire dog crate tied down in the back. Long before child restraint seats became available, toddler Alyssa travelled with the Basenjis, and they entertained each other in the crate. If Susan ever had to make a fast stop, they were safer in this confined area than without any form of restraint. Neither Alyssa nor the Basenjis ever complained."

In 1983, they moved to Philadelphia, and during their 20 years there, Susan became a top Basenji competitor. She had five Best in Show wins while campaigning Nate, Ch. Akuaba's Tornado, JC. As of July 2026, Nate is the top producing stud dog, with 123 champions. And the bitch Ch. Eldorado's Akuaba With One Look, JC, is the top producing brood bitch, with 30 champions.

In November 2004, Susan and Jon began a new chapter

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

in Australia. Susan joined the Basenji club of Victoria when they moved there.

Alongside showing dogs and renovating their home, Susan began work on a one-and-a-half-acre enclosed garden below the house. She designed, built, planted, and maintained it, all by hand. Her creativity expanded into mosaics and culminated in the covering of two large concrete water tanks. The first took more than a year; the second, still in progress at the end of Susan's life, was recently [completed](#) by Alyssa and her daughter Estelle.

Friends remember Susan's honesty as part of her charm. Jean Martin, who shared dog shows and international travels with Susan, said she always appreciated knowing where she stood. If Susan did not like one of her dogs, Jean knew it; if she did, Jean knew that too.

Jean also remembered lighter moments, including a trip to England, where "peas are practically the national vegetable, mushy or regular." Susan ordered

lasagna and discovered peas in it—highly unfortunate for someone who hated peas. Luckily, Susan also had a great sense of humor.

Throughout her life, Susan worked with patience, discipline, and vision. She understood that lasting things are built piece by piece. Fancier Louise Marsden described Susan as "an inspiration to me. Just do the job, quietly and well." Fancier Nancy Hettinger called her "a wealth of knowledge in a kind and unassuming soul" who left "a grand impression on all she met."

Jon and Alyssa wrote a brilliant memorial/history of Susan's life that I was privileged to read, and I borrowed the title for this column. If you would like to read the piece, 18 pages and full of photos, contact Jon at jon@joncoedesign.com.

Jon said: "I'm delighted to help broaden people's understanding and appreciation of her many contributions. She never sought recognition herself, so I like to promote

her legacy."

What a legacy!

—Marcia Woodard,
marciabarkless@gmail.com
Basenji Club of America

Bloodhounds

RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP IN PUBLIC

We enjoy spending time with our dogs. If we didn't, we wouldn't own them. But in our quest to give our dogs a rich, fulfilling life, we need to balance their curiosity and enthusiasm with the needs and expectations of our community.

Much like a parent who doesn't correct a screaming child in a restaurant or supermarket, a dog owner who doesn't control their hound's behavior in public can make everyone's life miserable. You owe it to yourself, your dog, and your community to mold your hound into a respectable member of society.

This is especially important for owners of giant breeds. Someone being flattened by an exuberant dog

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

or watching people cross the road to avoid your young enthusiastic, bellowing, leaping adolescent Bloodhound isn't fun or funny. You might love your dog's enthusiasm, but 120 pounds of bellowing dog can be terrifying, not to mention a danger to you if you lose your balance.

Every encounter you have shapes people's impression of the breed. This is not a breed that naturally listens to their owner, so it's even more important that your start teaching your dog manners from the first day you own them, no matter what the age.

We joke about Bloodhound handlers having one arm longer than the other from the pulling—but as long as you allow them to pull you, they will take advantage of it. No one is expecting your dog to heel precisely while gazing adoringly up at you on a walk. That is completely unrealistic. But not dragging you? That is achievable!

Reliable behavior in distracting environments is not



Bloodhounds, National Geographic Society Book of Dogs, 1919

something dogs naturally possess—it is a learned skill developed through gradual exposure, training, and consistent reinforcement.

Start small. Ask for polite behavior at home, for short periods of time. While you are doing that, take your walks through non-distracting areas at times that there won't be a lot of people. I use a long line and let my young dogs run and play for 15 minutes in an open field, then ask them to come in and focus for a minute or two, walking with me,

then back out on the long line. Gradually I can ask for more than a few minutes of nicely walking, as long as they know they will get non-focused playtime soon. Eventually I can get focus from the car to the field and back again. Once I have that, I can ask for it in other situations.

Again, start small. Neighborhood walks before going to a busy park. Public spaces filled with people are a challenge, but you can usually keep them focused with food, toys, or simply

BREED COLUMNS

HOUD GROUP

affection—as long as the distraction isn't overwhelming or you are there too long.

Just like any other type of training, keep your sessions short and fun. If you can start young, it's easier, but it's not a requirement. Even an older dog can learn appropriate behavior in public. The rewards to being polite is that they get more affection.

Do the same training around other dogs. Not every dog's existence is an invitation to play! Think of it as a Walmart visit; the point is not to socialize, but to get what you need and keep going. If you run into a friend, chat briefly, then move on.

One of the common problems I see in training is that some people's dogs think the only reason to go somewhere is to socialize. It's important for a dog to learn that not everyone wants to pet them. It's the equivalent of "Don't interrupt while the adults are talking." As an owner, you have to sometimes just say "no" because you can.

It's not unreasonable to ask the dog to "work" before petting. *Sit, stand, or lie down* are all actions that make the dog think before launching themselves at a new friend.

Manners are not solely about protecting the public; they protect us and our dogs as well. A dog who remains calm in public is less likely to become overwhelmed or frightened. Leashes give you the ability to advocate for your dog, get out of stressful situations, and prevent something that could be a very negative experience. Each time you have a positive public interaction, you reinforce your dog's confidence and appropriate behavior.

For Bloodhound owners, good leash manners are a fundamental life skill, not an optional accomplishment. Before spending time in crowded public settings, Bloodhounds should be comfortable walking politely on lead, greeting appropriately, and remaining under control even when excited.

Responsible public behavior is not about suppressing a dog's joyful nature. Rather, it is about channeling that enthusiasm in ways that are safe, respectful, and welcomed by others. When Bloodhound owners invest time in training and maintaining control of their dogs, they become ambassadors not only for their individual companions but also for the breed as a whole. Every well-mannered Bloodhound seen in public helps strengthen the reputation of these gentle giants and preserves opportunities for all dog owners to enjoy public spaces together.

You are your dog's best advocate. Be a good one.

—Betsy Copeland,
Copelandia@aol.com
American Bloodhound Club

Borzoï

ILLUSIONS OF BORZOI AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORS

In the era of smartphones, Instagram, and Facebook,

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

we keep abreast of what goes on in our breed by looking at thumbnail-sized images and videos of dogs exhibited in other parts of the country and abroad. Arguably, it gives us a better overall picture of the breed than the magazines we all used to leaf through several times a year in the past. The sheer volume of the material available now is greater, the perspectives are more varied, and we often see photos and videos of the same dog from different angles.

Certainly, crucial details may not be apparent when viewing some pictures selected for posting online, not to mention AI-altered images.

Nothing beats seeing the dogs with your own eyes and being coached by an experienced breed specialist. A beautifully groomed Borzoi may look spectacular in a stack, but as soon as the dog starts moving, he may fall apart, revealing that his sculpted shape hides the dog's faulty structure. At the same time, another dog who



is shown with his coat in a natural state, perhaps, by a novice owner who does not yet know which direction to brush the coat, let alone where to thin it to show off the dog's best features, may well be a better specimen. A judge is able to sort through the dogs when examining them, and a spectator with a trained eye can see many

things when the dogs move; and so, posed still images can never replace hands-on experience.

Often, only one or two pictures exist of an important sire or dam of the bygone era, and those images may not be representative of the dog's quality. Did the gorgeous Borzoi you see on the photo have hackneyed

JOHN RICARD ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

HOUD GROUP

front movement and carry her tail over her back? Was the topline on a well-coated male flatter than desired, or was his profuse and unstyled coat concealing the topline's true shape? Was his bite off, and was he missing several teeth? Was the picture taken straight on, and was the dog stacked on a flat surface? If not, the dog's back may appear shorter, his croup steeper, and his hipbones lower or higher than they really are.

If we scroll through Borzoi photos simply for fun, to see who is winning, or to admire different styles of Borzoi, the answers to those questions may not matter much. However, if your intention is to find a show and/or performance prospect—or, especially, if you want to start breeding—a lot of background information is required, including temperament, health, conformation, and performance ability.

Truly invaluable information can be provided by your mentor, someone who has a similar vision of

the breed as you, but possesses more experience, has a deep knowledge of different bloodlines and how they go together, has seen the famous dogs of the past, knows how they had produced, and is familiar with their ancestors.

Putting together pedigrees is an art—but it can also be a lottery, especially if you are working with erroneous data. Your mentor would have to have trust in you to tell you some of the background information, as not everything might be in the open.

How do you find this mentor, you ask? Your ideal mentor is a patient and thoughtful person, a reputable and honest breeder with years of experience, whose dogs have consistent type over generations and represent something very close to the standard and your style of Borzoi.

A national specialty would be a perfect place to observe the dogs and determine your preferred type. Ask around and see if you can foster a

relationship with someone who can hopefully become your mentor, friend, and a member of your dog family.

Being asked to be a mentor is an honor and responsibility, requires time commitment, and sometimes causes hurt feelings, so it is not something that should be taken lightly by either the mentor or their mentee. But it is the best way to learn, to foster life-long friendships, gain a wealth of knowledge, and use it to produce dogs that fit the standard and please your eye.

—Kristina Terra,

k.terra@mac.com

[Borzoi Club of America](#)

Dachshunds

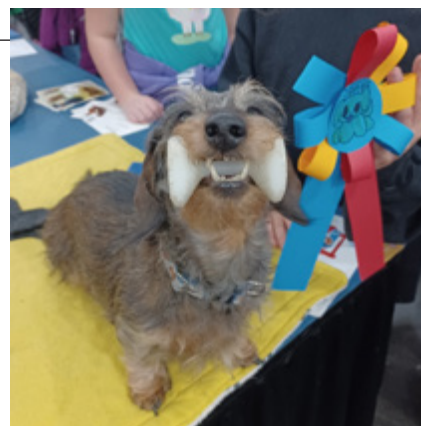
DACHSHUNDS REPRESENT:

MEET THE BREEDS IN THE BIG APPLE

We all love to talk up our breed, recount its positive characteristics and funny quirks, and let others know how well it fits our life. The AKC's Meet the Breeds is one of the

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



paramount opportunities to inform the public about your chosen breed.

The New York City iteration of Meet the Breeds

runs two days, Saturday and Sunday, usually in late January or early February. It is held at the Javits Center, a huge exhibition space on Manhattan's West Side. The AKC has developed a visually attractive standard banner for the back of each breed's booth that also has

At Meet the Breeds: (1) 15-year-old rescue Dachshund Karmi D charmed the public at the booth in 2023; (2) Barry and Julia brought a stylish flair to the booth's German theme; (3) wirehair Brooke charming booth visitors; (4) a life-size badger standup provided education on breed function; (5) kids enjoyed the coloring pages showing the breed's three coat types; (6) visitors to the booth were two and three deep; (7) presentation boards show Dachshunds in a variety of activities.

two six-foot tables with skirts and four to six folding chairs. We bring yoga mats to counteract the slippery surface of the table covers.

Clubs can dress up the tables, skirts, dogs, and themselves as they see fit, so there is a lot of variety within the basic format. Of course for Dachshunds we have a German theme, with

COURTESY DCA

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

a few of us in dirndls, decorative swags with pretzels and beer steins, and even a life-size badger cut-out. We explain that the German word for “badger” is *Dachs*, and that *Dachshund* means “badger dog.” If one out of 10 visitors remembers that, we will have accomplished something.

Dachshunds have been a part of this excellent outreach event for years. To educate the public about our breed we have two presentation trifold showing modern Dachshunds in a variety of activities, as well as portraits of earlier Dachsies like Pehr, hunting companion of the Swedish ambassador to the court of the French king, Louis XIV (1638–1715).

We hand out copies of the AKC standard and a listing of all the varied activities your Dachsie can do, with contact information for local training clubs. We also have a lovely postcard showing all three coats and with Dachshund Club of America contact information on the back.

We try to present all three coats and both sizes. The point is to showcase dogs of varying ages, coats, and colors, as well as owners who were not necessarily “dog show people.” Meet the Breeds is not about show dogs *per se*, but dogs who can do lots of things and enjoy interacting with the public. Dachsies shook hands, carried dumbbells, rolled over, gave kisses, and looked fabulous. One year the star was Karmi D, a 15-year-old smooth mini rescue in a pink sweater. She charmed the public and illustrated how long-lived our Dachshunds can be.

Our rule of thumb is that dogs “work” for an hour or so, and then get crate rest, either under the table or in the back of the booth, for an equal amount of time. But Karmi D did *not* want to rest until the end of the day. What a dog!

The public response to the Dachshund booth is impressive. The doors open at 9 A.M., and by 10 A.M. spectators are at least two-

deep at our booth. One year we could not get out at 11:30 to get our promised bagged lunches. An AKC official came by to see how we were doing and later told me that she couldn’t get close enough to even ask if we needed anything! The Dachshund booth is usually not too far from the dog potty area, but even to get our dogs out, we have to carry them through the crowd. Human facilities are farther away, alas.

Exhibition visitors usually have lots of questions about Dachshunds. Quite often we are asked how they get along with cats. Our go-to answer is “not well.” Charmed by social media images of cute little longhairs in stylish outfits, the questioner often stares back in surprise. We then repeat that these are dwarf hunting dogs originally used on badger in Europe and now on woodchuck (groundhogs) in North America. Here’s where our badger cut-out comes in handy, and our display boards with a photo

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

of a modern Dachshund tracking wounded deer. Lifting the flews of a Dachshund to show the canines also helps to explain their hunting proclivities. The Dachshund is a great dog but may not be the right fit for every home.

Hundreds of children come to Meet the Breeds, and the AKC has a handout for the kids to check off all the breeds that they see each day. We have stickers for all three Dachshund coats, and coloring sheets (and of course crayons). The AKC supplies one matrix coloring sheet showing a family of smooth Dachsies, but I was able to find some online images of a wire and a long-hair and then modified them into line drawings. I add the names of the dogs interacting that day to the coloring pages that I created. When children ask the dogs' names and if the coloring pages were their portraits, I can say in a general way, "Yes!" I would be thrilled if the kids remembered that there were three "flavors," smooth,

long, and wire. (If I get really organized next year, perhaps I can make coloring sheets showing Dachsies tracking a rabbit, retrieving a dumbbell, or going into a tunnel.) Needless to say, the stickers and coloring sheets usually run out before the children do.

Thanks to Julia Weinstein, in an authentic dirndl as opposed to my ersatz one, we also have a presence on social media. The goal of Meet the Breeds is to be as accessible as possible.

My biggest impression from those who visited our booth was not that people wanted to know where to get a Dachshund. Instead, they wanted to tell us about the Dachshunds in their past—their grandmother's dog, the Dachsie that lived next door, the one their friend had. There was often a deep emotional connection to this quirky, expressive breed, something I had not expected from total strangers. It reminded me once again how much our dogs can teach us about communication, and

how our dogs link us to one another though we may start as strangers.

Meet the Breeds is one of the best events that the AKC sponsors. If there is one scheduled in your area, do take part. It will make your day.

—Trudy Kawami,
salixbrooklyn@aol.com
Dachshund Club of
America

Grands Bassets Griffons Vendéens

THE GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN: A BRIGHT FUTURE BUILT ON DEDICATION

Every rare breed has a story. The story of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (GBGV) in America is one of perseverance, partnership, and hope.

For a rare breed, the challenge is not simply becoming established—it is preserving the qualities that define it while thoughtfully guiding its future. Through the dedication of breeders, owners, volunteers, and families across the country,

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Grands Bassets
Griffons Vendéens

the GBGV continues to do exactly that. Today the breed stands at an encouraging point in its development, with renewed optimism for the years ahead.

For the GBGV, every healthy litter matters. Every responsible breeder matters. Every committed owner matters.

The success of a rare breed is seldom measured by numbers alone, but rather by the depth of commitment behind it. In the case of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen, careful breeding decisions, thoughtful importation of bloodlines, and the steady

introduction of new owners who appreciate the breed's unique qualities have all contributed to the foundation it now enjoys.

That commitment is yielding meaningful progress. In 2026 alone, more than 20 puppies have been born in the U.S.—an encouraging milestone for a breed whose central challenge has long been the maintenance of a healthy, sustainable population. While modest in absolute terms, this number reflects intentional planning, genetic consideration, and a shared confidence in the breed's future.

Developed in France as

a determined scent hound used for hunting hare over challenging terrain, the GBGV retains the essential qualities of its origin: endurance, independence, and keen scenting ability. In the U.S., however, relatively few owners hunt with their dogs. Instead, these traits have found expression in the breed's success as a versatile and engaging companion.

Whether relaxed at home, accompanying their families on outdoor activities, participating in therapy work, or competing in AKC events such as Fast CAT, dock diving, scent work, Barn Hunt, and other performance disciplines, GBGVs continue to demonstrate athleticism, intelligence, and a distinctive *joie de vivre*. They are equally at ease in the home as they are engaged in active pursuits alongside their families.

Behind these dogs is a dedicated community of preservation breeders who have devoted years to studying pedigrees, maintaining

COURTESY COREY BENEDICT

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

breed type, expanding genetic diversity, prioritizing health, and placing puppies with care and intention.

Breeders and others across the country continue to support the breed through responsible breeding practices, mentorship, education, and a long-term commitment to excellence.

Supporting these efforts are the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America and the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Foundation. Together, these organizations remain focused on the breed's long-term future through health initiatives, education, responsible breeding practices, and preservation efforts that will benefit generations to come.

For those who have followed the breed's development over time, each healthy litter, each new owner, each performance achievement, and each family that discovers the GBGV represents continued progress toward a stable and promising future.

The more than 20 puppies born in 2026 are far more than a statistic. They represent opportunity—opportunity to share the breed with new families and to continue building a thoughtful and sustainable future for the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen in America.

That is a future worth celebrating.

—Breed Preservation Committee

[Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America](#)

Greyhounds

GET A FRONT AND KEEP IT

As I listen to the conversations among judges and breeders, one of the shortcomings that comes up a lot is front assembly. Not just in the Greyhound, but almost every breed has that complaint.

The correct front assembly is paramount to good structure and tireless movement. Correct shoulder angle for a specific breed needs to be clearly understood. A person coming from a working

breed needs to appreciate that angulation is much different in a sighthound, and even within the sighthounds there is some degree of variability—for example, as in the Greyhound versus the Azawakh.

Generally speaking, the correct angulation for a Greyhound is close to 130 degrees, with the shoulder blade or scapula at 60 degrees, and the upper arm—the humerus—at 70 degrees. This information comes from both Rachel Page Elliott's study of X-rays of various breeds and is presented in her famous book *Dogsteps, a New Look* (2001), and Charles Brown's *Dog Locomotion and Gait Analysis* (1986).

If you are relatively new to a discussion of canine anatomy, and how to measure angulation, Dr. Claudia Orlandi's *Practical Canine Anatomy and Movement for Judges and Breeders* is the book for you. This book explains in pictures and drawings how to competently measure angulation.

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Correctly placed angles cause the point of the bris-
ket to reach the point of the
elbow but slightly behind

the elbow in Greyhounds.
Viewed from the front, the
fill does not come forward
to the front of the legs but is

*Greyhound at Westminster.
“Viewed from the front, the fill
does not come forward to the
front of the legs but is deep
and slightly back.”*

deep and slightly back.

Once you have determined your breeding bitch’s angulation, you need to find a stud dog of good quality. One of those qualities is proper angulation, both front and rear. Correct angulation contributes to the symmetrical reach and drive you need to achieve. Do know that a dog straight in front and rear will move with balanced reach and drive, but they will not have length of stride to cover ground.

Typically, in Greyhounds the rear angle is greater than the front. That is a story for another day, but remember their gait is the double-suspension gallop, which I have written about before.

Dogs inherit genes for incorrect angulation. Claudia Orlandi’s book (page 191) discusses that angulation is a medium- to

COURTESY PATTI CLARK

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

high-heritability trait, and that while ancestors may have good angulation, the individual dog before you is what counts the most in inheriting proper angulation. Breeding into a line with dogs in the pedigree having straight angles will ensure that eventually you will have them as well.

A good front assembly also includes strong and straight leg bones, well knuckled-up toes, slightly bent pasterns, and good, hard muscling, with the attachment of the muscle depending on the humerus and scapula length and placement. Once you get there, do not be tempted to introduce a nice dog with a poor front into your program.

Our standard does not discuss the specifics of angulation, except that the shoulder is as oblique as possible. Knowledge of function and form of the Greyhound and attendance at a breed seminar can you help to understand what goes into the making of a

good Greyhound.

This year a breed seminar will be conducted in Orlando with Maureen Lucas, Lochinvar, as the moderator. Check out our Illustrated Standard on our website to see an illustration of correct and incorrect shoulder angulation at [Illustrated Standard—Greyhound Club of America](#).

—Patti Clark, Greyhound Club of America President and JEC

[Greyhound Club of America](#)

Ibizan Hounds

AFTER THE APPLAUSE

There are some moments in a breeder's life that exist almost outside of time.

For me, winning the national specialty with a dog I bred and owned was one of those moments. Winning it a second time with the same dog felt almost impossible to comprehend. Like many breeders, I had spent years—decades, really—

working toward a goal that could never be guaranteed, no matter how much effort, study, sacrifice, and hope were invested.

And then it happened.

Twice.

What surprised me wasn't the excitement of the win. Anyone who has stood ring-side at a national specialty understands the emotion that accompanies a victory among your peers. What surprised me was what came afterward.

Eventually, the photographs are posted. The ribbons are packed away. The congratulatory messages slow. The social media attention moves on to the next winner, the next show, the next discussion.

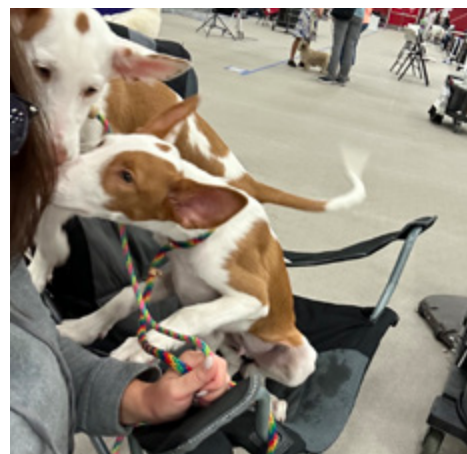
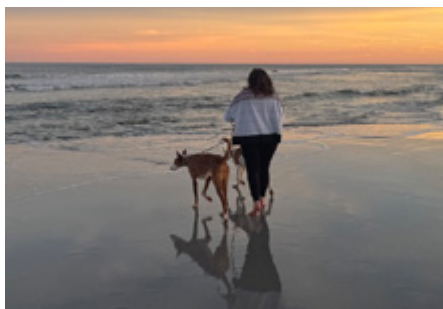
Then comes Monday.

The dogs still need to be fed. Puppies still need to be raised. Kennels still need cleaning. Families still need attention. Jobs still require our time and energy. Life, quite unapologetically, resumes.

For many breeders, there is also another reality that

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



"For preservation breeders, the real achievement was never the photograph in the ring. It was the years of planning that produced the dog. The generations behind that dog. The mentors who influenced us. The breeders who entrusted us with their bloodlines. The family members who tolerated our obsession. The countless hours spent trying to produce something that honors the breed we love."

follows success. Our sport is wonderfully passionate, but passion can sometimes

bring criticism, speculation, and gossip. The higher the achievement, the more

visible the recipient becomes. That visibility can be difficult to navigate,

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

particularly when a long-awaited accomplishment is reduced to rumor or second-guessed by those who were not part of the journey.

I suspect most successful breeders have experienced some version of this. We celebrate a milestone that may have taken twenty years to achieve, only to find ourselves defending it, minimizing it, or moving past it far more quickly than we should.

As I've reflected on this experience, I've come to believe that preserving these moments matters.

Not because winning defines us, but because remembering why the moment mattered helps sustain us through the less glamorous parts of preservation breeding. The late nights whelping litters. The difficult decisions. The disappointments. The years spent learning from mentors, making mistakes, and trying again.

A national specialty win is not simply a ribbon. It is a marker along a much longer road.

For preservation breeders, the real achievement was never the photograph in the ring. It was the years of planning that produced the dog. The generations behind that dog. The mentors who influenced us. The breeders who entrusted us with their bloodlines. The family members who tolerated our obsession. The countless hours spent trying to produce something that honors the breed we love.

Perhaps that is why the "coming down" afterward can feel so strange. We spend years climbing toward a peak only to discover that life continues exactly as it did before.

The dogs don't know they won a national specialty. They only know that breakfast is late.

