



gazette

DECEMBER 2025

Let It Snow



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Chow Chows
Dalmatians
Lhasa Apsos

Norwegian Lundehunds

Poodles
Schipperkes
Shiba Inu
Tibetan Spaniels
Tibetan Terriers

Herding

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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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Innovation and Tradition

As we approach the end of the year, we find ourselves reflecting on a season defined by both breakthrough and tradition. It is a moment to celebrate how far our sport has come and the remarkable milestones that continue to propel us forward. This year, we are closing out with announcements that honor our heritage while opening the door to new global opportunities for the American Kennel Club and the entire dog community.

I am pleased to share that the AKC has licensed the FCM Universal Dog Show in partnership with the Federación Canófila Mexicana (FCM), the official kennel club of Mexico. The event will take place November 12 to 15, 2026, at the Santa Fe Expo Center in Mexico City.

The FCM Universal Dog Show will welcome breeders, exhibitors, and dog enthusiasts from across the Americas and beyond—fostering cultural exchange, strengthening international collaboration, and celebrating the global community that unites us through purebred dogs.

This truly historic milestone marks the first time an AKC-sanctioned show will be held in Mexico. Each day of the four-day event will feature both an AKC-Licensed Show and an FCM Special Attraction, ensuring that every recognized breed in the world has a place in the ring. Dogs may enter the Universal Show under their foreign registration number; however, they must be AKC registered for their results to be recognized toward any AKC title.



While we look ahead to this exciting chapter, we are equally energized by one of our most cherished traditions returning next month—the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin, which proudly celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. This milestone event will feature an extraordinary 5,557 dogs competing for the coveted title of America's National Champion on December 13 and 14, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

The depth and quality of this year's entry showcase the commitment of our breeders, exhibitors, and handlers:

AKC PHOTO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



- 1,602 puppies and juniors entered in the AKC/Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes

- 1,040 dogs entered in Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show

- Thousands more entered across the AKC Agility Invitational, the AKC Obedience Classic, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, the AKC RACH Invitational, and all Junior events.

With more than 9,162 total entries, the AKC National Championship remains the largest dog

show in North America.

Each year, this event serves as a powerful reminder of what our sport represents: dedication, excellence, and the unbreakable bond between people and their dogs. It is a celebration of the breeders who preserve our breeds, the exhibitors who showcase them with pride, and the countless volunteers, clubs, and judges whose work makes this show possible. The National Championship is not simply an event—it is a testament to the resilience, enthusiasm, and heart of the AKC community.

As 2025 comes to an

end, I am grateful for the passion, integrity, and commitment that each of you brings to our shared mission. Together, we honor the traditions that define us, embrace the innovations that move us forward, and look ahead to a future filled with promise for our sport and the dogs we love.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a bright, inspiring year ahead.

Gina M. DiNardo

Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club



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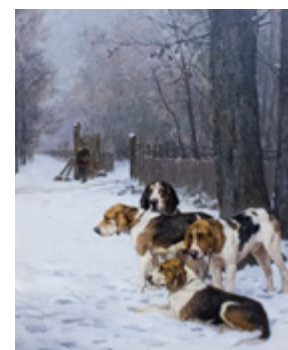
Mary Oliver
and Percy

“Because of the dog’s joyfulness, our own is increased. It is no small gift. It is not the least reason why we should honor as well as love the dog of our own life, and the dog down the street, and all the dogs not yet born,” wrote Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver (1935–2019).

A sweetly profound poem by Oliver is among the stocking stuffers within this, our annual holiday issue. Among the happiest tasks on our editorial calendar is choosing a poem for the December GAZETTE. We proudly add Oliver to the roster of dog-loving poets who have made our holiday issues merry and bright.

Oliver once asked, “What would the world be like without music or rivers or the green and tender grass? What would this world be like without dogs?” Happily, thanks to people like our devoted readers, we will never know the answer to that question.

From all of us at the GAZETTE, may you be blessed with all the joys of the season.



On Our Cover

“Hounds in the Snow,”
Charles Olivier de Penne,
AKC Museum of the Dog

PHOTO © RACHEL GIESE BROWN



The Sweetness of Dogs

by Mary Oliver

*What do you say, Percy? I am
thinking
of sitting out on the sand to watch
the moon rise. It's full tonight.
So we go
and the moon rises, so beautiful it
makes me shudder, makes me think about
time and space, makes me take
measure of myself: one iota
pondering heaven. Thus we sit, myself
thinking how grateful I am for the moon's
perfect beauty and also, oh! how rich
it is to love the world. Percy, meanwhile,
leans against me and gazes up
into my face. As though I were just as wonderful
as the perfect moon.*

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ANC Preview

The 25th AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin

Orange County Convention Center; 5,557 entries

Orlando, Florida
December 13 and 14

[Premium List](#)

JUDGES

Best in Show Rosalind Kramer; **Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show** Thomas Coen

Sporting Group Dr. Donald Sturz Jr.; **Bred-by-Exhibitor** David Kittredge

Hound Group Deirdre Petrie; **Bred-by-Exhibitor** Richard Reynolds

Working Group Grace

Fritz; **Bred-by-Exhibitor** Barbara Bruns (Germany)

Terrier Group Beth Sweigart; **Bred-by-Exhibitor** Allison Sunderman

Toy Group Patricia Proctor; **Bred-by-Exhibitor** Pamela Bruce

Non-Sporting Group Fred Basset; **Bred-by-Exhibitor** Desmond

Murphy

Herding Group Carl Gene Liepmann; **Bred-by-Exhibitor** Janina Laurin

[Breed Judges](#)

Miscellaneous Classes Michael Canalizo

Juniors Finals Patricia Anne Keenan

Juniors Preliminaries Angela Lloyd and Amanda Swanson

PHOTOS ©AKC

UPDATES



AKC NATIONAL OWNER-HANDLED SERIES FINALS

Sporting Breeds/Group

Betsy Yates

Hound Breeds/Group

Hal Bierman

Working Breeds/Group

William Stebbins

Terrier Breeds/ Group Gus Sinibaldi Toy Breeds/Group

Gus Sinibaldi

Non-Sporting Breeds/Group Danelle Brown

Herding Breeds/ Group Danelle Brown

AKC ROYAL CANIN NATIONAL ALL-BREED PUPPY AND JUNIOR STAKES

**Best in Stakes judges
panel** Thomas Coen, Pluis
Davern, Rosalind Kramer

Sporting Peter Kubacz
Hound Eric Steel

UPDATES



Working Clifford Steele

Terrier Margery Good

Toy Patricia

Anne Keenan

Non-Sporting

Beth Sweigart

Herding

Philip Booth

AKC OBEDIENCE CLASSIC

[Premium List](#)

AKC RACH INVITATIONAL

[Premium List](#)

AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL

[Premium List](#)

VIEWING

[AKC.tv](#)

December 9 Space

Coast KC of Palm Bay;

December 10 Brevard

KC; **December 11**

Central Florida KC;

December 13 and

14 AKC National

Championship

Network Debut ABC,

Sunday, December 28

(check local listings)



UPDATES

Meet the BOY Group Honorees

The AKC has recognized seven breeding programs with 2025 AKC Breeder of the Year group awards.

“We are proud to celebrate the vital work of breeders through the Breeder of the Year award,” AKC President/CEO Gina M. DiNardo says. “The excellence, dedication and expertise that each honoree exhibits is important to the betterment of their breeds and continuation of our sport.”

The 2025 AKC Breeder of the Year Award, selected from among these group honorees, will be presented on December

13 during the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin.

The AKC will commission a portrait of a prominent dog from the honoree’s kennel, and the honoree’s name will be inscribed on the perpetual trophy. All group honorees will receive a medallion in recognition of their achievements.

HONOREES

Sporting Group

Don and Pat Coller, Eileen Hackett, and Kate Hanlon, Wingfield 'N Chebaco English Setters

Hound Group

Sarah Murphy, Abbaio Ibizans

Working Group

Wendy, Randy and Jennifer Corr, Onak Kennels, Alaskan Malamutes

Terrier Group

Todd and April Clyde, Longvue Airedales

Toy Group

Barbara Beissel, Lamplighter

Non-Sporting Group

Susan S. Giles, Ta Sen Lhasa Apsos

Herding Group

Sylvia and David Calderwood, Kensil Shetland Sheepdogs

Honoree Bios



Government Relations Webinar

Join Sheila Goffe, AKC Executive Secretary and vice president of Government Relations, on Monday, December 8, at 7 P.M. ET for a free webinar highlighting the importance of staying informed about canine legislation. Learn more about advocacy, legislative issues that affect breeders, and why it is important to get involved.

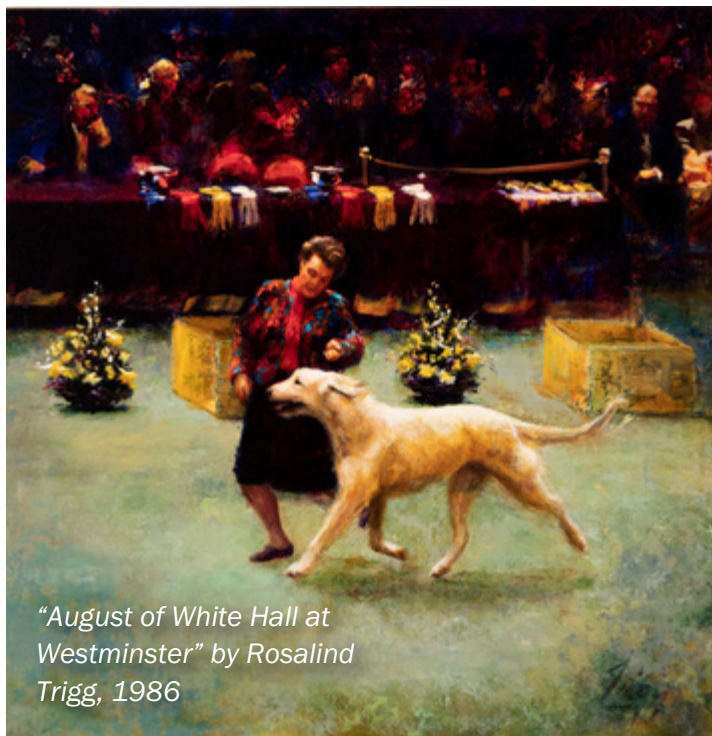
Register

UPDATES

Museum Serves Cocktails and Art

NEW YORK—On **Friday, January 30, 4:00–6:30 P.M.**, the AKC Museum of the Dog will host a cocktail benefit offering cabaret-style performances, hors d'oeuvres, and an open bar of signature cocktails, set against the backdrop of the museum's landmark exhibition honoring Westminster's 150th anniversary show.

Tickets



"August of White Hall at Westminster" by Rosalind Trigg, 1986

AKC MUSEUM OF THE DOG



INTRODUCING OUR AMAZING
DOGS BEDS

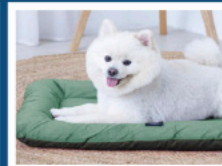
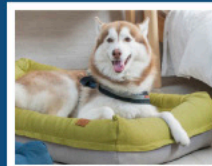
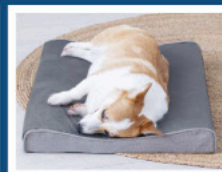
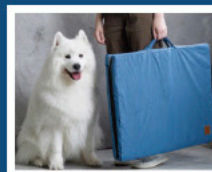
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UPDATES



2026: Something New for Juniors

Providing fresh opportunities for young fanciers

The AKC will launch Regional Junior Showmanship events in 2026. Up to eight all-breed clubs will be approved to hold these events throughout the upcoming calendar year.

Regional Junior Showmanship events will follow the same structure and judging format as the Limited Class Junior Showmanship competition, in accordance with the Junior Regulations. These events are designed

to expand meaningful opportunities for juniors by offering a distinctive and prestigious experience that is more accessible in terms of time and travel. The goal is to encourage broader participation, foster skill development, and recognize the dedication of young exhibitors within the sport.

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These events are designed to expand meaningful opportunities for juniors by offering a distinctive and prestigious experience that is more accessible in terms of time and travel. The goal is to encourage broader participation, foster skill development, and recognize the dedication of young exhibitors within the sport.

“We are so excited to be able to offer regional events for juniors in the coming year,” AKC Vice President Mari-Beth O’Neil says. “Having an opportunity for junior handlers to shine is important for the future of the sport.”

Clubs are encouraged to take part in this exciting opportunity to support the next generation of exhibitors by hosting a Regional Junior Showmanship event in conjunction with their all-breed show in 2026.

[More Information](#)

GAZETTE GALLERY

Weird & Wacky



Holiday Foolery

In the festive spirit of the season, we have set aside the serious and the sober to scour the collections of the GAZETTE and AKC Archives for dogdom's weirdest and wackiest images. Pour yourself an eggnog and hit the start button.

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Ch. Heidi d. Holmberg was among the 26 prewar ring greats immortalized in oils by Edwin Megargee in his most famous commission. The nine-inch rondels decorated the kennels aboard the SS America.

A RELIC RESURFACES

After 85 years, a delightful reminder of luxury travel's golden age returns to AKC.

By Alan Fausel

There are three conference rooms on the fifth floor of the AKC Headquarters in New York: the Roosevelt Room, the Muss-Arnolt Room, and the largest, the Megargee Room, each decorated with works of

art that reflect their names.

The Roosevelt Room displays the 20 framed chromolithographs from the *Celebrated Dogs of America* by Alexander Pope Jr. in 1879. The collection once hung in Teddy Roosevelt's room at

Harvard and was a gift to the AKC from Ethel Roosevelt, his youngest daughter.

The Muss-Arnolt Room contains, as its name implies, a selection of some of the 30-plus paintings in the collection by the noted artist

PAINTING: AKC MUSEUM OF THE DOG/SS AMERICA; PUBLIC DOMAIN

FEATURE

and AKC Director, Gustav Muss-Arnolt.

The Megargee Room houses 26 hand-painted photographic reproductions of a remarkable commission of paintings by Edwin Megargee that graced the luxury kennels aboard the ocean liner *SS America* in 1940. The works are indeed facsimiles, as the original paintings were thought lost when the ship was refitted and placed into military service during World War II.

The AKC collection lacked any of the original artworks until one recently appeared on the art market and was acquired by the [AKC Museum of the Dog](#). The following relates the story of how the small portrait of the Dachshund Ch. Heidi d. Flottenberg by Edwin Megargee was commissioned and ultimately found its way back to the AKC some 85 year later.

THE SHIP

The *SS America* of the United States Lines was



In the AKC Megargee Room, the recently acquired oil original of Heidi hangs alongside the hand-painted photo reproduction and pages from the GAZETTE's 1940 story about the project.

launched and christened by Eleanor Roosevelt in August 1939 and went into service the following year on August 10, 1940. Its interiors were designed by the all-female firm of Smyth, Urquhart & Marckwald who fashioned a more modern experience in the public rooms in contrast to the gentleman's club atmosphere preferred in many earlier liners. They sought a design that was in keeping with the modernity of the ship and would wear well into succeeding decades.

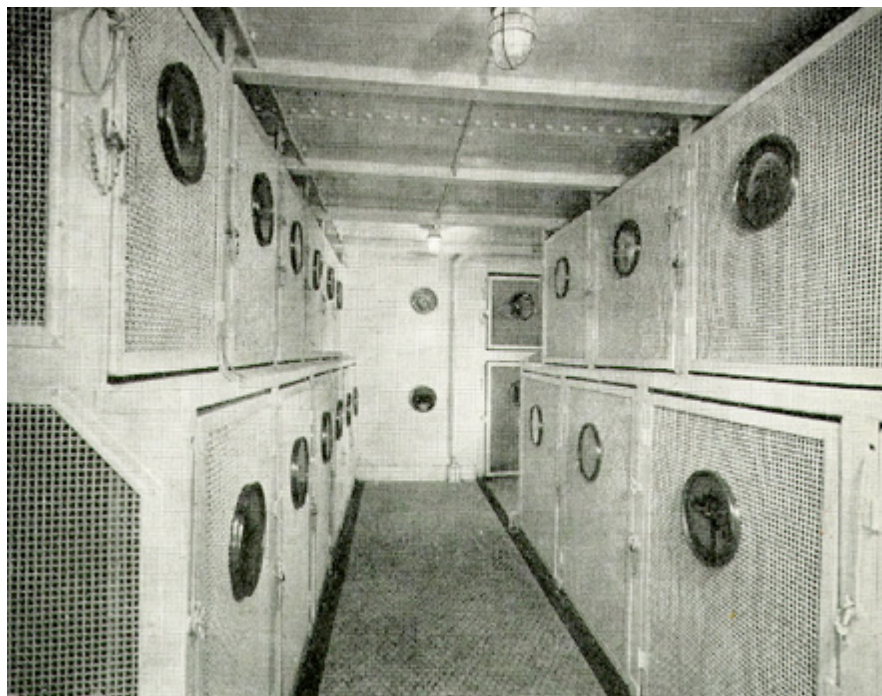
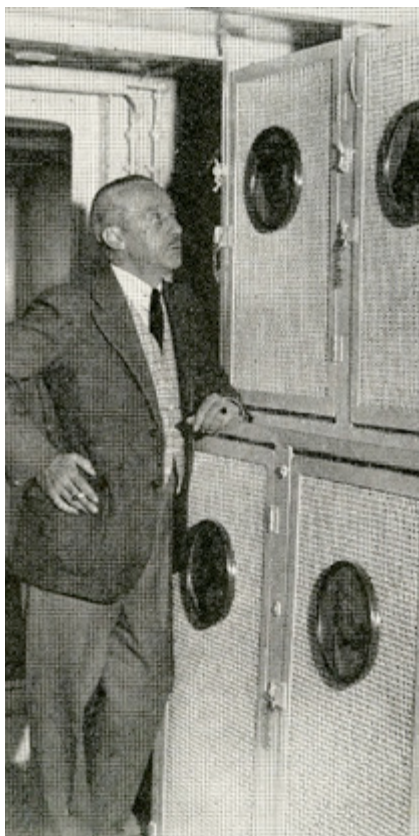
THE KENNELS

The most extraordinary aspect of *SS America* was the inclusion of 24 kennels

on the sun deck of the ship. The 20th century brought many advances to onboard kenneling reflected aboard this new liner. For centuries prior, shipboard dogs were often kenneled below decks under the care of the ship's butcher, who had access to scraps that could then be fed to the dogs.

The inspiration for these luxury accommodations came from Colonel P.V.G. Mitchell, the then vice president of the United States Lines, a breeder of Bedlington Terriers, and owner of Rowanoaks Kennels in Summit, New Jersey. Working in concert with Dr. Edwin R. Blamey,

FEATURE



1940: Megargee inspects his handiwork aboard the America; after the following year's attack on Pearl Harbor, his mini-masterpieces were scattered to the four winds.

the official veterinarian of the AKC, every aspect of the canine passengers was attended to, from diet and health, to exercise and grooming (See Carla Dietz, “How Dogs Now Go to Sea,” *THE AMERICAN KENNEL GAZETTE*, September 1, 1940). They were, in short, “the world’s finest floating kennels.”

To add even more prestige to the first-class, the renowned dog artist Edwin Megargee was commissioned

to execute a series of portraits depicting the most famous show dogs of the day to decorate the individual kennel doors. The 24 kennels each received a 9-inch round oil portrait of a champion dog which was placed under glass, fitted with a heavy, chromed frame, and attached to the door. Two extra medallions were placed in the first-class children’s playroom.

At the time, Megargee was the premier dog portrait painter in America.

A breeder of Scotties with fellow artist Marguerite Kirmse, Megargee was a familiar face to the AKC. He was an AKC Director, and the founder of the AKC Library and Archives who designed the AKC bookplate still in use today. Most importantly, due to the accuracy of his renderings, he was sought out by the leading breeders of the day wishing to immortalize their dogs on canvas. The combined collections of the

FEATURE



A selection from the set of 26 SS America chromolithographs that hang in the AKC's Megargee Room: Afghan Hound Ch. Kabul of Pride's Hill, English Setter Ch. Bayldone Buccaneer; Great Pyrenees Ch. Estat D'Dargeles of Basquaerie; Pekingese Ch. Che-le of Matson's Catawba; Smooth Fox Terrier Nornay Saddler; Standard Poodle Ch. Blakeen Jung Frau

AKC and the AKC Museum of the Dog total 61 works by the man.