And maybe there is wisdom in that.

Because while achievements deserve to be celebrated, the dogs remind us that our purpose is larger than any single win. The next generation still needs to be bred, raised, evaluated,

and protected. The breed still needs advocates. New exhibitors still need encouragement. Knowledge still needs to be passed on.

The applause fades, as it always does.

The work remains.

And for those of us committed to the future of the Ibizan Hound, perhaps that has always been the most meaningful part of the journey.

—Meegan Pierotti-Tietje,
Heron and Hound Ibizans
<http://heronandhound.weebly.com>

[Ibizan Hound Club of the United States](#)

Irish Wolfhounds

STERN ADVICE

Let us journey further into the anatomy of the Wolfhound, the Gazehound, and turn our attention to the stern.

The Wolfhound's tail is far from trivial. If it were, then Mother Nature would have made a rare blunder in almost every warm-blooded mammal and most of her

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

cold-blooded, footed creations.

Yet all too often, today's enthusiasts ignore the breed's blueprint, dismissing the tail as a mere afterthought, as if it serves no purpose at all. But if the stern truly had no role, why would nature have bothered to create it?

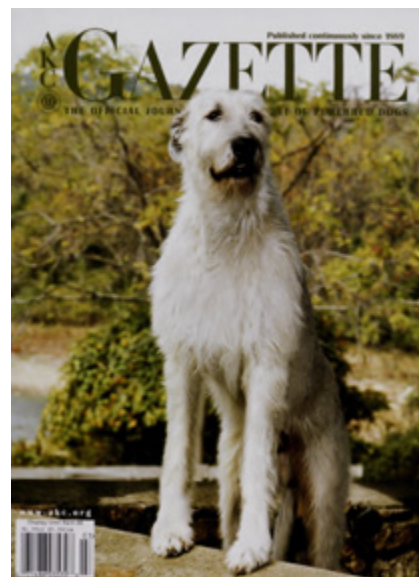
In the wild, the stern—or tail—is a multitasker. Tails speak, steady, and support. For sighthounds, the tail is a vital counterbalance. During a double-suspension gallop, the Wolfhound's tail acts as a rudder, offsetting its mass through sharp turns. When trotting, the tail should flow downward, never rising above the topline.

The breed standard calls for a tail that is long and gently curved. While not officially written, our forebearers believed the tail should reach the hock and *begin* its graceful curve at that point. A strongly rooted, long tail extending past the hock signals a hindquarter that is broad,

rounded, and powerful. The croup (located between the loin and the tail) should not drop away sharply or run flat to the tail's base. Instead, it should slope gently toward the tail.

A tail carried too high not only disrupts the silhouette but also signals deeper structural flaws. The tail is an extension of the spine, built from coccygeal vertebrae (the small bones that make up the tail) and anchored at the sacral region (where the spine meets the pelvis). The angle at which the sacrum connects to the pelvic girdle (the bones forming the hips) affects the slope of the croup and the tail's set-on. If the back is too flat, the loin lacks arch, and is too narrow; the result is a short, flat croup and an incorrect tail-set. These are serious faults that undermine movement, balance, endurance, and power.

The croup affects hindquarter stride length and limits the rear feet's forward reach. This, in turn,



Irish Wolfhound, March 2007

influences the energy that propels the hound forward. Strong hamstring muscles, anchored at the pelvis and upper thigh, provide most of the drive, as I discuss below.

In the Irish Wolfhound, a functional 30-degree slope of the croup is desired. This croup angle determines the direction of the hindquarters' force and ensures that thrust control is *forward along the back*. A flat croup, with an angle of 10–20 degrees, can result in significant loss of energy. The drive angle is then situated well below the back

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

and diverts energy straight *forward through the forequarters*, leading to forequarters fatigue.

The shape of the croup is, of course, impacted by the pelvic girdle. The sight-hound's pelvis must not only be long but also be wider at the back, expanding from the ilium (hip bones) to the ischial tuberosity (seat or pin bones). This generous length and width are crucial for the double-suspension gait. This gait is a four-beat, rotary gallop with two moments of suspension. At full extension, the hound is completely airborne. In contraction, the back arches, the body folds, and the hind legs sweep up past the front legs on the outside. Without a wider pelvis, the hound cannot achieve this signature gallop.

Let's consider the slope of a well-designed pelvis. Picture measuring the angle from the iliac wing to the ischium seat bones, using the horizon as your guide. If this angle is only a shallow 15 degrees instead of the

ideal 30-degree slope, the dog ends up with a short, flat pelvis and a "chopped off behind" look. The ischial seat bones and upper thigh muscles fail to extend beyond the tail's set-on or root. This leaves the dog without that essential "shelf."

As I have often stressed, the width of the upper thigh depends on the width and slope of the pelvis. Only a wide, long, and angled pelvis allows for maximum broad muscle attachment on the first or upper thigh, because there is more surface area to attach to. A short, flat pelvis cannot. Too often, breeders and judges overlook the importance of the croup.

Learning to spot a well-sloped pelvis and croup—and how they work in harmony—not only shapes the Gazehound's timeless silhouette but also is essential to the principle that form follows function.

—Lisa Dubé Forman,
lisa@lisadubeforman.com
Irish Wolfhound Club of
America

Otterhounds

OTTERHOUNDS: THE UNDOODLES

“Is that a labradoodle?”
“No, it's an Otterhound.”

“A what? I never heard of them. What were they bred to do?”

“Hunt river otters.”

“Oh. My friend has a labradoodle.”

Probably every Otterhound owner has been part of a conversation like this. “Doodles,” whether “labra-” or “golden-,” are soaring in popularity as are a number of cross-breeds, frequently called “designer breeds.” At the same time some of our oldest breeds, like Otterhounds, are fighting for survival.

All dog breeds were “designed” by humans through selective breeding, usually to perform certain functions like hunting, herding, or guarding. Their distinctive appearances resulted from the traits needed to perform their jobs.

Today's designer dogs

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Otterhound, Percy Earl (1874–1947)

are often bred solely for looks. Take the labradoodles and goldendoodles, who like Otterhounds are large, shaggy dogs with “doofus” expressions that attract owners and passersby. Unlike doodles, Otterhounds have predictable looks and behaviors, dominated by their sense of smell. In contrast, despite claims that doodles do not shed, they wear a variety of coats from slightly wiry to curly to soft and

fluffy. Most shed and mat, thanks to one parent, and need to be clipped, thanks to the other. The combination of the Poodle hair that keeps growing and the Lab and/or Golden fur that sheds profusely creates a dog who needs a vacuum and a groomer. They tend to be more substantial than Poodles, with many of their features. Curiously, many of them are larger than either of the breeds behind them, and

few of them hunt, unlike the Golden Retrievers, Labs, and Poodles in their ancestry.

Otterhounds are an old breed of scent hounds, with wiry outer coats that are waterproof and softer undercoats to keep them warm as they patrol land and water to keep river otters from decimating the fish populations in the British Isles. A good coat repels water and dries quickly. Everything about this scent hound—from his size, to his coat, to his large feet with webbing, to his sickle-tail waving in the tall brush—is designed to make him efficient at scenting and pursuing his prey on land and water.

Persistent and independent, Otterhounds are pack hounds and love fellow dogs, cats, and of course people. More than anything, however, they have those noses inherited from their Bloodhound and Welsh Foxhound ancestors who can scent on land and water.

All those cute features have a purpose. While otters

AKC COLLECTION

BREED COLUMNS

HOUD GROUP

are endangered, the hounds still pursue careers in tracking and trailing. And while they do shed, they shed less than most dogs, and their hair never needs to be clipped. Otterhounds do not need groomers—just a comb and brush applied once a week.

The doodle population is on the rise, despite the often-high purchase price and upkeep cost, while the Otterhound is nearly as endangered as the otters they pursued. With fewer than 1,000 remaining in the world, these clowns with the keen noses and sociable natures may soon go the way of the passenger pigeon. And that would be a loss. They possess most of the traits and looks of the doodle, and more—and they breed true. They can hunt, track, and visit folks in nursing homes and hospitals and kids in schools. They make great bedwarmers on winter nights, and they can find your keys and gloves for you. And they need us fanciers to ensure that they are

not casualties of our newer designer breeds. Looks aren't everything.

—Eibhlin Glennon
[Otterhound Club of America](#)

Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens

Sharon J. Betker wrote the following in 2018.

58 SECONDS OF PURE EXHILARATION: LURE COURSING YOUR PBGV

It's been pouring rain all morning. To the novice, dejection—but to the seasoned exhibitor, this is the perfect weather to run dogs. The rain softens the fields, reducing the risk of burning pads on the dry, rough grass. There is no risk of heatstroke. So rain is a good thing.

The entrants are huddling in their parkas and gumboots under the protective easy-ups, risking a sudden shower when the tarps fill to overflow from the rain. Dogs are tucked away under similar tarps or waiting

in the vehicles scattered throughout the parking area.

The freshly harvested field is only a ditch and fence away. Luckily there is rather thick and tall grass and enough shrubs along the fence line to restrict the dogs from seeing what is happening on the other side. Lure coursing dogs tend to get awfully excited when they see a lure pass by, with or without a dog in hot pursuit after it.

Roll call begins as each dog is called out by name and their owners confirm that they are indeed present. Then each dog is gaited before the show committee to ascertain that the dog is sound enough to run on that flight. Another club member tests to ensure that no bitches are in season.

Then we wait. The sodden gallery is standing underneath their umbrellas now, intently watching every dog who runs. From the Miniature Pinscher taking a few tumbles across the field to the standard Poodle in full show coat, all the dogs

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

express a keen desire to catch that lure. For the next dogs in line, their warm-ups are done away from the field to keep them loosened up, relaxed, and ready to go.

In Canada and the U.S., the lure is in reality three white plastic bags attached about 12 inches apart on the string. The lure travels on a circular course through spindles set in a series of turns, covering a distance of either 600 yards or 300 yards, depending on the size of the dog; PBGVs over 12 inches in height run the longer 600-yard course.

The course may either be on a loop or drag system. With the loop system, the line runs in a continuous loop, requiring the dog to run with the string directly in his path. It is quicker to run for the club, since it doesn't require a reset each time, but it can be a hazard for the dog if he runs too close or over the line. A drag course requires a person to reset the course after each flight, but the dog has no line in his path to be interfered with.



Bolli the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen flies in Fast CAT.

In Canada, after three qualifying runs (based on a straight pass-or-fail rating) your PBGV will earn their Chase Ability (CA) title. Additional qualifying runs earn CAX titles (CAX2, CAX3, and so on). In the

U.S., three qualifying runs gets your dog a CA or Coursing Ability title, followed by CAA, CAX (and CAX2, CAX3, etc.).

A shorter, straight-line event is available in the U.S. called the Fast CAT. This

COURTESY SHARON BETKER

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

is a 100-yard timed run. In Canada, it is called the Sprinter, run over a 100-meter course.

PBGV running times are converted into miles per hour and recorded. To earn a BCAT title, the dog must have a total of 150 points, based on a handicap system (mph x 1.5) for PBGVs. Additional titles are based on a point system and include DCAT, FCAT, FCAT1, FCAT2, and so on.

Bolli is well hidden away. He has such enthusiasm for this sport that he gets over-excited waiting his turn and tires himself out before he even has a chance to run.

I watch as the all-terrain vehicle resets the course and we're called over for our turn. Bolli drags me over to the start line, already howling in anticipation. The field marshal waves the flag to the lure operator to let him know we are on the line. The lure operator waves back that he is set and the judge is ready.

The flag is raised again to signal a "go" as the lure

begins its flight. "Tally ho!" is called, and Bolli is released.

No sooner than he starts he is already giving voice, and he will continue to do so for the full length of the chase. I am waiting at the start/finish line, mindfully willing him on, following every turn, through every dip in the field, way off in the distance at times out of sight, and on the return trip back.

Bolli crosses the finish line, and he gives the lure a quick tug, as if to let it know that he finally won. I let out a big whoop and rush over to leash him up for the walk off the field. The gallery is cheering and laughing at the crazy Peeb who refuses to run in silence like the other dogs on the course.

We walk our cool-down away from the field. Bolli sleeps for the entire two hours it takes to drive home. Tomorrow is another trial, hopefully with a wee bit of sun to further warm the spirits.

Tips: Before you begin

coursing, take your PBGV to the veterinarian for a check-over to ensure that your dog is sound enough to run the distance at high speed. Warm up your dog before the run and make sure to do a cool down walk at the completion. Provide ample water and shade.

Dogs may run with or without collars. Collars must be tight fitting, with no tags or tabs that may catch in the lure line.

Practice restraint—encouraging your dog during his run can be a big distraction and is discouraged by the judges. Save your praise for when he makes it back to you.

Some fields may not be fully fenced, so a solid "retrieve" is recommended to catch your dog at the end of his run. Check your dog's feet and legs for any cuts or punctures after each flight.

Take a photo of the Fast CAT timesheets for your personal records. Ribbons are given for each qualifying flight; rosettes or certificates for completion of titles are

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

also offered by some clubs. Look for local sighthound clubs for lure coursing practices and events in your area.

Tally ho!—S.J.B.

Thank you, Sharon.

—Sue Smyth,

oldyork2002@aol.com

Petit Basset Griffon

Vendéen Club of America

Rhodesian Ridgebacks

A SHAGGY DOG STORY ABOUT A NOT-SHAGGY DOG

Following my graduation from veterinary school in 1983 and completion of an internship in equine medicine and surgery in 1984, I was hired as an official of the New York Racing Association (NYRA). I was the youngest official in the organization's history, and its first female. At 26 years old, I was four years and two litters into my passion of showing and breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks. On morning rounds I often had one, two, or occasionally three dogs in tow.

One August morning at the Saratoga racetrack I



Rhodesian Ridgeback Ch. Lamarde Perro Jara, 1958 (Ludwig photo)

was accompanied by an outgoing 4-month-old male puppy from my second litter. A gentleman named Caesar Kimmel approached me; he was an owner and trainer of racehorses, and the original founder of Warner Communications.

Mr. Kimmel was a

charming fellow and a very successful businessman, but his passion was Thoroughbred racehorses. My puppy was a stunner and would later go on to be a well-known show and stud dog. He said, "I would like to buy your puppy—name your price."

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

BREED COLUMNS

HOUD GROUP

While flattered, I told him that Billy was not for sale. Instead, he “borrowed” him for the morning and walked him around the beautiful grounds of the racetrack. Later, when he handed the puppy back to me, he told me he had brought a Rhodesian into the country in the late 1940s. He said it was “unofficially” the first Ridgeback in the United States. He recounted that he had brought it home with him via plane after visiting South Africa.

The first official importation of Ridgebacks was by ship in 1950, by Bill O’Brien, a Boston mill owner. Photos of this event can be seen in Ridgeback books and in the history portion of our the RRCUS breed presentation. I didn’t know who to believe, RRCUS or Caesar!

On my first day of work for NYRA, I met someone who would become a lifetime friend. We were so close that our two families became one large family. While we both lived in many

places around the world, we both settled in New York’s Hudson Valley nearly 30 years ago.

My friend’s mother, now 103, is still sharp as a tack. Irene was a surgical army nurse in WWII and later one of the original “Pan Am girls.” Her stories of these times are the stuff that legends are made of. At a recent Sunday dinner, she recounted that after the war she was on a flight from Africa that brought a Ridgeback to Long Island. She told me, “It didn’t look anything like your beautiful dogs.”

Finally my story from Saratoga had come full circle, and Caesar’s claim had been substantiated!

Irene’s sentiment about my dogs paralleled that of my own mother, who had spent several years of her childhood in South Africa on a sugar cane plantation. When I bought my first Ridgeback more than 45 years ago, she told me that mine was nothing like the Ridgebacks of her youth. The dogs she

knew were not housedogs; they were fierce protectors of property and families. These were not pretty dogs but tough, working farm dogs that were not friendly.

All of this historical background is just an introduction to future conversations on type and style. American breeders, of which I am one, have done a great deal to improve the health and temperament of the Rhodesian Ridgeback. Have we gone too far in “fancying up” the dog in the original standard?

I visited with European author and breed expert Stig Carlson in Scandinavia in the late 1990s. He told me that we had changed the breed so dramatically that we should rename our breed the American Ridgeback. Is our Ridgeback a stylized caricature of its African cousins, like the artist George Stubbs’s depiction of the Thoroughbred racehorse? How much variation in style can occur before original type is lost? This is an active discussion among

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

members of the Rhodesian Ridgeback community, and I look forward to future conversations on this topic.

—Danielle Sand, VMD,
dsandvmd@yahoo.com
Rhodesian Ridgeback
Club of the U.S.

Salukis

THE SIX BOOKS OF THE SALUKI GOSPEL

With the Centennial of Saluki breed recognition occurring in 2027 (more on this anon), it is worth a look at the first serious Saluki book published 57 years ago and its five descendants.

Before that book, there were only Saluki chapters in all-breed survey books. All repeated content originally appearing in these seminal works: *The New Book of the Dog* (1907), *Dogs: their History and Development* (1927), and *Hutchinson's Dog Encyclopaedia* (1936). There were breed columns in the AKC GAZETTE and the *Kennel Gazette* (U.K.), and bite-sized articles in mag-

azines, but pre-internet it could be hard to find these after the subsequent issue was published.

If we are talking important works, I'm not counting that 1965 book by Virginia M. Burch, *How to Raise and Train a Saluki* (since reissued). Part of a formulaic series on generic dog husbandry, the short section about Salukis is derived from previous all-breed works, although Winafred Lucas, Ph.D. (Srinagar) contributed six pages on coursing. There are far better books for the Saluki novice, and all may be purchased online.

In 1969, fanciers saw the first scholarly book, *The Saluki in History, Art and Sport*, by English breeders Hope and David Waters (Burydown). Reprinted in 1980 and heavily illustrated with historical and contemporary images, the book is a visual delight, with meticulous citations. The Waters' carefully researched work holds up today as a standard breed reference—although

through an honest mistake they reprinted the 1950 breed standard as the original 1923 one (ask me if you want to know how that happened).

Five years later, another English breeder, Vera Watkins (Windswift), published *Saluki: Companion of Kings* (1974 and 1995). Watkins' slim book summarizes breed history and goes into detail about husbandry and showing. Disappointingly, it lacks citations, making it impossible to verify her anecdotes. However, most charming is Watkins' story about going to museums with her two children and paying them a penny for every Saluki they found in a painting. (Greyhounds were only worth ha'penny.)

(See my November 2020 GAZETTE column for children's books featuring Salukis.)

In 1995 *The Saluqi: Coursing Hound of the East* editor Gail Goodman (Midbar) compiled a reference work of historical

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Notable books for the library of the serious Saluki devotee

articles, firsthand accounts, data charts, and photographs, with chapters on U.S. and U.K. breed history. At 872 hardbound pages and 7.4 pounds, it will make your bookshelf groan. (Note: *Saluqi* is the academically correct Arabic transliteration.)

The Complete Saluki (1991) is another breed series book but a welcome success, as it was written by respected U.K. breeders Diana and Ken Allan

(Jazirat). Covering history, breeding, whelping, raising puppies, showing, and more, for neophytes, breeders, and everyone in between, the Allans' work has my vote as *best all-round* Saluki book.

Saluki: The Desert Hound and the English Travelers Who Brought It to the West (2009)—as the author, I'll toot my own horn. *Saluki* uncovers the fascinating, personal stories of the men and women who were so

enchanted by our desert hounds, they imported breeding stock to England and worked to achieve recognition by the Royal Kennel Club in 1923.

Finally, we come to *The Salukis in My Life* (2018), by Sir Terence Clark, whose diplomatic career immersed him in Iraq, Oman, and most of the Middle East. In his engaging memoir-travelogue, we journey in the desert with Sir Terence to meet Salukis who still catch game to feed their owners. With few extant historical accounts of Saluki hunting, this book gives genuine insight into the working hound.

And back to our Saluki Centennial—watch this column in November for details about the Saluki Club of America's festivities at our national specialty, to be held at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, Missouri, June 9–12, 2027 (updates at salukiclub.org).

—Brian Patrick Duggan,
bpduggan@mac.com
[Saluki Club of America](http://SalukiClubofAmerica.com)

COURTESY BRIAN PATRICK DUGGAN

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

Scottish Deerhounds

DEERHOUNDS IN THE MOUNTAINS!

This year the Scottish Deerhound Club of America held our specialty at Seven Springs Resort in the heart of the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. Each morning we woke up to breakfast with a gorgeous view of the surrounding mountains, followed by many of the usual activities we share with friends from around the globe. Those activities included our futurity, sweepstakes, rally and obedience, Junior Showmanship, Pee Wee, regular conformation, Fast CAT, Fit Dog Walk, AKC Temperament Test, and ASFA and AKC coursing. In addition, we had a conformation judge attend who asked for mentoring about the breed. She was mentored by three different mentors, because she requested more than one mentor.

Being a mountain resort, Seven Springs enjoys a wide range of weather, and in the

summer this can include sun and rain, blissful days, or storm-studded ones. This year, our time was marked by predicted strong winds and storms characterized by lightning, thunder, and downpours! On the day that our sweepstakes, rally, and obedience were scheduled, the prediction was for a violent, wind-driven storm, so the resort offered indoor accommodation, which was gratefully accepted, and our activities that are normally held outside were moved

indoors, where everyone could stay dry and comfortable.

This year an activity that was new to me and quite a lot of fun to watch was the Pee Wee special attraction. Junior Showmanship is always a wonderful part of our specialty, since it features individuals from 9 to 18 years old, and it allows us to enjoy watching the younger generation participate with our wonderful hounds. The Pee Wee special attraction normally



COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

HOUD GROUP

allows children from ages 5 to 9 to participate too, and this year at our show, we included an additional special attraction which allows children (including those younger than 5) to “show” their stuffed/toy dogs. It was especially heartwarming to see and generated lots of positive comments, and not a few laughs!

As always, our Health and Genetics Committee offered health seminars and lots of health testing—echocardiogram, Holter study, Factor VII, DEPOGEN, eye exams, and research sample collections. We take the health of our incredible breed seriously and want to do all we can to have the healthiest, longest-lived dogs possible!

This year, our Breeders’ Forum took a different approach. We began an experiment, based on the AKC’s Conformation Assessment Program, where three experienced breeders were given the task of evaluating a dog’s qualities in a relaxed environment. Six

dogs were evaluated, and the owners received both verbal and written feedback from the evaluator. Both evaluators and owners found the process valuable.

At ringside, an added bonus was offered, where club members could create discussion around issues that were of interest to themselves, generating possibilities for dealing with these issues. It was a sharing that brought out many differing opinions. Everyone also found it a valuable experience.

Next year’s Scottish Deerhound national specialty will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, from May 23 to 29. Check our new website, deerhound.org, for more information!

—Frances Smith

[Scottish Deerhound Club of America](http://ScottishDeerhoundClub.org)

Whippets

JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS

When I judge Whippets, uppermost in my

mind is the history and original function of the breed as an efficient racing dog and a poacher’s dog.

The Whippet was never meant to be a “fancy” dog. He is a combination of balanced muscular power and strength combined with a smooth and graceful outline. I want to see a “fit for function” dog made up of smooth, flowing curves and no exaggeration. I want to see an equanimous temperament, steady, composed, and cooperative in the show ring, with intense prey drive in the field. That dichotomy is what drew me to Whippets in the first place. Showmanship is desirable in the conformation ring, and nice to see, but it doesn’t “fill the pot.”

Balanced and moderate angulation, front and rear, is called for in the standard, but oftentimes we see straighter fronts combined with too much angulation in the rear. Straight upper arms combined with over-angulated rears make for an asymmetrical dog both standing and

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Whippet

moving. Rear movement in these dogs, lacking both drive and follow-through, is often combined with incorrect tracking going away and can be a problem in that it creates an unbalanced outline and impedes the powerful gait that is desirable.

I want to see dogs who are smooth and fit, of a beau-

tiful athletic and muscular type, with deep bodies, well filled-in fronts, good bone, strong yet elastic pasterns, and sound feet. I want to see a dog with a good, strong underjaw, and a large enough dark eye to spot his prey far in the distance. When I comment about eye color, I know that a lighter eye is accept-

able in some colors, but not preferred, and a darker eye presents a softer, more typical expression.

Whippets are a breed that is fortunate in that we find quality all over the world. The breed is indeed in very good shape. I think what has helped is that so many breeders have taken to heart that the Whippet is first and foremost an athletic dog, and not just a glamorous showpiece.

When I judge Whippets I am looking for a dog who combines all the requirements of the standard with no exaggeration of any particular element. I want curves, I want fitness, I want balance and moderation. Most of all, I want a dog who combines the beauty of a smooth, curvaceous outline along with a physically fit athlete. I want to see the marriage of elegance and power that are two of the important hallmarks of the breed.

—Phoebe Jordan Booth,
Shamasan@aol.com
[American Whippet Club](#)

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Airedale Terriers

THE VERSATILE AIREDALE MAKES A SPLASH!

Continuing to highlight the versatility of the Airedale breed through interviews with Airedale owners who train their dogs in activities that accentuate the breed's versatility, I am thrilled to introduce Karie Murawski and her Airedale Piper.

Last year Piper was nationally ranked and competed in the North America Diving Dogs (NADD) national competition. I had the thrill of watching Karie and Piper in action at the 2025 Waukesha Summer Splash Cluster. They were clearly a team that worked well together, knew how to have fun, and demonstrated that Airedales were indeed bred to swim. In fact, after watching this team, I can confidently say that Piper consistently adds her own special Airedale flair to nearly every *splash!*

Please tell us about yourself. How and when did you

become involved in Airedales? And how many Airedales have you owned?

My name is Karie Murawski, and I live in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. I have a deep and longstanding passion for the Airedale breed, along with a strong commitment to preserving and promoting the breed's unique qualities. Over the years, I have had the privilege of owning five Airedales. I currently share my life with Piper, and I am looking to provide her with a friend as she recently lost her two senior Airedale packmates. They are not just pets to me, but my partners in sports, ambassadors of the breed, and beloved members of my family. I was first introduced to the breed when I dated a guy in college, and they had an Airedale up on their farm in Mosinee, Wisconsin. I fell in love with that dog... not the guy.

What drew you to the dock diving sport? And when did you start Piper's training?

Two years ago at the Waukesha Summer Splash Cluster, I saw the dock diving competition for the first time and was immediately intrigued. Watching the teamwork between the handlers and their dogs made me want to give it a try, since Piper already loved swimming in our pool; I thought she'd be a great fit. After that weekend, I enrolled her in a beginner dock diving class once a week at Biscuit Beach in Antioch, Illinois, and by that February she was competing in her first NADD event.

Tell us a little about the approach you took to Piper's training and what, if anything, would you do differently?

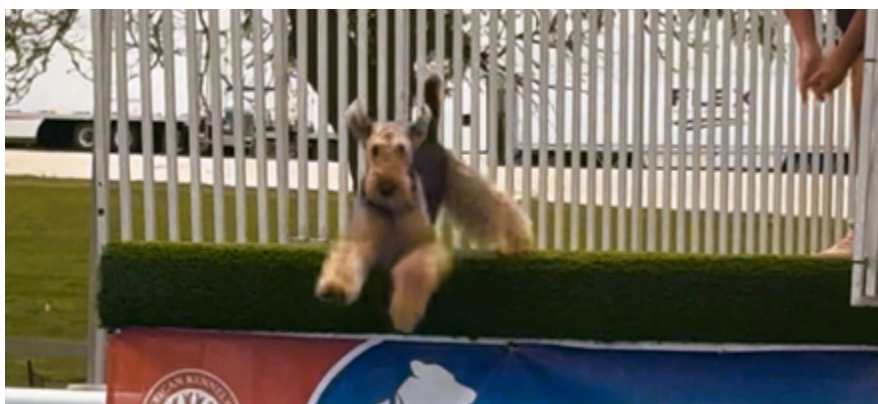
Although Piper loved to swim, she had never jumped off the edge of our pool. My first goal was simply to build her confidence as a swimmer and make jumping fun. Since Airedales are typically independent thinkers, I focused on positive

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Left: Piper jumping; Karie and Piper on earning the Dock Novice Advanced title at the national. “Watching her confidence grow has been one of the most rewarding parts of the journey,” says Karie.



reinforcement and patience, never forcing or pushing her into the water. With plenty of high-value treats, toys, repetition, and her yelling (barking, but it’s more like yelling) at me, she eventually chose to jump on her own.

Once comfortable, we worked on transitioning from the pool edge to a two-foot dock. Her instructor used a floating platform to gradually build her confidence before removing it, allowing Piper to realize she could make the jump herself.

What I love about NADD is that dogs compete within divisions based on their skill level, so breeds like Airedales are not compared directly to powerhouse jumpers like Malinois, retrievers, or Border Collies. Piper currently competes in the Novice division and is one



COURTESY KATIE ROMIG PHOTOGRAPHY / KARIE MURAWSKI

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

of two Airedales participating in NADD.

If I could do one thing differently, I would have kept her in classes year-round. Consistent training is valuable, but that is challenging given the Wisconsin winter weather.

How did Piper take to the sport? Does she seem to enjoy it?

Piper took to Dock Diving surprisingly well. While she needed time to build her confidence to jump, once she realized how much fun it was, she was all in. She absolutely loves the sport and gets excited the moment she sees the dock. Watching her confidence grow has been one of the most rewarding parts of the journey. More than anything, dock diving has strengthened our bond and given us a fun activity we truly enjoy together.

Airedales are not commonly seen on NADD platforms. What was the response was from other NADD partic-

ipants when they saw an Airedale?

Airedales are definitely a rare sight at NADD events, so Piper gets a lot of attention. People are always excited to see an Airedale on the dock and often stop to ask about her and cheer her on. The dock diving community has been incredibly welcoming and supportive, and many competitors enjoy seeing a different breed participate. It's fun to showcase what an Airedale can do and help people see that while they may not be the typical dock diving breed, they absolutely enjoy and can succeed in the sport.

What is the most memorable event and/or amusing "splash" experience you have had with Piper dock diving?

My most memorable dock diving experience with Piper was qualifying for regionals last year and connecting with the only other Airedale dock diver in the U.S. What started as a shared passion for the sport has turned into

a wonderful friendship, with us supporting and encouraging each other throughout our journeys. It was especially meaningful when both Airedales qualified and competed together at nationals.

My most amusing "splash" experience happened at Piper's first competition this year after several months away from the sport and limited training. When we stepped onto the dock, Piper was so excited to finally be back on the dock that she could barely contain herself. Instead of jumping, she decided to stand there and enthusiastically bark her head off at me for the entire three minutes we were allocated to complete her jump. It seemed as if she was having a very important conversation that I just wasn't understanding! It was quite the spectacle, as I was giving her instructions to jump and she just kept barking at me! We definitely entertained the crowd!

At the end of our time

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

limit, Piper was very confused about why we had to leave the dock because, in her mind, she had given me a piece of her mind and was now getting ready to jump. It certainly taught me that I need to get her on the platform in the winter months!

Do you have any advice for other Airedale owners who may be interested in dock diving, or just getting their dogs into the water?

My biggest advice for other Airedale owners is to make it fun and let your dog build confidence at their own pace. Airedales are smart, independent thinkers, and they need to believe the idea is theirs! Never force them into the water or rush the process; creating a positive experience is what will keep them wanting to participate.

Start with small successes, use high-value rewards, and celebrate every step forward. Whether your goal is dock diving or simply getting your Airedale

comfortable in the water, patience and encouragement go a long way.

Start with the blue plastic Walmart kiddie pool, and work your way toward incremental goals. The bond you build with your dog through trying something new together is the best reward.

Thank you, Karie, for sharing your experience with Piper. It is truly a testimony to not only the versatility of our breed, but also the importance of having fun with our dogs and being patient and consistent as they learn new skills.

For our next article, I look forward to covering the Airedale Terrier Club of America national specialty show and associated events at the beginning of October. Until then, wishing you all a summer packed full of big splashes!

— Nancy A. Nykamp,
meadowaire.terriers@gmail.com

[Airedale Terrier Club of America](#)

American Hairless Terriers

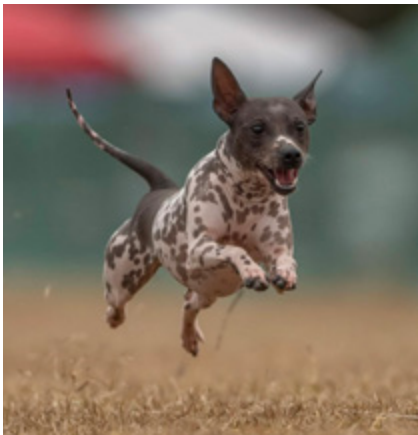
SERIAL SERUM BILE ACID TESTING IN ONE AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER LITTER

This article will share our personal experience with serial serum bile acid (SBA) screening for microvascular dysplasia (MVD) in our 2024 American Hairless Terrier litter. For those interested in additional background information, as well as how we became fully vested in this disease, refer to the articles published in the [August 2024](#) and [November 2024](#) issues of the GAZETTE.

In brief, MVD refers to a congenital liver condition where the small blood vessels inside the liver form abnormally, causing blood to bypass normal liver filtration. This causes poor toxin filtration and can yield a variety of symptoms. Dogs may experience general signs such as small size and/or failure to grow (humans often unknowingly selected for MVD by keeping smaller dogs in their

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



	WNL	Equiv	Error
8 wks	7		
12 wks	6		1
16 wks	6	1	
6 mo	5	2	
12 mo	7		

Serum bile acid (SBA) testing helps to increase the odds of producing healthy pups while improving our beloved breed. Table shows results of serial post-prandial SBA testing on our 2024 litter of seven American Hairless Terrier pups.

breeding program), hypoglycemia (can lead to neurologic signs), poor muscle development, and poor coat. Gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms may include being a picky eater, nausea, drooling, intermittent vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and GI ulceration. Urinary symptoms include urinary tract infection,

biurate crystals, urate stones, urinary obstructions, and excessive thirst and urination. Neurologic symptoms include behavioral changes, lethargy, aggressiveness, dementia, stupor, pacing, circling, head tremors, head-pressing, blindness, seizures, and coma. It is important to note that many dogs with MVD are, in fact, asymptomatic

and liver issues may only be found incidentally during pre-anesthetic blood work (e.g., elevated liver enzymes, ALT and AST). Symptoms vary from animal to animal and even day to day. Symptoms may worsen after eating and may change as the animal ages, and/or as diet or medication changes. I want to be clear that SBA

COURTESY KARYN S. PINGEL

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

cannot definitively diagnose MVD. Elevated bile acids indicate that the liver is not processing bile acids properly, and therefore the liver is currently abnormal. Causes of elevated SBA can be temporary or permanent, acquired or congenital, and include portosystemic shunt (PSS) and MVD, as well as many other causes of liver dysfunction. Definitive diagnosis of any of these conditions requires additional testing and/or hepatic biopsy. However, SBA is a “simple” test that can provide breeders and owners valuable information regarding the liver’s functioning.

The SBA test was standardized by Dr. Center in a study of Cairn Terriers from lines known to have liver issues. Dr. Center performed numerous liver function studies and biopsies during her research. The actual technicians/researchers were blinded to which of the dogs were normal, had MVD, or were shunted. Dr. Center found that dogs with normal livers tested 0–14.9

on the post-prandial portion of the SBA test. The dogs with abnormal livers on biopsy consistently tested 25 or above, with the highest numbers typically associated with a true PSS versus MVD alone. The dogs in the 15–24.9 range were deemed equivocal, as 50% of those had normal livers and 50% of those had abnormal livers on biopsy. Dr. Center recommended SBA testing at age 16 weeks or later.

I could not locate any research on serial testing or reliability of testing younger than 16 weeks. However, some Yorkshire Terrier breeders test at age 8 weeks (MVD is prevalent in Yorkies). They use early SBA to determine which pups to keep (normals) and to provide informed consent to those bringing pups with abnormal SBA into their homes. However, they do not typically repeat testing on the same pups. So, I decided to see what would happen if the same pups were tested multiple times.

Traditional SBA testing is

completed as follows:

1. Dog fasts 12 hours overnight.
2. Pre-prandial (before feeding) blood draw.
3. Feed the dog (gold standard for the test is Hill’s Prescription Diet a/d, fed 1 to 2 tablespoons or a quarter of the dog’s normal meal; typically max for a small dog is half of a can).
4. Post prandial (after the meal) blood draw is completed after exactly 2 hours.

I present here the results of serial post-prandial SBA testing on our 2024 litter of seven American Hairless Terrier pups. Blood draws were completed at age 8, 12, and 16 weeks (although one was delayed until 18 weeks), then 6 months and 12 months. All puppy owners agreed to assist with the testing. Two pups remained in our home in Florida, while the remaining five were placed in Arizona, Texas, Washington, the Czech Republic, and Finland.

For our test, we weighed the pups and measured the food to ensure same ratio

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

provision for the first blood draw. Specifically, we gave 2% of the pup's body weight at age 8 weeks. Food weight ranged from 1.9 ounces (oz) up to 50% of the can (2.25 oz). For all other data points, the pups received 50% of the can.

All seven pups tested within normal limits (WNL) at the 8 week and 12 month time points. At 16 weeks, one pup tested equivocal (six others were WNL), and at 6 months, two pups tested equivocal (five others were WNL).

At 12 weeks, one of the pups was subjected to incorrect testing procedures by the veterinary clinic, resulting in an abnormal result. Specifically, that pup was given the entire can (double the recommended amount) of the a/d, which led to extensive diarrhea and GI distress. So, it was not unexpected that the pup's results were abnormal for that visit. However, it is important to note that the owner switched clinics, and all subsequent test results were WNL.

So what have we learned from this?

1. *Proper test completion*—It is imperative that the SBA test be performed correctly. If your clinic is not familiar with the test, go to another clinic. Excessive consumption of a/d can lead to GI distress and invalid results.

2. *Equivocal results*—In keeping with Dr. Center's studies, equivocal results are just that: equivocal. The dog may have a normal liver, or the liver may be abnormal. Repeat testing may yield alternative results. Three of the seven pups in our litter tested equivocal once across all data points. Remaining test points were WNL.

3. *Early testing*—The number of pups in this investigation is too small to make any real suggestions regarding validity of SBA results at 8 weeks. However, six additional pups were tested at age 8 weeks in October 2025. We will see what repeat testing reveals on those pups.

Final thoughts on why the SBA test, which is easy to

do and can be done reliably at age 16 weeks, should be completed/considered an integral part of health testing:

- *Breeding*—Polygenetic; autosomal dominant trait with incomplete penetrance. If a dog has PSS/MVD, they will pass it to 50% of their offspring, even when bred to a normal-liver dog. Although it is impossible to eliminate from a breed, the goal is to reduce its frequency and negative health impact by testing (SBA). Breeding abnormal liver dogs guarantees perpetuation of the disease. Dr. Tobias notes, "Until a genetic test is available or the trigger for the condition is determined, it would be prudent to breed only dogs with the healthiest livers." Dr. Center recommended breeding only Normal or Equivocal; never breed Abnormal.

- *Feeding*—If you know your dog has a liver issue, choosing high-quality, liver-friendly foods may go a long way in helping your dog's quality of life. You

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

may have to restrict some proteins, but not all, or the body will break down muscle as fuel. Greek yogurt, white meats, fish, and eggs are good sources of liver-friendly proteins that are easy to digest. Keep in mind that needs vary from dog to dog.

- *Supplements*—Check with your vet, but as a rule, dogs with liver issues may benefit from milk thistle and zinc, vitamins E and K, and omega-3 fatty acids, while manganese and copper need to be reduced.

- *Veterinary care*—Knowing a liver issue exists is helpful prior to anesthesia or being placed on drugs processed in the liver (lagged response and/or more exaggerated response). Your vet may be able to use a different drug and/or dose to avoid complications.

We hope you will begin (or continue) SBA testing to help increase the odds of producing healthy pups while improving our beloved breed. MVD is certainly out there. Just because you do not test or do not see symp-

toms does not mean your dogs do not have liver issues. Why not test so you can make informed decisions?

References:

- Godfrey, R. & Godfrey, D. Genetic Welfare of Companion Animals : Yorkshire Terrier, Portosystemic shunt. Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. www.ufaw.org.uk. Yorkshire Terrier - Portosystemic Shunt - UFAW

- Olson, L (2015). Raw and Natural Nutrition for Dogs, Revised Edition: The Definitive Guide to Homemade Meals. Berkley, CA. North Atlantic Books.

- Tobias, K. (2013) Help! My Dog was Diagnosed with a Liver Problem! Understanding Common Liver Disorders in Yorkshire Terriers in Other Breeds. Vetmed Tennessee. PSS/PVH-MVD Brochure©2013 Dr. Karen M. Tobias & Design©2013 Design Source Creative Services Inc. (tennessee.edu)

- Tobias, K. (09/2015) Portosystemic Shunts. www.vetmed.illinois.edu

vetmed.illinois.edu Tobias Portosystemic shunts (illinois.edu)

—Karyn S. Pingel, MS
CCC-SLP
wmk.ahts@gmail.com
[American Hairless Terrier Club of America](http://AmericanHairlessTerrierClub.com)

Australian Terriers

YOU CAN'T SKIP THE PEOPLE PART: THE FUTURE OF BREED CLUBS IS PEOPLE

People are drawn to community. We look for shared interests, common ground, and a sense that we belong.

In my own experience, that sense of connection has often grown out of purpose. When I've seen a need and worked to build something—early in my career, I added volunteering in the museum/arts, and a little later on, a bear awareness campaign—people have come alongside, not just for the cause, but for the camaraderie that develops along the way. Shared effort has a way of creating its own community.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

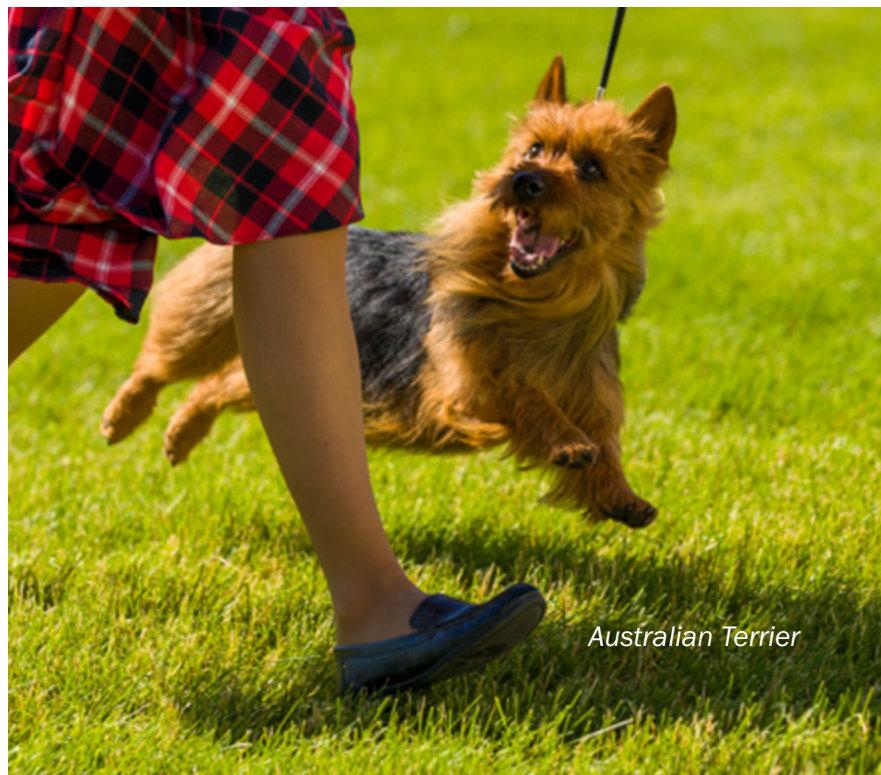
There's a particular energy in building something from scratch. You set the direction, gather momentum, and move forward together, unencumbered by history or longstanding tradition. It's immediate, exciting—and, if I'm honest, a little addictive.

Which is why stepping into an established organization can feel so different.

Later, when I joined a local dog obedience community association, I quickly learned that enthusiasm alone doesn't carry the day. There were relationships, histories, and unspoken rules shaping everything. Change didn't come from ideas; it came from trust and relationship. And they take time.

That lesson feels especially relevant in dog breed clubs today. The Australian Terrier Club of America (ATCA) has a valued history. We are united by passion for our breed, but passion alone doesn't guarantee smooth collaboration.

At the same time, many breed clubs are facing a quieter challenge: attracting



Australian Terrier

and retaining new, active members who are interested in showing and breeding. In Australian Terriers, as in a number of breeds, registered puppy numbers are declining. Growth isn't just about outreach—it depends on whether newcomers feel welcomed, included, and motivated to stay.

As Andy Vance observed in the article “People Join People, Not Clubs” in *American Dog Fancier*, relationships are the true

foundation of volunteer organizations. Longtime members bring knowledge, continuity, and deep investment. New members bring energy, fresh ideas, and a readiness to act. Both are necessary, but they don't always meet easily.

Newcomers often arrive eager to help, ready to roll up their sleeves. But without understanding the “why” behind how things are done, even good ideas can land awkwardly. Trust isn't

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

granted on arrival; it's built, quietly, over time.

At the same time, new members don't need to wait for acceptance from established circles to begin belonging. There is real strength in connecting with other newcomers—learning together, volunteering together, and building something alongside peers. These relationships often become the next backbone of a club. And a club itself can help by making introductions easier—through live events, mentoring efforts, or even thoughtful use of social media to connect people before they ever meet ringside.

It's also worth saying plainly: Longtime members are often stretched thin. Many are carrying the workload that keeps clubs running. They may not have the capacity to greet every new face with enthusiasm, even if they value new participation. That reality can be misunderstood—but recognizing it changes the dynamic.

For established members, small efforts matter. A welcome, a conversation, an opening—these are not small things to someone new. Tradition doesn't weaken when it's shared; it strengthens.

Patience, in the end, is not optional.

Not every connection will “click.” Not every effort will succeed immediately. But clubs that create space for both history and new energy are the ones that endure.

For those of us who are natural builders, there's a shift required here. In established organizations, influence doesn't come from pushing harder; it comes from understanding people better. Making time.

Dog clubs don't thrive because of structure alone. They thrive because people choose to stay, to contribute, and to care.

And that has always been the real work.

—Caren Holtby,
[Australian Terrier Club of America](#)

Bedlington Terriers

Our article for this issue is by Dennis N. Corash, Ph.D.

WHEN SCIENCE GIVES US A CHANCE: WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE FUTURE OF THE BEDLINGTON TERRIER

Every generation of dog breeders faces a defining moment. For some breeds it was inherited eye disease, epilepsy, or copper toxicosis. Today, the Bedlington Terrier has reached such a moment with the discovery of the CFA12 FGF4 retrogene—a DNA insertion associated with chondrodystrophy (CDDY) and a significantly increased risk of Hansen Type I intervertebral disc disease (IVDD).

Whenever new genetic information emerges, strong opinions often appear before understanding. Some ask whether every affected dog should immediately be removed from breeding. Others argue that nothing should change until more clinical cases are documented.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Neither response captures the real opportunity before us.

The better question is this: *How can we use new scientific knowledge to improve the health of future generations while preserving the genetic diversity and unique qualities of the Bedlington Terrier?*

Unlike many inherited disorders that were recognized only after they became widespread, the CFA12 FGF4 retrogene appears to have been identified before it has become common within our breed. That distinction is important. It gives breeders, veterinarians, and researchers something previous generations rarely had: *time*. Time to study the variant. Time to determine its true prevalence. Time to make thoughtful, evidence-based breeding decisions before the problem becomes much more difficult to manage.

Understanding genetic risk is equally important. A dog carrying the CFA12 FGF4 retrogene is *not destined* to develop IVDD. The retrogene is one of the

strongest known genetic risk factors for Hansen Type I IVDD, but risk is not certainty. Some dogs may never develop clinical disease, while others may. Researchers continue to investigate why expression differs among individuals and what role other genes and environmental factors may play.

Responsible breeders have always balanced multiple priorities: health, temperament, structure, longevity, breed type, and genetic diversity. DNA testing simply adds another valuable tool to that decision-making process.

Population genetics reminds us that every breeding decision influences the frequency of genetic variants within future generations. At the same time, eliminating every carrier immediately could unnecessarily reduce valuable bloodlines and increase inbreeding. Protecting genetic diversity is itself an essential part of protecting breed health.



Bedlington Terrier

Perhaps the greatest threat after any new genetic discovery is not the gene itself—it is division within the breed community. Fear can discourage testing, rumors can replace evidence, and breeders may become reluctant to share results. Science advances only when information is shared openly and honestly.

Many important questions remain. How common is the retrogene in Bedlington Terriers? What percentage

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

of genetically positive dogs actually develop IVDD? Does risk differ between dogs carrying one copy versus two? Are there modifier genes or environmental factors that influence disease expression? These questions can only be answered through research and breeder participation.

The Bedlington Terrier community has been given something precious—not certainty, but opportunity. By supporting DNA testing, participating in prevalence studies, reporting health outcomes, and making informed breeding decisions, we can work together to reduce disease risk while preserving the breed we all cherish.

Future generations will judge us not by whether we had every answer today, but by whether we chose collaboration over conflict, transparency over secrecy, and science over speculation. That has always been the hallmark of responsible breeders—and it remains our greatest responsibility. —D.N.C.