THE AKC CONNECTION

On May 28, 1940, three months prior to the ship's maiden voyage, the AKC sponsored an exhibition of 24 of the original medallions at their New York

headquarters at 221 Fourth Street titled *Outstanding Dogs in Their Breeds; A Series of Murals Painted by S. Edwin Megargee*.

The individual sponsors of the afternoon exhibition and reception were 14 of the most prominent women in the field of dog breeding, including luminaries such

as Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, Hayes Blake Hoyt, and, of course, Colonel P.V.G. Mitchell's wife and daughter, Connie Willemssen.

It is curious to note that the small medallions are referred to as murals. The original commission for the paintings was through the United States Maritime

AKC COLLECTION

FEATURE

Commission and reflects the New Deal penchant for public works such as large-scale wall murals for schools, post offices, and government buildings, through programs funded through agencies such as the WPA.

The most important aspect of the short exhibition is the four-page brochure that accompanied it and is in the possession of the AKC Library and Archives. In addition to the sponsors from the women's committee, it identifies all 26 of the dogs and their owners. It is a veritable who's who of the most important dogs and their owners of the 1930s and '40s.

Fortunately, Megargee had the foresight to record the commission for posterity. The 26 rondels were all photographed reproduced in their actual size. The artist then, using watercolors, hand-painted and signed each one. These are the versions that now hang in the eponymous Megargee Room. The original oil painting of Heidi now hangs

along with them.

A SHORT LIFE

Sadly, the paintings and the kennels themselves had a terribly short tenure, as their service was interrupted by the second World War.

Although *SS America's* maiden voyage was in August just seven months later in May of 1941 the *SS America* was requisitioned by the U.S. War Department and recommissioned as the troop ship *West Point*. In addition to refitting the decks below to accommodate troops and equipment, the sun deck, where the kennels were located, were cleared for military equipment including anti-aircraft guns.

It is not clear what happened to the original 26 medallions. Whether they found their way to the owners of the dogs or were picked up by a salvage company and dispersed randomly is not known. Two of them, the Cairn Terrier Ch. Tommy Tucker of Tapscot

and the Standard Poodle Ch. Blakeen Jung Frau, were sold at auction by the author in 2013. The silver lining in the story is that the paintings only spent a short time at sea. One can only imagine how the paintings would have fared if they were subjected to decades in a salty sea-air environment.

EPILOGUE

The *SS America's* earliest history was punctuated by events surrounding the lead-up to World War II. The day after the ship was christened by Mrs. Roosevelt in 1939, Germany invaded Poland. And on the same day as the AKC exhibition in May of 1940, the British were desperately evacuating their troops from Dunkirk. As the drumbeats of war crossed the Atlantic, it would come as no surprise that the gracious ocean liner, along with several others, would be pressed into military service six months prior to the United States' official entry into the war after the

“The Apostle of Purebreds”

Edwin Megargee—artist, sportsman, dog breeder and judge, AKC Board member, and Scottish Terrier Club of America president—was a man of many parts. Here is an excerpt from a December 1934 GAZETTE profile of Megargee by his friend P.C. Long:

One of America’s most popular and outstanding animal painters, he might be taken for a banker, or a lawyer, except that he is not paunchy, as some of those gentlemen become. He has the physique of an athlete, the crispness of a businessman, and the well-groomed appearance of the typical clubman.

Perhaps Megargee does not look “Bohemian” because he hates sham, and everything that goes with it. He is an artist, but the profession, for him, does not include many of



Edwin Megargee judges BIS at Trenton KC, 1950. Also pictured are German Shepherd Dog Ch. Quell v Fredholz and handler Ed Loeb.

the little eccentricities it does to others. He likes he like it in his subjects. He wants them to be splendid examples of what they are supposed to be. Indeed, he has done so many dogs of high degree, horses of noble lineage, and other blooded livestock that he can be truly called “an

apostle of purebreds.” ...

Possibly the real reason Megargee is an animal painter is because he knows his animals. He rides horses, he breeds Scottish terriers, he shoots over pointers and setters and has been a breeder of blooded livestock. He also has gone after big game in Canada, and upland birds and waterfowl all over the United States. No Fall goes by that does not find him in a duck blind some frosty morning.—**P.C.L.**

bombing of Pearl Harbor.

After a stellar military career, the liner returned to service with the United States Lines. The ship passed through the hands of several companies and its final voyage was in 1994, when it was being towed from Greece to Thailand where it was

intended to be permanently docked as a floating hotel. Alas, it ran aground in the Canary Islands and could not be rescued.

Over the ensuing decades it collapsed into the sea, with now only vestiges of the once marvelous liner visible at low tide. Ironically, the *SS United*

States, a sister ship, suffered a similar fate just this year. After many years of languishing in a Philadelphia dry-dock with the hopes of also becoming a hotel, the ship was sold and will be intentionally scuttled off the coast of the Florida panhandle to create an artificial reef.—**A.F.**



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June Lockhart *Lassie's* “Mama-San”

Lovers of vintage TV were saddened to hear that June Lockhart died in October at age 100. Lockhart played Ruth Martin, Timmy's mother, from 1958 to 1964 on the Lassie TV series. Decades of Lassie reruns captivated dog-loving kids who daydreamed about having a stunning full-coated Collie and an endlessly patient mother they could call their own.

We pay affectionate tribute to Lockhart with the following 1963 UPI wire story that ran in newspapers across the country.



Lockhart and Lassie, with co-stars Jon Provost and Hugh Reilly

June Lockhart is an accomplished actress who doesn't mind one iota that she's playing second fiddle to a dog.

"Lassie comes first in our show," she declared during a long-distance conversation with this desk. "And I couldn't care less. Not at

these prices."

She is, in fact, completely delighted with the whole arrangement. The show is consistently high in the ratings, the network and sponsor are happy, and June's getting a worldwide reputation as Timmy's mother.

PHOTOS AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

TIMES PAST

Vacationing in Japan last summer, June found the show so popular that crowds of admiring fans followed her around shouting “Mama-San” wherever she and her family went.

“This is my sixth year in the role,” she said, “and I love it. I have an advantage over some actresses, you see. I’ve already done a variety of roles, so I know I can do other things. I don’t have to prove it to myself. ... I’ve played everything from comedienne to neurotic woman.

“And it may sound corny, but I have such a happy home life that I couldn’t possibly be frustrated in my work.”

Both her father, the late Gene Lockhart, and her mother, Kathleen, were noted performers in the theater and movies. And June followed in their footsteps to movies, Broadway, and just about every TV dramatic show you can name.

The wife of architect John Lindsay, she’s the mother of two girls, 10 and 8. They’ll

With help from Lassie, Lockhart served as 1963 chairwoman of National Dog Week.



appear in the schoolroom scene of the *Lassie* Christmas show.

“The kids think it’s delightful to be on the show,” she explained. “So, we always use all the children of the crew and cast when the script calls for lots of youngsters.”

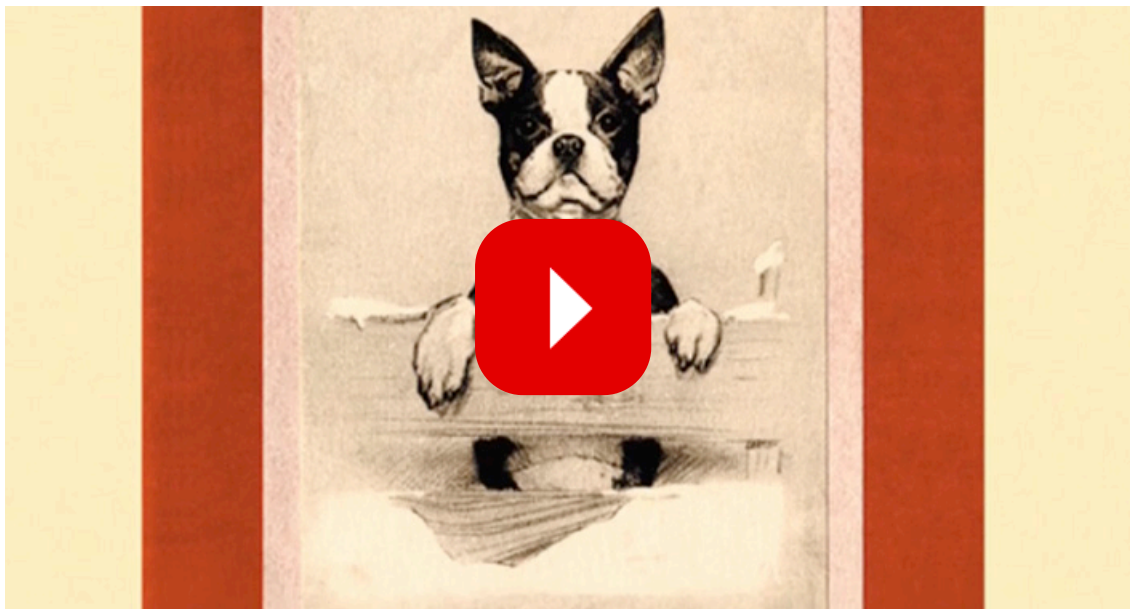
At present, June and the *Lassie* are working on that two-part Christmas show.

But after this season *Lassie*’s family life may undergo a change.

“There has been some talk about a format change—maybe even changing the family,” June said.

Jon Provost, who plays Timmy, is growing up, and that may call for some revisions. It’s already been done once before, when the previous boy star grew out of the role.

“But whatever the change, we’ll never replace the dog,” June laughed, “There’ll always be a *Lassie*.” **GZ**



Season's Greetings!

Vintage Christmas cards sent to the GAZETTE by famous fanciers of times past. 1:15



Something in the Way They Move

Cavalier breeder-owner-judge Charles Weidig discusses the importance of proper gaiting. 7:00

VIDEOS



Birth of a Beloved Tradition

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America's Terry Hundt tells the backstory of the club's popular Top 20 event. 9:12



Mountain King

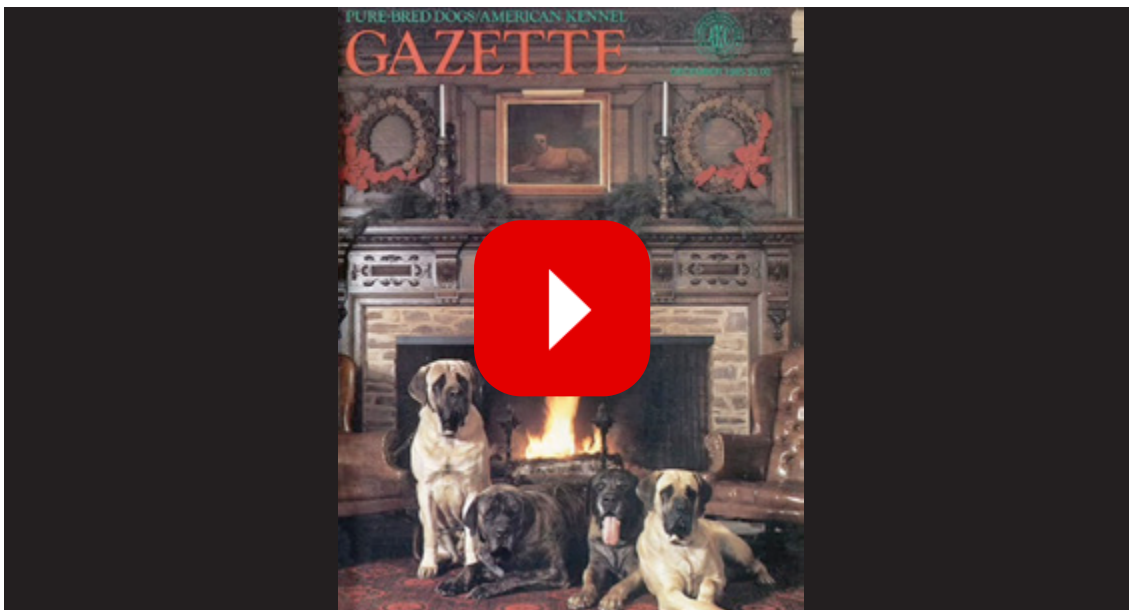
From the AKC's Meet the Breed series: Why is the Afghan Hound unlike any other breed? 8:52

VIDEOS



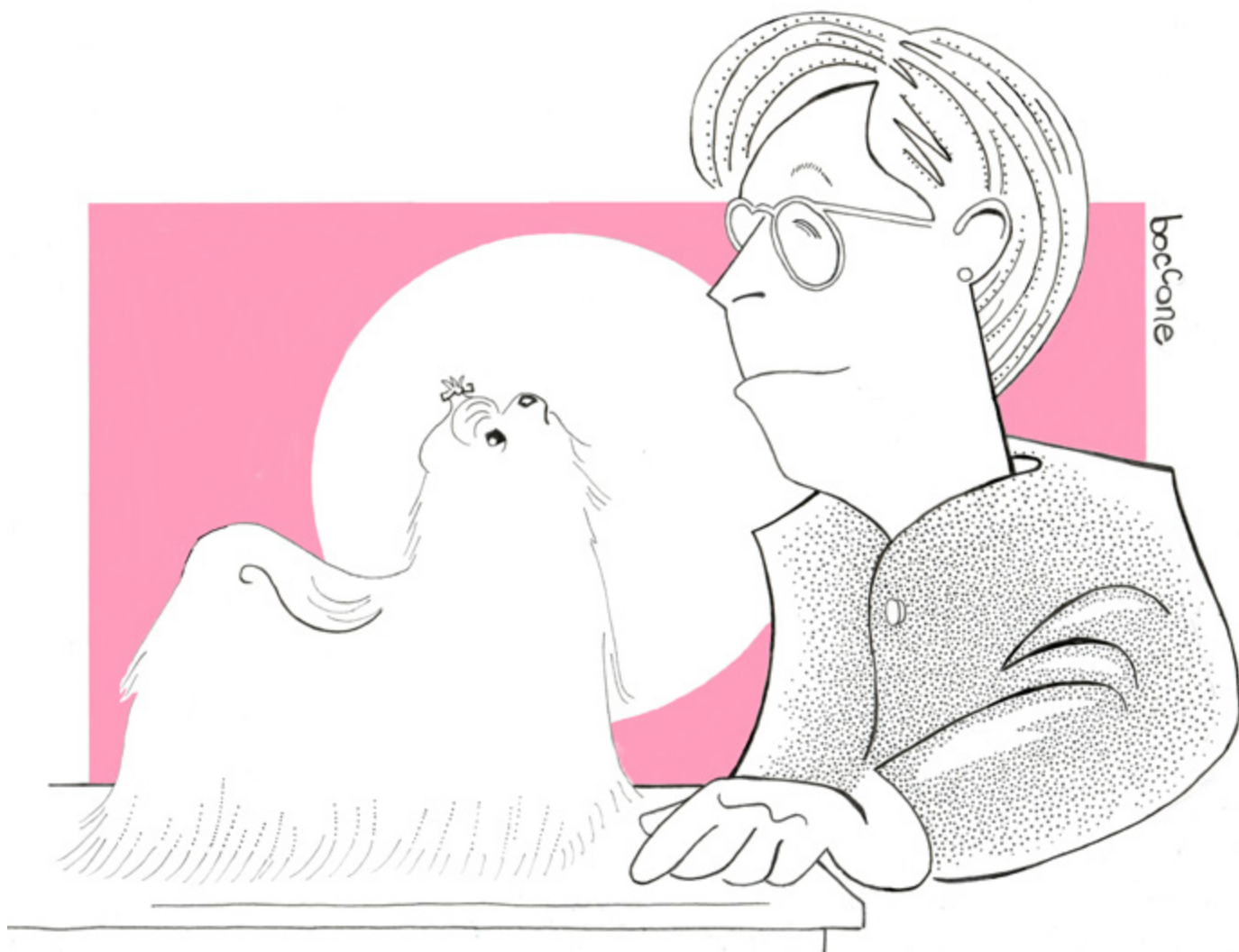
Breeder Q&A

From Purina Pro Club: Reproductive specialists answer questions from breeders. 59:97



Covering Christmas

A slideshow celebrating an old GAZETTE tradition: Seasonal covers created for December issues. 1:31



Rosalind Kramer

Roz Kramer, who will judge Best in Show at Orlando this month, is the epitome of the dog-show lifer. She bought her first Wire Fox Terrier at age 12. After finishing him in six shows, Kramer says she was “hooked.” In the late 1970s, she apprenticed for George Ward, who taught her the “true art of trimming and training terriers.” As a handler she scored with some of America’s top terriers and toys, and today has a long-held reputation as a big-show judge.

BUD BOCCONE ©2025

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by **Arliss Paddock**

The American Kennel Gazette



GAZETTE staff gathers around the tree to thank our parent-club columnists for sharing their knowledge, wit, and wisdom with our readers. It's the gift that keeps giving all year round.
(Art: December 1939; E.M. Freret)

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



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or contact Meeththebreeds@akc.org to sign up.

The deadline for Parent Club signup is December 15, 2025

TOY GROUP

Brussels Griffons

THE PROBLEM CHILD

Dora was a problem child.

Her siblings were happy, outgoing Brussels Griffons, who dashed from their beds to the door when visitors arrived. Dora was different. She hung back, a worried look on her face. If a stranger approached her, she burrowed under the nearest chair.

We worked on socializing her, making sure she was present when newcomers arrived, taking her in the car with us along with her outgoing mother, Neva. But her shyness persisted. At home, with family, she was one of the sweetest Brussels Griffons. She would burrow into my lap, turn up her belly to be scratched, and stick close to my side to show her affection.

She turned out to have the best structure of her litter, so we chose her to stay while the others went to carefully vetted homes. She had the outline, movement, coat, and expression that could

Brussels Griffon



make her a champion, like her parents. But even at 18 months old, she still pulled back if anyone other than family and close friends wanted to pet her. We didn't enter her in shows, as Brussels Griffons should never pull away when the judge approaches.

Here's how the breed standard describes temperament: "Intelligent, alert and sensitive. Full of self-importance." Dora was missing that "self-importance" that was on always on display in

her family.

Along with every other careful breeder, I wish all my puppies could be perfect. But the reality is that every Griffon has some faults that keep that "perfect" label from being applied. Dora was exceptionally healthy and well-built. She had the charming, loving sweetness of Brussels Griffons.

We decided to go ahead with breeding her. If she passed on her shyness to any of her puppies, we would not breed her a second time.

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

TOY GROUP

We chose Burt as her husband, because in addition to his correct structure and champion title, he was extremely extroverted and gregarious. He seemed to believe that every human was put on earth just to greet him.

Dora proved to be an outstanding mother, nurturing and protecting her puppies. One of her four puppies faced a frightful challenge; he was a “swimmer” whose rib cage was flattened, which needed special handling. Then he developed pneumonia, which is extremely dangerous for brachycephalic breeds. Next, the veterinarian told us solemnly that he had a Stage 4 heart murmur, which could indicate that his heart would fail. He needed round-the-clock supervision.

Against all odds, and with Dora’s nonstop attention, he overcame all the problems. Even his heart murmur disappeared.

Burt’s nature proved to be dominant; all four puppies, Jackson, Carlton, Daisy and

Dorothy were outgoing and friendly to the max. They were happy to meet every stranger who came to the kitchen. Dora still hung back, watching suspiciously as they cavorted with the new person.

Dora’s second husband was Higgins, whose active Instagram account showed him at playgrounds and in restaurants with his owner nearly every day. Once again, Dora showed us that her true calling was to be a mother. She loved her three puppies with dedicated intensity.

When Addie, Jubal, and Joy went to their new families, Dora was happy to go back to spending her time relaxing with us. When people ask how I feel about the puppy departures, I tell them that Brussels Griffons love to have their own people. While here, they share the humans with a dozen other Griffons. They always blossom with the attention they get from the new owner.