[Bedlington Terrier Club of America](#)

Border Terriers

BORDER TAILS

Quizz was neck-deep in a rodent hole, digging gleefully. The hole sat at the base of an impenetrable bush—scratchy and dense to the ground. Her long line was tangled through the branches. I carefully reached in, unclipped the line from her collar, grabbed her tail, and pulled her free. The Border Terrier tail can be a very convenient handle in moments like this.

What the breed standard says

As described in the AKC standard and illustrated in the *Border Terrier Illustrated Standard* (BTCA, 2002), the Border tail should be moderately short, thick at the base, and tapering. It should not be set too high, appearing instead as a natural extension of the backbone. The tail may be carried “gaily” when the dog is alert, but not over the back (a “gay tail”). At

rest, a Border may drop his stern (tail), which is entirely correct.

The less-than-ideal tail

Imperfect tails are pet peeves for some breeders and judges. Border tails are typically described as “carrot-like,” and while the standard does not explicitly require straightness, there is an expectation that the tail not curve into a sickle shape. “Moderately short” is, of course, a matter of judgment—the tail’s length should complement the dog’s overall size and balance. Long, thin, whip-like, curved, or gay tails are undesirable.

Thin tails can be groomed to appear thicker at the base and tapering by stripping the coat in thirds over three weeks. This creates subtle variations in coat length from base to tip, giving a more correct visual impression.

The aesthetic aspect

The tail contributes significantly to the Border Terrier’s balanced outline.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



A moderately short, straight tail carried at roughly a “two o’clock” angle off the topline creates a pleasing visual counterpoint to the neck and head. By contrast, a long, thin, scythe-shaped, or upright tail disrupts the smooth line from neck through topline to tail. When stacking a Border in the ring, if you find yourself short a hand, it is better to let the tail fall naturally than to prop it awkwardly. This is not only more natural in appearance but also consistent with the standard, which allows the dog to lower his tail when relaxed.

A note on coat and anatomy

It is normal to see a differently colored band of coat—or sometimes a distinct color change—about one-third of the way down the tail. This marks the location of the supracaudal gland. While its exact function is not fully understood, its secretions likely play a role in scent communication between dogs.

Kinks

Kinked tails are not uncommon. Though they may be hidden by skilled grooming or handling, a kink represents a skeletal

anomaly that is considered a heritable fault best bred away from. While some literature suggests possible associations with broader skeletal or neurological issues, the significance of this in terrier breeds remains unclear. Notably, judges rarely examine Border Terrier tails closely enough to detect subtle kinks.

Tails serve a purpose

Beyond appearance, tails serve many practical functions. As my experience with Quizz demonstrates, they can be useful in a tight spot. More importantly, they act as communication tools—signaling excitement, confidence, fear, or aggression. Tails also assist with balance, act as rudders during movement, and play a role in thermoregulation. While not as central to the Border’s purpose as its punishing, otterlike head, the tail should not be dismissed as a minor detail. There is a reason an entire page is devoted to it in the Illustrated Standard.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

For all our discussion of set, carriage, and proportion, perhaps the simplest measure still holds. My husband, a keen judge of dogs, evaluates them all by one standard:

“I like that one—its tail wags.”

No matter what your Border Terrier’s tail looks like, may it often wag.

—Bobbie Kelley,
bobbie.e.kelley@gmail.com
Border Terrier Club of America

Bull Terriers

THE ICONIC EGGHEAD

How is possible that a breed known for being a “clown” can possess the silhouette of a marble statue? One that includes an egg-shaped head that is the visual equivalent of a Brancusi sculpture—smooth, elongated and intentionally devoid of unnecessary indentation. Fluid, seamless architecture carved from warm stone.

Bull Terriers are known as a “head breed.” Essentially,

this means that the head is the most distinctive, defining feature of the breed type, the unmistakable look that says instantly, “This is a Bull Terrier.”

In the 1850s the Bull Terrier head was blocky and had the traditional “stop” of a canine skull. Refining that head (and the rest of the dog) began with James Hinks, who wanted to maintain the strength of the fighting dogs while producing a more elegant and refined canine companion. He selectively bred for the short, white coat of the “White Cavalier,” as he dubbed the breed, and began the process of creating that distinctive, curved profile that led to the iconic egghead we see today.

Hinks did not “invent” the egg-shaped head overnight. It was a decades-long evolution, with the goal being to transform the rough-and-tumble bull and terrier fighting dogs of the 1800s that were stocky and muscular into a “gentleman’s companion” that was more

elegant. Through selective cross-breeding introducing English white terriers and Dalmatians, the white coat evolved.

Although full documentation is lacking, it is widely thought that Hinks and other breeders introduced Greyhounds, Pointers, Borzoi, and Collies to increase limb length, deepen the chest, and eliminate the stop in the head. By consistently selecting dogs with smoother facial profiles and “cleaner” outlines, he gradually moved the breed away from the bulky Bulldog ancestors toward the more athletic silhouette we see today.

The long, gentle continuous curve (the “down-face”) developed gradually over many generations after Hinks. It was the result of breeders obsessively selecting for that smooth, unbroken line. A breakthrough occurred in the early 20th century, notably with dogs like Lord Gladiator (circa 1918), which pushed the breed

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Lord Gladiator, whelped in 1918, generally credited with being the source of the modern Bull Terrier head.



(1) Lord Gladiator, circa 1918; (2) Ormandy's Mr McGuffin, 1938; (3) Bull Terrier historical images; (4) GCh.S Alaric Star Spangled Sister, 2026.

toward the more pronounced, iconic egg-shaped profile that became the standard.

James Hinks set the “architectural” foundation of the breed by introducing the genetics for a white coat and the egghead. He began the downward curve of the

head, and generations of specialized breeders, such as Raymond Oppenheimer and Eva Weatherill, continued to build on his legacy.

The Bull Terrier is one of the few breeds that is instantly recognizable from a silhouette alone. One of the frequently asked ques-

tions at dog shows or at Meet the Breeds is, “Why does their head look like that?” There are a couple answers to that question. One is, the head is a crevice tool. Its shape facilitates the dog navigating small spaces, corners, or holes to dig or go after vermin. The other is aesthetic; it is impressive, imposing, and distinct from any other dog in all of dogdom. In this case, form follows function.

The egghead isn't just a biological oddity; it's an icon because it defies the conventional dog silhouette. It is a study in unity, reducing complexity of forehead, stop, muzzle into one singular, iconic arc.

—Victoria M. Sottile

[Bull Terrier Club of America](#)

Cairn Terriers

THE CAIRN TERRIER PART ONE

This column and the next comprise a two-part synopsis of the Illustrated Guide to the Cairn Terrier by Lynne Nabors, Lydia

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Hutchinson, Joe Vernuccio, Kathleen Spellman, the late Betty Marcum, and Molly Wilder.

Part One: The Cairn Terrier's History, Overall Structure, Anatomy, and Breed Type

History

From the earliest recorded history of man and dog, there have been accounts of small terriers working with farmers to control the vermin that inflicted costly predatory raids on the crops and domestic animals of the crofts on which they all lived. In each geographical area, different assets and abilities were sought in these dogs. In the Highlands and Outer Islands of Scotland, what was needed varied as well. Gradually, they came to be somewhat distinct in type, and the West Highland and the Scottish Terrier, as well as what we now know as the Skye Terrier, were named and recognized. Still, there was a small terrier, rather scruffy in appearance, smaller in bone than the Skye and the Scottie, more



"Most important is the word 'medium.' This is essential in describing the Cairn. He must be balanced and proportionate in every aspect. The Cairn should always be considered a working dog, with a natural appearance. He is moderate in every way, without exaggeration in any part."

agile than either, which had no name. Various nomenclature was assigned to them and discarded when these names conflicted with names used by other breeds. With much discussion in the doggy press of the day,

finally the name Cairn Terrier was settled on.

From that time forward, the Cairn Terrier has stood alone as the "original" old working terrier of Skye, closest in type to the dog the crofters on Skye depended

CAIRN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

upon to rout the badger and otter from their land. This dog shared the crofter's fare, meager as it might have been, and worked tirelessly in the cold and wet terrain with him.

General Appearance

The Cairn is a study in contrasts—he is a “big” dog in a small package; nothing about the dog is delicate. He has a *medium* length of leg—neither short nor long. There should be some daylight under the Cairn. He is a working terrier and needs sufficient length of leg to climb or jump over rough terrain. A great word picture was created when one of the founders of the breed, Mrs. Alastair Campbell, was quoted as saying, “They should be light-footed and almost dance along ... like polo ponies, sturdy but light in their action and body.” Thus, a Cairn should be lithe, flexible, and athletic.

Body and Legs

The Cairn's ribs extend well back on his body, and

the ribs are joined to a strong loin and connected to well-muscled hindquarters. He has a medium length of back, decidedly not a short back which would give the impression of squareness. The Cairn is *not* square. *His body length is one and one-half times his height.* This medium length of back is essential for a dog that must leap and bound, and more critically, be able to turn around inside a cramped earthen tunnel in order to exit the burrow.

The body is strong and substantial, not weedy or coarse. The ribcage is well sprung and tapers to a heart shape, neither barrel shaped nor slab sided. The ribs extend well back on the body and the rib cage should extend to the elbow in a mature dog. The breastbone should be clearly discernible. Length of loin is medium, strong and supple, giving the dog the necessary flexibility to turn in a tight tunnel and to maneuver among the stones and outcroppings of his native

habitat. The neck length is medium. The topline is level and the tail is set on at back level. There should be a prominent point of buttocks beneath the tail, extending out beyond the set on of the tail. Well-developed muscles should be obvious, especially in the hind quarters.

The shoulders are well laid back and fit smoothly on the body, so that the neck and shoulders are smoothly joined. The upper arm should be approximately the same length as the shoulder blade, and it should be joined at a 45-degree angle to the shoulder blade.

Legs are medium length and should be covered with hard hair of moderate length. Bone in the leg, as in the rest of the Cairn, is medium. Feet must be thick, toes well arched with large, short, and strong, black nails. Forelegs are perfectly straight, but the *feet* may turn out slightly. Rear legs must be well muscled, and the angulation should match that of the front quarter. Hocks are short, perpendicular to the

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

ground, and turn neither in nor out, the rear feet falling only slightly behind a straight line dropped from the point of buttocks.

Most important is the word *medium*. This is essential in describing the Cairn. He must be balanced and proportionate in every aspect. The Cairn should always be considered a working dog, with a natural appearance. He is moderate in every way, without exaggeration in any part.

Details

The Cairn Terrier's head is medium in size, like everything else about the Cairn, balanced and in proper proportion to the body. The expression is full of life, intelligent and keen. Both skull and muzzle should be broad in proportion to length, with a pronounced, deep stop between the eyes. The muzzle is full, holding a full set of large, strong teeth in a scissor or level bite. The furnishings on the skull and muzzle serve to shield the dog from briars, and

thus should not be too soft, though they may be somewhat softer than the body coat. The eye of a Cairn Terrier is oval in shape, medium in size, widely spaced and deep set, under a brow that creates a pronounced stop. They are not round or prominent. The color is dark hazel.

Ear placement is critical to the Cairn's expression. They are placed on the corners of the skull, not too close together, nor too far apart, and they should be carried erectly, at attention. Ideally, the tips of the ears and nose should form an equilateral triangle along which the eyes are aligned. The top one-third to one-half of the ear should be free of long hair and covered with short, velvety hair.

The tail of a Cairn is moderate in length, straight, thick and strong, set on at back level. It should be well furnished with dense hair, and should appear much thicker at the base, tapering to the tip. Carriage should be up, though not neces-

sarily vertical, and it should *never* curl over the back. All Cairns should carry their tail above the horizontal when gaiting.

Part Two (coming in the November issue): How the Cairn moves, its coat, size, presentation, and judging considerations.

For copies of the *Illustrated Guide*, please contact Joe Vernuccio with Judges Education at joevernuccio@gmail.com. Illustrations in the Guide are by Darle Heck; movement photo by Mika Huolman; brindle Cairn bitch photo by Lotte Thomsen.

[Cairn Terrier Club of America](#)

Smooth Fox Terriers

A WORD WITH AFTC HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR BRITTANY MCKEOWN-BOLDT

The foundation: The American Fox Terrier Club (AFTC) was founded in 1885. The first paragraph of its Club Purpose statement reads: "To promote the breeds of pure fox ter-

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Smooth Fox Terrier Ch. Watteau Musical Box, American Fox Terrier Club, 1969 (Evelyn Shafer photo)

riers to define precisely the true type and to urge the adoption of such type by breeders, judges, dog show committees and others as the only recognized standards by which fox terriers should be judged, and to do all possible to protect and advance the interest of the breeds.”

Note the last phrase of the above statement. The AFTC, in its work to protect and advance the interest

of the breeds, many years ago appointed a Health Committee Chair to work in the capacity of dispensing health information resources for the public—whether for the puppy buyer, a person learning about the Fox Terrier breeds, or the breeder attempting to produce healthy Fox Terriers.

This column is focused on the Smooth Fox Terrier. The columnist interviewed

Brittany McKeown-Boldt, who has served AFTC as the Chairperson of the Health Committee for over 20 years. She is also a current Board member. (Note: Some comments are edited.)

[Interviewer:] Please tell me how you got started in Smooth Fox Terriers, your first show dog Smooth, and early mentors.

[BMB:] I was first involved as a teenager in going to dog shows and in terriers when my Mom rented space in her boarding kennel to a professional handler. Later, Sheila Thulin, of Top Hat Smooths, now AFTC President and Board Member, had space in my Mom’s kennel. I was very excited to travel to shows with her (also handler Connie Clark, another AFTC Board member). My first show Smooth was from Sheila. I finished her; Ch. Top Hat That Girl. So I have been involved from the age of 16 or 17 years on.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

What is your current activity in the breed (Smooth Fox Terriers)?

I do mostly conformation showing. I have tried Barn Hunt and hope to do more. All my dogs live in the house; no kennel. I am still raising some Smooths in line with “purposeful,” selective breeding. I occasionally co-breed a litter. I reduce number of dogs to be kept by the tool of collecting semen from males (frozen semen) and then am able to place that male rather than keeping him on site.

What’s the origin of your prefix (“kennel name”)?

It is Brocaire, Gaelic for “terrier.” My mom had Irish Terriers, and I am of partly Irish and Scotch heritage.

What is the aim of health testing for Smooth Fox Terriers and the maintenance of result databases, as we will discuss in more detail?

The goal, as breeders, is to preserve a breed and to breed healthy dogs.

You have some additional qualifications and involvement with the Smooth Fox Terrier breed which serve to help you in your duties as AFTC Chairperson of the Health Committee.

I have an Animal Science degree through the University of Illinois. I have long served as President of the Fox Terrier Club of Chicago and VP of the Fox Terrier Club of New England, in addition to being an AFTC Board Member.

I would think these positions plus your work in vet medicine for 17 years give you a good insight into the inner workings of dog clubs and the technical aspects of dog health when you provide information resources as chair of the Health Committee. Let’s discuss your duties and these resources. I note that the AFTC Code of Ethics states in part, “Members shall support the efforts of the AFTC relative to health issues known to affect the Breeds. Members shall follow the

recommended health testing through the CHIC program as established by the AFTC,” and: “Stud owners should be selective in accepting bitches to their stud dogs and should consider only bitches whose owners can adhere to this Code of Ethics.” First, as Health Committee Chair, do you hear much from the public about health problems in the Smooth Fox Terrier, either questions or bringing problems to your attention?

Not so much in Smooths. We are lucky, on an even keel, we started as a pretty healthy breed and have been able to stay a healthy breed and want to keep it that way.

I know that you provide information resources to breeders, to puppy buyers and to people in the process of exploring breeds. What is the information starting point?

That would be the CHIC Program (Canine Health Information Center). Their website and national database for canine health information provides a wealth of information and

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

should be viewed by those interested in the breed. CHIC recommends testing for Smooths to the parent club based on OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) and CHF (Canine Health Foundation) for two conditions: screening for patellar luxation and cardiac evaluation. A CHIC Certificate for the dog is obtained when the dog (which must be permanently identified by microchip or tattoo) has been tested and certified as normal, regarding the conditions for which testing is required, and the results reported. The dog then gets a CHIC number. Note that results that are not ideal can be sent in but kept confidential. It is difficult to give real prevalence of a problem because not all results are turned in to the database.

[Comments] Per the American Kennel Club, each breed's health-testing requirements originate with a "parent club" (which gets recommendations from OFA/

CHIC). The AKC Health Foundation (CHF) funds research grants and provides data to help clubs determine these recommendations. A donation to CHF is encouraged on the AFTC members' annual dues form. The AFTC Health Committee Chairperson checks to see if a particular study may be relevant to our breed. She can give updates through the AFTC newsletter. Sometimes institutional researchers approach the AFTC Board regarding a health issue.

People have lots of opinions on testing and can test for anything they want. At the end of health testing, it is us doing the best we can do to breed the healthiest dogs we can. The goal as breeders is to preserve a breed and to breed healthy dogs. The database(s) used as tools help in the selection process.

Thank you.

—Kristi L. Tukua, AKC GAZETTE columnist for Smooth Fox Terriers

[American Fox Terrier Club](#)

Wire Fox Terriers

PARENT CLUB

HEALTH SCREENING

RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE ROLE OF OFA

What is the purpose of a dog breed parent club? Simply said, it is a national organization recognized by AKC that serves as the guardian of a breed.

How does a parent club accomplish this purpose? The simple answer is through a commitment to preserve, protect and improve the breed by defining the breed standard, promoting health testing, advancing health research, educating the public, and encouraging responsible breeding practices.

The American Fox Terrier Club has been protecting both Smooth and Wire Fox Terriers since its formation in 1885—141 years ago. The AFTC, through its Code of Ethics, speaks to good breeding practices and encourages its member breeders to follow the recommended health testing screenings through the

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) as established by the AFTC.

At the present time, Board Member Brittany McKeown-Boldt chairs the Health Committee. I asked Brittany for input as I prepared this column. Her role within the AFTC is to help educate Fox Terrier enthusiasts about health-related topics and assist them to navigate the best approaches for breeding healthy dogs. It is through her recommendations that the AFTC Board of Directors approved the three screening tests for Wire Fox Terriers.

All breeders of Wire Fox Terriers are encouraged to screen and obtain CHIC numbers for three conditions: cardiac, which includes both the basic and advanced cardiac exam; patellar luxation; and Van den Ende-Gupta syndrome. The latter is an inherited autosomal recessive skeletal disorder primarily affecting Wire Fox. The condition is



characterized by an overshot jaw and severe patellar and elbow luxation, all of which can appear at birth.

Brittany emphasized that breeders may test their breeding stock for any of the CHIC list of conditions beyond the named three.

(It is important to note that participating dogs must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number.)

OFA/CHIC information is available on their web-

site, www.ofa.org. OFA, established in 1966, is a private, not-for-profit foundation whose mission is “To promote the health and welfare of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease.” The organization emphasizes the four individuals/groups that benefit from the CHIC program: breeders, buyers, researchers, and parent clubs.

Through CHIC, breeders have a reliable source of information regarding

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

dogs they want to use in their breeding programs. In the words of a professional colleague, a professor of human anatomy and physiology, breeders need to breed for the whole dog, not just one small part they seek to improve. Knowing what lies beyond what our eyes see can sometimes prevent catastrophic conditions in puppies or delayed to adulthood.

Buyers benefit from screening tests when the seller/breeder provides a CHIC number which indicates that the probability of an inherited disease or condition in the puppy/dog is reduced when its ancestry has tested normal.

Researchers certainly benefit from OFA/CHIC, as they provide confidential and accurate information on multiple generations of dogs, which is useful for epidemiological studies affecting all breeds of dogs.

Published data about the three screenings of Wire Fox Terriers, as a minimum, is encouraged, and highly

valuable. However, when breeders screen for other conditions, the results may indicate a trend that needs closer examination through research. Universities with schools of veterinary medicine often have one or more research projects investigating health conditions. Periodically the AFTC receives requests for subjects from such researchers. The AFTC will post the information on its Facebook page as well as publication in quarterly Newsletter to members.

Lastly, AFTC, and all participating parent clubs, at no cost to them, have accurate information via the CHIC Program. They can be assured of the organization's professionalism and the reliability and validity of the data collected and maintained in a secure environment.

The goal of AFTC, OFA/CHIC, and breeders is to promote good breeding practices that produce Wire Fox Terrier puppies who will be able to run and play with

ease or curl up with you on the sofa.

—Joan Gordon Murko,
Woodland Park, New Jersey;
donohill@optimum.net
American Fox Terrier
Club

Irish Terriers

A FOUNDING FATHER OF THE BREED: JERRY O'CALLAGHAN

When asked why he had such an influence on the development of what we know as the modern Irish Terrier, Jerry O'Callaghan simply answered: "I outlived everyone else!" That sums up the modest character of this man who spent over 70 years as a student of the breed.

Jerry was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1886 and came to America when he was 11, settling in the Boston area. He acquired his first Irish in 1902 after developing a passion for the breed from his uncle, Father John D. O'Gorman, who was a well-known exhibiter of Irish at that time. His imported dog, Ch. Celtic

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



(1) Jerry (far left) in an early family photo, courtesy of Gerry Mulligan; (2) Jerry in his typical tweed suit the day he was honored by the ITCA during Westminster week 1970, pictured with ITCA president Martha Hall.



Badger, was the top-winning Irish of the day.

Fr. O’Gorman tragically passed away in 1906, and Jerry took over his breeding program. He made his show debut in 1909 with a bitch called Kilvara, a name that would become the prefix to his kennel. He quickly established himself as a top breeder who produced

dogs for leading exhibitors including John Thorndike and future president of the Westminster Kennel Club, John Bates.

By the 1920s, Jerry cut back on his breeding program and started his judging career. He judged Best in Show at the inaugural all-terrier show hosted by the Montgomery County Kennel Club in 1929. He also was an important promoter of the breed. He once made the sports pages of *The Boston Globe* when he presented Red Sox manager Joe Cronin with an Irish Terrier puppy. (See page 35.)

Jerry’s most significant partnership was with Martha Hall. Mrs. Hall took up an interest in Irish Terriers in the early 1930s and worked closely with Jerry. Together they produced some of the top dogs of their day. Dogs from their joint kennels, Ahtram and Kilvara, are considered the foundation stock of the modern Irish Terrier. All of today’s American lines descend from the Irish they bred.

This partnership lasted for decades. Jerry’s last champion, Ch. Kilvara Fitzpatrick (Fitz), was bred in 1965 when he was 79. Fitz was the breed winner at the ITCA specialty at the Associated Terriers show, and Westminster in 1967.

Jerry’s great nephew, Gerry Mulligan, shared

COURTESY GERRY MULLIGAN / ITCA

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

stories of his great uncle. He considers Jerry one of his favorite relatives, describing him as a true gentleman. He was known to wear a tweed jacket or suit as he walked his dogs on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston's Back Bay area. He spent his later years at an assisted living center managed by Carmelite nuns. In 1970, the ITCA wanted to honor him during Westminster week. Since he was unable to drive, the nuns at the center arranged to have one of their own accompany him to New York by bus from Boston. On the trip home, Jerry was floating on air and telling his companion all sorts of anecdotes about his life with Irish Terriers.

Jerry passed away in 1973 at the age of 87. The ITCA honors his memory with the Jeremiah O'Callaghan Memorial Trophy, awarded each year to the owner of the Irish winning the greatest number of points at all AKC-member and -licensed shows.

Jerry's importance to the

development of the Irish Terrier is due to more than just because he "outlived" everyone. It owes more to his brilliant eye for breed type and his ability to match the right pairs of Irish to continually improve the breed from generation to generation. The Irish Terrier was fortunate that he had such a passion for them.

—Michael A. Kowalczyk,
kowalczykm@charter.net
Irish Terrier Club of
America

Kerry Blue Terriers

A BLAST FROM THE PAST: 1965

The following is an AKC GAZETTE article originally submitted in June 1965.

"Thirty-nine years ago, on February 12th, 1926, the Kerry Blue Terrier Club of America Inc. was formed in New York and admitted to active membership in the AKC in May. It was through the unselfish support and untiring efforts of the members that the breed forged

rapidly ahead during the first year. The continued co-operation of each member worked hard to see that the Kerry reached his just place in the Terrier Group.

"A short term later the governors drew up a Standard, and it was the first official American standard approved by the specialty club. B. Jerome Megargee of Scranton, PA, and owner of the Blue Vale Kennels was elected the first president. Beginning in May, the club specials were offered at leading shows in addition to the members' cash specials and trophies. This resulted in a satisfactory statement regarding the breed's representation at 45 of the principal Eastern and Midwestern shows during the year. At these shows the Kerry Blues had nine without competition, twelve were one point, six were two points, seven were three points, five were four-points, and six were five-points. An analysis of the 16 other terrier breeds at these shows reveals the fact that the

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



(1) Kerry Blue Terrier Ch. Blue Chip of Oakcrest; (2) Ch. Blue-more High Fidelity, USKBTC specialty, 1960; (3) Edith Izant

number of points gained by the Kerries were 95 and placed them third in the terrier division for acquired points. They were exceeded only by the Wire Fox Terriers and Schnauzers.