At 4 years old, Dora

had still not overcome her distrust of strangers. We weren’t going to force her to go to dog shows. And she’d given us two beautiful litters to carry on her line. So, when an owner of two of our Griffons called with the sad news that the older one had passed, she gratefully welcomed Dora into her home. It was important to be totally transparent about Dora’s shy personality. If Dora didn’t fit in with the new home, she was to be returned to us immediately.

Dora slowly warmed up to the affection from Diane, her new owner. Diane texted, “She loves walking with me, but when we encounter other people she still hides behind me and avoids them.”

Dora immediately understood that Diane was brokenhearted over the loss of her old dog. “This morning, I was going through my photos looking at pictures of my beloved Marlow, and the tears started flowing again. I miss her. ... Suddenly I felt a weight on my lap, and there

TOY GROUP

was Dora, licking the tears off my cheeks, with such tenderness! She may be shy, but she has a remarkably sweet and playful personality.”

Several weeks later, Diane wrote, “She slides in front of Daisy, ass up, head down, tail wagging, then leaps up, spins, and races off again, but she always ends her zoomies with a leap up onto my lap! Her tail wags constantly, and she seems very happy.”

We knew then the transition from our kennel to Diane’s home was successful. Only a very happy dog will do zoomies.

It makes me happy to share my beloved older dogs with people who love them like this. By placing the older dogs, I’ve learned that Griffons can experience the best of both worlds; their happy childhood and show career here at my kennel, and then their own person to love.

Dora contributed to life here while living with 12 other Griffons and now fulfills her job as personal

companion. She lived her best life in both situations. In the end, the problem child turned out not to be a problem at all.

—Sharon Sakson

[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

THE CAVALIER IN ART

Several years ago I saw at a New England auction a very beautiful micro-mosaic antique brooch of a recumbent Cavalier. I hoped to purchase the piece, but alas, it sold for four times the high estimate, and I was outbid. But I became interested in the history of such craftsmanship and found some interesting information I thought I would share.

The brooch was Italian and probably dated to the early or mid-19th century, circa 1820–1850. The micro-mosaic technique was very popular in that era and was used to create not only jewelry but also plaques and other wall decorations. With

this process literally thousands of the tiniest pieces of glass (*tesserae*) were used to create an image—up to 1,400 tesserae per square inch. The higher quality the piece, the more tesserae were used. Images that were most in vogue at the time included landscapes, Roman ruins, and animals—the most popular of which was the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, whose ancestors were beloved court companions to the English Tudor and Stuart dynasties.

The 19th century was the age of England’s Queen Victoria (d. 1901), whose beloved tricolor pet spaniel, Dash, lived from 1831 to 1840. Victoria was only 18 when she became queen in 1837, but she never forgot Dash, and he was forever memorialized in famous portraits by Landseer. He may also have been responsible in part for inspiring the Staffordshire pottery that depicted Cavaliers in various attitudes. Ironically, after the passing of Dash, the young queen turned her

BREED COLUMNS



TOY GROUP



Kellogg lithograph, “Household Pets”; detail from “The Marlborough Family,” John Singer Sargent; “The Cavalier’s Pets,” Edwin Landseer; “Fairy, Lady Bulwer’s Favorite Spaniel,” Edwin Landseer; etching of young Queen Victoria with her beloved Dash.



attention to other breeds, and eventually the Cavalier spaniel was nearly lost to history. However, it is not difficult to understand why in the earlier part of the century, the Italian craftsmen looked across the Channel for inspiration, with an eye to selling their wares to tourists. They did not have to

look very far.

Prince Emanuele Filiberto I (1731–1735) was painted as an infant with a toy spaniel on his lap. Sadly, the child died at only 4 years, but his father was Carlo Emanuele III, King of Sardinia, who died in 1773 after a long reign. Clearly, there were toy spaniels in the royal

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS / PUBLIC DOMAIN

TOY GROUP

household. The breeding of toy spaniels in Italy had been undiminished since the Renaissance era that popularized them. Descendants of the 17th-century Medicis, for example, were known to favor these delightful little dogs, and when Catherine and Marie de Medici both married French kings they ensured that the toy spaniel would remain a fixture not only in Italy but across Europe. Fragonard and Manet (France), Verbockhoven (Belgium), Verschuur (Holland), and many other artists depicted toy spaniels in the late 18th and 19th centuries across the European continent. In the U.S., there were also numerous 19th-century depictions of toy spaniels that are clearly Cavalierlike in form, from notable artists like John Singer Sargent to those whose works were more accessible to the general public.

A lithograph of 1846–7 from the Kellogg Brothers, in Hartford, Connecticut, shows two Victorian ladies

and their household pets—a quirky cat and a very recognizable Blenheim Cavalier.

And so there remain accessible to us today reminders of the popularity that our Cavalier toy spaniels and their antecedents have enjoyed over centuries. Discovering that vintage brooch in an auction catalog just reinforced the notion. It is no wonder that the Italian jewelers of the 1800s would include in their mosaics the little spaniels who were the favorites of the wealthy leisure classes, hoping to win their patronage. Little did they know that their wares would still be attracting Cavalier lovers nearly 200 years later. —Stephanie Abraham, 2013

[American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club](#)

Chihuahuas

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD BREEDING

We all start at the same place, but it doesn't take long before we think we know everything. Eventually

we admit to ourselves this is probably not the case, and we begin again. It is at this point that we really start learning, and hopefully we continue learning for the rest of our lives.

People tend to learn only their immediate interest. As breeders, we need to broaden our horizons beyond our immediate boundaries. A championship title does not guarantee perfection. Knowing and understanding your *breed standard* is all-important. With that, you also need to know canine anatomy, animal husbandry, and the understanding of genetics and DNA testing. Once all these puzzle pieces are gathered, we put them together to begin a breeding program.

It is always good to make it a habit to look at “virtues” first and “faults” last. If you are a “fault-finder,” the faults will override the total perspective and leave a lingering impression. Always weigh the faults against the virtues. Do the qualities outweigh the faults? Because of

TOY GROUP



the complexities of genetics and the many variables of inherited characteristics, a breeder must be willing to gamble with nature, taking the worst along with the best. With conviction and courage, triumph will eventually emerge, and a great dog will be born.

A breeder must realize that every puppy, in reality, is two different beings. *Phenotype* is what the animal looks like on the outside. Certain genes have come together to create its physical appearance. What a dog looks like on the inside is *genotype*, a blueprint of

inherited traits from its ancestors. If you like jigsaw puzzles you will enjoy putting your genetic knowledge to work—but remember, 75 percent is luck, and 25 percent is skill.

Now that we know everything is inherited, even the dog's show spirit or ability to perform tricks, we can make better choices. Many faults can be eliminated from a bloodline, and superior qualities introduced, through selection and understanding of the laws of heredity. Therefore, a dog's true qualities are not necessarily evidenced in his physical appearance but are also concealed in his genetic framework.

As breeders, we all understand that there is no perfect dog. Don't be in a hurry for that great one. It is far better for a breeder to move slowly toward an eventual goal by tackling one problem at a time, collecting virtues into the genotype and discarding faults through strict selection. The "overall" dog must be kept in mind. The best

package has the best chance in the show ring. Not only does it require a quality dog but also a dog that is properly raised, conditioned, trained, groomed, and handled. This is hard work and there are no shortcuts

The all-important pedigree should never be ignored. What a dog transmits to his progeny depends on the genetics and actually has little to do with the number of champions we see in the pedigree. The idea that an inferior dog will produce something greater than himself because he has an impressive pedigree is a fallacy. Unless he carries in his genetic makeup a combination for a desired quality, he cannot pass it to its progeny.

Probably one rule stands out above any other, and that is "breed only the best to the best, and don't be satisfied with anything less."

Happy breeding!

—Virginia (Jenny)

Hauber,

wynjynchis@yahoo.com
Chihuahua Club of
America

DAVID WOO ©AKC

TOY GROUP

Havanese

Our guest column below is by Christianne Disser, President of the Havanese Club of America.

THINGS THAT HAVANESE OWNERS SAY ABOUT THEIR DOGS

Under “Temperament,” the AKC Havanese standard says: “The Havanese is friendly, playful, alert and intelligent with a sweet, non-quarrelsome disposition.” This description manifests itself in many ways. Following are some insights and observations from owners of the breed.

“My Havanese is a Velcro dog. What is a Velcro dog? A Velcro dog sticks to her owner wherever she goes. If the owner goes into the bathroom and does not close the door, the dog sits at the owner’s feet and waits patiently for a look or kind words. If the owner is cooking, the Havanese is underfoot. If the vacuum cleaner is running, the Havanese is either following her owner or, more likely,

chasing and darting at the vacuum as it does its work. If the owner is sitting on the couch, that is where the Havanese wants to be.”

“My Havanese is more like a cat than a dog. Havanese love to be up high. The back of a couch is a perfect place to hang out and watch the goings-on in the house. Windowsills are another place to hang out to see what is going on outside. Havanese sometimes weave around ankles and legs. Is it to mark their owners with their scent, or to make sure that the owner will reach down to scratch their ears?”

“My Havanese is like a Ninja. A Ninja? Yes! My Havanese can sneak out of a door to make sure she does not get left behind. She is so quick and moves so silently that she often gets trapped in a room if I close the door behind myself. When I look around to check for her five or 10 minutes later, I can often hear her whining quietly so I know where she is.”

“My Havanese does not know she is a small dog. She

will bark at dogs two and three times her size. She has no fear until they head her direction, then mom is the savior.”

“My Havanese is a paper shredder. Any napkin, receipt, or scrap of paper on the floor is fair game. A favorite of many Havanese shredders is toilet paper. It is readily available at all times and can be pulled off the roll and left on the floor, or it can be torn into confetti for the perfect bathroom décor.”

“I swear that my Havanese can tell time. When the correct time to head to bed shows up on the clock, my Havanese is sitting patiently in front of the bedroom door, ready to head to her crate. If I miss breakfast or dinnertime by more than 15 minutes, I get accusatory glares.”

“My Havanese is Houdini reincarnated. There is nothing that can hold my Havanese in if she wants to escape. I have seen her flatten herself like a rat, a ferret, or a squirrel to get under a

TOY GROUP



fence. I have seen her move rocks and bricks to be able to escape the yard. I have Havanese friends whose dogs have moved their exercise pens to get to furniture to be able to climb out and get to food on a counter.”

“*My Havanese is an athlete.* She can run like the wind, turn on a dime, clear heights taller than she is, jump from one piece of furniture to



The standard says of the breed’s temperament, “*The Havanese is friendly, playful, alert and intelligent with a sweet, non-quarrelsome disposition.*”

another, and climb higher than is safe—and that is all without any kind of formal training. I see agility in our future.”

“*My Havanese is sensitive to the feelings of strangers.* When we were doing therapy together in the hospitals, my dog seemed to be able to tell when people needed extra attention. I have seen her curl up next to someone who was lonely and hurting. She once planted herself on a man’s chest while he was recovering from a terrible

motorcycle accident (with permission, of course). My dog sitter told me that she was having a good cry on my couch and all of my dogs sat on and around her to cheer her up.”

—C.D.

[Havanese Club of America](#)

Italian Greyhounds

For this issue we look back to an informative piece by longtime Italian Greyhound Club of America columnist Lilian

COURTESY ANNA FAUST / MARIA PEREIRA / DIANE HINSON

TOY GROUP

Barber, who wrote the IG column for the GAZETTE from 1975 to 2023.

APPRECIATING THE DOERS

The expression “it takes a village” is often bandied about, and it applies to quite a few things along with the usual reference to raising a child. It’s quite applicable to putting on a successful dog show, for instance, or for having a viable dog club.

We know that there are many involved in the dog sport, or whatever one wants to call this activity, who do little if anything more than sit back and complain about how things were done or about what was *not* done.

Some of this was brought home to me by someone who has done quite a bit of the so-called grunt work that is a necessary part of the activities of dog clubs. This person called me and alerted me to all she had done the previous year and that someone else had been claiming the credit for it.

It made me think how little of the day-to-day things



Italian Greyhound

handled by club officers and volunteers are really appreciated. Others take it for granted that all of these things will get done and that the next show, meeting, seminar, website change, or other event will be a huge success, and their only connection with any of it is to complain about what was *not* done.

This subject is not particularly specific to Italian

Greyhounds, but it is definitely applicable. Our breed may be quite different from many other breeds, but our situation with club volunteers is applicable. Nothing that *any* breed club does can be accomplished without dedicated volunteers. Like most clubs, we have those who do the work and those who, in appropriate dog-related language, bitch about it.

My suggestion is that

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

whoever is reading this column do two things: First of all, volunteer to help with the next specialty or other breed project. Second, thank those who are already doing that.

On the brighter side, I recently had an email from an Italian-born gentleman who is extremely fond of our breed. Sandro Russo is a professional concert pianist and has a musician's sensitivity to the world around him. He describes the Italian Greyhound in this way:

"I can find various parallels between Italian Greyhounds and the perfection of harmony and form in classical music. The IG is the most musical breed I can think of. There is something in the nobility of their posture that very much fits my vision of music!

Interestingly, when I was still living in Italy I never knew of the Italian Greyhound breed. I became acquainted with it in New York several years ago." —Lilian S. Barber, 2017

[Italian Greyhound Club of America](#)

Japanese Chin

CARE OF BITE INJURIES

Our dogs are such an important part of our lives. Sometimes living with animals makes for some interesting stories. Some are happy, and others can be tragic, or nearly so. I am writing this article in hopes that, like these, there are more happy endings than not.

This year a friend of mine experienced a near-tragedy with her dog, Finn, when a stray cat came into the yard. The cat was after the chickens, and so the dog, protecting his property, got into a fight. The scuffle was short, the cat ran away, and the dog was left with only a small bite wound on the leg. His owner washed and cleaned it with antibacterial soap and salve.

The next morning Finn was a little stiff and sore, but the day after he was lethargic and wouldn't eat. A trip to the vet found that not only was the bite wound infected, also his immune system had gone into overdrive, resulting in vasculitis.

Vasculitis is an immune response that attacks the blood vessels, which causes the walls of the blood vessels to thicken and restricts blood flow, causing organs to die (This can occur with rattlesnake bites as well.) In this case the organ was the skin, and Finn had to be treated daily with various medications and vet treatments. Now, after seven months, he is on the mend, Finn's skin is healing, and his fur is growing back.

In a completely different realm of my life, another friend of mine had just gotten a puppy named Banks. Like most, the sweet puppy was a little land shark, and a playful nip cloaked in a kiss caused a small bite on the owner's nose. After the bite occurred, she had washed her face carefully with antibiotic soap, cleaned it with hydrogen peroxide, and bandaged the tiny cut.

The next day she felt like she was coming down with a cold, and two days later she was in the ICU with sepsis. Her doctor explained that

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A beautiful Japanese Chin (not either of the dogs mentioned in the column)

the face—specifically the bridge of the nose to the mouth—is called the “triangle of death.” Cuts in this area can become infected quickly, and animal bites to the face have a higher tendency of becoming infected and must be treated by a doctor and antibiotics immediately. There are so many capillaries in the face that move blood quickly and cause

infection fast.

After three weeks in the hospital, she’s recovering. As of this writing it has been three months and she is on the mend, but her left vocal cord remains paralyzed.

So what can we do to protect our dogs and ourselves? In both these cases, the dogs are healthy animals who were fully vaccinated and well cared for. By no means do I suggest an end to the

human-animal bond or keep our dogs indoors forever. Our dogs are our companions and protectors. Bites from other animals that they suffer need to be attended to by a veterinarian. Dog bites on humans, even those of a playful puppy, should be taken seriously and a doctor consulted.

If your dog gets injured from another animal, especially a stray or a wild animal, be sure to contact your veterinarian right away and follow their recommendations.

If you are bitten by a dog, consult your physician immediately. The care that will be required will differ depending on the severity of the wound and its location. My friend was told that using hydrogen peroxide actually made the situation worse, as it killed the good bacteria along with the bad.

The happy ending to this story: Finn is on the mend, and Banks is growing out of his “bitey puppy” phase.

—Karen Markin Wolfer
[Japanese Chin Club of America](#)

COURTESY TYSON WALD

TOY GROUP

Maltese

KEEPERS OF THE BREED

We are keepers of our breeds and should be breeding to our American Kennel Club standards. Pretty pictures of dogs from around the world on Facebook are great, but most of the countries that are so influential with cute or pretty pictures have different standards than ours. For the newer people, many of those countries are very new to showing and breeding our breed too. I realize it is hard to get into the breed with the many contracts everyone issues these days, but are they really helping our breed or its future?

When breeding good dogs, you need families of dogs that have the same traits over and over again Outcrossing or bringing in all the dogs from other countries is not going to help create a line unless you breed them consistently back into a solid line and create a line. However, as I just stated above, very few of the foreign kennels have solid lines and many are



relatively new in breeding, so you have no idea what you are breeding.

Our standard discusses everything as *moderate*, from head to toe. I do not understand why so many people are trying to change our dogs and have extreme qualities, such as Shih Tzu or Chihuahua-type heads, long, long necks, long backs, or tight, tight tails! Our breed with their topknots is starting to look like they have globe heads, with long backs and very tight, low-set tails. This is not a Maltese!

Maltese are a white breed,

where only a light lemon is permissible on their ears—so why do we have dogs with so much color in their beautiful white coats?

I know styles change, but we as preservation breeders better re-read our AKC standard and pay attention to our dogs we breed or put in the ring. As Richard Beauchamp said, if you like doll faces, or tight tails and color in the coat, find another breed, as that is not what a Maltese is!

—Daryl Martin

[American Maltese Association](#)

LISA CROFT-ELLIOTT FOR AKC

TOY GROUP

Miniature Pinschers

INTERVIEW WITH GRETCHEN
HOFHEINS-WACKERFUSS

PART TWO

Using the question bank provided by the AKC Parent Club Committee, I have been working to collect interviews with our legacy breeders. This is the continuation of my first interview of the series, which appeared in the June 2025 issue. Our interviewee is Gretchen Hofheins-Wackerfuss. Gretchen has been breeding/showing/competing with her Sultan Miniature Pinschers for nearly 40 years.

Between the lines of your standard, what makes the ideal Miniature Pinscher to you?

Number One is fearless and outgoing. Coming from a horse background, it is *very* important for a dog to be sound coming and going. So many dogs are not, converging or throwing legs outward. They need this for longevity, and for being successful in doing other dog sports.

What do you think is the main conformation problem in the breed today?

Soundness. So many will take the high-stepping hackney without any consideration for where the feet fall on the ground. Too many breeders get hung up on one feature of a breed; it is the complete package.

Other than a dog you were associated with, would you name three of the best Miniature Pinschers you've ever seen and what their greatest assets are/were?

Marlex Classic Red Glare ... she was *the* “complete package” of *everything* a Miniature Pinscher should be. Sanbrook Silk Electric—sound, stunning and could move like the wind. Pevensey Cash Dividend ... he could command a room.

What are the qualities you look for in a stud dog? What according to you makes a great stud dog?

The stud dog would depend on the bitch you were looking to breed. I pre-



Miniature Pinscher puppies

fer dogs (and bitches), with tighter pedigrees (ones with common ancestors). Then I look for a dog who would complement my bitch, or possibly make one improvement on something she is lacking. You cannot expect a male to “fix” your bitch.

What advancements in structure, health, and temperament have you seen over the years?

More dogs have the hackney-like gait, but many of those come with other faults—soundness the major one. We are getting better with topline and tail-sets.

What do you feel is the difference between a good

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Miniature Pinscher and a great Miniature Pinscher?

There are many good Miniature Pinschers, very few “great” ones. It pains me to see a class of finished champions, wondering how in the heck some of them finished. Mediocrity seems to be very common. A great dog not only carries the attributes of the breed, but stands up and says, “Hey, look at me!” and marches around the ring.

If you could give new breeders one or two words of advice, what would they be?

Find someone to mentor you, and *listen* to them. They have the experience and know a heck of a lot more than you. I see more new people who have gotten into dogs, and they are out as fast as they are in. They will not listen or take advice from anyone, as they have learned everything they should know “on the internet” or somewhere and know more than you. I guess it is the way our society has gone.

Is there anything you would like to see changed in your approved PC standard for the breed? If so, what are your reasons for this?

No, our standard is fine. I would like to stress to people to *breed to the standard*, not change it to fit the breed. Judges need to take note also. I see too many inferior dogs finishing.

What specific things do you look for in making puppy selections from your litters?

I look for a “pretty” puppy; they don’t all of a sudden become beautiful. What you see when they are young does not change dramatically as adults. They should be outgoing and exposed to all sorts of sounds and surfaces. They are the puppy who says, “Pick me, pick me!”

What do you think is the biggest challenge going forward for those breeding/showing/competing with Miniature Pinschers?

Getting new people involved. The AR groups

have done a fine job convincing people to adopt rescue and shelter dogs. The rise of the “breed mixes” is another. Our breed has aging members and breeders. If we don’t get newer younger people interested, our breed as well as many is in certain danger of becoming a breed that used to exist. Our choice for dog ownership may be a mongrel shipped here from India. People need to be more in tune with legislative issues in their state and speak up before it becomes illegal to not only breed dogs, but even own them.

Thank you, Gretchen.

—Joanne Wilds

[Miniature Pinscher Club of America](#)

Papillons

PROTECT YOUR PAPILLON

When you have a Papillon, you need to have eyes in the back of your head! It is like when you have to “baby-proof” or “puppy-proof” your home. They can get into

TOY GROUP

anything—electric outlets, cords from lamps, laptops, TVs, and hair dryers, to name a few, any of which could seriously harm or kill a curious little Papillon.

Baby gates can be used to block off areas, but Papillons are so clever they can scale, perch on top, and then jump to the other side. They are also inquisitive and must inspect and taste any little morsel that appears on the floor.

Aside from the obvious things that one should be careful to keep out of reach, such as sharp objects, finger-sized rawhide sticks, or tiny balls that could cause choking, one should be aware of any pill or medication that could get quickly scooped up by a curious Papillon. I know of two cases, both of which happened in hotel rooms, where a dog nearly died because of eating medication. Make sure you carefully inspect the carpet of your hotel room, and don't have any medication where your dogs are playing.



Papillon bronze

However, one of the biggest hidden dangers may be right under your feet. A study published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* notes that exposure to chemicals found in some carpets and furniture is linked to physical and mental impairments in children. Tests revealed that children with higher blood levels of polybrominated

diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) were most likely to suffer from attention deficits, lower IQs, fine-motor-skill problems, and impaired brain development. You don't have to take a big leap of faith here to connect the dots knowing the same effects could appear in our Papillons, who weigh less than toddlers and have their noses inhaling the chemicals.

TOY GROUP

We have known they were bad for years, but we now are just finding out the extent of the effects of PBDEs. These dangerous chemicals were added to furniture, carpets, and other household items as flame retardants, as early as the 1970s. PBDEs are endocrine disruptors that can potentially cause harm to our hormones, including thyroid and reproductive issues, and even cancer. We now can include damage to child development to the list. If these chemicals affect our children, they certainly can affect our small dogs.

After decades of exposure, the U.S. and the European Union in 2004 have banned Penta and Octa, two forms of PBDE. Even to this day, 97 percent of U.S. residents still have traces of the chemicals in their blood. You may still be exposed if you have carpets, furniture, and electronics that were manufactured prior to 2004.

Even if you don't have any old carpets or furniture, you

still can be vulnerable to toxic dust. According to a study in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, tests were performed for 49 different flame-retardant chemicals in household dust, and 44 were found to be present. Most of them were chlorinated organophosphate flame-retardants, which can potentially cause cancer and are listed as known carcinogens.

The individuals most at risk for being exposed to these toxic chemicals are babies, small children, and our dogs—all of whom spend a lot of time crawling around on the floor. Currently there is no federal requirement that flame-retardants be tested for safety. The best advice is to vacuum thoroughly and treat dust like the enemy. — Roseann Fucillo

[Papillon Club of America](#)

Pekingese

The following was written by Susan Farrer Shephard.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE BREED

The greatest crisis facing the sport of purebred dogs today is not the animal-rights activists; it's ourselves. Apathy will be our undoing. However, we can change that with truly not that much effort. First, remember why you chose to join this fraternity. We all have a common passion that leads us on many different paths within the sport. But whatever path you have chosen—conformation, agility, obedience, lure coursing, judging, and so on—it all began with one thing: love of dogs.

Next, educate your puppy buyers. Especially buyers of your companion puppies. A buyer should be educated about how to properly train and socialize their puppy, and they should understand specific breed characteristics, so they then comprehend what a Pekingese is all about. You may encourage them to think about showing their Peke in conformation.

TOY GROUP



Pekingese and Poodle pups, December 1961

This is why mentoring is critical. If you are an experienced breeder or exhibitor, please reach out and share your knowledge with a novice. Help them make their dog presentable and competitive. New people are the future of our sport, without them, the breed we have worked so hard to preserve, will not have a future.

Think about sportsmanship especially ringside. How many novices have simply walked away because of bad behavior from the experienced exhibitor?

Whenever I have one of my dogs in a public place, such as a Lowes store or the vet's office, I am constantly asked, "What breed of dog is that?" When I answer that he or she is a Pekingese, they are shocked, as they have never seen a Peke who looks like this. They all remember their grandmother's Peke who was of the biting variety. Be the breed's biggest advocate. Once people meet a good Pekingese, they are generally sold on the breed.

We are down to just a handful of breeders in

my area, and many other areas are the same. The animal-rights agenda is creeping in. I think some breeders are subconsciously buying into their agenda.

I recently sold a pet puppy, and the new owner was thrilled and posted her pictures on Facebook, where one of her friends immediately shamed her for buying a purebred rather than rescuing. Remember, we are preservation breeders. We breed purposefully bred dogs, dogs who are raised in the house and in our hearts to be able to brilliantly perform the function they were bred for: companionship.

We need to encourage breeders. They are the key to our breed's viability and longevity. And we need to be proud of being a preservation breeder.

The internet is the single most influential tool in today's world. Anything you want to know is now at your fingertips at any hour of the day. However, there is much abuse online. For whatever reason, people become

TOY GROUP

much bolder hiding behind a keyboard, and people who are normally civil and well behaved can become the most awful of people. Think about what you are saying online before you click the “send” button. And remember, it costs nothing to be kind. At this point in our Pekingese history, we can’t afford to lose good exhibitors and breeders to nastiness online.

We love our breed. Let’s work together to promote our intelligent and beautiful dogs. Show camaraderie for the other brilliant people who own our wonderful dogs. Congratulate them on their accomplishments, and sympathize with their bad times. Be a friend.

We love our dogs and this breed. Make an effort to bring new people into the sport. Encourage those just starting and offer your help. Show camaraderie for your fellow exhibitors, and offer sincere congratulations for their wins. Let’s all work together to promote our most wonderful

of all breeds, the Pekingese. —S.F.S.

[The Pekingese Club of America](#)

Shih Tzu

Following is an article from Jo Ann White, who wrote the American Shih Tzu Club’s AKC GAZETTE column for 46 years—from 1978 to 2024.

BRINGING UP PUPPY

Knowledgeable breeders recommend that Shih Tzu puppies not go to their new homes before the age of 12 weeks. During this time, they learn many valuable lessons from their dam, their littermates, and their breeder.

As the breeder you should gently handle your puppies briefly from birth to get them used to human contact. Here are tips on more things you can do to get them off to the very best start:

- Provide stimuli that encourage adventure and exploration, including such things as tunnels, platforms,

and tug toys.

- Gradually expose puppies to normal household noises such as vacuum cleaners, dishwashers, televisions, and so on.

- Shy puppies should get extra attention to keep them from being overshadowed by more dominant ones—such one-on-one time should be a “party,” complete with treats and toys.

- Crate-training can start with just a few seconds in a wire crate with a bed and toys and goodies in it, encouraging puppies to see the crate as an extension of their territory. As they mature, they can learn to stay quietly in a crate by themselves for longer and longer periods. This is a good way to avoid later separation anxiety.

- Begin paper training early; puppies naturally want to be clean, and they learn best when praised for going in the proper place.

- Stack puppies on a ring-side table for a few seconds several times a day. This comes in handy later for pets

TOY GROUP



ShihTzu Am./Can. Ch. Chumulari Ying Ying, 1970 (Evelyn Shafer photo)

as well as show dogs, as they will be accustomed to being on a table when they must be groomed or visit the vet.

- With a coated breed, start grooming early. Use small toenail clippers to trim nails beginning at 3 weeks. Trim the hair between the pads of the feet and around the anus with small, blunt-tipped scissors. Regularly comb the face and clean the eyes.

Encourage each puppy to lie on his side while being brushed. Do not make grooming a battle of the

wills. It should be a pleasant time, approached in small steps with much soothing and encouragement (and even some belly-tickling to make the “ordeal” more fun). Often a puppy will be more amenable if he is tired!

- Regular baths, followed by blow-drying, are part of training. Be careful not to get soap in the eyes or water in the ears.

- Begin lead-training in a safe area outside on a light show lead. With a friend’s help, you can begin by

encouraging your puppy to follow an adult dog walking on a lead. This is part of his learning about the outside world.

- Some breeders encourage new owners to visit for puppy playtime so they do not leave for their new homes with complete strangers. In any case, puppies should meet a variety of people.

- Be in touch with new owners about the equipment you recommend for their new arrival, the food you are using, and internet links to places where they can obtain needed items. Providing a copy of the contract you want them to sign ahead of time can avoid surprises on the day your well-prepared puppy begins his new life.

—Jo Ann White, 2013

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

Toy Fox Terriers

DREAMING OF SHOWING YOUR DOG?

Many of you watched the National Dog Show on Thanksgiving Day

BREED COLUMNS

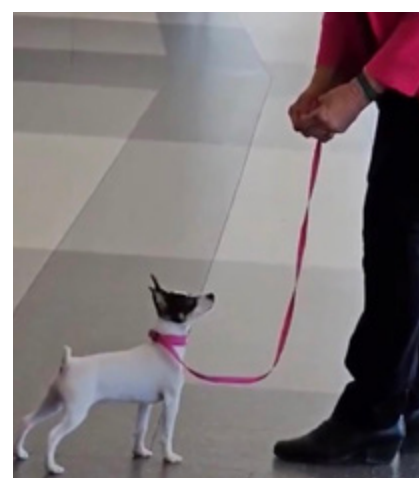
TOY GROUP

and enjoyed watching the beautiful dogs standing to be examined by judges and trotting around the ring to applause by the appreciative audience.

Did you sit there waiting in anticipation of watching the Toy Fox Terrier? Your dog, like a few of my Toy Fox Terriers, may have barked at the dogs on the television set. When you watched the dogs strut their stuff and you listened to the announcer talk about each breed, did you dream about you and your Toy Fox Terrier participating in an AKC dog show too?

We invite you to join us in AKC events with your dog!

Dog shows are open to AKC-registered dogs with full registration and not spayed or neutered. It's a sport where you can be a complete novice and compete on the same basis as professionals and experienced breeders and owners. This is because it is the dog that is being judged. Each breed has a breed standard—a written document that contains the specifications for



If you're interested in showing your Toy Fox Terrier, you can reach out to your breeder to help you. Most Toy Fox breeders who exhibit are thrilled that their puppy buyers are interested in trying out the ring and will guide you. Your local all-breed dog club and the AKC website are vital resources as well.

COURTESY SUSAN THIBODEAUX

TOY GROUP

the dog's type, temperament, structure, and movement. The judges evaluate the dogs against the breed's standard and choose the ones who, in their opinion, come closest to it.

The Toy Fox Terrier breed standard, along with our illustrated standard, may be found on the [American Toy Fox Terrier Club \(ATFTC\) website](#). Read the official breed standard and go through the illustrated breed standard. If after doing so you believe your Toy Fox meets the standard and is otherwise eligible, you might want to try showing him or her at a dog show.

A great place to begin is with your local all-breed dog club. Many offer handling classes to teach you and your Toy Fox how to show. You can also ask when and where the club will hold matches—small, casual practice shows perfect for folks wanting to try it out. If your breeder shows their dogs, they will be a great resource. You can also contact local and regional members of the

ATFTC to ask questions about showing.

If you have a puppy, the AKC offers Beginner Puppy (BPUP), which is a fun beginner-level competition for puppies between 4 and 6 months. Through this program you can work on earning a Puppy of Achievement Award while learning your way around dog shows.

If you don't have a local club to help you, there are online resources, books, and videos. The AKC offers valuable information on their website as well, at <https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/get-started/>.

If your puppy comes from a breeder who shows, reach out to them to help you navigate through the process of locating shows and filling out entry forms. Most Toy Fox breeders who exhibit are thrilled that their puppy buyers are interested in trying out the ring and will guide you. Make sure your Toy Fox Terrier is well socialized and good with strangers, stands still to be

examined, and walks and trots well on a lead.

If your Toy Fox Terrier is altered or won't be successful in a dog show, don't despair. The AKC has many other options for you and your dog to participate in. Again, the AKC.org website has all the information on the companion and performance events and activities offered from Canine Good Citizen to Fast CAT, scent work, and rally. They even offer Fit Dog and Fetch—both very fun activities for you and your dog.

If your Toy Fox earns multiple titles in different events through AKC, contact the ATFTC and inquire about the free Versatility Certificates our club offers to recognize and applaud the Toy Fox Terriers who are happily doing a variety of fun activities. You and your Toy Fox Terrier can join the of AKC shows and events, and we will welcome you!

—Susan Thibodeaux,
president@atftc.com
[American Toy Fox Terrier Club](#)

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Bichons Frises

WORKING WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN

Many dog people have trouble communicating and getting along with their veterinarians. However, as responsible breeders, we should try to foster an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect with those who care for the dogs we love. Here are some tips to encourage good relationships with our veterinarians.

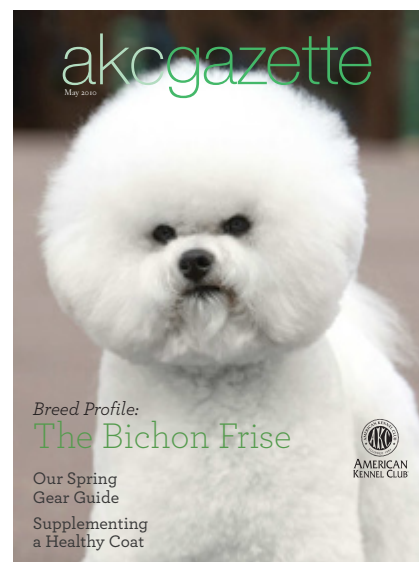
First, do your research: Ask other breeders in the area which vet they go to and what they like and dislike about the care they provide. Go online and check out their bios. Where did they go to school? What is their professional background? What is their philosophy? Do they own dogs? Breed dogs? What are their interests? The more you know, the better off you will be.

When you've found someone whom you think you might like to work with, make an appointment to take one of your dogs in

for a routine exam. Check out the waiting room. Is it clean, well-planned, and dog-friendly? Are the receptionists friendly and courteous? Many veterinary offices now avoid separating dogs from their owners for procedures, and I appreciate that (so do my dogs!). Does the technician who takes you to the exam room make you and your dog feel at ease?

Observe how they relate to your dog. I appreciate vets and techs who respectfully greet my dog as well as extend a friendly hello to me. This is your opportunity to tell them a little about yourself, such as how long you've been breeding dogs and what types of activities you do with your dogs.

I like to inform my vet that I have had dogs all my life and that I have experience dealing with most issues that arise—but I also want them to understand that I respect the fact that they have devoted their lives and education to veterinary practice, and that they know a great deal more than I do about



*Bichon Frise, May 2010
(Lisa Croft-Elliott photo)*

the latest treatments for those medical issues that will inevitably arise. I would like to agree that we will work out treatments together as partners in caring for my dogs.

Sometimes you may disagree with your veterinarian about something you believe is essential. I find it is best to listen to them rather than argue. Keep an open mind. Veterinary schools may not cover everything about caring for dogs, but what they do teach has been studied and evaluated, and it is usually accurate—especially when it comes to treating

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illness. Often you can reach a compromise on specific areas by engaging in mutually respectful dialogue.

It is perfectly fine to ask your vet to share articles on a topic with you. Likewise, you may have an article to share with them also; however, it is usually best to stick to resources such as those via the [AKC](#) and the [AVMA](#) (American Veterinary Medical Association). It is also OK to seek a second opinion from a nearby, respected veterinarian or a veterinary specialist at a university.

By the way, veterinarians didn't enter their profession to make a lot of money. They chose veterinary medicine because of their love of animals and a desire to offer the best treatment available in each situation.

Remember, you are in this together, and you can have a long, happy relationship over the years as you develop mutual admiration for what each of you brings to the table.

Best of luck to you!

—Mayno Blanding,
maynob@gmail.com
[Bichon Frise Club of America](#)

Boston Terriers

WHY IS MY DOG NOT WINNING?

There are so many things that can prevent a nice dog from winning. Ideally you need to wait until a puppy is at least 3 months old before selecting a show prospect. Make sure all health checks have been done. Have a contract with the understanding that you can take the dog to the veterinarian of your choice and return him or her if there is a health problem. Did you know the joints and bones are not completely developed until the dog is a year old?

Most of us know how important the breed standard is, so be sure to carefully evaluate all parts without emotion. It is so important for the Boston to have a lively personality. Many dogs have won by expressing a winning attitude that is visible to the

judge and spectators. Never buy a shy puppy as a show prospect.

The breed is to have a catlike foot, so keep toenails short. Road work helps build muscle, nice straight legs, and good movement—which means walking with the dog, not just having a backyard romp. Handler and dog must practice walking together in a rhythmic gait. An old-timer proved this to me when seeing him in the ring—a beautiful sight if you can watch from ringside. All the dogs behind them couldn't move that slowly, so topline and movement were terrible. The judge only saw one winner, which was the old expert handler, who had a big smile on his face.

Teaching an animal to go on a loose lead at your pace is so important. Sometime a judge will ask the handler to move the dog on a loose lead, which can make the difference in winning.

Find someone who wins to teach you how to groom correctly. Never mind

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constructive criticism or take it personally; instead, listen and learn.

Ask breeders who have years of experience winning to share their knowledge and advice. It is such an uplifting feeling to be in the presence of an old-time breeder and listening to their experiences to help in the future.

Learn what the dress code is for showing in the ring. About 15 minutes before your ringtime, take the dog out to go to bathroom, check grooming, and have a quick walk. You don't want a crazy-acting dog who poops in the ring. Don't get into conversation with people outside the ring; pay attention to your dog. Watch the classes that are ahead of you so you will know what the judge procedure is and what type of dog they are looking for.

You can do all the things above and still be losing—why? The impression you present in the ring can make the difference in being a winner or a loser. Walk the dog inside the

building hours before you show. There are often a lot of scary things there that people don't notice—these can include the air conditioner coming on, shadows and sun glare on the floors, barking dogs, or grooming tables different from the one at home.

Remember that your dog is the spotlight of your time in the ring, so don't block the judge's view. Don't mess up a good dog by squatting down on the floor and blocking the view, which makes the judge wonder what fault you are trying to hide. Stand up and away from your dog so he or she can show off themselves. If using bait, never hold it near the dog, nor high up, because either will mess up a good topline.

When the judge is not looking your way, let your dog relax.

It seems that so many good dogs lose because of an inexperienced handler. Don't show until both of you are ready. Handling classes can help.



Boston Terrier, August 1932

People sometimes lose when it comes to showing the dog on the table, so make it fun. Turn the TV on at home while practicing on the table, and just let them relax and watch it together. Bait with food and practice posing. Never cut or Dremel the dog's nails while he is on the grooming table.

Learn how to keep handlers from blocking your dog in the ring. Get your dog to concentrate on you by practicing at home with having someone try to distract them with sound, food, and/or squeaky toys.

I hope this information will

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help everyone understand that in a few seconds, the smallest details can make the difference between winning or losing.