“The year produced six new champions of record, four bitches and two dogs. During the year, 41 American-bred and 28 imported dogs and bitches

were registered in the AKC, a tremendous increase over the previous few years.

“There were numerous cases since the standard was adopted that fanciers disposed of their stock and sought typical dogs and bitches to breed from. Importations showed that the fanciers were buying rights and already had in this country a combination

of the best bloodlines available in England and Ireland. The first annual specialty show of the KBTC of A was held in conjunction with the combined terrier club specialty shows, February 9th, 1927, in the new Madison Square Garden. Judge Wilmont Evans Jr. of Boston, MA, went over an entry of 48, comprising 27 dogs and bitches, 5

USKBTC

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

champions, and one international Ch. Grabhaire was Best of Breed, while Mrs. W.R. Hearst's Ch. Kenmare Peggy was WB, BW, and BOS. Next day at the Garden the entry was the same, and again Ch. Grabhaire was Best of Breed. The judge was the late Alfred Delmont.

"Ch. Grabhaire was the most extensively shown Kerry in America and the only undefeated one, shown 35 times at only the large and important shows and under 24 of the leading terrier judges. He was retired after the Devon show in 1927. He was the first to win the Group, this he did at Lackawanna show April 21st, 1927, and was the sire of champion Sheepshead Lad. Grabhaire's head-study graced the Kerry column until April 1934. Mr. Megargee died suddenly on January 14th 1929 at his home in Scranton of blood poisoning. He was president of the club since its formation in 1926 and did much to advance the breed in the

country, and it was mainly through his untiring efforts that the breed was introduced into this country.

"In May 1936 the newly formed United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club Inc. merged with the Kerry Blue Terrier Club of America. The late Orin Baker was elected president. Much has been accomplished down through the years, especially when you consider that in 1926 only 41 American bred and 28 imported dogs and bitches were registered, while in 1964 a total of 1,099 dogs and bitches were registered. Our club has already more than 125 members and eight very active Chapters spread over the United States.

"Since the time back when Ch. Leinster Leader, owned by the Blue Leaders Kennels, became the first of the breed to win Best in Show (Stockton CA 1929), Kerries are no strangers to the top spot and winning hot terrier groups with great regularity.

"At the KBTC of

Chicago's specialty show April 2nd, Marie Green's Ch. Tailteann's Blue Crystal was Best of Breed for the third consecutive year. Mrs Gerry Loebe judged sweepstakes with 10 entries, and again Marie Green won with her home-bred Edmareann's Billy Joe. Crystal was BB and Group 3 at the International show next day." —1965 article submitted by Mrs. Gladys S. Titcomb of first Perry St. Bristol, RI 02809

Respectfully resubmitted by Connie Hernandez Robbins, cjhrobbins@gmail.com

[United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club](#)

Lakeland Terriers

OPTIMUM INGREDIENTS

I've come a long way from my naïve days when I first began to breed dogs (1962). In those days, I trusted in dog food companies. Why not, as they hired veterinarians to consult on the formulation of their feeds? What's the saying: "You've

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

come a long way, baby!”

What I was not aware of then, was that vet schools’ way of teaching “nutrition” was to have representatives of the major dog food manufacturers teach about six hours (not “credit hours”!) of “nutrition instruction” which consisted of mainly “our products are great, and we will give you a good deal on them so you can increase your practice’s revenue.”

Even today, a high percentage of scholarship dollars and research donations to vet schools come from pet food companies. If you are at all interested in the history of these practices I heartily recommend reading *Feeding Dogs*, by Dr. Conor Brady. Might be the best \$30 you ever spend on dog nutrition. Plenty of science, plenty of literature references, but also plain language summaries of each chapter, “Take Home Points”, that are easy to understand and apply.

I receive the publication called *Pet Food Industry*, aimed at pet food retailers

and manufacturers. In a recent issue there was an article titled “How to Minimize Pet Food Costs” that I found both informative and unsettling. Here are a few quotes:

“A recent report from the Institute for Feed Education & Research (IFEEDR) focused in part on the vitamin and amino acid needs of U.S. pet food formulations and they simply cannot be met domestically.” The U.S. has limited domestic production of amino acids, accounting for less than 20% of global capacity, and almost no production of vitamins except for niacin (B3), which makes up just 7% of global output. As a result, the U.S. feed industry relies heavily on imports, particularly from China, which supplies a significant share of supplemental amino acids and vitamins.

“For example, 100% of the imported lysine included in livestock and poultry feed is from China. Vitamin imports are highly

dependent on China, especially from thiamine (B1), pantothenic acid (B5), pyridoxine (B6) and Vitamin E, where Chinese sources account for more than 80% of the total imports. This heavy dependence on imports from a limited number of sources highlights the vulnerability of U.S. animal feed production to global supply chain disruptions ...

“Some of the most significant costs in pet food production come from ingredients, equipment energy consumption, and equipment effectiveness. Over the years pet food formulations have shifted toward finer grinds with higher fat levels [my note: kibble dog food is woefully low in fat], which can cause some grinding systems to operate inefficiently and increase downtime.”

God forbid making pet food with optimum ingredients receives more attention than cost-therefore-sales!

My message is simple: *What are your priorities?*

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

As a breeder my goal is producing puppies that are not only beautiful and functional but also live a maximum “healthspan.” The foundation of healthspan is optimum nutrition, especially throughout gestation and growth. It is wonderful if genetic disorders can be tested for, but the vast majority of ills that plague purebred breeds (and humans, for that matter) have environmental/nutritional/toxin components. Why go down the path of suboptimal nutrition? Make the best puppies that you can in utero, feed them optimally while growing and throughout life, and avoid exposing them to toxic chemicals as much as possible.

Old sayings got to be old sayings for a reason: They contain a grain of truth, as in “penny-wise and pound foolish” or “the longest way ‘round is often the shortest way home.”

—Pat Rock,

hollybriar@widomaker.com

United States Lakeland
Terrier Club

Manchester Terriers

BORN TO BE VERSATILE

In the purebred dog world, the original purpose of a breed is often discussed and a proud part of the breed’s history. Whether hunters, herders, or trackers, breeds retain that instinct that was bred into them over hundreds or even thousands of years. Manchester Terriers were originally bred to be ratters and to course hare and game. Whether keeping the local shop or the farmer’s barn free of vermin or chasing down rabbits in the field, they took their job seriously. That instinct has not changed, even as they moved from the fields and farms to the comfy couches in our homes.

For any terrier, this instinct is strong, but it is not always a welcome trait in a family pet. Luckily for Manchesters, there are many outlets for this natural character in the form of AKC performance sports. Manchesters, both Toy and Standard, excel at Fast CAT and CAT (Coursing Ability

Test), scent work, Barn Hunt, flyball, Earthdog, rally, obedience, and agility. There are even Manchesters competing in tracking, Farm Dog, dock diving, and Trick Dog. All of these sports help them focus their drive, intelligence, and eagerness to please—traits that made them great exterminators in their heyday.

Manchesters are a breed looking for a job and a purpose. It is what was expected of their ancestors, and little has changed. This can sometimes be challenging in a modern home with busy schedules, with the adults often working long hours and children’s days packed with school and other activities.

Whether you are interested in dipping your toes in or going all-out, here are some ways these sports can create an outlet that the whole family can participate in while giving your Manchester a sense of purpose.

Fast CAT and CAT: Both of these sports are based in coursing, which is right in

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Manchester Terrier



the Manchester's sweet spot. The dogs run a course of 100, 300, or 600 yards chasing a lure (often consisting of a white plastic bag) either in a straightaway or along a pre-designed course with turns. Manchesters' natural drive to chase game means this sport works their mind and their bodies. The joy and exuberance they show as they wait at the starting gate is inspiring and gives us a glimpse into their past. There are clubs and competitions all over the country as part of large cluster dog

shows and freestanding events, so it is something you can do several times a month without a lot of travel. Dogs can earn a title in as few as three runs, or you can take them on to multiple titles and dozens of runs. (More info: www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat; www.akc.org/sports/coursing)

Scent work: When originally hunting for vermin, a Manchester's senses were always on high alert. Getting the whiff of a hidden rat or catching sight of a rabbit on

a hill, a Manchester's sagacity sent them straight to their prize. Scent/nose work allows a Manchester to use their keen sense of smell to keep their mind sharp and constantly working. Their sight is challenged as they work through the maze of obstacles to find the scent and alert their handler. This sport is about not just the dog but the team. The bond developed between the handler and the dog is like a dance, and Manchesters are a willing partner. (www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work)

Barn Hunt: This is another sport that works many of the senses of a Manchester. The sounds and scent of the rat in the protective tube, the textures of the hay mimicking being in a barn, and the searching high and low keeps them mentally on point and working alongside their owner—right where they want to be. “Barn Hunt tests the nose, speed, agility, and surefootedness of dogs that have a history of above-ground vermin

COURTESY OWNER

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

hunting,” said Robin Nuttall, founder of the Barn Hunt Association. This is a sport that can take time for the owners/handlers and the dogs to master. However, it is exciting to see your Manchester spark those instincts in a fun and positive way while keeping their brains clicking. The Barn Hunt competitions are overseen by the Barn Hunt Association and the AKC recognizes the titles achieved. (www.facebook.com/barnhuntassociation and akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/barn-hunt)

Flyball: A sport steeped in anticipation, speed, and intensity, it is a hurdle relay-race that allows a Manchester to use their agile speed, drive, and heart to push a spring-loaded pad that releases a ball that they must catch and bring to their owner/handler as part of a dog relay team. It is action-packed and fast-paced but definitely keeps the dog and handler on their toes. The North American

Flyball Association oversees this exciting sport, and the AKC recognizes the titles and levels earned at the Flyball competitions. (www.flyball.org and www.akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/flyball)

Earthdog: This sport brings out the inquisitive and instinctual nature of a Manchester by looking for vermin in a hole. Earthdog is all about the team, both handler and dog, but it does require the dogs to be on the smaller side, since the holes are smaller and the dogs need to be able to get in and back out. Toy Manchesters and smaller Standard Manchesters are truly more suited to participate in this underground activity and have done well. (www.akc.org/sports/earthdog)

Rally/obedience/agility: Participating in one or all of these sports is something a Manchester and his owner-handler can excel at in many capacities. This is also a sport enjoyed

by people of all ages and levels of expertise. It can be as simple as following obedience signs and instructions on a designed rally course, or a fast-paced run around agility obstacles. These sports also stimulate the Manchester’s desire to please, work their mind, and cement the partnership between a Manchester and their family. Whether weaving through poles, tackling the A-frame, or jumping a hurdle, Manchesters’ speed, light-footedness, and strong drive to work has many in the upper echelon of the sport. However, do not let the strong competition deter you. There are many Manchester families that just dabble in the sport a few days a month or in their own backyard. (www.akc.org/sports/rally; www.akc.org/sports/obedience and www.akc.org/sports/agility)

Other sports: There are many other sports offered by the AKC, including Tracking, Farm Dog Certification Test, dock

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

diving, and Trick Dog that can give a Manchester the chance to flaunt their drive and prowess. Tracking allows them to use their keen senses across a long course that ends with a find and reward. Farm Dog exhibits their versatility around the farm. Dock Diving is less popular with Manchesters, because many do not like water. However, those who do love water are hard to keep out of the backyard baby pool or water dish. Dock diving gives them a chance to put their love of water to use while applying an intensity and excitement above simply splashing around. Trick Dog allows them to show their trick chops that come quickly and naturally. (www.akc.org/sports/tracking, www.akc.org/sports/herding/farm-dog-certified-test, www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog, and www.akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/dock-diving)

All these options for events and sports can seem overwhelming, but know that exploring what works

best for your family is the perfect place to start. You can also just take classes and attend events, even if you never compete. It is an excellent way to get ideas on how to train and motivate your Manchester to focus their energy in a positive way. This will allow you to be prepared for your new Manchester puppy or your older Manchester that needs more mental stimulation. It is also a chance to be active not only for your dog but for yourself.

When you are ready to check it out, reach out the American Manchester Terrier Club, as there are plenty of members who can provide guidance and even show you the ropes.

—Robin Gates,
robingates42@gmail.com
American Manchester
Terrier Club

Norfolk Terriers

NEVER “JUST” A PET

Take it from me. Your dog is never “just” a pet.

To back up a little, know two things. One is that I have put multiple titles on my Norfolks over the last 50 years and I am especially proud of their Versatility and Versatility Excellent awards from the NTC. I find competing with my dogs really rewarding.

Two is that I believe all dogs and owners benefit greatly by at least some formal training ... whether it leads to a Canine Good Citizen designation, a Trick Dog title, conformation ring manners, top agility or earthdog titles, or the pleasure of having a well-behaved dog that will walk quietly on leash. A formal training plan, even if it is only a six- or eight-week puppy class, really helps build a bond that is special.

But I can also remember when I bought my first Drop Eared Norwich (later Norfolk) from Barbara Fournier (Bethway) and subscribed to the newsletter of the Norwich Terrier Club. I would eagerly open each issue, thrilled to see pictures

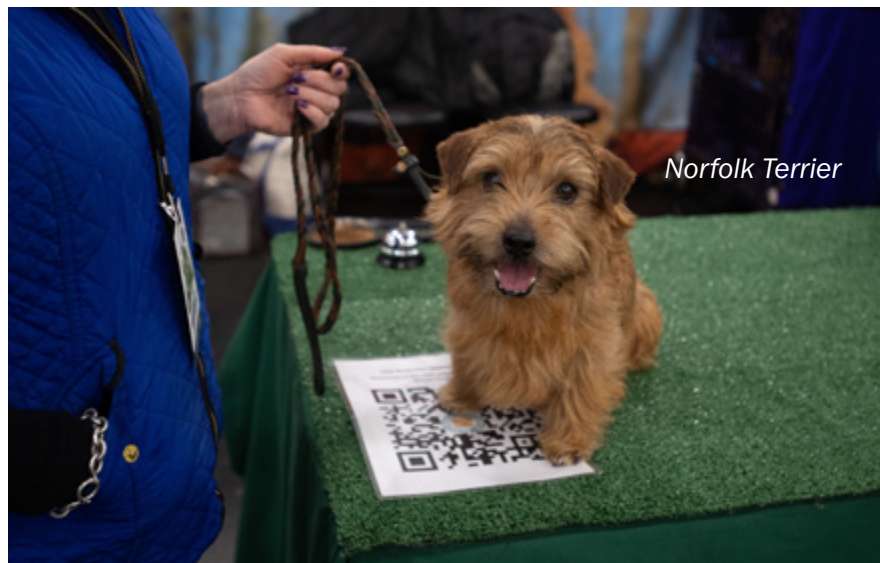
BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

and stories of my favorite breed but ... inevitably ... I'd feel a little sad because my dog was "just a pet."

As it turned out, my Bethway's Joshua did earn his championship, thanks to the encouragement of Jane Anderson (Anderscroft). And yes, I was thrilled. As a matter of fact, his (and my) first time in the ring we won Best of Breed over several other dogs presented by the same kennel. (I didn't appreciate at the time that we'd accomplished quite an unexpected feat!) But still ... there were all those other dogs winning Best of Breed at Montgomery or Westminster. Those dogs becoming top sires and dams. All those photographs of the "big winners" that appeared in the quarterly publication.

Speed ahead a half-century, and at present you can hardly turn around without a new venue offering new titles and (to me anyway) hugely inappropriate rosettes and trophies for even the most modest



Norfolk Terrier

achievements. With the advent of social media, it sometimes seems that if a dog doesn't have a string of initials (completely incomprehensible to our non-dog peeps) before and after their name, they are immediately relegated to the 'just a pet' category.

No matter what our role in the Norfolk world is—whether breeder, competitor, or companion dog owner—it's important to remember that while competition is fun and awards are great, the very best place for most any dog is beside his or her owner on the couch watching televi-

sion, or snuggled in bed as their person reads Melanie Travis or Bernie and Chet dog-centric mysteries, or going for walks in the park with their human family. The very best thing they can be is a friend to a child or a "canine grand-dog" for an elderly parent. When a dog greets a person who walks in the door after a hard day at work, they are never "just a pet." They are someone's best friend, buddy, maybe even a soulmate.

So never, ever say your Norfolk or anyone else's is "just a pet," because I'm pretty certain they never, ever look at us and say, "You

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

are just a person.””

Here's to the pet dogs who
just make us happy.

—Sheila Foran,

Sforan2@cox.net

Norfolk Terrier Club

Norwich Terriers

SQUARE BY DESIGN: THE NORWICH TERRIER'S DISTINCTIVE OUTLINE

Thank you, Judi Hartell,
for asking me to be a
guest columnist for this edi-
tion of the AKC GAZETTE.

As judges' education
chair for the Norwich
Terrier Club of America,
when asked by prospec-
tive judges what the most
important thing to look for
in the Norwich Terrier, I
reply, “look for the proper
Norwich Terrier outline
(type) first.” The proper
outline of the Norwich
Terrier is all too often
missing from the dogs
being exhibited in show
rings across the U.S., even
though it is well described
in our breed standard. Here
is the “short” of what and
why the Norwich Terrier



standard calls for a square
appearance.

Norwich Terriers may be
small in stature, but their sil-
houette leaves no room for
ambiguity. Among the most
recognizable features of the
breed and one that experi-
enced breeders and judges
watch closely for is the dis-
tinctly *square outline* called
for in the breed's American
Kennel Club (AKC) stan-
dard. In a terrier world
filled with longer-legged
and longer-backed breeds,
the Norwich stands out
as a compact, balanced
companion whose propor-
tions give him both charm

and functional capability.

Understanding this square-
ness is key to appreciating
the breed's look, movement,
and history.

The AKC standard
describes the Norwich
Terrier as a “spirited, stocky
dog” with a moderately
short, compact, and deep
body, good substance, and a
level topline. The Norwich
outline is the quickest way
to assess whether a dog fits
the essential blueprint of the
breed standard. That outline
should show body length
measured from the top of
the withers to the base of
the tail are approximately

STEPHANIE ELLIEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

equal. This measurement creates a tidy, square profile that defines the breed. One should not have to wonder if the dog in front of them is a Norwich Terrier or an Australian Terrier, which is described in their standard as rather long in proportion to height.

The make and shape of the Norwich Terrier is not an aesthetic preference alone; it reflects the breed's working origins. The Norwich was developed to go to ground after vermin, requiring a body compact enough to follow prey through tight spaces but substantial enough to withstand the demands of the job. Too long, and the dog risks losing agility and structural strength; too short, and it loses the reach and flexibility needed for underground work. The square shape balances both these needs.

Achieving this balance requires more than simply measuring a dog from nose to tail. The appearance of squareness comes from a

series of interdependent parts. The ribcage, for instance, should be well sprung and deep. A short ribcage with a long loin will not give the dog's spine the support it needs to go to ground and to be able to turn around without damaging the spine. The proper loin should be short and strong, creating a connection between front and rear that supports efficient, ground-covering movement.

Proper leg length matters just as much: The Norwich is short-legged, but not so short that the body appears low and long or heavy in body. When leg length and body depth are balanced correctly, the outline becomes naturally square without exaggeration.

The topline is level and firm according to the standard. A soft topline with rolls of skin at the shoulder disrupts the square profile and can signal weak musculature or incorrect structure. Similarly, the tail set contributes to overall balance. The tail should be set on

base level with the topline and carried erect, adding to the clean, compact look of the outline without creating a disproportionate vertical line. In silhouette, all these elements should flow harmoniously, giving the impression of a small but capable dog ready for action.

Movement further confirms whether the Norwich Terrier is truly square. A correctly proportioned Norwich will move with power and propulsion while topline remains level. If the dog is too long or too low, movement often becomes inefficient, showing excessive roll or short, choppy steps. A well-made Norwich moves as if his body is a single, cohesive unit light, purposeful, and balanced from all angles.

Breeders often say that Norwich Terriers are "big dogs in small packages," and their squared, sturdy build is central to that impression. The outline expresses confidence and capability without coarseness. It gives

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

the breed a look of readiness, whether the dog is trotting around a show ring or accompanying its family on a walk.

In modern life, most Norwich Terriers no longer hunt underground, but the standard preserves the qualities that made them successful workers. The square body is not merely a historical echo; it remains essential to the breed's identity. For breeders, exhibitors, and admirers, appreciating this shape is appreciating Norwich type. —Lori Pelletier, NTCA Judges Education chair

—Judi Hartell,
datadawg11@gmail.com
[The Norwich Terrier Club of America](#)

Scottish Terriers

YOU'VE LOST YOUR LINE

It happened. After years of careful planning, researching pedigrees, watching and going over dogs, timing litters, taking care of puppies that thrive and those that don't, your

latest brood bitch failed to produce the next generation. Time runs out, and she has crossed into that age where there might be more risk than you want to take to try one more breeding.

You look for a solution, but your years of building a multi-generational line of dogs has hit the brick wall, and you have lost your line. While most often impacting small-scale breeders, this can also hit larger breeding programs.

I've recently experienced this with my last bitch, my COVID puppy. I had two litters with her after she finally finished her championship and grand championship, and I got nothing with which to carry my line forward. By this point she was over 6 years old, and my reproductive veterinarian said that after the back-to-back breedings, we should typically wait a year, after which she would be well over 7 years old, and in his opinion, too old to try another breeding.

So, it was time to step

back and reassess the entire situation. To come to grips with this reality, there were numerous questions I had to ask myself to establish a path forward:

Do you want to continue a breeding program? Do you want to stay with the Scottish Terrier, or perhaps switch breeds? These must be honestly answered.

Look at your previous line and be critical about what was successful and what you thought you needed to improve. This is a great opportunity to carefully examine what your breeding program had produced and how it compared to the other dogs out there. You can't be sentimental at this juncture but instead be truthful and reread the Scottish Terrier breed standard for guidance.

Are there dogs out there who carry your gene pool that you may have access to? Did you place dogs you bred in show homes and saw them finish their championships? Are they dogs who you feel represent your ideal? Again, leave

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

the sentimentality aside and be truthful. Look at how they matured and what they produced, and then go over them with a critical eye. Can they provide a new start for your program? Remember, you didn't keep them for your breeding program for a reason. If one of your stud dogs produced a litter outside your program, do any of those dogs or bitches provide an option to move forward? Is it a breeding you would have made?

Were there issues in your line that you wanted to correct or eliminate? Perhaps you worked hard to fix a health concern or a breed characteristic that wasn't what you had strived for, or something popped up in a litter that negatively impacted your breeding program? Be honest with yourself, and understand that all dogs have their faults, and recognize what you can live with and what you can't, or shouldn't, accept. You need to ask this question of yourself and be honest in how you answer.



Scottish Terrier dam and pups

Is there another line that you have admired from which you would consider obtaining a puppy? Maybe back in the pedigree it has some link to your line. If you have been actively showing, there are bound to be some dogs in the ring that have caught your eye, and you wondered how they may work with what you had in your kennel at the time. This is the time to forget grudges and gossip and think solely of the dogs and what they may bring to your breeding program.

Perhaps it's time to com-

pletely start over. Find a breeder you know with an ethical breeding program who has a litter on the ground or who you know is planning a litter in the future and start the conversation. Ask for a pedigree to see what's behind the sire and dam. Are there dogs there that you liked? Are there any you want to steer away from? Be very clear what you are doing with this breeder so that there are no surprises down the line. Carefully outline your intentions and include them in

COURTESY RICHARD C. BUNSTEAD

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

the purchase contract.

In my case—I opted for the last option and started from scratch with a new puppy bitch completely unrelated to my previous line, bred by a friend. He knew what had happened with my program and was willing to work with me to get back up on my feet and sold me a puppy with sole ownership. Therefore, I was in full control of the bitch's future and was able to draft my plans to rebuild my kennel's breeding program, unencumbered by co-ownerships, second opinions, or obligations.

The primary reason I took this route was that I found myself looking at the past three generations of my girls that developed periodontal disease, and I suspect I know where it entered my breeding program from a litter I did not breed. He was a well-known stud dog and produced the same issue in other breedings. I hadn't had this issue before he popped up in the pedigree, so the circumstantial

evidence pointed to him.

My new bitch puppy has no relationship to this stud dog, and going forward I will avoid any potential breeding where this dog shows up in the pedigree.

This is a tough business, but it is a business, and we need to make sound decisions based upon the available knowledge that you have and that others in the Scottish Terrier breed can provide. If you decide to move forward, you can't look back. It's in the past, and what happened, happened.