—Patricia S. Johnson,
member of BTCA,
BTCNC, DWAA, 115 Poe
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Boston Terrier Club of
America

Bulldogs

STANDARDS

The concept of standards of excellence for most all livestock, including dogs, seems to have origins from the same time period, the middle of the 1800s.

Bulldog standards have a fascinating history. There have been several written over the years, and currently there are two main standards in use: the Bulldog Club of America standard, and the standard as adopted by The Kennel Club (England) and therefore the FCI.

Starting back in 1861 in England, Jacob Lamphier's



"Six Bulldogs at Rockliffe Kennels" by Reuben Ward Binks, 1915

"Points and Properties" was written. This appears to be the very first documented description of the features that defined the Bulldog breed. Following that we have the first somewhat "official" standard created by a Bulldog club. Called the Philo Kuon standard, Philo Kuon (meaning something like "dog lover" in Latin) was the *nom de plume* of Samuel Wickens, the secretary for that first short-lived Bulldog club.

The Bulldog Club Incorporated (England) published their official standard in 1875. This is among the very first dog breed standards, possibly *the* first.

In 1910, the Allied Bulldog

Clubs in England created their own standard, which was also adopted by the British Bulldog Club. This Allied standard had slight variations from the Incorporated but essentially describe the breed in the same way.

Both the Incorporated and the British Bulldog Club standards were published in J. Hay Hutchinson's book *The Perfect Bulldog* (1908).

In Walter Hutchinson's *Dog Encyclopedia*, from the 1930s, we find the following passage:

"Two standards for the breed are in existence to-day (in England), that of The Bulldog Club Incorporated and one that was drawn up

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and adopted by the Allied Bulldog Clubs in 1910. The latter standard, which is given below, is the one adopted by The British Bulldog Club and is favored by more clubs today than that of the older club.”

Eventually The Kennel Club in England insisted only one standard be used, and the original Incorporated standard of 1875 was adopted. It has gone through several revisions over the years.

The Bulldog Club of America standard was written in 1896. It is most like the Incorporated standard, with only a few minor deviations. Again, the same dog is described. It was revised in 1914 to declare the Dudley nose a disqualification. In 1976 the Dudley nose was redefined as a “brown or liver-colored nose.”

The standard was reformatted in 1990, with no changes in wording. In 2016 the Bulldog Club of America approved, and the American Kennel Club adopted, a revision to the standard that

includes disqualifications for eye color, coat color, and markings/patterns as specified within it.

The FCI adopts the official standard of the country of origin (England).

The Canadian Kennel Club generally utilizes the same standard as the Bulldog Club of America.

The standard describes perfection in conformation health and temperament. It is used as a “blueprint” for breeders and judges. It was painstakingly crafted to preserve the classic features the breed evolved over the centuries. And while the breed’s original purpose is thankfully long past, the features needed to do that job are what makes the breed so unique. It is imperative that breeders and judges honor the standard and preserve the breed’s uniqueness going forward.

It is interesting to note that the Bulldog Club of America’s Ambassador for Health program has among its Platinum and Diamond recipients (the highest levels)

some of the breed’s top winners, which is indicative of the importance of the standard in protecting the breed, as it is the standard by which they are judged.

—Elizabeth Hugo Milam,
celticdogges@me.com
[Bulldog Club of America](#)

Chinese Shar-Pei

NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Another national specialty has come and gone, and as always, it was fun and interesting and over too quickly! This is the opportunity to see some people that we only see once a year! It’s an opportunity to see dogs from all over the country, and see whose breeding program is producing what. It’s also an opportunity to see where we as breeders are not doing our best, and where are we improving.

It’s always interesting to see what was implemented from the previous year. For example, there was a year when there were hardly any horse coats in the ring.

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP

Chinese Shar-Pei



Many breeders took note of that and were concerned about losing the foundation of the breed, and so, sure enough, by the next year the classes had more and better horse coat representation.

There have been years when we were losing topline, and within a couple of years, breeders had focused on that, and we were getting them back.

But it's such a balancing act as a breeder that it seems inevitable that when you focus on one thing, then you're going to get weaknesses in other areas. My understanding from talking to judges this year is that this year coats were good, but feet were maybe a little big. Pigment was good, and bites were better than they had been. Toplines

and movement were good, but squareness needs to be watched.

For me personally, having been in this breed for over 40 years, the thing that will always bring tears to my eyes are the veteran classes. I remember a time when our very small veterans class had to have the age lowered to 5 years, because we simply did not have many healthy 7-year-olds. Shar-Pei hadn't been in the country that long and didn't live that long back in the early 1980s. The breed had not adjusted to diet and environmental changes in this country, and breeders had not yet really experienced enough of the health issues to know how to successfully treat them or how to breed away from many of them.

The 5-year-old veterans class did not last very long because we started to breed healthier dogs, we started to feed them differently, and there were more of them! To see the health in the older dogs, to see their vitality, very much indicates we are

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

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moving in the right direction.

I've been hoping to add one final Shar-Pei for my lifetime ... I would like one more fawn horse coat male, because that's where I started, and so I would like my finale to be something that brings me full circle.

I haven't looked at pedigrees in a number of years, because I haven't been breeding. Now, as I look at pedigrees, I find that the majority of dogs I know much about have "fallen off the page"! They are deeper in the pedigree than three or four generations.

Even more jarring to me is seeing that the dogs I was the very most familiar with, who were predominant in breeding programs 20 years ago, don't appear without a lot of pedigree research. That, like watching friend's children grow up and have children of their own, reminds me that I've been on the planet for a long while!

There are a few of us in this breed who have seen one another at nationals for

over 30 years. As I wandered among the people and dogs at the national, I was very cognizant that I may never see some of these people again. We've lost a number over the last few years, which is of course normal but ... sobering. It was hard all these years, losing dogs, but now we're losing breeders and exhibitors. Again, it is a normal part of life, but it makes attending the national both sweet and bittersweet.

I don't have room to list all the winners, and our magazine, *The Barker*, will document them with photos, but also you can find the results at [barayevents.com: https://barayevents.com/results/1657-chinese-shar-pei-club-of-america](https://barayevents.com/results/1657-chinese-shar-pei-club-of-america).

—Karen Kleinhans
DeSilva,
karenjkleinhans@gmail.com
[Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America](#)

Chow Chows

THE COMPANION CHOW CHOW

The Chow Chow is one of the most loyal

and devoted companions. They are quiet, clean, and intelligent. Yes, they can be stubborn, but once they understand the task at hand, they embrace the responsibility, and it becomes part of the unfaltering devotion that each chow fancier treasures.

Many families include multiple well-behaved Chows in their home and daily life, including vacations. Road trips are particularly enjoyable, and many hotels are now recognizing that the family expects to include their dog in the family travel plans.

The Chow Chow is an excellent housedog and rarely is destructive, dirty, or noisy in the home or while traveling with the family. It is not unusual for a Chow puppy to be totally house-trained at the age of 6 weeks or before. They enjoy being included in family activities and quickly learn the household schedule.

Due to the breed's lack of angulation in the rear, Chows are usually not jumpers and are quite

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



content to lie on a cool floor rather than the fluffy sofa. They do require regular exercise, and a nice long walk or a romp in the yard are always enjoyed. A good, fresh snow makes any activity more exciting.

Having shared our home with Chow Chows for over 50 years, we cannot imagine life without at least one! We encourage owners to socialize their Chow and perhaps enjoy participation in dog performance events such as rally, agility, and obedience. The AKC offers many well-managed activities in

which to compete or participate.

If you are interested in conformation competitions, there are many events throughout the country and world in which you and your Chow Chow can participate, as well as many resources to help you learn and enjoy the events. National, regional, and local dog clubs are wonderful venues for meeting other fanciers, learning, and contributing your skills to the dog world. Clubs are always eager to share their passion with new fanciers, and many fanciers are

members of national, regional, and local breed and all-breed organizations. Many long and wonderful friendships are developed with fanciers in these organizations.

Remember that you do *not* have to show your dog at dog shows or events in order to belong to a dog fanciers club. Everyone in these organizations is a dog lover—and would enjoy having you join them.

We urge anyone who is interested in learning more about our breed to visit with Chow fanciers in their area, attend dog shows, explore the opportunity to join a dog club, and use the information on the AKC website (<http://www.AKC.org>) and on the Chow Chow Club site (<http://www.chowclub.org>) There are also several excellent books available about the Chow Chow, and an excellent quarterly magazine published by the Chow Chow Club, Inc. We are fortunate to have several wonderful Chow Chow rescue organizations that can

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be contacted online or by telephone at the addresses furnished on the websites.

—Love Banghart,
Lkendr4300@aol.com
Chow Chow Club Inc.

Dalmatians

A NOD TO CLEMENT CLARKE MOORE

Yes, the holiday season is here, and so many traditions come into play. Kids write letters to Santa, stockings are hung by fireplaces, cookies are baked, and the Elf finds his way to the shelf.

But one of my personal favorites is one that goes back over 200 years: the reading of “A Visit From St. Nicholas”—or, as the poem is better known, “’Twas the Night Before Christmas.” Written in 1822 by Clement Clarke Moore of New York City for his six children, it was first published in the *Troy Sentinel* newspaper of Troy, New York, on December 23, 1823, after being submitted anonymously by a friend of Moore’s. And the rest, as

they say, is history. Versions have now appeared not only in print but also on the big screen, television, and cartoons. There have also been quite different adaptations, such as Tim Burton’s movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. So it’s only appropriate that our spectacular Dalmatians should have their own version too. Thank you to Gracelyn Spires for sharing her charming version.

SPOTTED BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Gracelyn Spires

*’Twas the night before
Christmas, the kennel was still,
Not a bark, not a whimper,
no paw-print to fill.*

*Our spots were all shining,
our coats clean and bright,
In hopes of the snowflakes
that danced through the night.*

*The puppies were snuggled,
their tails tucked in tight,
While dreams full of sirens
sped by in delight.*

*And I, by the doorway, alert,
proud, and tall,
Kept watch like my*

ancestors—guarding it all.

*When out on the road there
arose such a sound,*

*I sprang from my blanket
and spun right around!*

*To the window I dashed with
a leap and a bound,*

*My paws left a flurry of
prints on the ground.*

*The moon on the snow gave
a glimmering gleam,*

*To the lines of my body—
sleek, noble, and keen.*

*When what to my darkened
eyes should appear,*

*But a jolly red carriage, with
horses and gear!*

*And harnessed beside it, as
grand as could be,*

*Were Dalmatians like por-
traits, a proud family tree.*

*With muscles so steady, they
guided the team,*

*Their movement like poetry,
strong and serene.*

*They circled the carriage
with grace and with might,*

*Their eyes full of wisdom,
their spots pure delight.*

*From coaching to guarding,
from hearthside to flame,*

BREED COLUMNS



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Dalmatians add a special spark to holiday festivities.

Each Dalmatian's heart carried honor and fame.

One barked of the show ring, the glitter and cheer,

Another of fire trucks, flashing and near.

One told of long trails where their kind used to run,

Keeping pace with the horses till setting of sun.

Then softly they gathered and lifted their paws,

Saluting the lineage, the purpose, the cause.

From palaces, stables, and stations of fame,

The breed stood united—forever the same.

I wagged as they faded, those spirits of old,

Their collars all shining with buckles of gold.

And I heard them exclaim, as they vanished from sight—

“Spots up, proud Dalmatian, and guard through the night!”

—G.S.

And, on a personal note, I would add my Christmas wish: Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

—Jan Warren Linné,
janlinne56@yahoo.com

Dalmatian Club of America

Lhasa Apsos

Cassandra de la Rosa, the GAZETTE's recently retired columnist for the American Lhasa Apso Club, contributed the club's column for more than 30 years, beginning in 1994. She

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wrote the following in 2016.

THE BEACON: A BREEDER'S GUIDING VISION

Serious breeders need a beacon to guide them toward their goal of producing the perfect dog. That beacon is vision.

Breeders who fail to establish a vision will flounder with decisions they make regarding which dog is bred to which bitch, and which puppies more closely fulfill the goal of a particular breeding and will be kept, versus those who, while having merit, don't move the program forward and will leave.

The Japanese have a word, *kaizen*, meaning the continued pursuit of perfection.

Serious breeders need a clear mental picture of what they are trying to accomplish. It doesn't come easily or quickly and encompasses four major considerations:

- embodiment of breed type;
- soundness;
- health; and
- temperament that combines a good pet with an



Lhasa Apso

exciting show dog.

So, where do you find vision? When you fall in love with a breed, you want to do everything possible to preserve and enhance the qualities that captured your heart. This outline helps you figure it out.

Phenotype: Study the standard—and above all, its nuances. These fine points

make a breed unique among its peers. This is particularly true when breeds appear similar to the untrained eye, for example the Lhasa Apso, the Havanese, and the Shih Tzu. The subtle differences in head shape and proportion, eye, tail carriage, coat texture, and body balance define three distinct breeds with long

DAVID WOO ©AKC

NON-SPORTING GROUP

coats. Understanding these differences is to honor the uniqueness of each breed. Understandably, interpretation has a place in one's vision of breed type. Your interpretation defines the art of your efforts as a breeder and distinguishes your line from others.

Soundness: There is a saying that health is everything. It is. Your vision is not of a beautiful dog in two-dimension. This is a living, breathing creature who should function as intended in general and breed-specific ways. A mountain dog must have the capacity to capture oxygen and use it as efficiently as possible. A working dog must have endurance and strength. Even dogs intended to be companions only should be able to use their legs as nature intended and not be crippled by arthritic joints at an early age.

Temperament: A sound body is the vehicle for a sound mind. Dogs were domesticated to live cooperatively with humans. A great

show dog is nothing if he fails as a family companion.

Evaluation: Dog shows began as a means to test the quality of breeders' stock by having experts evaluate them against one another. The aim was to sharpen breeders' skills and prevent kennel-blindness, the myopia that we all risk. Without diminishing the role of conditioning, grooming and presentation, we won't debate whether presentation now trumps quality. Far too many adequately presented excellent specimens are being overlooked in favor of excellently presented but adequate dogs. This poses a challenge to breeder-exhibitors to sharpen their presentation skills, and to judges to sharpen their understanding of each breed and its nuances.

A senior judge who had just completed a very small specialty assignment shared that the previous week he spent time scanning books on the breed written by experts and studying photos of early examples

of excellent breed type. Despite decades of judging many breeds, he felt a need to hone his vision of the breed. He lamented that he sees too many too generic show dogs, with many breeds losing both obvious and subtle elements of breed type. This is a wake-up call to all of us.

Success is a journey, not a destination. Establish a sound vision and stick to it. Vision, rather than the next show win, will guide you through good times and bad. —Cassandra de la Rosa, 2016

[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

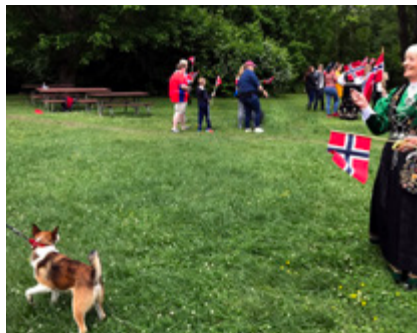
Norwegian Lundehunds

MEET THE PUBLIC

Viking reenactments, Norwegian festivals, and embassy cultural celebrations are a few of the venues where Norwegian Lundehunds are spotted. Thanks to a group of Lundehund owners, this rare breed is a frequent participant in events tied to its

BREED COLUMNS

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A Few Quirky Questions asked of Norwegian Lundehund owners at events:

"What country are they from?"

"Is she a meerkat?"

"Are you giving them away for free?"

"Can I hold your dog?"

"What's a puffin?"

Tall, staked playpens provide dogs a safe barrier at crowded events such as this one at the Kingdom of Norway's Washington, D.C. embassy; a tent provides essential shade at events; an eye-catching banner draws curious crowds at the Kingdom of Norway event; Viking reenactors embrace a Norwegian Lundehund at the Sons of Norway's Fairfax, Virginia, lodge; Lundehunds are indifferent to sharing close quarters with other Norwegian animals like this Fjord Horse or Forest Cats; a Lundehund marches in a local Norwegian Syttende Mai (17th of May) Constitution Day parade; a Lundehund with owner and a Viking reenactor at VikingsCon in LaPlata, Maryland; reenactors pose with Norwegian Lundehunds and Buhunds and Swedish Vallhunds—breeds Vikings once depended on to herd, hunt, and guard; a Lundehund on a table is visited by Viking festival-goers



PHOTOS BY KRISTINA MAZE

NON-SPORTING GROUP

history and homeland.

Lured by a large Lundehund banner affixed to a pop-up tent, most eventgoers previously unaware of the breed quickly become fans. They are captivated learning about the polydactyl, cliff-climbing puffin hunters and their near-brush with extinction. The

Lundehund owners are there at these events to answer questions, allow people to pet the dogs, pose for photos, and hand out fact sheets. Such outreach efforts make for long days but are excellent opportunities to educate dog enthusiasts.

While the crowds aren't as large as at benched shows or Meet the Breeds, they are nonetheless significant. For example, approximately 3,000 Passport DC participants visited the Kingdom of Norway's Washington, D.C., embassy on May 3, while the annual, three-day Norwegian Christmas Festival at the Sons of Norway Fairfax, Virginia, lodge is so popular, timed entries are capped to about

500 daily guests.

Regardless of whether a certain breed of dog is recognizable to the average American pet owner, there is value in sharing facts and answering questions at events related to the breed's specific job, lineage, or cultural importance.

A foot—and six toes—in the door

Owner and breeder Karon attended her first Sons of Norway event by herself, with two of her Lundehunds in tow. From that exposure, she was asked to participate at a Viking festival along with other Nordic breeds. Karon recruited additional Lundehund families to participate in the festival and also networked with Swedish Vallhund, Norwegian Elkhound, and Icelandic Sheepdog owners to gather leads on more Nordic-themed events.

For those with purebred dogs possessing the right temperament to participate in such events, Karon offers pointers.

Where to start

- Begin with the dog's country or region of origin.
- Search the internet and Facebook groups for ethnic clubs, lodges, and cultural organizations.
- Reach out to clubs of other dog breeds from that vicinity.
- Contact embassies, club leadership, or event organizers to pitch the idea of bringing dogs as part of upcoming heritage celebrations.

Details about the event

- Will the event provide a tent? A 10 x 10-foot tent is fine, but 10 x 20 feet is ideal, especially if it has side-flaps to keep out cold winds and provide shade in the summer.
- Is the tent shared with any other animals?
- Ask for a spot away from sound systems, musicians, and entertainers making loud noises.
- Request directions on where to unload/load materials.
- Check if any waivers or applications are necessary

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to be considered “entertainment” or “demonstrators.”

What to bring

- The same items you would bring for a daylong dog sport—bowls, food, fan, water, covered crate, leashes, chairs.

- A grooming or small table.
- Sturdy, staked metal playpen panels high enough that the dogs can’t jump out.

- Vinyl banners designed with grommets to hang high or attach to playpens.

- Zip ties, to attach banners and to reinforce ex-pen or playpen panels—and scissors.

- Paperweights, so handouts like one-page flyers and postcards don’t blow away.

- If the breed is associated with another species (like a puffin!), display a picture, stuffed toy, or figurine of that animal.

Gimme a break

Public education exhausts man and beast, so the more volunteers there are with dogs sharing the responsibilities, the better. Frequently rotate dogs between meet-

ing people and resting in a covered crate or going on a walk away from the hustle and bustle. Place an ex-pen inside the playpen for an additional barrier for small puppies—a new generation that when grown may be a breed the average person recognizes and understands.

— Kristina Maze

[Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.](#)

Poodles

AN INTEGRAL POINT OF BREED STRUCTURE

If you been involved in any endeavor that has been in existence any amount of time, there is almost always someone who will utter the words, “If we could only turn back time, to the good old days ...”

Well, sometimes the fact that we can’t do this is not such a bad thing. It often seems that these days the structure of our dogs is being sacrificed in an effort to become fancier in their presentation. At the 2016 national specialty, Dennis

McCoy, in his farewell speech as the club’s president, gave a small lecture and demonstration of information he wanted Poodle enthusiasts to remember as his legacy.

Poodles are an enormously popular breed, with many diverse breeders and exhibitors who work hard to develop their vision of our breed. It is a breed who over its many years of popularity has become more and more stylized in their presentation. But here is where a concern lies, and where Dennis was trying to make a point: The structure of the dog described in our breed standard has not changed. He pointed out that if a breeder paid attention to one integral point, so many other potential faults would fall into line.

He wanted all Poodle exhibitors to “ask your breeders, mentors, and handlers where the withers of your dog are, then line up a ruler, a yardstick, or eyeball a plumb line straight down to the ground. The elbows

BREED COLUMNS



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Miniature Poodle Ch. Norcrest Surrey Sahib, International KC 1951, with Anne Rogers and Hayes Blake Hoyt (William Brown photo)

on your Poodle should touch that line.” He went on to say, “The legs should not be out in front of the neck, or the chin; they should be under the highest point of the shoulders.”

In the process of breeders attempting to produce breeding and show stock, this one attention to detail would improve so many other issues—that is, neck placement and foot timing, for example. There are so many exhibitors involved in our sport in this day and age

who do not even understand or know what foot timing is for their own breed.

Dennis’s point was well taken by the exhibitors and spectators who attended our national. Throughout the remaining week there were plumb lines being dropped all over the building, and it stimulated many discussions among everyone. In Martha Stewart’s words, “That’s a good thing.”

So, for those of you who are trying to produce a well-structured Poodle or

exhibit a well-structured Poodle, try the plumb test. See if this is an area that needs to improve in your exhibits. —*Mary Ellen Fishler, 2016*

[Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

CANINE DYSAUTONOMIA AND THE POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO WORKING DOGS

There were many interesting topics discussed at the AKC Canine Health Foundation conference in August, with several that may affect us as breeders or those who participate in various dog activities.

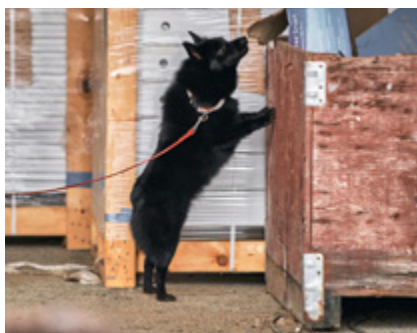
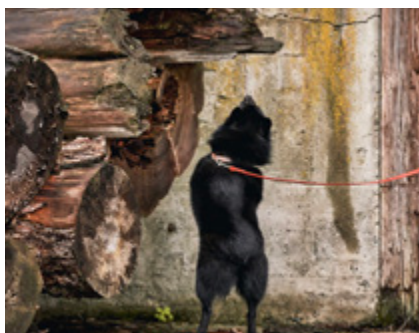
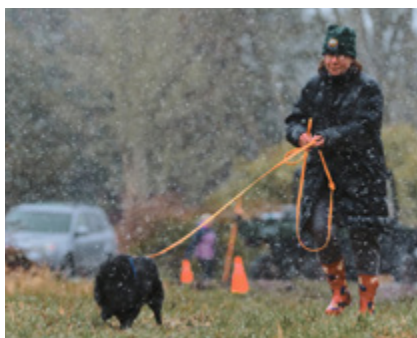
One of the topics that I found interesting was research and discussion on Canine Dysautonomia, presented by Jonathan Fox, Ph.D., DACVP, BCSc.

This is a rare disease that targets the dog’s autonomic nervous system, which controls involuntary bodily functions such as heart rate, breathing, and digestion. Symptoms can be vague and may initially present

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



A Schipperke doing scent work in a variety of settings and weather conditions

as fever, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, and lack of urination and/or anal tone with rapid progression. More severe symptoms include pneumonia, neurologic symptoms affecting the eyes, and dramatic weight loss, according to the Merck Veterinary Manual.

Research has shown that nearly 90 percent of cases are fatal.

Dr. Fox and his team studied soil as well as stool and tissue from affected dogs and compared this to that of healthy dogs. They are com-

bining lab work with genetic testing to look for bacteria or toxins that may be playing a role in this disease.

Though it did not appear to be a final conclusion, Dr. Fox and other researchers think that there may be some association between the disease and dogs that are possibly exposed to *Clostridia* bacteria found in damp or disturbed soil. This group of bacteria is the same that causes botulism and tetanus. It has the ability to form spores able to survive in harsh conditions

over long periods of time. This allows them to be reactivated if soil is disturbed.

I started thinking of a possible risk to our fellow exhibitors that participate in scent work with their dogs or search and rescue, and felt strongly to write about this topic. There is information about the study on the AKC Canine Health Foundation website; however, it does not connect a particular population of dogs that may be at risk. I am certainly not trying to sway anyone away from doing these important tasks with their dogs—instead, the hope is to let people know the symptoms and be aware

COURTESY DEB BRUNER / CAMPFIRE PHOTOGRAPHY

NON-SPORTING GROUP

of the disease so they may consider discussing their dog's symptoms with their vet if they participate in activities that may put them at risk.

Again, Dr. Fox and his team continue to work on researching this disease and are looking for various links to possible causes, including genetic markers and environmental factors. Their research is not definitive at this time but is worth sharing. —Submitted by Kristin Morrison, SCA Health and Genetics Chair

[Schipperke Club of America](#)

Shiba Inu

CARETAKERS HELP PRESERVE OUR BREED

There is a lot of discussion in articles, in social media, and at events on the topic of being a mentor to our peers, fellow breeders, fellow competitors in the ring, and aspiring breed judges.

The National Shiba Club of America (NSCA), like



Shiba Inu puppies

many parent clubs, provides official breed mentors through an application process for general and judge mentorship ([Approved NSCA Judges' Education Mentors](#)). It's certainly not the only valuable knowledge and skills available, but being an official mentor means you are the person's first point of contact about the breed.

Mentoring requires devotion, passion, and hours of time, and truly never stops. The responsibility of club members to seek and build capacity development of mentees and mentors is vital to the success of the NSCA

and the preservation of the Shiba Inu.

A mentor needs to recognize his or her own strengths and weaknesses in order to help an exhibitor or future reputable breeder work toward their goals and dreams. As one exhibitor noted, "A mentor doesn't need to be knowledgeable in every aspect, so long as they act with the sole purpose of unbiased honesty." One needs to recognize when to pull in additional mentors within or outside of the breed so your mentee may continue to grow. It's the necessary goal to provide knowledge to the earnest

LEAH CROWLEY

NON-SPORTING GROUP

student in hopes they will be better than you; in return, they will pass on their breed experience to the next generation.

A longtime successful breeder—and a mentor to many in the Shiba breed—responded as follows to my question of what makes a mentor:

“One of the most important things each mentor did was encourage me to make my own decisions from what they taught me. They didn’t mentor me to follow or be like them. My mentors gave me knowledge they had learned over the years but wanted me to follow my own path.”

A non-Shiba breeder said that she and her mentor “go over the breed standard time and time again. Read and re-read pedigrees.” This statement carries a lot of weight, because all Shiba breeders should be re-reading the standard to make certain our breed is being preserved. When is the last time you have reread the Shiba breed standard with

fresh eyes, and new questions arose?

Notice how much emphasis is placed on the Shiba Inu tail in the “Neck, Topline, and Body” section of the breed standard. Talk to a NSCA mentor to understand the importance of points in the standard and be provided with descriptions and examples.

Even more important is to have hands-on experience with a NSCA mentor when learning the intricacies of the Shiba Inu—an example being in-depth teaching regarding the three allowed coat colors, which are given equal consideration.

When was the last time you sat down with a new breeder or junior to teach them how to read and understand a pedigree? A mentor helps to apply the teaching toward a successful program and understanding why a specific female or male prominent in pedigrees was influential in preserving the breed. The latter, in my opinion, is becoming lost on many new generations, and

we should strive to fix this.

Take a moment from your schedule next time you see someone at an event or fun match who will benefit from your mentorship on breed standard specifics, ring procedures, grooming tips, or handling. You never know who you will inspire by being one of many mentors to your fellow peers.

—Letty Hughes,
lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com
National Shiba Club of America

Tibetan Spaniels

TIBETAN SPANIEL SIZE AND SUBSTANCE

One of the joys of Tibbies is their active, robust nature. Under “Substance,” our breed standard cites a weight of nine to 15 pounds as “being ideal.” The standard also requires “moderate bone.” Ideal height is “about 10 inches.”

That weight range allows for Tibbies on both the larger and smaller side to be competitive, while

BREED COLUMNS



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"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."

displaying the attributes of correct breed type. The standard uses the adjective "moderate" often in describing the breed, meaning we don't want an overdone or exaggerated dog in any way.

We occasionally see Tibbies in the show ring who are larger than we'd like. Dogs of all breeds should be judged on their virtues, and since we have no disqualifications in our standard, how larger Tibbies will fare in the show ring on a given day depends on their adherence to breed type, as well as that of the other Tibbies competing against them. If a slightly larger

representative of the breed has much to offer, a knowledgeable judge will consider those virtues and keep the size issue in perspective.

On the other hand, 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

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smaller, dainty toy breeds like the Pekingese and Japanese Chin that 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.

—Allan Reznik,
reznikallan@gmail.com
Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Tibetan Terriers

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FUN

For those of us who love our dogs whether they are champions or not, purebred or not, there is nothing better than having fun with them—a walk in the woods or around the neighborhood to check the latest “pee mail,” stopping at Starbucks for coffee and a Pup Cup, or cuddling up on the couch and watching a favorite movie (like *Best in Show*).

But there is a very special dog parent out there who truly takes having fun with their dogs to a whole new level. I'm talking about agility! In a dog sport filled with herding dogs, there are very few Tibetan Terriers who participate in agility. TTs are often known for their “What's in it for me?” approach to life, so there are hours and hours of convincing and training going on before they even hit the agility course! But that's the fun part, right?

Here is the story of one such Tibetan Terrier whose journey went from “rags to riches” thanks to a very

caring and dedicated owner who just happens to love to train her dogs in agility and has a long list of superstars—and a room full of ribbons to prove it!

In Mary Martin's words about her rescued Tibetan Terrier girl, Lanni:

“Lanni was truly a gift. She became my heart dog! My Keeshond had passed away, and I contacted a breeder friend, Diana Serlo (who is also a dedicated agility trainer) about getting an older dog. As fate would have it, the next day Diane was contacted about re-homing a Tibetan Terrier girl named Lanni, so I said yes and immediately fell in love with her.

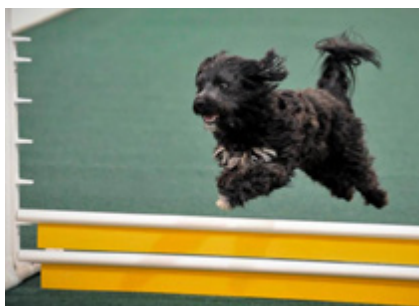
“Lanni was nearly 3 and was very nervous. She was not shy of people or animals, just nervous of the world, like strange sounds, cars, the yard. We spent a long time just learning to walk on grass, to walk without spinning, and being part of our family. Finally, she and I made that connection and trust that was needed to move forward with some training.

“We started out with o

BREED COLUMNS



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Tibetan Terrier agility star Lanni proved that the breed can do it all.

bedience, and she did well and eventually earned two legs toward her CDX. Then we started agility training, but she was scared of everything new. Weaves were scary. Contact obstacles were scary. And of course, the teeter was terrifying.

“We kept at it, and she started to love jumping, tunnels, and weaves, so we entered JWW only. Her confidence grew so we started in Standard. Novice Standard took a while, as she gave initial refusals at every contact. After hours of practice, she finally told me, ‘I got this.’”

“From that moment forward, she and I had a blast running in every class and trial! She went on to earn her MACH 2, PACH 2, PAX 2, and, even to my surprise, a Novice Fast title. She even competed in two AKC Agility

Nationals and had multiple invitations to the AKC Agility Invitational.

“It was quite a journey for this scared little girl who was afraid of the world when I rescued her. It was quite a journey for both of us.

“Lanni was truly a joy and an inspiration. She motivated me to continue the path of re-homing and rescuing and sharing my love of having fun with my dogs.

“I lost Lanni to cancer on February 24, 2014. She was a very special girl who was loved by everyone. She was the best companion anyone could ever dream of having. She did agility, obedience, rally, and, most importantly, therapy visits. She was the love of my life and will be forever missed.”

In memory of Lanni,
Danser's Lucy of Tintagel,

MACH2, PACH2, CD, RN, MXC, MJG2, MXPS, MXP5, MJP 11, MJPC, PAX2, NFP.

Mary Martin continues her journey to this day with her Tibetan Terrier agility rock-stars, and they are proof that TTs can do it all! It just takes time, dedication, and love—and a lot of convincing them that there truly is “something in it” for them. Lanni's story is also proof that “You can't change a dog's past, but you can rewrite the future” (Agnes Carass).

So, get out there and have some fun with your dogs! You never know ... there might be an agility ribbon and title in your future!

—Janet Krynzel,
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Tibetan Terrier Club of America

COURTESY MARY MARTIN

HERDING GROUP

Bearded Collies

PERSONALITY PLUS

“Oh, no! What are they doing?” Sharon shrieked. “Are they crazy? Someone stop them!” She amped up her voice several decibels as she envisioned a blood-soaked field adorned with assorted furry body parts.

“Relax,” I told her. “They’re Beardies. We do this frequently.” And we do, whenever the circumstances permit.

Sharon, an owner-breeder of Rottweilers, had accompanied me to a Beardie specialty for the first time, so she was unfamiliar with the popular event that occurs at specialties, Beardie Bounces, or other similar occasions.

In a safely enclosed area, the Beardies are turned loose to greet old friends, meet new ones, chase Frisbees or balls, scrounge treats, show off a trick or two, and just generally socialize.

For our furry companions, it’s the high point of the day—not a no-holds-barred, free-for-all battle, as Sharon



felt was forthcoming. Beardies are not inclined to indulge in fisticuffs (paw-ticups?).

There are dozens of words to describe the Beardie temperament such as fun-loving, outgoing, friendly, happy, playful, sociable, cheerful, jovial, joy-ful, and so on. It’s the sort of

personality that turns people into fans of the breed after meeting them.

Carol Gold, a driving force in getting the breed introduced and registered in Canada, first met Beardies at England’s famed Crufts show, where they greeted her like a rich relative. With such an introduction, it’s not

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

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surprising she brought one home to Canada and started drumming up interest in the breed.

Those aforementioned Beardie playtime get-togethers are proof they delight in the company of other Bearded Collies. But you only have to walk through showgrounds with a Beardie to see their reactions. They'll trot past Labradors, Pointers, Great Danes, and Chihuahuas with nothing more than a passing glance. But let another Beardie appear, and the tail starts wagging, followed by a friendly greeting. "Hey, here's another brother!"

The congenial nature often extends to friendly canines as well as other animals (yes, even cats), though they may be inclined to herd some of them. Some years ago, a pet duck was part of the household, and she was accepted by the crew with the exception of Bounce, my oldest Beardie, at 15. At times, Bounce would get it into her furry head to chase the duck, but at 15,

her "chase" was more like a determined stroll. The duck would head for large tree in the front yard and start to circle the trunk, with Bounce trundling along behind. Round and round they'd go, the duck waddling just a couple of feet ahead. Bounce never did catch her, but she did get her regular exercise.

OK, with all the Beardies abounding now, there's undoubtedly going to be some with aggressive tendencies and/or questionable temperaments. Blame might be attributed to the way they were raised or trained in some cases. In others, they just might have been born grouchy. But in my 55 years with the breed, I've met or heard of very few with surly temperaments.

And maybe this might be the place to include one of my favorite stories of just such a dog. Beardie owners who have been involved in the breed for many years will recognize the name of Jenny Osborne of Osmart kennels in England. Talking to a friend at a show about

critiquing a Beardie, she commented it was important to remember the dog was someone's beloved pet and to find some kind words to say no matter how poor an example the dog might be. "I can always fall back on 'What a wonderful temperament!'" she concluded.

It was then that a lady approached requesting a critique of her Beardie who had few, if any, redeeming features. It appeared Jenny would have to employ her "wonderful temperament"—but as she reached out to go over the dog, he growled and bared his teeth. It took a quick moment of thought, and then Jenny smiled and said, "My, isn't he *clean!*"

—Alice Bixler,
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Bearded Collie Club of America

Belgian Malinois

WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR TAIL

In two previous GAZETTE columns (June and September 2025) we've

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This dog's tucked tail indicates some level of discomfort but not panic; one of these ladies is more excited about this game of Stick than the other; Malinois competing in French Ring—same dog, different emotions about different parts of the competition.

reviewed the structure and mechanical functions of the Malinois tail. In September, I discussed some of the evidence that the tail plays a role in balance and agility. There is plenty of anecdotal

testimony, but not that much scientific data.

Most people seem to think that while the tail plays some minor role in movement and balance, a more important function is likely in the

realm of communication.

The tail can signal a range of intention and emotion, even from a distance, thus preparing other dogs and humans for the reception they are likely to get when they come closer. Is the tail up and stiff, indicating challenge? Is it in a neutral position, hanging

COURTESY CARLEE MORAN

HERDING GROUP

or wagging in a relaxed manner? Or is it tucked, indicating fear or stress? These are only the most obvious emotional valences the dog's tail can transmit. Modifications to these basic tail positions provide nuance—quieter messages that are important for dogs assessing a social situation.

Stanley Coren did a somewhat unscientific (his words) study of 431 dog interactions and found that dogs with docked tails were involved in twice as many threat or squabble interactions as would have been expected from their proportion of the study population. This was interpreted as an indication that dogs could not be as certain of the intent of an approaching tailless dog, because the easily visible signals normally provided by the tail were not available (1).

Meg Jones, reviewing the literature on social signals in docked vs. undocked dogs in 2019 (2) found studies that concluded with great conviction that docked-tail

dogs were at a social disadvantage. All of these studies were disputed by organizations representing breeds with docked tails, which is somehow understandable.

So, which is it? Is the tail a vital signaling system, or a “nice-to-have” option?

Since the tail is only one part of the dog's communication system, perhaps we can assume that experienced dogs learn to compensate for the reduced information coming from dogs with stub tails—and vice versa: maybe the tailless dog learns to broadcast other signals. Dogs do, after all, provide clues to their state of mind other than tail position.

I believe that communication is a more important function than balance, and is justification enough to demand a tail—especially in an often trigger-happy breed like the Malinois. We want all the information we can get about what they are trying to communicate.

But what sort of tail shall we have? The high, or “gay” tail is penalized

in the breed standard, but a tail constantly held low is not mentioned. One of the cheats carried out in the darker corners of dog show competition is to cut selected muscles in the tail to prevent it from being raised too high. This is known.

Not only does disabling natural tail carriage deprive the evaluator of information about structure, but it also prevents the dog from expressing the emotions he is feeling. A dog with a gay tail may have no structural deficiencies at all, and simply carry his war banner very high—“attitude tail,” some call it. Tail modification prevents onlookers from seeing the dog's strong feelings and reacting appropriately.

The human corollary might be if the muscles that control smiling and scowling were disabled. A person in this predicament would have to make an active effort to share emotions that would otherwise play across the face naturally to enrich

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social interactions.

Experienced evaluators will watch a dog both inside and outside the show ring to avoid being fooled by tail position. Does the high tail drop with arousal level, or is it a permanent structural feature? Does the low tail remain stilled no matter the fun and excitement? These are clues to pay attention to. The Malinois should always be allowed to wear his heart on his tail.

Next time, in the last of the columns on tails, we will review the aesthetic dimension of the lovely Malinois bottle-brush that thumps the floor or whips furiously side to side to greet us every time we enter a room. Till then!

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,
colemich@sbcglobal.net
American Belgian
Malinois Club

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Belgian Tervuren

WHAT YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT

We pour our heart, soul, and wallet into breeding litters. Buyers come to us with a checklist of what they are looking for in a prospective puppy. It can be someone's next special, a top winner in any of the myriad sports where Tervs excel, or it can be companion for a family, an active young adult, or a senior seeking companionship.