—Richard C. Bumstead,
glenclark6517@yahoo.com
Scottish Terrier Club of
America

Sealyham Terriers

THE CURIOUS COMICS

On May 1, National Purebred Dog Day was buzzing with teachable moments and stories about purebred dogs submitted by owners and breeders from the AKC, obedience instructors, and parent clubs. The

day's inclusions centered around *heritage*, *diversity*, and *predictability* of canine companions and working partners.

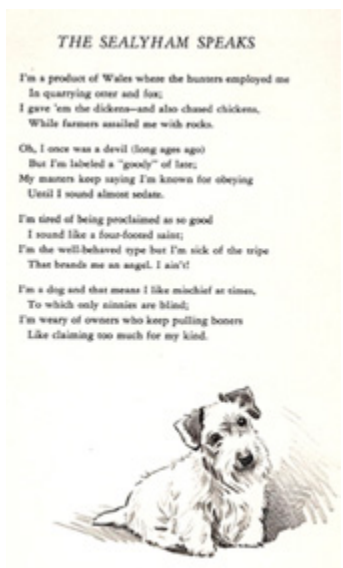
My thoughts and up-close experiences (30 years of many humorous experiences) went immediately to our Sealyham Terriers. Predictability! They are a "lit'l big dog." Seymour Weiss wrote of the breed in *Dog Fancy*, "Rare and robust, the Sealyham charms and captivates."

"Inquisitive and alert" lends to the charm of the breed, which many refer to as a pot-stirring clown, a standup comedian, with an "innate charm" and "a definite clownish side." They are the "curious comic"! They are very intelligent, and highly motivated to investigate when a scent captures their attention. Persistence is also a hallmark of the breed.

The "regal Sealyham," known also for a very sensitive side, has been owned by notable Hollywood legends, the likes of Alfred Hitchcock, Cary Grant,

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Sealyham Terrier art by Marguerite Kirmse: (1) "Narcissus"; (2) "What Is It?"; (3) "Burning Question"; (4) "One Up and Two to Play"; (5) "Bon Voyage"; (6) "Sea Urchins." Sealy art by Morgan Dennis: (7) "Snack Thief"; (8) illustration of J.M. Marples poem, "The Sealyham Speaks"; (9) puppy and adult Sealyham.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Humphrey Bogart, Gary Cooper, Elizabeth Taylor, Bette Davis, and Rock Hudson. Royal connections as well have popularized the breed, with royal fans of the breed including King George V and Princess Margaret.

Yet no one has captured the “curious comic” more aptly than the artist Marguerite Kirmse (1885–1954), a British artist who emigrated to the U.S. specializing and focusing on animal drawings and etchings she developed by frequent sketching trips to the Bronx Zoo.

In 1921 her artistic acclaim was etchings of dogs—many of our beloved Sealyham Terriers, capturing their comic side. She published *Dogs* in 1930 and *Dogs in the Field* in 1935 and illustrated two books by Rudyard Kipling (in my library collection), *Lassie Come-Home*, and many children’s books. During this time, Kirmse also helped her husband George C. Cole run the Tobermory

Kennels near Bridgewater, Connecticut.

Published here is her art, which I refer to as “The Curious Comics,” that Kirmse so lovingly portrays with great accuracy, attitude, expression, and predictability: *Narcissus* (in my collection), *What Is It?*, *Burning Question*, *One Up & Two to Play*, *Bon Voyage*, and *Sea Urchins*.

Another illustrator and author, Morgan Dennis (1892–1960), also captured the Sealyham at their most persistent, talkative selves and as a mischievous spirit for stealing dessert snacks. He illustrated the poem “The Sealyham Speaks,” by J.M. Marples.

Heading into 2027, National Purebred Dog Day (<https://nationalpurebreddogday.com>) is focusing on programs that will have the greatest impact. “One of those programs is the Fine Art/Poster Competition, which has produced remarkable work from around the world over the years and showcased the creativity of

artists inspired by purebred dogs.” Calling all Sealyham Terrier illustrators and fine artists interested in furthering their artistic talent while advancing the appreciation of our breed. Connect with NPDD as they consider the competition’s future directions and opportunities.

—Bev Thompson,
thompscom@aol.com
[American Sealyham Terrier Club](#)

Skye Terriers

STILL DABBLING

I grew up on Long Island. My mother followed the world of dog shows, and my brother and I attended the local shows with her. My mother loved Cocker Spaniels, and we always had one or more at home. However, our neighbors lived on a large estate that had many horses and different dog breeds. One was a male Skye Terrier named Robin who mated with a Skye Terrier female whose name I don’t remember. That accidental breeding

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



(1) Judy and Bill Tabler with Puff and Cocker Taffy; (2) GCh. Gleann-tan Sure Good Solace BN, RI, CGCA, TKI, Owner-Handled Terrier Group winner, Long Island Kennel Club; (3) GCh. Gleann-tan Sure Good Solace BN, RI, CGCA, TKI, Best of Opposite Sex, Westminster, handled by Maida Connor; (4) Gleann-tan Bren-moor Fife Dynasty, Best of Breed at Baltimore Kennel Club

resulted in a single puppy. Shortly thereafter, the neighbors packed up and moved south. They took their adult dogs, but they abandoned the puppy, whom we adopted. I named her Puff, because she was the color of puff of smoke.

After that, when we

attended dog shows, I gravitated to the Skye Terrier ring. Most dog shows of my childhood had entries of over 1,000 dogs. Shows were benched. The benching areas were not as cramped as they are today. Handlers, owners, and breeders sat around and discussed show-

ing and breeding dogs. They answered questions—even when they came from a child.

In the early 1960s, the Long Island Kennel Club was one of several clubs that worried about too much emphasis on “bestness” or “window dressing.” These

COURTESY JUDITH TABLER

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

clubs held shows without variety groups and Best in Show judging. The show committees stressed the importance of Best of Breed and adherence to the breed standard. The experiment was short-lived, because the spectators and participants felt the show was “flat” without a climatic ending.

As a member of the Long Island Kennel Club, and its eventual president, my mother got to know Walter Goodman, who often invited me to sit in the benching area and listen to him discuss Skyes. Ringside, another Walter—Walter Fletcher, a reporter who covered dog shows for many newspapers—knew I liked to write, and he invited me to sit near him and read his columns before he sent them off. In those days, most newspapers, including the *New York Times*, carried the results of dog shows with commentaries by John Rendel or Walter Fletcher.

I wish I could say I asked insightful questions and memorized all the knowl-

edge. What I learned is an appreciation and modest understanding of the world of purebred dogs. I grew up with respect for people who devoted their lives to the improvement of the breed.

One day, Walter (at some point he told me to stop calling him Mr. Goodman) asked me which of the Skyes in the ring I had preferred. As I spectator, I could only judge by topline and movement, so he let me go over them on the table. He pointed out what he considered each one's strengths and weaknesses.

I miss the days when benched shows provided “down time” so a renowned breeder could find time to mentor a child. I also wish I remembered all that Walter told me.

Initially, I followed my mother's lead with Cocker Spaniels and bred several champions. Most of my mother's dogs (Cockers, Bichon Frises, Silky Terriers, and a few of mine) were shown by professional handlers such as Ted Young, Bill

Ernst, Terry Stacy, David and Ellen Roberts, and a lone Beardie with Cliff Steele.

When I was showing a Cocker one day, a competitor snarled at me after we won over his dog, “You're a dabbler in the dog show world. You won't last.”

I didn't acquire my first Skye until 1993. Since then, I have had several champion Skyes who also acquired titles in Tricks, rally, obedience, and companion dog events. I just keep dabbling.

—Judith Tabler,

JudithATabler@gmail.com

[Skye Terrier Club of America](#)

Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME ...

CONTINUED

Thirty years ago, I fell in love with the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier and was swept into a world I never imagined—conformation, agility, rally, obedience, tracking, scent work, Barn Hunt, and herding instinct.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Some endeavors were more successful than others, but every one of them enriched my life. Today, I have the privilege of serving as President of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America. It has been an incredible journey, made possible by countless Wheaten and non-Wheaten friends who became my mentors, coaches, teachers, guides, confidants, and life-long friends.

How did it all begin? Someone took a chance on me.

In 1999, Pam Donahue (Grian) encouraged me to attend a St. Louis Wheaten specialty to see many Wheatens in one place and meet breeders. Unbeknownst to me, Pam was quietly evaluating me as a potential puppy owner. Five days later, she called and said, “I have a male puppy just for you.”

My mother and I drove seven hours one way to pick up that puppy—Clancy. Officially, he became Grian Rockin’ Robin, complete



Two photos at top: Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Clancy with Susan McGee. Bottom photo: Wheatens and their people—Susan McGee with Clancy, JoAnne Vogt with Tanner, and Janine Mroz with Maggie.

with a kennel name and bird-themed registered name, concepts that were entirely foreign to me. I didn’t understand the AKC, pedigrees, or breed standards, but I knew I had been

entrusted with something special. Pam’s commitment to preserving the breed, raising healthy puppies, and placing them in carefully selected homes left a lasting impression on me. Most

COURTESY SUSAN MCGEE

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

importantly, she continued to be part of my life and learning journey.

Bonnie Kanter (Solas) took a chance on me and became far more than a mentor—she became a trusted friend and one of my most valued advisors. She generously shared her time, talent, expertise, and, perhaps most importantly, her patience. She taught me everything from the fundamentals of coat care and nail trimming to the finer points of grooming, presentation, and ring procedure. I spent countless hours in her kitchen and garage watching her transform Clancy into a beautifully presented show dog, peppering her with questions about why she did things a certain way. She never seemed to tire of my curiosity.

Bonnie explained structure and movement, helping me understand Clancy's strengths and weaknesses and teaching me an invaluable lesson: No dog is perfect. She demystified the practical aspects of dog

shows—how to complete entries correctly, calculate points, anticipate ring times, and even remember not to leave the ring too quickly if you placed second and might need to return. As a law librarian by profession, she had a remarkable eye for detail and a gift for explaining things clearly.

More than 25 years later, Bonnie remains one of my go-to people. Whether I need perspective on a grooming question, a breeding decision, or club matter, or simply need a sounding board, she is someone I trust implicitly. Her willingness to share her knowledge and offer thoughtful guidance has been a constant throughout my journey in Wheatens. We all need people in our lives who not only teach us the mechanics of our sport but also encourage us, challenge us, and help us grow. Bonnie has been that person for me.

After Bonnie quickly finished Clancy's championship, she encouraged us to try obedience. It wasn't

quite my style, so she suggested a relatively new sport called agility. Enter Joan Meyer.

For seven years, every Tuesday night I drove an hour each way to train in a dingy barn in Lawrence, Kansas. Joan understood both me and my dog and encouraged us every step of the way. Under her guidance, Clancy earned Novice and Open titles in both Standard and Jumpers and became one of the first Wheatens competing in agility in our area. He was also famous for pausing dramatically at the top of the A-frame, seemingly so everyone could admire him.

Looking back, Pam, Bonnie, and Joan had much in common. They were role models who led by example, shared their knowledge generously, offered constructive feedback, and saw potential in someone who was brand new to the sport. They took a chance on me. And 30 years later, I remain profoundly grateful. Their

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

investment of time, patience, and encouragement didn't simply help me raise and title a dog; they shaped my journey in this breed, instilled a passion for life-long learning, and inspired me to pay it forward whenever I can by taking a chance on someone else.

And there is more still to come.

As I attended many national and regional specialties, I began developing an eye for the Wheaten "type" that spoke to me. I found myself increasingly drawn to a particular line that I had long admired from afar. Eventually, I decided I was ready to dip my toe into the world of a show prospect and yearned to obtain a promising puppy from that line into my life. I had no idea then that she would become my heart dog and take me on a journey even more extraordinary than I could have imagined. Stay tuned!

—Susan McGee

[Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America](#)

Welsh Terriers

PROSPECTIVE PUPPY BUYERS

A litter of puppies is always an adventure. So much work goes into planning the litter and selecting buyers for your puppies. It can be challenging working with buyers to ensure that the puppy is the right fit for that family.

Some of the primary things I ask about include:

- *Have you had Welsh Terriers before?*
- *Do you have a fenced area for the dog?*
- *How old are your children? (if applicable)*
- *Will someone be home often enough to exercise and care for the puppy?*
- *Do you have enough time for a puppy?*
- *What made you decide to buy a Welsh?*
- *What experience have you had with terriers?*

Discussion of obedience training is emphasized because it takes time to properly train a very active, highly athletic and intelligent dog. The adventurous Welsh puppy will often get into everything, so patience and

perseverance are required.

Sometimes the potential puppy buyer's responses tell me that they aren't a good fit for a Welsh, and in this case it is better to tell them up front that this is not the breed for them.

Most terriers, including Welsh, are very trainable using the right technique. I prefer someone who has had Welsh Terriers before and is planning to obedience train, if not for competition, at least to make him a great housepet. I always suggest two books on training: *Terrier centric Obedience* and *When Pigs Fly*.

When discussing training, listen to their questions to get an idea what they expect out of the dog and what they will let the dog get away with. Emphasize that bad habits are hard to break and good habits easy to instill. Your preliminary concern is to the dog at this point, and not everyone is a good terrier owner.

When I have my waiting list, I start guiding the prospects by encouraging

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Welsh Terrier

them to first locate an obedience-training club where they can watch the classes and see if they will be comfortable training there. If the trainers don't welcome terriers, I suggest a different class.

Some obedience classes put the emphasis on high scoring in trial, and these are not a good place for the newcomer to start their puppy class. I emphasize that heavy-handed methods don't work with terriers but praise and treats do.

If the new owners have not established a veterinary clinic, I help guide them toward a clinic that welcomes terriers. Some veterinarians are not used to working with curious dogs that inspect all that the veterinarians are doing.

Misinterpreting that as aggression is unfortunately common among vets. The veterinarian should be willing to use the experience of well-established Welsh breeders and seek their advice, particularly on behavior problems.

I always discuss the home situation, where the crate will be placed, where the dog will sleep (preferably not on the bed) and eat, and how he will be supervised. That should be decided before the puppy comes home.

Before the puppy leaves send the new owners a list of what they will need, including brand of food, stainless one-quart food bowls, size of puppy collar and lead, what kind of toys, and what type and size of dog crate they will need (I tell them to bring that with them). Make sure they are prepared to welcome the new puppy.

Have ready for them when they arrive for the puppy a feeding chart that includes directions up until adulthood. They need a complete list of vaccinations and information on worming

and microchip-registration information.

When providing the AKC registration form, explain the function of the Limited Registration, and emphasize that with this they can compete in performance events though not conformation.

Make sure that their information packet includes the web addresses for the Welsh Terrier Club of America and the American Kennel Club, plus directions to get the online AKC GAZETTE and *AKC Family Dog* magazines.

It is important to follow up with your new puppy owners, particularly those who are first-time Welsh owners. They need to know that you are there for them when they have questions. If they know you care they will ask for help earlier, while problems are easily solved.

Everything that we can do to make owning a Welsh Terrier easier and more fun is good for the dog, the breed, and purebred dogs in general. —Diane Orange, 2015

[Welsh Terrier Club of America](#)

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

MISSION STATEMENT The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function.

Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617

101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178

Raleigh, NC Customer Call Center(919) 233-9767

New York, NY Office(212) 696-8200

Fax(212) 696-8299

Website www.akc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DR. THOMAS M. DAVIES, CHAIRMAN • DR. MICHAEL G. KNIGHT, VICE CHAIRMAN

CLASS OF 2027

DR. J. CHARLES GARVIN

STEVEN HAMBLIN

DANIEL J. SMYTH, ESQ.

CLASS OF 2029

DR. THOMAS M. DAVIES

EDUARDO FUGIWARA

ROBIN STANSELL

SYLVIA THOMAS

CLASS OF 2028

DR. CARMEN L. BATTAGLIA

SALLY L. FINEBURG

DR. MICHAEL G. KNIGHT

CLASS OF 2030

DOMINIC P. CAROTA

SUE GOLDBERG

JASON HOKE

THE LATE RONALD H. MENAKER, Chairman Emeritus

GINA M. DINARDO, Ex Officio

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

GINA M. DINARDO
President &
Chief Executive Officer

THEODORE E. PHILLIPS
Chief Financial Officer

SHEILA GOFFE
Executive Secretary &
Vice President, Government Relations

DENNIS B. SPRUNG, President Emeritus

VICE PRESIDENTS

KEITH FRAZIER, Executive Vice President, Business Support Services

RONALD FURMAN, Media, Broadcasting and Sponsorship

BRANDI HUNTER MUNDEN, Public Relations & Communications

ASHLEY JACOT, Education

DOUG LJUNGREN, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events

HEATHER MCMANUS, Vice President & General Counsel

MARI-BETH O'NEILL, Sport Services

JULIA RUSSELL, Executive Vice President, Customer Strategy & Growth

PAULA SPECTOR, Corporate Services

DAPHNA STRAUS, Business Development

TIM THOMAS, Conformation

TRIAL BOARDS

APPEALS TRIAL BOARD

MARTHA FELTENSTEIN,
ESQ., CHAIR

TRIAL BOARD CHAIRS

EUGENIA HUNTER, ESQ.

VINCENT INDEGLIA, ESQ.

SAMUEL KOVITZ, ESQ.

LAURIE RAYMOND, ESQ.

TRIAL BOARD MEMBERS

KATHI BROWN

MEDORA HARPER

CARL HOLDER

DR. JOHN IOIA

LAURIE MAULUCCI

ROBERT NEWMAN

HON. JAMES PHINIZY

DIANA L. SKIBINSKI

BETTY-ANNE STENMARK

GLENDIA STEPHENSON

MICHELE WRATH

PERFORMANCE TRIAL BOARD

TIM CARWILE, ESQ., CHAIR

JOHN RUSSELL

ALTERNATES

FRANK BARTON

REX GIBSON

ROBERT W. MONTLER

ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026**. For the sole purpose of conducting the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees, the meeting will be called to order at 9:30 a.m. After those present at that time have voted, the Delegate Meeting will recess to begin the Forum (approximately 1 hour in duration). The Delegate Meeting will reconvene following the conclusion of the Forum at which time anyone who had not yet voted will have the opportunity to do so, then the polls will be closed.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Rylee Carlon, Richland, WA,
Richland Kennel Club

Anna K. Gracie, Ocean, NJ,
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club
of America

Catherine Ibold, Esq. Navarre, FL,
Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association

Laurie Isaacson, Castro Valley, CA,
Santa Clara Dog Training Club

Gary Koeppel, Canaan, CT,
Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club

Debra Lindsay, Shelton, CT,
Trap Falls Kennel Club



gazette

Click here to read the
August 2026 issue!



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Walter Sommerfelt, Lenoir City, TN,
Tennessee Valley Kennel Club

Tina Winston, Philpot, KY,
Miniature American Shepherd Club
of the USA

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fine imposed on
Superintendent for failure to submit show
results in proper electronic format, *AKC
Board Policy*.

Executive Dog Shows, Ltd..... \$500

Notification of fine imposed on
Superintendent for failure to distribute
ribbons within 60 days *Rules Applying to
Dog Shows, Chapter 5, Section 12*.

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC \$1500

Notification of fine imposed on
Superintendent for failure to publish
current point schedule in catalog *Rules
Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 12,
Section 5*.

Rau Dogs Shows, Ltd. \$250

Notification of Reprimand imposed
on Superintendent for failure to provide
proper equipment *Obedience Regulations,
Chapter 1, Section 34*.

BaRay Event Services Reprimand

Notification of Reprimand imposed
on Superintendent for failure to publish
current point schedule in catalog *Rules
Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 12,
Section 5*.

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC Reprimand

Notification of fine imposed on club for
failure to fulfill their Event Committee
duties, *Dealing with Misconduct, Section I
& II*.

Superstition Kennel Club..... \$500

Notification of fine imposed on club for
cancellation of entries after acceptance,
*Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11,
Section 6*.

York County Kennel Club of Maine
..... \$500

Notification of fine imposed on a club
for late submission of Event Records,
*Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17,
Section 2*.

Afghan Hound Club of Northern
New Jersey \$100

Greater Washington Bouvier des
Flandres Club \$150

Great Dane Club of Maryland \$350

Notification of fines imposed on
Performance Clubs for late submission of
results *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC*

Hunting Tests for Retrievers, Chapter 1, Section 21.

Sand and Sage Hunting Retriever Club ...
\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Beagle Field Trials, Chapter 8, Section 6.*

Highland Beagle Club\$100

Battle Ridge Beagle Club\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for not treating all entrants equally, *Fast CAT Regulations, Chapter 12, Section 11.*

Northwestern Pennsylvania Scent Work Association.....\$1500

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:

Mr. Ron Rubrecht (Land O Lakes, FL)

Ms. Janyce Selkin (Rhinebeck, NY)

Ms. Sharon Wilson (Asheville, AL)

NOTICE

Ms. Marylyn DeGregorio (Hartsdale, NY). Action was taken by the Port Chester Obedience Training Club for conduct at its April 12, 2026 event. Ms. DeGregorio was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Doberman Pinscher)

NOTICE

Ms. Mary Fisher (Mechanicsville, VA). Action was taken by the Gloucester Kennel Club for conduct at its June 19, 2026 event. Ms. Fisher was charged with neglect at or in connection with an event by individual and any conduct that results in the death of an animal. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a ten year suspension of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$2,000 fine, effective July 27, 2026. (Golden Retrievers, Border Collies)

NOTICE

Dr. Vijaya Galic (El Paso, TX). Action was taken by the Marquette Kennel Club for conduct at its August 30, 2025 event. Dr. Galic was charged with conduct characterized by the Staff Event Committee as neglect at or in connection with an event by individual. The Staff Event Committee

reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month suspension of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective January 21, 2026. Dr. Galic appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty. (Pomeranians)

NOTICE

Ms. Gina Massolo (Cottonwood, CA). Action was taken by the Mastiff Club of America for conduct at its May 16, 2026 event. Ms. Massolo was charged with physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective May 31, 2026. (Mastiffs, French Bulldogs)

NOTICE

Ms. Deena Mathog (Rochester, MI). Action was taken by the Bichon Frise Club of America for conduct at its May 14, 2026 event. Ms. Mathog was charged with threatening or menacing behavior that does not result in physical contact. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective May 15, 2026. (Bichon Frises)

NOTICE

Ms. Valerie Metcalf (Chandler, AZ). Action was taken by the Tucson Kennel Club for conduct at its November 14, 2025 event. Ms. Metcalf was charged with conduct characterized by the Staff Event Committee neglect at or in connection with an event by individual. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month suspension of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective December 1, 2025. Ms. Metcalf appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board's report and findings were presented to the AKC Board of Directors. The AKC Board of Directors based on the report and findings of the Trial Board set the penalty at a six-month suspension of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective December 1, 2025. (Great Dane)

NOTICE

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

Ms. Carissa Shimpeno
(Downingtown, PA)

NOTICE

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

Effective June 23, 2026:

Ms. Desiree Curenio (Apple Valley, CA)
Cane Corsos

Mr. Adrian Martinez (Chicago, IL)
French Bulldogs

Mr. Aldo Martinez (Fontana, CA)
Bulldogs, French Bulldogs

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for ten years and imposed a \$2,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy:

Effective June 23, 2026:

Ms. Alexah Holm (Taylorsville, UT)
Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd Dogs

Ms. Ellen Telleen (Fairfield, IA)
Multiple Breeds

Ms. Krysta Telleen (Fairfield, IA)
Multiple Breeds

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Brooklyn Beck (Golden Valley, AZ) for twenty-five years of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$5,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy, effective May 21, 2026. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Elham Alayyoub (Le Roy, MN) for five (5) years of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy, effective February 24, 2026. Ms. Alayyoub appealed this decision to the Board Appeals Committee who denied the appeal. (Chow Chows, French Bulldogs)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Kurt Williams (Las Vegas, NV) for ten (10) years of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$2,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy, effective January 20, 2026. Mr. Williams appealed this decision to the Board Appeals Committee who denied the appeal. (Chow Chows, French Bulldogs)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1

The AKC Board does not endorse the following amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee. Pursuant to **Article XX, Section 3** of the **AKC Bylaws**, the Bylaws Committee demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates. This will be voted on at the September 15, 2026 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE XIV SECTION 1

The Event Committee of a club or association shall have the right and responsibility to suspend any person from AKC privileges for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC, alleged to have occurred in connection with or during the progress of its event, after the alleged offender has been given the opportunity to be heard.

When the penalty for the offense as set forth in the guidelines authorized by the Board of Directors provides for a reprimand in certain instances, the Event Committee shall have the authority to stay the suspension pending a final determination by the AKC.

The complaint shall be verified by the complainant stating that the complainant has read the complaint, has knowledge of the facts stated in the complaint, and affirms and verifies under penalty of perjury that the complaint is true and correct. The complainant shall furnish a deposit, the amount to be established by the AKC Board of Directors. The deposit shall become the property of the club.