Many Terv litters are raised indoors—often in a kitchen or family room—to acclimate them to being a housedog in their next home. Breeders socialize

puppies, acclimating them to collars, leashes, crates, cars, movement, noises, handling, brushing, nail-clipping, baths, and so much more in the time they are in our lives.

Then at the end of the day, when your neglected human family is likely not speaking to you, you sit down and work on your puppy evaluations: *What did pink collar do today that was noteworthy? How has Yellow handled the vacuum? Is Orange still posturing at the food bowl?*—all sorts of questions that we keep track of to be sure we select the correct puppy for your lifestyle and family, regardless of your goals for a particular puppy.

Realize that when buying a puppy, you are buying a relationship. In this relationship, you need to be upfront about your lifestyle, your home, and your family. These are all factors that a breeder needs to know about to help select the best puppy for you in a litter. Don't tell us what you think

HERDING GROUP



Belgian Tervuren

we want to hear; tell us like it is. Life is not perfect, families are all different, and many are downright weird—but isn't it better for your breeder to understand your sister and her five kids under 10 are at your bachelor pad every weekend? Or that you are the lead singer in a heavy-metal band? Or that you host a dinner party for 20 in your book club twice a month? No matter

what your goals are for your puppy, your lifestyle is what your pup needs to fit into first and foremost.

But you still ask why we need to know all this. "The puppy will adjust," you say. To all of these questions, a conscientious breeder will respond, "I want that puppy to be a part of your family until the day he dies. Because no matter what your plans are for a particular puppy,

a breeder really wants your puppy to be an important part of your family."

That is what we all really, really want.

—Dana B. Mackonis,
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American Belgian
Tervuren Club

Bouviere des Flandres **THE FIRST BOUVIER I EVER MET**

My fate was sealed. It was the glint in the big, shaggy dog's brown eyes that met my gaze. He looked down on me from his sky-high seat beneath the oak trees. He was watching the world go by from the rooftop of his spacious doghouse when we drove up to his new home in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Longtime family friends Dr. Tom Lusby and his wife, Louise, just knew they wanted their companion dog to be a Bouvier des Flandres way back in 1971. They had only seen a few of the Belgian dogs in magazine pictures. The images and the

COURTESY IMAGES BY DBM / DANA B. MACKONIS

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Antique photo of a Bouvier des Flandres; vintage magazine cover depicting a Bouvier

bold tales that caught their attention appeared in *Sports Illustrated* as well as *Town and Country*.

The Lusbys knew, without a doubt, that they just had to have at least one Bouvier on their farm to be a house dog and a guardian. And they were right. Whenever the good doctor called, “Fred! Hey, Fred!” the huge grey creature always obeyed him,

happily bounding over the bright flower gardens and racing fast across their lawn to greet guests.

He was a dog most passersby swore to be a bear out of their backwoods. Reports of such a wild animal were too far-fetched to many.

“Fred fit the bill perfectly,” recalled their son, Tommy, who was only 22 then. He was thrilled to have such a

circus dog who looked very different from the hunting dogs down the road.

My brother, Jon, and I looked forward to every dinner invitation at Fred’s house. While the older folks gathered on the front porch, it was formidable, frolicking Fred who captivated the playful crowd. He chased big sticks, brought them all back to us, and dropped

COURTESY AUTHOR

BREED COLUMNS

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them at our shoes. He presented us with his hefty left furry foot before he licked us in the face

Fred couldn't hide his feelings. He simply loved everyone who visited. He was the exuberant goodwill ambassador dog of the pastures along Sandy Point. His American Kennel Club name was Ulysses' Understudy. An early breeder named Jane Smyth from upstate New York was delighted to send the very real puppy on an airplane headed to Baltimore.

Fred was never destined to perform at a dog show. He was the congenial recipient of canine cookies and a whole lot of love. He staged his private backyard shows until he became a senior citizen Bouvier and in dog heaven at the age of 13.

Bouvier Eye Health

Heavily coated breeds with hair that forms a veil over their eyes often raise questions among dog lovers seeing them for the very first time. "How can a Bouvier

see with all of that hair covering his face?" is often a question from ringside observers. That overhanging fur can make one overlook the presence of primary angle closure glaucoma and cataracts, the most common eye problems, both considered to be inherited. The Bouvier Health Foundation, part of the breed's national club, continues to accept donations for research into such diseases.

Dog ophthalmologists warn the problems can be hidden in plain sight. Bouvier owners who have affected dogs or littermates to those with evident problems, are urged to become part of the study. Take your dogs to visit a board-certified vet once your puppies' eyes are open. Look into the dogs' eyes daily. Repeat regular eye exams annually to establish baseline Bouvier eye health and monitor changes. Be in touch with bouvier.hf.chair@gmail.com for the facts.

—Debbie Goldstein,
Breed Columnist for the

ABdFC, storybookbriard@gmail.com

American Bouvier des
Flandres Club

Cardigan Welsh Corgis MENTORING

As has been said before, the Cardigan is not an easy breed to learn. This is one reason finding a very good mentor is so important. Yet a top mentor does not necessarily mean only someone very knowledgeable about the breed but one who can educate as well—one who can explain the standard, the living dog, the goals of a responsible breeder, the need to understand faults and virtues when looking for a stud dog, plus any number of other elements, and do it all in a way the student can easily grasp.

A good mentor will also continue her own education by regularly attending breeders' and judges' seminars at the national and at regional specialties.

She will attend health and

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Cardigan Welsh Corgi

reproductive seminars. She will expand her own knowledge so that she can in turn correctly expand the knowledge of her own students. She does not rely only on her personal experiences, though they are highly informative, but also on the experiences of other trusted breeders in order to present as complete a picture of the Cardigan as is possible.

She will mentor at ring-side, so the student can see what the mentor is indicating and explaining. She will critique the student's young dog against very good examples of the breed, so the student may

understand both the good qualities of her own dog and the elements that can use improving—improvement that comes, one hopes, in the next generation, if the correct breeding partner is selected.

A good mentor is not necessarily always the best-known breeder or exhibitor. There are older breeders who may have ceased being as active in the ring or whelping box but whose deep knowledge remains invaluable to a newer breeder-exhibitor.

A good mentor understands that she should not attempt to make a clone of herself, and that the student

must learn to think for himself and to make his own decisions, which may not mirror the mentor's. A mentor's influence may play a large or small role in the student's decisions down the road, but it does play a role.

Additionally, a student should not limit himself to the input of only one mentor. He should talk with several breeders he respects. A good mentor understands this. And the student should understand that not all mentors will be in agreement about what constitutes a correct Cardigan.

There is one “mentor” who knows everything about the breed and should always be relied upon to direct the student: the standard, as written by the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America. Breed mentors, too, should be guided by this document, because it is, as is so often stated, the “blueprint” of our breed. While mentors will have developed their own ideas about how to attain that blueprint, they should also explain that

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

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they have not attained it. No one has. We are all working toward breeding Cardigans to perfectly match the standard, and yet we never will.

—Jennifer Roberson, 2011

[Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Collies

Guest columnist Laurie Jeff Greer, breeder and professional handler, continues thoughts on the nuts and bolts of campaigning a special, begun in the September issue.

CAMPAIGNING A SPECIAL

PART TWO

For most judges, the condition of the dog may be the tipping point as to whether you go from just winning a breed, to winning a Best in Show. Your charge must present a picture of vibrant good health.

Sparkling clean, with a coat proper for its breed, our double-coated dogs can be a challenge, as we truly cannot control when and how much coat they decide



Smooth Collie

to shed. But we can mitigate the changeover. Typically I do not advocate weekly baths, as I believe it damages the skin and protective oils of the coat. However, this is also predicated on the way

the dogs are maintained during the off-show days. My dogs, living in a RV (a fairly unique lifestyle, but I have lived like a regular handler) are never allowed to get “dirty.” They’re

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allowed plenty of outdoor time (weather permitting), but usually on clean grass or on ground cover to protect them from dirt, mud, parasites, and bugs. We do long walks, and the electric scooter comes in handy.

Dogs who get to run free through the wilderness, or in kennel runs, obviously need a little more. Smooths get a free square as you cannot hurt their coats, and weekly baths do not affect their long-term condition. Roughts in coat should be bathed every other week with a shampoo appropriate for their coat type. Roughts getting ready to “blow” or who are already blowing get frequent baths, usually lathered in conditioner. Since you cannot stop a blow, it’s best to get the old out as quickly as possible to allow the new coat room to grow.

Daily baths and drying the coat to the skin is essential. Rough coats *must* be maintained year-round. You cannot just decide to enter a show, then think, oh, maybe I should give the dog a bath

(that hasn’t seen a tub in months)—and be surprised when he or she blows coat when getting that bath. If you use a lot of product in preparing the dog for the ring, then of course you will have to bathe it out at the end of the circuit, or it will cause long-term damage.

Short nails and clean teeth are essential to presentation. This is animal husbandry 101 and tells a judge immediately how serious you are. They may not know the nuances of Collie head trimming, but they do know good health.

Good Collie trimming should be done about two weeks ahead of time, whiskers and feet every week. Touch-ups can be done the day before. By doing most of the trimming ahead of time, it gives the hair time to grow back to a more natural state as a Collie (and all herding dogs) should look.

Youngsters should learn some basic good behaviors to make their transition to show dog seamless. Knowing a few commands,

like sit, down, stand, and stay, gives them confidence.

They should be comfortable on a grooming table and stand calmly and quietly while allowing you to work on them. They should learn to be hand stacked. Even breeds who are shown “naturally” should learn this, so they can be hand stacked for those winning pictures! Nothing is so embarrassing as getting that awesome win and then not being able to get a decent photo of it.

They should know how to walk on a loose lead, and to listen to you while walking. A dragging or pulling dog is not focusing on you or its job.

Conditioning, grooming, training—all things that should be done from the very beginning. Specials are not discovered at 3 years of age. They are often discovered as little babies, the ones who just sparkle and shine and say “Me!” —L.J.G.

Thank you, Laurie.

—Marianne Sullivan
Charlottesville, Virginia;
millknock1@gmail.com

[Collie Club of America](#)

HERDING GROUP

Finnish Lapphunds

THE WORLD DOG SHOW EXPERIENCE

With the World Dog Show (WDS) being held in Helsinki, Finland, in 2025, members of the Finnish Lapphund Club of America made their plans and then headed out to Finland in August to see the dogs, meet with friends, and find some reindeer.

When the opportunity arises to go to a dog show with 204 Finnish Lapphund entries from around the world, Kendra Hutch, of Wyoming, said she just couldn't say no!

Kendra said the WDS was a fantastically overwhelming experience. She wishes she could have divided herself in three to see all the dogs, but she had to pick and choose which rings to watch. Kendra loved the online catalog to take notes, view a dog's pedigree, and see the judges' critiques just minutes after evaluation. Kendra said it was lovely to see old friends, meet people she knows from Facebook,

and meet new people as obsessed as she is with Finnish Lapphunds.

Jo Olson, of Washington, said the WDS was an unforgettable experience, and she is so grateful for the chance to experience the show. She said the show had a relaxed, casual vibe that she loved. What stood out for her was the very different judging style: After examining each dog, a colored flag was raised to indicate its rating—red for excellent, blue for very good, yellow for good. She appreciated the judges' written feedback in the online catalog, but the extra time for evaluating every dog felt daunting. Jo was amazed how well the judges' feedback was taken in stride but wondered how she would the critique.

Cherie Roberts, of Maine, said she had no preconceived notions before going, other than the WDS being huge, with 204 Lappy entries! While she found it confusing at first, she said the online program was invaluable as the judges' cri-

tiques were uploaded almost immediately. She said there was no fencing, and spectators sat on benches around the ring. Once all dogs of a class were evaluated, those rated Excellent returned for selecting the winner of that class.

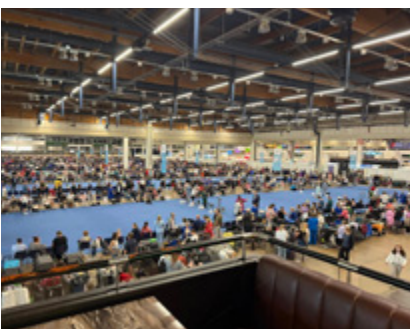
Cherie noted a huge difference in grooming practices—no grooming products used, no blowers, just a brush and comb. It appeared some dogs had not been brushed at all.

Leeza Friedman-Prokopishyn, of Canada, attended the WDS with two Finnish Lapphunds—EKU W-25 Fin. Can. Ch./Can. GCh. Bearspaw Serving Marshmallow (Marshmallow) and Fin Can. Ch./Can. GCh. Bearspaw Guovassahas (Gus).

Gus made the short list of champion males at the WDS. Marshmallow and Gus are the first Finnish Lapphunds bred and residing in North America to complete Finnish championships.

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Leeza also visited the far North in Inari, Finland, where she said reindeer are everywhere and are permitted to migrate and free-graze—even grazing from the flowerpots in the downtown area! She also

North American Finnish Lapphund fanciers at the World Dog Show—Western group (Kim Olson, Shareen Chouffot, Jo Olson, Kendra Hutch, Katelyn Wensel); Eastern group (Liane Winslow, Kaelyn Cook, Cherie Roberts, Ariel Curtice, Lynn Nystom, Amy Tuominen, Kim Englehardt); Canadians (Leeza Friedman-Prokopishyn and Nicole Prokopishyn); World Dog Show ring; World Dog Show rings overview; presentation at dinner gala; Marshmallow, Leeza, and Gus; Arctic Circle; Anne-Marie Kovalainen, owner of Reindeer Lake Resort, explaining ear-marks on reindeer; Reindeer Lake Resort; migrating reindeer in downtown Inari.

COURTESY AUTHOR / FLCA

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visited with many friends from Finland, Sweden, and Norway and extended her stay to attend several other dog shows.

Katelyn Wensel, of Utah, said learning about the ideal temperaments for reindeer herding was her highlight. After the show, her group went to Reindeer Lake Resort—Puolukkamaan Pirtti—and met with Anne-Mari Kovalainen and Noora-Maria Talka to talk about reindeer herding.

Noora-Maria said the dogs need to be calm but still want to work. They can't be too barky or crazy, because a stressed herd is not a happy herd. The dogs need to work independently and make some decisions on their own but also take commands. The dog should settle when the job is done and may decompress by going off to eat poop or pee on everything—which Katelyn thought was a funny way to describe an appropriate way to decompress.

In conjunction with the WDS, the Lappalaiskoirat

RY (the Finnish Lapphund club in Finland) held a dinner gala where Christian Lauluten, a breed expert from Norway, gave an enlightening and informative talk about the importance of genetic preservation in all three Lapponian breeds: Finnish Lapphund, Swedish Lapphund, and Lapponian Herder. He discussed breeding decisions and clarified that Lappies do, in fact, still drive reindeer herds. While snowmobiles are used in open spaces, with Lappies keeping the herd together, snowmobiles cannot navigate in the woods, and this is where the Lappies take charge.

I am grateful to everyone for sharing their World Dog Show experiences. The worldwide Finnish Lapphund community is strong, and it is wonderful to see so many people working at preserving this beautiful breed.

—Maria Swarts,
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[Finnish Lapphund Club of America](#)

German Shepherd Dogs 2025 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The breed's 112th national specialty show was held October 23–25, in Springfield, Illinois. This is one of the premier gatherings for German Shepherd Dog enthusiasts. Anyone with an interest in the breed should make every effort to attend a national.

The education committee offered a complete and informative seminar on the breed. In addition to conformation you could see German Shepherd Dogs in action in obedience, rally, agility, scent work, tracking and herding—not to mention fun parties and a lovely awards dinner upon conclusion of the event.

Many thanks to Janeane Capper, show chair, and her committee for a well-run event!

Some of our most esteemed and respected judges passed judgment: Mrs. Sheree Moses Combs judged intersex, Mr. Ken Tank judged dogs, and Mr. Frank

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National excitement!

Fasano judged females.

Best of Breed was Ch. Kenlyn Marquis Sultan of Swing, owned by Liz Oster, Holly and Jay Bryan, and Kent Boyles. The runner-up in males was Ch. Wonderland's MVP Jokic v Knights Gambit, owned by John Conley, Dee Lauffer, and Sherri Chambers.

Best Opposite was Ch. Jimeni Eklectic Juju of Clayfield Norberge, owned by Becky McElroy and Jim Hall. The runner-up in females was Ch. Seamar's Peter's Here's Your One

Chance, owned by Suzanne Jambe, Zoriana Peters, and Caroline Grossman.

The GSDCA has a robust performance platform. Congratulations to the national winner of the most versatile dog, RACH A2M Black Aegis: Shield of the Gods, RM4, RAE2, RC, FDC, MX, MXJ, MJB, MXF, T2B, SWAE, SWSE, SCEE, DJ, DN, CGC, TKN, owned by Cathy Mitchell.

Agility Victor was AGCH MACH7 Sharrdan's Dark Knight Ryder, MXC2, PDS,

MJS3, PJS, MFC, TQX, T2B8, owned by Joe and Sharon Sheridan. Herding Victrix was HC D V Tehilah, HSAsc, HSCs, HIAS, HIBs, HXADs, HXCs, owned by Barb Easton. Shannon Cannard's Audacity V Performax, UDX3, OM4, was Obedience Victrix. JJ's Baltic Sea Odyssey v Arseniy, CD, PCDX, BN, RM, RAE, PT, BCSAT, CGC, owned by Laura Jean Cronin, was Rally Victrix. Scentwork Victrix was Ayla Vom Feuergartebn, CD, BN, HSAds, HSCs,

COURTESY V. HARRINGTON

HERDING GROUP

OA, NAJ, NF, NFP, SWD, SWME, TKI, owned by Amanda Piaia.

Make plans to be in Springfield, Illinois, September 25–October 3, 2026, for our next national. You'll be glad you did!

GSD COLORS: BUYER BEWARE!

Color in German Shepherd Dogs is an area that has created confusion, debate, and misinterpretation!

The standard says: "The German Shepherd Dog varies in color and most colors are permissible. Strong, rich colors are preferred. Pale, washed out colors and blues or livers are serious faults. A white dog must be disqualified."

In the early days, some of the working hill country shepherding dogs were used in the development of the breed. This led to an introduction of white into the gene pool. This color trait has been carried forward into modern times. The architects of our breed stated that this was undesirable and actively bred to eradicate this color. Small

white markings on the dog are acceptable, however. This could occur on the chest, tip of tail, toes, etc. However, pinto, piebald, or panda patterns are not desired.

Our standard clearly states that whites are to be disqualified.

Unfortunately, the mention of blues and livers is somewhat ambiguous. The fact that they do not have black noses puts them in the category of disqualification also. Disqualifications for the German Shepherd Dog include cropped or hanging ears. *Dogs with noses not predominantly black.* Undershot jaw. Docked tail. White dogs. Any dog that attempts to bite the judge.

Strong, rich colors are highly desired, whether they be black and tan, black and red, or various shades of sable. Solid black is also very acceptable, as is bi-color. It is interesting to note that many of the best working German Shepherd Dogs are sable, bi-color, or black.

It is distressing to see posts

on social media or websites that refer to such undesirable colors as panda, lilac, Isabella, mouse gray, and the like as exotic, rare, or expensive. They are none of the above. They are not acceptable within our standard.

Do not be duped into paying high prices for an off color that does not meet the qualifications for our standard.

If you have any questions regarding acceptable colors, please feel free to contact the author or anyone on the Board of Directors of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

—Vicki Bemont

Vicki Bemont has been an AKC judge of German Shepherd Dogs for over 40 years. She is a breeder, exhibitor, and CGC evaluator and has titled dogs in obedience, agility, herding, rally, and Schutzhund, and has worked as a SAR handler for many years and trained dogs for HRD, air scent, and water recovery.

[German Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

HERDING GROUP

Icelandic Sheepdogs ISAA VERSATILITY AWARDS PROGRAM

In late 2023, the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America brought out a new Versatility Awards Program and has now lived into this plan for almost two years. Numerous ISAA members have added club versatility identifications to the list of titles on their Icelandics.