If the Event Committee finds merit in the complaint and exercises jurisdiction in the matter, the deposit shall be returned to the complainant. If the Event Committee finds no merit in the complaint, the deposit shall be kept by the event giving club.

Notice in writing must be sent promptly by certified and by first class mail by the Event Committee to the person suspended and a duplicate notice giving the name and address of the person suspended and full details as to the reasons for the suspension and if applicable, the reasons for the stay of suspension must be forwarded to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within five days.

An appeal may be taken from a decision of an Event Committee and any subsequent disciplinary action applied by the AKC. Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, at an amount established by the AKC Board of Directors, must be sent to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the date of the

suspension. The appeal shall be determined by a Trial Board whose decision is final. The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the decision is upheld in whole or in part or shall be returned to the appellant if the decision is not upheld in whole or in part.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 11, SECTION 8

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 8** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the September 15, 2026 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 11 DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY SECTION 8

A dog which is blind (without useful vision), deaf, castrated, spayed, ~~or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed~~, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete at any conformation show and will be disqualified except that:

- a castrated male may be entered as Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class.
- a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class.

- ~~A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws or docking of tail if it is of a breed in which such removal or docking is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard~~
- neutered dogs and spayed bitches would be allowed to compete in Veterans and all other single entry non-regular classes only at independent specialties and/or those all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed.

When a conformation judge finds any of these conditions in any dog he/she is judging, he/she shall disqualify the dog marking his book “Disqualified” and ~~stating~~ state the reason. ~~The judge~~ He shall not obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian.

When a dog has been disqualified at a conformation show as being blind, deaf, castrated, or spayed ~~or changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed~~, any awards taken by such dog at that show shall be canceled by The American Kennel Club and the dog may not again compete in conformation unless and until, following application by the owner to The American Kennel Club, that owner has received official notification from

The American Kennel Club that the dog's show eligibility has been reinstated.

When a dog has been disqualified under the standard for its breed, or when a male has been disqualified as not having two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum on three separate occasions, by three different judges, such dog may not again be shown in conformation. When a dog has been so disqualified at a conformation show, any awards taken by the dog at that show shall be canceled by The American Kennel Club.

When the judge of a sweepstakes or futurity finds that a dog is ineligible to compete under this section, the dog should be excused, but not disqualified. A dog may only be disqualified in a sweepstakes or futurity under the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 8-A.

A dog is considered changed in appearance by artificial means if it has been subjected to any type of procedure, substance or drugs that have the effect of obscuring, disguising or eliminating any congenital or hereditary abnormality or any undesirable characteristic, or that does anything to improve a dog's natural appearance, temperament, bite or gait.

A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws or docking of tail or cropping of ears if it is of a breed in which

~~such removal or docking/cropping is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard.~~

~~Even procedures, substances and drugs which are absolutely necessary to the health and comfort of a dog shall disqualify that dog from competition if the former had the incidental effect of changing or even improving the dog's appearance, temperament, bite, or gait.~~

~~There may be cases in which a veterinarian has prescribed some drug as being necessary for the health of a dog. In such cases, the veterinarian's advice should be followed, but the dog should be withheld from competition in dog shows until all possible effects of the drug have worn off.~~

~~Procedures that would in and of themselves be considered a change in appearance by artificial means and make a dog ineligible for shows include, but are not limited to:~~

- ~~1. The correction of entropion, ectropion, trichiasis or distichiasis.~~
- ~~2. Trimming, removing, or tattooing of the third eyelid (nictitating membrane)~~
- ~~3. The insertion of an eye prosthesis~~
- ~~4. Correction of harelip, cleft palate, stenotic nares, or an elongated soft palate resection~~
- ~~5. Any procedure to change ear set or carriage other than permitted by the breed standard~~
- ~~6. Restorative dental procedures, the use~~

~~of bands or braces on teeth, or any alteration of the dental arcade~~

7. ~~The removal of excess skin folds or the removal of skin patches to alter markings~~
8. ~~Correction of inguinal, scrotal, or perineal hernias~~
9. ~~Surgery for hip dysplasia, O.C.D., patellar luxation and femoral head restriction~~
10. ~~Alteration of the location of the testes or the insertion of an artificial testicle~~
11. ~~Altering the set or carriage of the tail~~
12. ~~The insertion of a pacemaker due to congenital or hereditary abnormality~~

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 11, SECTION 8-D

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 8** of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the September 15, 2026 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 11 DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY SECTION 8-D

A dog which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, may not compete at any conformation show and will be disqualified.

When a judge determines a dog has been

changed in appearance, he/she shall mark his/her book “Disqualified” and stating the reason. The judge shall not obtain the opinion of the show veterinarian.

When the judge of a sweepstakes or futurity finds that a dog is ineligible to compete under this section, the dog should be excused, but not disqualified. A dog may only be disqualified in a sweepstakes or futurity under the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 8-A.

A dog is considered changed in appearance by artificial means if it has been subjected to any type of procedure, substance or drugs that have the effect of obscuring, disguising or eliminating any congenital or hereditary abnormality or any undesirable characteristic, or that does anything to improve a dog’s natural appearance, temperament, bite or gait.

A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws, docking of tail, or cropping of ears if it is of a breed in which such removal or docking/cropping is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard.

Any dog whose ears and/or tail have been cropped, docked, or cut in any way shall be ineligible to compete at any show in any state where the laws prohibit the same except subject to the provisions of such laws.

Even procedures, substances and drugs which are absolutely necessary to the health and comfort of a dog shall disqualify that dog from conformation competition if the former had the incidental effect of changing or even improving the dog's appearance, temperament, bite, or gait.

There may be cases in which a veterinarian has prescribed some drug as being necessary for the health of a dog. In such cases, the veterinarian's advice should be followed, but the dog should be withheld from competition in dog shows until all possible effects of the drug have worn off.

Procedures that would in and of themselves be considered a change in appearance by artificial means and make a dog ineligible for shows include, but are not limited to:

1. The correction of entropion, ectropion, trichiasis or distichiasis.
2. Trimming, removing, or tattooing of the third eyelid (nictitating membrane)
3. The insertion of an eye prosthesis
4. Correction of harelip, cleft palate, stenotic nares, or an elongated soft palate resection
5. Any procedure to change ear set or carriage other than permitted by the breed standard
6. Restorative dental procedures, the use of bands or braces on teeth, or any alteration of the dental arcade
7. The removal of excess skin folds or the

removal of skin patches to alter markings

8. Correction of inguinal, scrotal, or perineal hernias
9. Surgery for hip dysplasia, O.C.D., patellar luxation and femoral head restriction
10. Alteration of the location of the testes or the insertion of an artificial testicle
11. Altering the set or carriage of the tail.
12. The insertion of a pacemaker due to congenital or hereditary abnormality.

PROPOSED NORWICH TERRIER STANDARD FOR COMMENT:

In accordance with the Guidelines for Breed Standard Revisions this is being published to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to:

Mari-Beth O'Neill
VP Sport Services
mbo@akc.org

General Appearance: The Norwich Terrier, spirited and stocky with sensitive prick ears and a slightly foxy expression, is one of the smallest working terriers. This sturdy descendent of ratting companions, eager to dispatch small vermin alone or in a pack, has good bone and substance and an almost weatherproof coat. A hardy hunt terrier-honorable scars from fair wear and tear are acceptable.

Size, Proportion, Substance: One of the smallest of the terriers, the ideal *height* should not exceed 10 inches at the withers. Distance from the top of the withers to the ground and from the withers to base of tail are approximately equal. Good bone and *substance*. *Weight* approximately 12 pounds. It should be in proportion to the individual dog's structure and balance. Fit working condition is a prime consideration.

Head: A slightly foxy *expression*. *Eyes* small, dark and oval shaped with black rims. Placed well apart with a bright and keen expression. *Ears* medium size and erect. Set well apart with pointed tips. Upright when alert. The *skull* is broad and slightly rounded with good width between the ears. The *muzzle* is wedge shaped and strong. Its length is about one-third less than the measurement from the occiput to the well-defined stop. The jaw is clean and strong. Nose and lip pigment black. Tight-lipped with large teeth. A scissor *bite*.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* of medium length, strong and blending into well laid back shoulders. Level *topline*. *Body* moderately short. Compact and deep. Good width of chest. Well-sprung ribs and short loins. *Tail:* Docked, medium docked. The terrier's working origin requires that the tail be of sufficient length to grasp. Base level with topline; carried erect. Undocked tail, Tail of moderate length to give a general balance to the dog, thick at root and tapering towards the tip, as straight as possible, carried jauntily, not excessively gay, completing a perfectly level topline.

Forequarters: Well laid back shoulders. Elbows close to ribs. Short, powerful legs, as straight as is consistent with the digging terrier. Pasterns firm. Feet round with thick pads. Nails black. The feet

point forward when standing or moving.

Hindquarters: Broad, strong and muscular with well-turned stifles. Hocks low set and straight when viewed from the rear. Feet as in front.

Coat: Hard, wiry and straight, lying close to the body with a definite undercoat. The coat on neck and shoulders forms a protective mane. The hair on head, ears and muzzle, except for slight eyebrows and whiskers, is short and smooth. This breed should be shown with as natural a coat as possible. A minimum of tidying is permissible but shaping should be heavily penalized.

Color: All shades of red, wheaten, black and tan or grizzle. White marks are not desirable.

Gait: The legs moving parallel, extending forward, showing great powers of propulsion. Good rear angulation with a true, yet driving movement. The forelegs move freely with feet and elbows the same distance apart, converging slightly with increased pace. Hind legs follow in the track of the forelegs, flexing well at the stifle and hock. The topline remains level.

Temperament: Gay, fearless, loyal and affectionate. Adaptable and sporting, they make ideal companions.

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons' applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified ***but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.***

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dr. Amy Alsante (119073) MD

(410) 916-7911

CharmCityGoldens@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, JS-Limited

LaDanna Bostwick (119103) TX

(936) 827-8009

LKBostwick@yahoo.com

Labrador Retrievers

Cindy Crawford Gorath (119055) WA

(253) 230-7944

bc65momma@hotmail.com

Boxers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Old

English Sheepdogs, JS

Ms. Heather Hartnett (119097) FL

Heather@Heather-Hartnett.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs

Marty Housley (114853) CO

Housley.ME@aol.com

Tibetan Spaniels

Mrs. Lisa Knight Somers (119035) CT

(401) 258-9131

ChivalryESS@gmail.com

English Springer Spaniels

Dr. Sherri Opara (119106) TX

(940) 453-9741

ntmobilevet@gmail.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, American

Eskimo Dogs, JS

Susan Parr (119039) WA

(360) 670-5606

Lhbernese@gmail.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, JS

Mrs. Jeanie Pitzenberger (119107) IA

(319) 471-2458

boondocksiws@outlook.com

Irish Wolfhounds

Bryan Porter (119019) CA

(661) 706-7453

gopporter@aol.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Ms. Sara Watson (95456) CA

(415) 205-3582

saraberry@aol.com

Basset Hounds, JS-Limited

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dr. Azalea Alvarez (97321) FL

(954) 600-5480

minsmere954@yahoo.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American

Staffordshire Terriers, Bull Terriers,

Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,

Skye Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers,

Teddy Roosevelt Terriers, West Highland

White Terriers), Cardigan Welsh Corgis,

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mrs. Liz Bianchi (55587) VA

(757) 285-4868

cheffiz@cox.net

Bullmastiffs, Bulldogs

Ms. Louise M. Brady (67185) CA

(805) 217-4685

Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker

Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels,

Vizslas

Ms. Anna May Fleischli Brown (6300)

IL

(217) 415-2176

stedelweis@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Manchester Terriers, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Toy Fox Terriers)

Mrs. Danelle M. Brown (7231) TX

(254) 498-3417

nomadcorgis@att.net

Affenpinschers, Silky Terriers

Mr. Justin Dannenbring (46593) MT

(951) 733-1618

justin.dannenbring@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds

Mr. Mark Darwish (115389) SC

(864) 617-2727

wishmar123@gmail.com

Akitas, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Rottweilers

Mr. Jerome Elliott (112895) PA

(717) 884-2297

haute9@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Brussels Griffons, Japanese Chin, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers)

Mr. Don L. Evans (5916) MD

(202) 441-0297

secattorney@msn.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Komondorok, Leonbergers, Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, Poodles

Dr. Bev Sigl Felten (65674) WI

(414) 828-2449

beverlyfelten5@gmail.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeens, Australian Terriers, Border Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Julie Felten (17972) IL

(847) 452-6902

jacfelten@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Brussels Griffons, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chin, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Ms. Bonita Fichtenbaum (105541) OH

(937) 620-6480

bmfichtenbaum@gmail.com

Toy Fox Terriers, Chow Chows, Dalmatians

Mrs. Emily Fish (92354) WA

(360) 904-5765

emilypawcific@gmail.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Beagles, Harriers, Pharaoh Hounds, Salukis, Whippets

Mrs. Lisa Graser (37267) TN

(608) 655-1993

bluhvns@msn.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group

(Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei,
Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden,
Norwegian Lundehunds)

Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA

(540) 247-1121
junko@guichonchi.com
Pugs, Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. Jason H. Hoke (92952) WI

(646) 241-5800
jasonhoke@aol.com
Airedale Terriers, American Hairless
Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers,
Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers,
Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Cesky
Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen
of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry
Blue Terriers

Dr. Cynthia Hutt (95461) CO

(720) 933-8328
lapicfern@gmail.com
Bloodhounds, Greyhounds,
Otterhounds, Whippets

Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (99451) UT

(435) 770-0334
pmj16@msn.com
Brussels Griffons, Miniature Pinschers,
Russian Toys, Russian Tsvetnaya
Bolonki, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers,
Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. Richard LeBeau (90760) PA

(412) 952-7425
beauprix@comcast.net
Golden Retrievers, Irish Red and White

Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

Mrs. Joan Luna Liebes (6515) CO

(510) 612-8000
joanluna@hotmail.com
American English Coonhounds,
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick
Coonhounds, Redbone Coonhounds

Mr. John S. Lucas (7444) TX

(512) 422-2625
john.lucas@zambar.net
Beaucerons, Belgian Malinois, Belgian
Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervuren, Briards,
German Shepherd Dogs

Mr. James A. Moses (93094) GA

(770) 329-4768
jmoses0924@aol.com
Balance of Hound Group (Basset
Fauve de Bretagnes, Basset Hounds,
Dachshunds, Harriers, Portuguese
Podengo Pequenos, Sloughis)

Mr. Shawn Petersen (116127) NV

(775) 315-4727
targhee_gsp@hotmail.com
Berger Picards, Pembroke Welsh Corgis,
Pulik

Mr. Stephen Regan (22219) NJ

(732) 814-8741
sregan@lesterglenn.com
Boston Terriers

Ms. Dani Rosenberry (104224) PA

(814) 330-3030
edanhill@aol.com
Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds

Mr. Michael L. Savage (111869) WA

(509) 999-1800

irishbrook@yahoo.com

American English Coonhounds,
American Foxhounds, Basset Hounds,
English Foxhounds

Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski (7258) IN

(219) 776-8746

skibinski1@aol.com

Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, Cirnechi
dell'Etna, Grand Basset Griffon
Vendeens, Greyhounds, Harriers, Petits
Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh
Hounds

Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield (80829) MO

(573) 760-3616

n2rotts@yahoo.com

Airedale Terriers, Bedlington Terriers,
Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,
Glen of Imaal Terriers, Rat Terriers

Ms. Judith White (95513) OH

(330) 327-3780

jubilhill@sssnet.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Australian
Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Dandie
Dinmont Terriers, Norwich Terriers,
Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers,
Russell Terriers)

Ms. Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA

(571) 318-2768

outlawgwp@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Brussels
Griffons, Havanese, Japanese Chin,
Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Shih Tzu)

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING
APPLICANTS**

Miss Cate Auerswald (119110) CT

cateauerswald@gmail.com

Mrs. Jennifer Carlson (119031) CO

(719) 200-5433

Jcarlson40@hotmail.com

Keylee Grenier (119025) CA

(909) 395-7393

Keylee@gothamelectric.com

Ms. Jennifer Payne (119002) WA

(206) 427-3925

jenapayne27@gmail.com

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a Permit basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process.

They may now accept assignments and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Brandy Brian (118783) ID

(208) 631-4860

brandybrian@live.com

Golden Retrievers, Bernese Mountain Dogs

Jennifer Hester (118849) FL

(561) 909-7581

oceanbluedanes@gmail.com

Great Danes

Mr. Glenn Lycan (118713) NC

(919) 306-5244

glennlycan99@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, English Setters, Weimaraners, Salukis, Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Giant Schnauzers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers, Border Terriers, Shih Tzu, Dalmatians, Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mrs. Rebecca T. Lycan (118729) NC

(919) 306-4591

rebeccalycan@gmail.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, English Setters, Weimaraners, English Foxhounds, Salukis, Akitas, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers, Border Terriers, Shih Tzu, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Michelle Stephens (118789) NY

(315) 489-3697

northstar.michellestephens@gmail.com

French Bulldogs

Ms. Kimarie Wolf (116854) OR

(503) 858-4627

kimariewolf@yahoo.com

Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES**Dr. Bree Ardizzzone-Sulewski (98661)**

WI

(315) 481-1107

bardizzzone315@gmail.com

Australian Shepherds, Berger Picards, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Mrs. Terrie Breen (65930) CT

(860) 539-6222

brenta@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Japanese Chin, Miniature Pinschers, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Yorkshire Terriers)

Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO

(303) 883-1610

ckathy219@gmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Canaan Dogs, Collies, German Shepherd Dogs)

Mrs. Cathy H. Daugherty (6219) AR

(203) 565-5496

bisgringo1@yahoo.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracchi Italiani, Golden Retrievers)

Mrs. Shauna DeMoss (92470) CO

(970) 234-5512

demossakcjudge@gmail.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Bullmastiffs, Dogo Argentinos, Giant Schnauzers, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Saint Bernards, Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) SC

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Shih Tzu,
Toy Fox Terriers

Mrs. Edy Dykstra-Blum (20342) FL

(352) 208-6502

bizzeebootsoes@gmail.com

Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds,
Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chin,
Russian Toys

Ms. Marie Ann Falconer (51642) TN

(413) 433-6474

mylaone10@aol.com

Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Glen of
Imaal Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich
Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

Mrs. Christine Goodin (113467) VA

(804) 310-5203

deellittlepoms@aol.com

Papillons

Ms. Kristen Henry (116735) CO

(303) 883-0144

kristen@bonchien.com

Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-
Pei, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Poodles,
Tibetan Spaniels

Mr. Steven Herman (6305) FL

(813) 435-8558

ljlucin@gmail.com

Schipperkes

Mrs. Stephanie Kaul (110173) CA

(408) 242-7990

stephanie@kauls.com

Barbets, Irish Red and White Setters

Mrs. Tina Leininger (101522) PA

(717) 865-6055

whytewynd@gmail.com

Akitas, Great Pyrenees, Komondorok

Mr. John Mayhall (101705) OR

(928) 970-0969

mtndogsrule@live.com

American Foxhounds, Black and
Tan Coonhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna,
Otterhounds, Redbone Coonhounds,
Scottish Deerhounds

Dr. Camille McArdle (66682) MN

(612) 743-7329

camillemca@gmail.com

Balance of Working Group (Boerboels,
Portuguese Water Dogs)

Ms. Shelley Miller (102995) NC

(919) 525-5001

sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Lagotti
Romagnoli, Gordon Setters),
Affenpinschers, Silky Terriers

Ms. Mary C. Murphy-East (36967) MN

(763) 291-2263

marmcmurph@aol.com

American Foxhounds, Basset Fauve
de Bretagnes, Bloodhounds, Cirnechi
dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Harriers,
Pharaoh Hounds, Sloughis

Mrs. Rebecca Myers (113529) FL

(386) 688-1403

rebeccamyersch@aol.com

Boxers, Great Danes, Australian

Shepherds, German Shepherd Dogs

Ms. Carol Pyrkosz (96273) TN

(352) 300-2711

cpyrkosz@yahoo.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Bluetick

Coonhounds, Borzois, Redbone

Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds

Mr. Jay Roden (104891) OH

(513) 207-4937

jyrodan@yahoo.com

Boerboels, Tibetan Mastiffs

Barbara Scherer (58838) IL

(630) 388-8290

hairologybk@gmail.com

English Setters, Irish Setters, Irish

Red and White Setters, Welsh Springer

Spaniels, Dalmatians

Ms. Michelle T. Shultz (99665) CA

(925) 351-8352

michelle.t.shultz@gmail.com

Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, Plott

Hounds, Chinese Cresteds, Papillons

Dr. Jerry Sulewski (93475) WI

(920) 327-9641

collieknutt@yahoo.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Bearded

Collies, Belgian Malinois, Cardigan

Welsh Corgis, Mudik, Swedish Vallhunds

Mrs. Deborah Y. Verdon (7115) TX

(985) 788-1940

debv1940@gmail.com

Bouviere des Flandres, Entlebucher

Mountain Dogs, Mudik

Mrs. Susan C. Willumsen (52119) NH

(603) 475-1588

willcare@comcast.net

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers

BEST IN SHOW

The following person, has successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, and has been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Ms. Joyce Siddall (98695) CO

(303) 548-1125

catalinakennels@yahoo.com

Ms. Lisa Young (43070) AZ

(605) 390-1135

youngsongbeagles@gmail.com

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Grace Black

Mr. James Frederiksen

Mrs. Kathleen Steen

Mr. Calvin Ward

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 Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary:

CAVALMAGNE – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Jaqueline M. Cavicchio

CLAN UNDERFOOT – Scottish Terriers – Claudia Waite & Craig H. Garnett

GRACE N – Golden Retrievers – Marlo D. Grayson

GREAT PINES Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Monica L. Mellroth

LA CHAMPAGNE – Golden Retrievers & Pomeranians – Dana K. Thompson

PRAIRIEWIND – Belgian Sheepdogs – Nancy A. May & Don J. May

STEEL VALLEY – Brittanys – Antonio B. Taibi

STILL POINT – Labrador Retrievers – Dr. Brenna N. Burkett

SOCIAL – Cardigan Welsh Corgis – Mary Sue Olcott & Maggie A. Cannon

VILDE CHAYA – Lagotto Romagnolo – Ariana Lewkowitz-Shpuntoff

VOM HAZEN – German Shepherd Dogs – Deanana L. Hazen

WESTERNER – Golden Retrievers – Thomas A. Wiegard SR

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

ALTA – TOLLHAUS – German Shepherd Dogs – Julie E Richards

BRIGHTNORTHSTAR – Old English Sheepdogs – Sherry K. Schreiner Beckwith & Mary McIntosh

CREDO – Portuguese Water Dogs – Landon Stafford

CREDO – Chinese Cresteds – Landon Stafford

DAISYLANE – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Kristine M. Schmidt

EVERLOVE – Pembroke Welsh Corgis – Shylah L. Love

LA CORSA – Italian Greyhounds – Terri Jones & John R. Jones

MAGSHIRE – Cairn Terriers – Amanda Edwards

MALEWOOD MTN– Dachshunds – Kelly L. Pollizzi & Stephen M. Polizzi

NORWINDS – Norwegian Elkhounds – Deanna K. Seitner & Danielle N. Seitner

OAKRIDGE – German Shorthaired Pointers – Sarijana Reynolds

ROYAL AN'WIZARD – West Highland White Terriers – Anna A. Jucova Krex



SECRETARY'S PAGES

SADDLERIDGE – Australian Shepherds

– Sally A. Pacheco

SIERRA – Saint Bernards – Pam Leighton

SUMBERN – Bernese Mountain Dogs –

Summer D. Ory



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE, NEW
YORK, NY
JULY 13-14, 2026**

The Board convened on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 8:40 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present in the New York office: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Ms. Sue Goldberg, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Jason Hoke, Mr. Dan Smyth, and Mr. Robin Stansell. Mr. Dominic Carota joined via video conference. Absent: Ms. Sylvia Thomas.

The Executive Secretary and the Chief Financial Officer were also present.

May Minutes

Copies of the May 11-12, 2026 Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the May 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

President's Update

Ms. DiNardo reported that the AKC continues to receive strong interest from foreign kennel clubs in establishing closer relationships. AKC has signed a mutual cooperation agreement with the Australian Kennel Club and entries are now open for the AKC FCM show this November in Mexico City. Additionally, plans are underway to develop an international conference that focuses on major issues impacting kennel clubs and dog enthusiasts internationally, including health and government policy.

AKC has hired a new Executive Vice President, Customer Strategy & Growth. AKC Staff are working closely with outside consultant BDO to transform business processes and improve customer experiences, value and outcomes. The discovery phase of this initiative is well underway, and programming is on schedule. Over the last reporting period, AKC has seen a significant increase in event entries.

Legal Update

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Status update as of July 2026.

Business Transformation Plan

Tim Pursell, Senior Director, IT, and Seth Fera-Schanes, Director of Strategic Planning, joined this portion of the meeting.

Since May, BDO has progressed through the early stages of their business transformation engagement with AKC, including establishment of a formal project charter and communication framework. Current efforts are on schedule and focused on developing a comprehensive understanding of AKC's existing operating environment across business and technology domains. BDO, leadership and key staff are meeting on a daily basis. The first phase of this work, discovery, is designed to translate AKC's strategic imperatives into an actionable transformation roadmap by identifying the business process, customer experience, data, and technology changes needed to support long-term business transformation and success.

The Board received a presentation from BDO.

AKC Strategic Plan Update

The AKC strategic three-year plan establishes a clear path to modernize operations, deepen relationships with today's dog owners, and strengthen AKC's position as the leading authority on dogs.

Over the next three years, AKC will

focus its investments, resources, and organizational efforts around four strategic imperatives: Trust and accountability; quality customer service; brand awareness; and impact and sustainability.

These imperatives were approved by the AKC Board of Directors on May 12, 2025, and create a foundation that guide major decisions and positions AKC for long-term growth and sustainability.

Dogs in Closed Vehicles at AKC Events

Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, and Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance & Inspections, joined this portion of the meeting by video conference. Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Public Relations and Communications, joined this portion of the meeting.

Every year, dogs die after cooling or monitoring systems unexpectedly fail. The consequences can be catastrophic within minutes. There have been recent, avoidable dog deaths in enclosed, unattended and unventilated vehicles where the air-conditioning failed.

The *AKC Show Manual* includes a copy of a memorandum sent to all clubs in 1999 concerning the dangers associated with dogs confined in vehicles at AKC events. This followed the Board's approval of a notice of "Waiver of Rights" that may be

included in premium lists to give the club the ability to rescue dogs in unventilated vehicles. AKC also produced the warning flyer: *Leaving Your Dog in a Hot Car* that most may be familiar with, with the intention that clubs may reproduce and distribute it to warn exhibitors about the dangers of leaving a dog in a car. These warnings apply to dogs left in any unventilated vehicle, including vehicles left running with air conditioning on or equipped with air-conditioning units powered by an external generator or outlet. Tragedy has also occurred when additional external temperature monitors and alarms have failed.

Staff recently met to discuss incidents in which dogs were lost, or where tragedy was narrowly avoided due to dogs being left unattended in closed/insufficiently ventilated vehicles, and measures to prevent future incidents, including expanded education and communication to clubs and exhibitors regarding proper dog care in extreme conditions.

Staff presented the following new proposed policy to prevent dogs from dying or suffering heat related injury while left in vehicles. It is not a ban on leaving dogs in vehicles, but a reminder to exhibitors to ensure that their vehicle is properly ventilated and dogs are checked on frequently. Likewise, the policy is not a ban on air-conditioned

vehicles, generators, fans, temperature monitors, or remote alert systems: It is a reminder technology and equipment can fail without warning due to mechanical problems, power loss, software issues, fuel depletion, weather conditions, or loss of cellular service.

The policy is designed to make it clear that the responsibility for a dog's safety always rests with the person caring for that dog – not with the equipment. It also gives AKC the ability to address situations where dogs are placed in obvious danger and to hold individuals accountable when preventable harm and death results.

Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy

Dogs shall not be left unattended in a vehicle that is fully enclosed or without sufficient ventilation or airflow from the outside environment. A vehicle containing unattended dogs must provide continuous ventilation and conditions reasonably sufficient to protect the dogs from heat-related injury, illness, distress, or death. The presence of fans, air-circulation devices, climate-control systems, temperature-monitoring systems, remote alerts, or other electronic monitoring technology shall not, by itself, establish that a vehicle provides adequate ventilation or a safe environment for unattended dogs.

Leaving dogs unattended in a vehicle

that is fully enclosed or without sufficient ventilation is recognized to be conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, the sport of purebred dogs and the American Kennel Club. Accordingly, individuals who engage in conduct which constitutes a violation of this policy may be subject to discipline pursuant to AKC's *Charter and Bylaws*.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the new policy.

The policy is effective immediately.

Changes to Handling Deceased Dogs at Events

AKC Staff has reviewed the AKC Discipline Guidelines and *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events* and recommend changes to address the handling of deceased dogs at AKC events.

The modification to *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events* would require an Event Committee to conduct a hearing when a dog is seriously injured or dies in connection with an AKC event. Additionally, staff is requesting to add the offense "Violation

of AKC's *Unattended Dogs in Vehicle Policy*", penalties, and footnote to the AKC Discipline Guidelines.

I. Inappropriate Treatment of Animals

m. Violation of AKC's *Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy*¹

Mitigated: 1 yr/\$1,000

Standard: 5 yr/\$2,000

Aggravated: Up to life/up to \$10,000

¹ For purposes of this provision, dogs shall not be left unattended in a vehicle that is fully enclosed or sealed from outside airflow. A vehicle containing unattended dogs must provide continuous ventilation and conditions reasonably sufficient to protect the dogs from heat-related injury, illness, distress, or death. The use of electronic monitoring devices, remote alerts, fans, or climate-control systems shall not constitute a defense to a violation of this provision.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the new policy.

The new offense and changes to *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events* are effective July 29, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) Q2 2026 Report

Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, AKC CHF President and CEO, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference and presented CHF's Q2 2026 update.

She reported a 55% increase in grant applications in 2025, reflecting both growing needs within the field and the strength of AKC CHF's reputation as a trusted funding partner. To date, AKC CHF has awarded 28 grants totaling \$2.7 million. Across all program areas the active grant portfolio now includes 159 studies representing more than \$14.5 million in research investments.

Financial Status: Research grants activity for the second quarter of 2026 totaled \$1.8 million and represented the majority of total expenses of \$2.5 million.

FINANCE

Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited) May 31, 2026

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, reported on interim financial results for the five months ended May 31, 2026. Net operating income was \$768 thousand, or two percent of total revenues as compared to a net operating loss of five percent in 2025. Total revenues were five percent lower than 2025 due to lower registration and event revenue. Total operating

expenses were \$3.9 million or 10% lower than prior year.

Executive Secretary

Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Nominating Committee for 2027

Board Election

The Board elected the following members to the Nominating Committee, responsible for selecting candidates to fill three vacancies on the Board at the March 2027 Delegate meeting:

- John Ioia, Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc., Chair
- Marge Calltharp, Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.
- Connie Clark, American Fox Terrier Club
- Joellen Gregory, Otterhound Club of America
- Steven Sansone, Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.

Alternates:

- Jacquelyn Fogel, Reno Kennel Club
- Bob Rynkiewicz, Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.

Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen

Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America, Inc. (PBGVCA), has submitted

proposed revisions to the breed standard. The PBGV Standard was approved April 22, 2014. Staff recommended the Board approve the proposal to advance to a ballot by PBGVCA membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Upon a motion by Dr Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Hoke, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to advance the recommendation to the PBGVCA for a ballot.

American Bulldog – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous Class

The Board of Directors approved the American Bulldog to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Working designation in November 2019. The American Bulldog has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Policy approved in January 2004 by the Board of Directors. Requirements include an active Parent Club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area, and documented club activity.

Sport Services recommends that the National American Bulldog Club become the Parent Club for the breed and the American Bulldog be approved to advance to the Miscellaneous Class effective June 30, 2027.

This will be discussed further at the

September Board meeting.

Dutch Shepherd Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group

The American Dutch Shepherd Association has submitted a petition seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Dutch Shepherd to be eligible to compete in the Herding Group. Staff recommends that the AKC Board of Directors approve the petition as well as the proposed breed standard.

If approved by the Board, the breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service® into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on June 30, 2027.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Parent Club Designation for Appenzeller Sennenhund Club of America

The Appenzeller Sennenhund Club of America requests to be designated as the Parent Club for the breed, allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows. Staff recommends the Appenzeller Sennenhund Club of America be designated as the Parent Club representing the Appenzeller Sennenhund with the AKC.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Board and Delegate Meeting Dates for 2027

The Board discussed the following pro-

posed Board and Delegate meeting dates for 2027.

AKC Board Meetings

- January 11-12, 2027
- February 3-4, 2027
- April 12-13, 2027
- May 10-11, 2027
- July 12-13, 2027
- August 9-10, 2027
- October 11-12, 2027
- November 8-9, 2027

AKC Delegate Meetings

March, June and September Delegate meeting dates are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, with the Delegate Standing Committee meetings held the Monday prior. The December Delegate meeting is scheduled for the Friday before the AKC National Championship, with Delegate Standing Committee meetings the Thursday prior. Specific dates are:

- March 9, 2027
- June 8, 2027
- September 14, 2027
- December 17, 2027

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

2026-2027 Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipients

The Veterinary Student Scholarship Committee met to select the 2026-2027 veterinary scholarship recipients. The

Kennel Club of Philadelphia contributed \$50,000 to the AKC Humane Fund designated to award five \$10,000 Scholarships to Veterinary Students at the University of Pennsylvania. The recipients will be invited to attend the Kennel Club of Philadelphia for a presentation prior to group judging, exposing the audience to the support provided by KCP.

Windham County Kennel Club and Springfield Kennel Club donated \$7,500 to the AKC Humane Fund designated to award scholarships to Veterinary Students at Tufts Veterinary School. The student receiving the scholarship participated in the Tufts AKC Whelping Selective.

This year's recipients consisted of individuals who are third generation dog breeders, breeders, as well as two individuals who competed on the AKC European Open Junior Agility Team. Other recipients are actively competing in multiple AKC Events including Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Hunt Tests and Fast CAT®.

The recipients of the AKC Veterinary Scholarships act as AKC Ambassadors assisting in organizing the "Meet the AKC" presentations conducted for the students as well as coordinating tours at local AKC events. These activities have assisted in providing veterinary students with positive experiences with purebred

dog breeders and the fancy.

New Breed for Foundation

Stock Service® – Nenets Laika

The Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Nenets Laika to be accepted into the FSS® Program.

Labrador Retriever Club Request to Require DNA for Registration

The Board considered a request by the Labrador Retriever Club Inc. (LRC), to require that all dogs to be registered by AKC as Labrador Retrievers be microchipped and provide a DNA sample that identifies the distinctive DNA marker(s) associated with the dilute (silver) colored dogs.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to not mandate genetic testing and microchipping to register a Labrador Retriever with the AKC.

Government Relations Update

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations, updated the Board on recent legislation impacting dog ownership.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters.

COMPANION & PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive VP, Sports & Events, and Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

English Springer Spaniel Field Trials – Frequency of Judging

The English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (ESSFTA), which is the Parent Club, is requesting judges be allowed to judge four field trials in a twelve-month period instead of three.

This is a loosening of a restriction on frequency of judging.

This recommendation is a change made to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels*. The change would appear in an italicized section, which may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change would become effective September 21, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Pointing Breed Hunting Test – Change to Judging Requirement

This is a recommendation to reduce the number of qualifying legs a Pointing Breed Hunting Test Judge must have earned while handling a dog at the test level to be judged, or at a higher level, from three qualifying legs to one qualifying leg.

This is a change to the *Pointing Breed Hunting Test Regulations* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the recommendation would become effective November 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Retriever Field Trials – Max Distance for Retired Guns/Throwers

This is a recommendation to change the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers* so the maximum distance a retired gun or thrower can travel is 15 yards.

If approved by the Board, the amendment will be read at the December 2026 Delegate meeting and voted on at the March 2027 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be May 1, 2027.

The Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee was briefed at the June 2026 Delegate Meeting and had no issues with this recommendation.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Beagle Field Trials – Five Changes from the Beagle Advisory Committee

This is a recommendation to make five changes to the *Beagle Field Trial Rules*; 1) allow clubs the option to combine Field Champion only classes either by sex or

size, 2) allow clubs the option to pre-measure hounds prior to the start of their small pack trial, 3) if a tracking collar is worn it must match the same color as the assigned collar or be black, 4) judges must choose either the 10-7 or 5-4 scoring system, 5) hounds trailing deer is to be considered a serious fault deserving of elimination and when trailing other game shall be considered a demerit at the judge's discretion.

The first listed change regarding Field Champion Only Stakes is a rule change which requires approval of the Board and Delegate Body. If approved by the Board, the recommendation will be read at the December 2026 Delegate meeting and voted on at the March 2027 Delegate meeting.

If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be May 1, 2027.

All other recommendations are Standard Procedures and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the effective date will be November 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

CAT and Fast CAT® – Clarifications & Updates

The Board considered a series of nine staff-recommended technical clarifications/updates to the *CAT and Fast CAT®*

Regulations designed to offer clearer guidance to exhibitors and host clubs.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting. If approved at that time, the changes would be effective November 1, 2026.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Guy Fisher, Director of Club Development; and Mark Desrosiers, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Group and Best in Show Judges

The Board further considered the proposal to adopt a policy prohibiting judges assigned to the regular Group or Best in Show competitions from being assigned to judge a Four-to-Six-Month Beginner Puppy Competition or an FSS Open Show the same day. The Board took no action on the proposal and suggested a similar recommendation be added to the recently enhanced and renamed *Guidelines for Judging Panel Construction and Scheduling of Conformation Dog Shows*.

Required Number of Rings for Conformation Dog Shows

The Board further reviewed a proposal to adopt a Minimum Number of Rings Policy requirement for All-Breed and Limited-Breed dog shows to provide a minimum of one ring per 150 entries, inclusive of all

Conformation classes/competitions offered by the club, which included feedback from the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee as requested by the Board. The Board took no action on the proposal and suggested a similar recommendation be added to the recently enhanced and renamed *Guidelines for Judging Panel Construction and Scheduling of Conformation Dog Shows*.

Conformation Judges Daily Limit

The Board further considered a proposal to adopt a policy establishing a daily assignment limit of 150 entries for judges assigned to any regular or NOHS group (BIS excluded). The Board took no action on the proposal and asked staff to continue investigating other options including but not limited to restricting the number of groups one may be assigned and the scheduling of groups.

Premium Lists – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 6, Section 2

Chapter 6, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* specifies elements required to be published in premium list for AKC events. Consistent with existing policy, the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee has proposed amending the rule to require the publication in premium lists of: (1) notice and broadcast information of any commercial or club-sponsored recording and/or electronic transmission of the event, and (2) notice of any club-imposed recording restrictions.

If approved by the Board, the proposal will be read at the December 2026 Delegate meeting and voted on at the March 2027 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be July 1, 2027, to ensure publication in the premium list for any affected events.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

AKC National Champion Title

The Board reviewed a proposal to create a prefix AKC National Champion Title (ANC), to be awarded to the dog that wins Best in Show at the annual AKC National Championship show, similar to 11 current AKC titles awarded to the winner of national events in other AKC sports, with the title grandfathered to past Best in Show winners at the AKC National Championship show.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve creation of an ANC prefix title.

Multiple All-Breed or Limited-Breed Shows in One Day

The Multiple All-Breed or Limited-Breed

Shows in One Day Program defines the criteria for holding two All-Breed or Limited-Breed shows back-to-back on the same day. The Board reviewed a proposal to modify this Board policy to require an allowance of 45-minutes to one hour for rest or meals when a judge's cumulative assignment on the day is more than five hours of judging.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting. If approved, the effective date will be October 7, 2026.

Silver State Kennel Club Third Show Request

Silver State Kennel Club requested approval of an exception to hold a third show at the Primm Valley Resort and Casino, 31900 S. Las Vegas Blvd, Primm, NV 89019, on week 12. The closest conflicting shows are with Oakland Kennel Club, whose site is 398 straight-line miles/ 539 driving miles from the Primm Valley site. Oakland Kennel Club does not oppose Silver State Kennel Club's request.

Staff recommend approving the exception based on the excessive driving distance of 8 hours and 24 minutes to the closest event. This is consistent with previous Board decisions.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Ms. Goldberg the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara,

Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, and Mr. Stansell. Abstain: Dr. Battaglia) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, and Mr. Stansell. Abstain: Dr. Battaglia) to approve the staff recommendation.

Junior Showmanship Regulations, Section 5

Staff recommends a revision to the *Junior Showmanship Regulations*, Section 5, Classes and Divisions; specifically, the addition of Reserve Best Junior with competition to count towards the eligibility to move from the Novice Class to the Open Class.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Limited Group Show Awards

Staff updated the Board on the awards Limited Breed clubs may offer at their events, specifically clubs that were originally granted All-Breed status but now choose to offer competition for one group or fewer.

Fines and Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

Events & Entries

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events, and Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Welsh Springer Spaniel

The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc. (“WSSCA”) has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for the examination of the Welsh Springer Spaniel through all levels of Conformation competition. Currently, Welsh Springer Spaniels may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting. If the WSSCA’s request is approved, the effective date will be January 1, 2027, as sufficient notice must be provided to superintendents to ensure inclusion in all premium lists.

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges – Individual Examination of Dogs

The Board reviewed a proposal to amend

SECRETARY'S PAGES

the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* to remove the requirement for Group and Best in Show Judges to re-examine dogs they individually judged earlier at the same event for standard disqualifications and checked for two normally descended testicles in males.

This will be discussed further at the September Board meeting.

Conformation Judging Statistics

Staff updated the Board on statistics related to Conformation judging applications considered by the department for the months April through June 2026.

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2026 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	2	2	0	0	0	0	20	20	0
February	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	6	0
March	9	9	0	0	0	0	18	18	0
April	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
May	6	6	0	0	0	0	7	7	0
June	6	6	0	0	0	0	7	7	0
NB TOTAL	30	30	0	0	0	0	62	62	0

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2026 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	28	27	1	0	0	0	165	163	0
February	33	33	0	0	0	0	123	123	0
March	40	40	0	0	0	0	189	189	0
April	45	44	0	1	0	0	229	221	0
May	49	49	0	0	0	0	255	255	0
June	31	31	0	0	0	0	162	162	0
AB TOTAL	226	224	1	1	0	0	1123	1113	0

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2026 YEAR-TO-DATE

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
NB	30	30	0	0	0	0	62	62	0
AB	226	224	1	1	0	0	1123	1113	0
TOTAL	256	254	1	1	0	0	1185	1175	0

AKC Judge Recertification

The Board discussed matters relating to the recertification of AKC Judges. Upon a motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Mr. Fugiwara, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the appointment of Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Dan Smyth and Mr. Jason Hoke to a new committee to consider matters related to judges' recertification.

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Linda Dunclee, Senior Director, Registration, Vanessa Skou, Executive, Breeder Development, and Susan Myers, Senior Breeder Relations Field Rep., participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

AKC Breeder Focus Committee

Staff participating in the AKC Breeder Focus Committee provided an update on key findings, action items, next steps, and future plans.

Best Bred-by-Exhibitor Litter

Registration Award Program

Annual Update

Staff provided an annual update regarding the Best Bred-By-Exhibitor Litter Registration Award Program.

CLUBS

Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Report on Member Club Bylaws

Approved in May and June

Alaskan Malamute Club of America (1953)

Greater Ocala Dog Club, Marion County, FL (1996)

Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, Hollywood, CA (1956)

Spokane Kennel Club, Spokane, WA (1927)

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America (1990)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs

Approved in May and June

Ball Bluff Pointing Dog Club of Minnesota, greater Jacobson, MN area (including communities north to Deer River, south to Askov, east to Duluth and west to Route 6), 21 total households, 12 local.

Eastern Montgomery Agility Club, Willow Grove, PA (including communities in eastern Montgomery County, south of Route 202 and Interstate 476), 42 total households, 15 local.

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of Pennsylvania, greater Philadelphia, PA, including all communities in the state of Pennsylvania, south along Interstate 95 to Eldersburg, MD, east-northeast to Sag Harbor, NY and northeast to Yalesville, CT along Interstate 95, including Mahwah, NJ and New York, NY), 36 total households, 12 local.

Golden Retriever Club of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas NV (including all communities in Clark County), 28 total households. 16 local.

Hawaii Cane Corso Association, Honolulu County, HI (including all communities on the island of Oahu), 22 total households, 18 local.

Heartland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club, greater Minneapolis, MN (including communities north to Route 23 south to Route 14, west to Route 4 and east to the MN/WI state line).

Hound Club of Oklahoma, greater Tulsa, OK (including communities northeast to Vinita, southwest to Oklahoma City

Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of Texoma. greater Austin, Texas (including communities north to the Texas/Oklahoma state line, south to Route 10, west to Route 35 and east to Route 45), 23 total households, 16 local.

Southern Japanese Chin Club of Texas, greater Dallas/Fort Worth, TX area (including communities north to Oklahoma/Texas state line, south to Hico, TX in proximity of Route 22, east to Louisiana/Texas state line and west to Route to 281), 28 total households, 12 local.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus, VP & General

Counsel, Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting. Bri Tesarz, Director, Compliance & Inspections, and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Non-Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions as of June 24, 2026

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of June 24, 2026.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Hoke, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent agenda items.

Pointing Breed Field Trials –

Retrieving Test

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to amend the *Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds*, allowing clubs the option to host a retrieving test at Pointing Breed Field Trials. This is a pass-fail test where dogs that pass earn one retrieving credit which counts toward earning a Field Championship (FC) or Amateur Field Champion (AFC) title.

This change is effective November 1, 2026.

Lure Coursing – Allowing FSS® – Breeds to Earn Prefix Titles

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to amend the *Lure Coursing Regulations*, allowing Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) breeds to earn prefix titles in Lure Coursing. FSS® breeds have been eligible to earn prefix titles in Companion events.

The change will become effective upon the completion of programming.

Code of Sportsmanship & Civility Enforcement Policy Changes

The Board VOTED to approve a

recommendation by the Compliance Department to incorporate the following clarifying language into the enforcement policy and continue to utilize the Discipline Guidelines to bring charges for more serious violations.

CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND CIVILITY ENFORCEMENT (AUGUST 2006 BOARD MEETING, AMENDED OCTOBER 2025, JULY 2026)

The Code of Sportsmanship and Civility is an affirmation of how registrants and participants should behave, and violations will be handled pursuant to the Charter and Bylaws and the Dealing with Misconduct at AKC Events booklet. Complaints will be handled by sending a copy to the subject of the complaint and giving him/her an opportunity to respond. ~~If the number or seriousness of the complaints against a person~~ Infractions of a lesser degree will be dealt with by an educational letter sent to the parties involved, affirming the Code of Sportsmanship and Civility.

If the AKC deems the seriousness of the conduct rises to the level requiring formal discipline (i.e. conduct prejudicial to purebred dogs, AKC events or the AKC), AKC will consider ~~preferring~~ prefer charges. ~~Infractions~~

~~of a lesser degree will be dealt with by
an educational letter sent to the parties
involved, affirming the Code of~~

~~Sportsmanship and Civility.~~

The changes are effective July 15, 2026.

Delegate Approvals

Colleen E. Kimble

To represent Glens Falls Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: May, June
2026

William Maseth

To represent Progressive Dog Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: June, July 2026

Sharon Smith

To represent Greenville Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: April, May
2026

Barbara (Bobbie) J. Wood

To represent American Lhasa Apso Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: April, May
2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION
to discuss business matters. Nothing was
reported out of this session.

Adjourned: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at
12:35 p.m. Eastern Time.

Attest: _____

Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



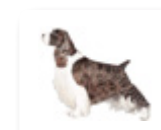
Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



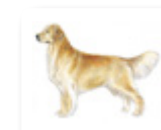
Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English
Coonhound



American
Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan
Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick
Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



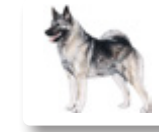
Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian
Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese
Podengo Pequeno



Redbone
Coonhound



Rhodesian
Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish
Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker
Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan
Malamute



Anatolian
Shepherd Dog



Bernese
Mountain Dog



Black Russian
Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman
Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de
Bordeaux



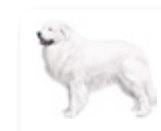
German
Pinscher



Giant
Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss
Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



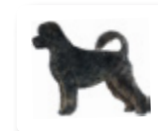
Mastiff



Neapolitan
Mastiff



Newfoundland



Portuguese
Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard
Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American
Hairless Terrier



American
Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



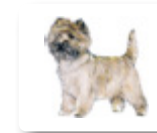
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont
Terrier



Fox Terrier
(Smooth)



Glen of
Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue
Terrier



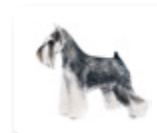
Lakeland Terrier



Manchester
Terrier



Miniature Bull
Terrier



Miniature
Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell
Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated
Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire
Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland
White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



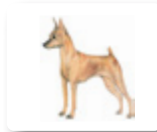
Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo
Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese
Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian
Lundehund



Poodle
(Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian
Cattle Dog



Australian
Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian
Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des
Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh
Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher
Mountain Dog



Finnish
Lapphund



German Shepherd
Dog



Icelandic
Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American
Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English
Sheepdog



Pembroke
Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland
Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



Pyrenean
Shepherd



Shetland
Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish
Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

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

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>