Why have a versatility program? Versatility Awards Committee chairperson Veronica Dowling says that the program's purpose is to "showcase that Icelandic Sheepdogs truly can do everything" and to "encourage owners to try different sports." Committee member Megan Bishoff notes that the design of the program allows "nontraditional" canine sports such as participation in search-and-rescue work to count toward versatility recognition. Because Icelandics are a herding breed, a special designation (+H) is added to the recognition if herding titles are earned. But herding titles

are not required to receive any of the awards.

As an AKC Club, ISAA includes AKC-designed events in its schedule for versatility points: Conformation, Companion (Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking), and Performance (Herding, Farm Dog Certification, Lure Coursing/CAT, Fast CAT, Scent Work, and Fetch). Points can come also from AKC Family Dog programs: Canine Good Citizen, Trick Dog, Fit Dog, Temperament Test, and Virtual Home Manners.

The ISAA scheme also allows the accumulation of points from sports included in the AKC's title recognition program: Barn Hunt, disc dog (UpDog), dock diving (through North America Diving Dogs), flyball (in partnership with the North American Flyball Association), Search and Rescue (both urban and wilderness search and rescue), and therapy work (through accepted organizations). Thus, the ISAA program

itself is quite versatile—and will expand as new titling sports are developed or recognized by the AKC.

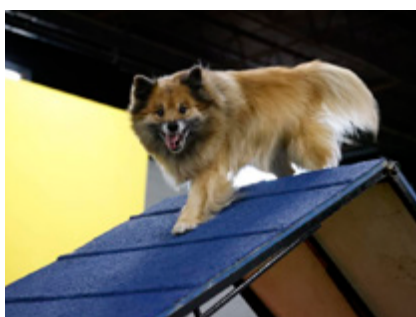
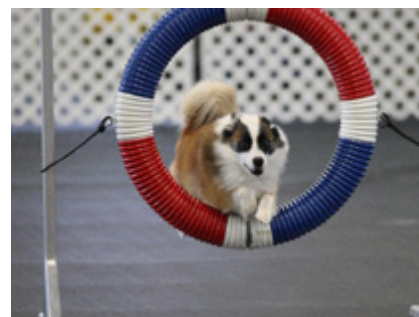
What does a schedule of points look like? One example is for Fast CAT, a sport in which many Icies participate. The first-level title BCAT receives 2 points, with the FCAT title assigned 6 points. An Icelandic single-pointed in Conformation receives 1 point, but a major is 3 points; a Grand Championship is 7 points. A Rally Obedience Novice title earns 2 points; a Rally Obedience Championship (RACH) receives 14 points. The number of points is determined by the Versatility Awards Committee, which will on occasion do a review of the system.

Application for awards can only be submitted by ISAA members in good standing. The first level of award is the Versatile Icelandic Sheepdog (VIS) recognition, which is earned with 10 points from four or more areas, with two areas (sports/events) having at least 2

BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP



Icelandic Sheepdogs demonstrating breed versatility: Katur; Laki herding and doing agility; Sol in agility; Luke at Westminster

points. Other levels are:

- Versatile Icelandic Sheepdog Bronze (VISB), with 15 points from four areas
- Versatile Icelandic Sheepdog Silver (VISS), with 20 points from five areas
- Versatile Icelandic Sheepdog Gold (VISG), with 25 points from six areas

- Versatile Icelandic Sheepdog Platinum (VISP), with 30 points from seven areas

- Versatile Icelandic Sheepdog Master (VISM), with 40 points from eight areas, with one area having 10 points or more

Veronica encourages Icelandic Sheepdog owners who are not currently club members to consider membership. “I see a lot of Icelandics and their owners on social media doing all of the things that would qualify them for this award. Qualifiers for the award get

a certificate to display and can put the award designation at the end of their dog’s name on social media posts.”

The ISAA is happy to welcome new members

who currently do—or would like to do—fun things with their dogs! Information on how to become a club member can be found at <https://www.icelanddogs.com/membership-information>.

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker,
kbethwt@yahoo.com, www.icelanddogs.com
Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America

COURTESY OWNERS / ISAA

HERDING GROUP

Norwegian Buhunds

WINTER FUN FOR BUHUNDS

Norwegian Buhunds love winter. They love the cold, the snow, and the freezing temperatures. Buhunds probably love winter a lot more than humans do. When it is 20 degrees outside with a 20-mph wind and snow falling from the sky, your Buhunds will insist that it is the perfect time for outdoor fun. This is not surprising, since their thick double coats insulate them and keep them warm and toasty in cold weather.

So what do Buhunds like to do in winter? There are several outdoor activities that are perfect for this hardy northern breed.

The simplest one is winter hiking. We might have to put on our winter jackets, hats, gloves, and all kinds of paraphernalia before going outside on a cold winter morning; all Buhunds need is a little musher's wax on their paws, and they are ready for winter excursions to the woods and forest preserves.

Buhunds especially love



sniffing, since wet snow is good at retaining a variety of intriguing critter scents.

Skijoring is another winter activity that my Buhunds love. Anyone who can cross-country ski can try this activity. My Buhunds and I love to run and glide across the snow-packed trails and build a stronger bond in the process. However, this activity does require some training. The dogs need to be introduced to the rig and, at a minimum, should know how to ignore distractions and stay on the trail.

In addition, training cues to start, stay in steady

motion, slow down, directionals, and stop are needed. Skijoring with untrained dogs might result in the humans ending up a snow-bank if the Buhunds decide that it is more fun to chase deer across the field than to stay on the trail. And climbing out of snow—even deep, fluffy snow—is not as easy as it sounds. But once the Buhunds and I get into the rhythm of skijoring, it can be a wonderful winter activity.

Winter hikes and walks bring out the Buhunds' desire to dig in the snow. One of my Buhunds has perfected a pounce-and-dig

HERDING GROUP

technique to be used when she hears or smells critters under snowbanks.

Since Buhunds are farm dogs bred to rid the homestead of vermin, digging seems to satisfy some atavistic instinct for them and leaves them happy, tired, and relaxed.

At times, we have fun with outdoor scent work in winter. The snow and low temperatures help create more complex scent-puzzles that the dogs enjoy solving. It is fun to watch them following odor in the snow, their curly tails wagging as they get closer to the source of the scent.

My Buhunds also love to run around a racecourse that I create every year when the snow is the right consistency. Our neighbors might stare in surprise when we plow narrow paths through the snow in our agility field, but the dogs appreciate it very much. They love to run around the “race-tracks.” Once in a while, we add a few tunnels to the paths and even engage in some dis-

tance training for agility.

Of course, there are times when the Buhunds just want to play fetch, even though the tennis balls that we typically use for fetching have a tendency to sink into the fluffy snow. We do have other toys that are less likely to sink into the snow, but the Buhunds seem to think that digging out tennis balls from the snow just adds an element of fun to the fetch game.

And after a long day of fun outdoor activities, the Buhunds are happy to come indoors to dry out and relax in front of the fireplace, dreaming of more adventures to come.

—Jasmine Tata,

Jtata2@yahoo.com

Norwegian Buhund Club
of America

Old English Sheepdogs

YOUR FIRST AID KIT

In the September column on evacuation protocols, the statement was made that a first aid kit is an essential item to include in the equipment taken with you.

However, there was no discussion of how to assemble a DIY first aid kit and what should be included in such a kit. This column is intended to address this issue.

Of course, a first aid kit can be of value, even if an evacuation is not under way. It can be used to treat everyday minor injuries or health conditions. In addition, it can also provide stop-gap treatment of more serious injuries or problems while you get the dog to a veterinarian or emergency clinic.

The essential supplies for your kit can be categorized as wound care, medications, and emergency tools. Items for wound care include pads and rolls of gauze for covering wounds and controlling bleeding. Especially for coated dogs like OES, you will want self-adhering vet wrap that does not stick to the fur. Include blunt-end scissors for cutting bandages and fur, as well as tweezers for removing splinters, fox-tails, and other debris.

Wounds can be cleaned with antiseptic wipes and

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*Old English
Sheepdog*

saline solution. Styptic powder will stop minor bleeding. Pet-safe antibiotic ointment is needed for wound treatment.

Other medications and treatments in your kit should include 3% hydrogen peroxide and vet-approved antihistamines like Benadryl. OES can be prone to fly strike with their heavy coat, and Capstar will act as a

systemic for any fly larva that has burrowed under the skin.

If your dog is on any prescription medications, you can include premeasured daily doses in case the dog stays at the emergency clinic for a day or two.

Tools and other items for your kit should include disposable exam gloves

for hygiene and a digital thermometer suitable for pets. A muzzle or towel will provide restraint for an injured animal. A syringe or eyedropper will administer liquid doses. A blanket will provide warmth, support, or transport.

All these supplies should be held in a sturdy, waterproof container with compartments to keep supplies organized and readily accessible. It is also desirable to include documentation such as shot records and information on any medical conditions the dog may have.

Addresses and phone numbers for your vet and nearest emergency clinic are useful, as is the telephone number for the poison control hotline. Periodically the medication expiration dates should be checked and any expired items replaced.

When using the first aid kit, a number of first aid tips should be kept in mind. One is to use a saline solution for minor eye injuries. Avoid human eye-drops, unless

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directed by a veterinarian. Ice-packs can be used to reduce swelling but should be wrapped in a towel and limited to 10 to 15 minutes at a time. For bleeding injuries, apply pressure on gauze pad on the wound, wrapping it as necessary to stop the bleeding. In case the dog is unresponsive or suffering from severe trauma, keep the animal warm and handle gently while seeking emergency care.

Along with creating your first aid kit, there are some proactive measures you can take to sharpen your first aid skills. One is to take certified pet first aid classes to learn such techniques as CPR, bandaging, and safe restraint techniques. You should customize your kit for your specific breed. This can include emergency notes and instructions for specific conditions or medications.

With planning, you can assemble a comprehensive DIY pet first aid kit for your breed. This will enable you to provide immediate care, stabilize injuries and reduce

stress for you and your dog while you seek professional help.

—Joe Schlitt,
wylecotejs@earthlink.net
Old English Sheepdog
Club of America

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

WHAT'S YOUR "WHY"?

Recently, I was asked to evaluate a friend's young puppy. Doing so can be daunting in that you need to be diplomatic as well as educational. I mulled over how to approach this opportunity while on a long drive home from a couple days of herding lessons.

I reviewed my own history in the breed, going back to 1968, when I got my first Pembroke Welsh Corgi as a pet. I wanted a dog, and a Pembroke sounded like the breed for me. That is why I bought her.

Her successor was my introduction to showing in conformation and performance events, and my third added breeding to the mix.

Why had I purchased the

dogs that I did? Why did I make the choices in showing and breeding that I did? What was my "why?"

I thought about my dogs and litters through the years, and everything related to those activities, always asking myself, "Why?" It gave much food for thought. Why was a dog retired from competition? Why did I keep this puppy, rather than the ones I sold? Why did I attend specialty shows when I could? Why do I belong to several different types of dog clubs? Why, or why not, am I active in those clubs?

So many whys! Sometimes the "why" was a goal, but other times it was just a why. A why that led me to other thoughts and whys.

By the time I got home, I had a plan formulated. I needed my friend to understand the "why" of her purchase and that I could not really evaluate the puppy until I understood her why and how it came about.

A Pembroke destined for herding or agility or other

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Producing quality puppies is often the result of our “why” in breeding.

performance events needs to have the correct structure to do so, and cosmetic faults have no bearing on performance. A conformation prospect needs to have correct structure. A Pembroke puppy can go through so many changes before he or she is fully mature. Some things change; others do not.

We had a wide-ranging educational conversation about many things related to structure, stages of development, and goals. I shared some of my whys and experiences.

We finally got to her why. Why did she buy this puppy, and what were her long-

range plans for it? Once I understood her why, I was then ready to look at the pup. It proved to be a very good discussion.

Driving home, I thought more about the why of it all. *Why* can be applied to so many things. Why did you select that instructor? Why do you choose one show over another? Why do you choose to participate in some events but not others? Why did you lose your enthusiasm? Why do you volunteer for club activities? Why did you select that stud dog? Why did you decide to stop showing and breeding? Why did you get that first

Pembroke? Why does the breed standard say what it says? Why does it matter if a Pembroke is too tall or too heavy-boned? Why are so many Pembrokes being bred, but so few are showing up in the conformation rings and performance venues?

Asking the “why” of something applies to things outside of dog activities as well. Your why might be a goal or a purpose, or it just may make you think about things for a while longer and a bit deeper.

Why ask why? There are no right or wrong answers, but the introspection that results may well be worth it.

Why do you ask?

—Lynda McKee,

TifflynLDM@aol.com

[Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Pulik

I’m pleased to welcome guest contributors Brian Brubaker and Alece Coulman, experienced Puli breeder-owner-handlers, to share their insights on DNA

COURTESY LYNDY MCKEE

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testing. Congratulations to Brian and Alece on their success at the 2025 Puli national specialty, held this past September in California, where their breeding won Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex! In this article, they discuss how DNA testing supports responsible breeding and contributes to a successful program.

PULIK: DOG DNA DEMYSTIFIED

When marketers consider bringing a new product or service to market, they often talk about the product attributes. Some are *nice-to-have* and may persuade consumers to buy, while others are non-negotiable *must-haves*. For example, if you were shopping for a car, cupholders might be nice, but some form of propulsion—whether a combustion engine or an electric battery—is essential. We can think about DNA testing in a similar way. For breeders and pet owners, some tests are nice-to-have, while in certain circumstances they

are truly must-have.

There's no question that information embedded in our best friend's DNA can be a valuable resource, even if only to satisfy curiosity. Canine DNA testing emerged in the late 2000s, following the completion of the Human Genome Project. Establishing a genetic sequence for canines was pursued for many reasons and was first marketed as a method for determining the breed or breeds in a dog's lineage.

As technology improved, the cost of canine DNA analysis dropped, and the range of information to be gleaned from these tests expanded considerably.

Today, DNA testing can not only reveal ancestry beyond breed makeup but also identify numerous genetic factors that may put a dog at risk, including conditions such as degenerative myelopathy (DM) or dilated cardiomyopathy. For a Puli to be issued a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number, DNA testing for

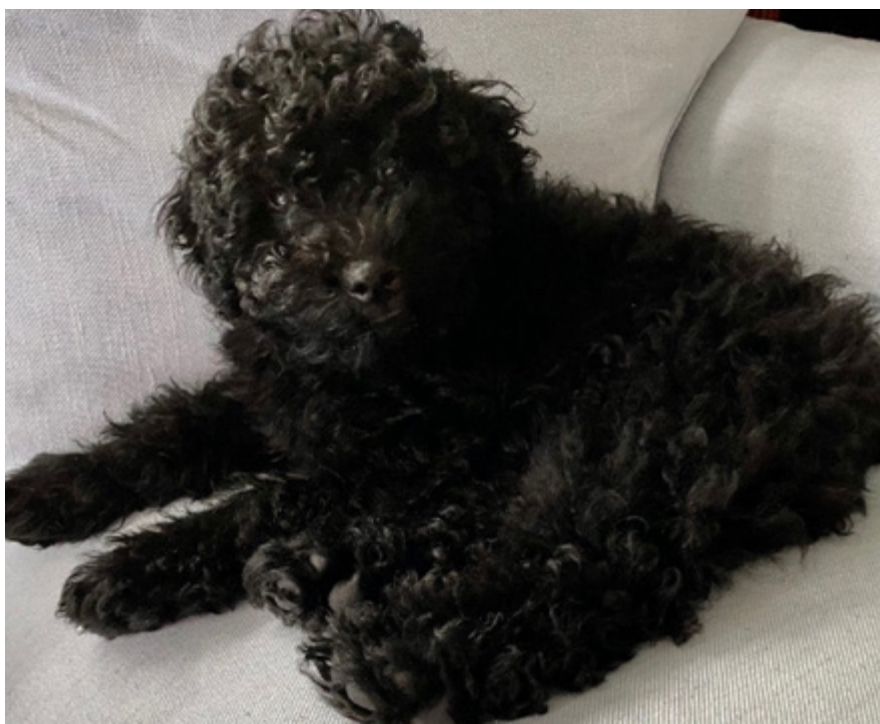
DM is required.

While CHIC certification does not require all results to be normal, the results must be publicly accessible so responsible breeders can make informed breeding decisions. For potential puppy buyers, CHIC certification is a helpful indicator that the breeder is factoring health responsibly into their selection process.

Given the wide availability of genetic information available, much of the information gleaned from a DNA test is *nice-to-have*. For breeders, many kits offer breed-specific insights into a dog's genetic predisposition to certain traits or hereditary diseases. While not the sole basis for a breeding decision, this data can be one useful factor to consider. Many DNA test kits may also provide health screenings, coefficient of inbreeding (COI), and traits such as size or coat color.

However, while tests for Puli coat color can be interesting, it's important to remember that responsible

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Top and left: Puli puppy and a teenage Puli, with coat beginning transition (photos courtesy Alece Coulman, Spindrifft Pulik); Top right, the final adult version of the coat (charcoal, artist Sarah Coleman).

breeding decisions should never be driven by a desire for a particular color at the expense of health, temperament, or breed type. If both potential breeding animals are in the database, some

tests include a pair predictor tool, which gives probabilities for inherited genetic traits (e.g., DM).

Testing services may also flag breed-specific concerns. For Pulik, this includes conditions such as primary lens luxation (PLL), a hereditary eye disorder in dogs in which the lens of the eye becomes displaced from its normal position. For other breeds, and dependent upon

DNA test features, analyses might include coat color, hind dewclaws, and predicted adult weight.

Ultimately, while optional, these tests can offer breeders and pet owners valuable insight into potential health risks their dog may face as well as possible genetic outcomes from a planned breeding. For owners of “all-American dogs” (i.e., mixed breeds), these tests

PHOTOS COURTESY ALECE COULMAN, SPINDRIFT PULIK / CHARCOAL, SARAH COLEMAN

HERDING GROUP

provide a glimpse into the breed ancestry behind their companion.

That said, DNA results should be viewed in context. Breed ancestry depends on the company's database, so accuracy varies. Health markers also indicate *risk*, not certainty—a positive result does not guarantee disease, and a negative result does not mean a dog is risk-free. For this reason, results are best used as one tool among many.

Veterinary input is important for interpreting findings, and breeders should pair DNA results with health clearances, exams, and breed-club guidance. Different companies also emphasize different features—ancestry, health, or both—so databases and privacy policies may vary.

Of great importance for fanciers is understanding the must-have scenarios where DNA testing is required. The AKC requires DNA profiling several situations, including when using a foreign-born dog for breeding;

for any dog whose semen is collected for fresh-extended or frozen use; and for the sire, dam, and all puppies of a multi-sire litter. The AKC also requires DNA profiling for “Frequently Used Sires,” defined as any dog who has sired seven or more litters in its lifetime, or three or more litters within a single calendar year. In all these cases, the DNA test is a simple cheek-swab. It takes very little time to complete, can be mailed in, and typically costs between \$100 and \$200.

When choosing a DNA test, consider the company's database size, focus (ancestry vs. health), breed coverage, and privacy policies. For breeders, testing puppies early can help inform future breeding decisions, while adult dogs may benefit from health screening updates. DNA results are most useful when paired with veterinary guidance and regular health monitoring.

Remember, a positive genetic risk doesn't guarantee disease, but it can help you take proactive steps to sup-

port your dog's long-term well-being. —B.B. and A.C.

For further reading:

[Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi](#). 2022. The science behind dog DNA tests. <https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-science-behind-dog-dna-tests-43362>

Erin Latham Shea. 2024. Canine DNA testing: what you need to know. (<https://rochsociety.com/canine-dna-testing/>)

DNA and the AKC: <https://www.akc.org/breeder-programs/dna/#:~:text=The%20AKC%20DNA%20Database%20and,parentage%20at%20the%20breeder's%20expense>

—Dagmar Fertl,
dfertl@gmail.com
[Puli Club of America](#)

Shetland Sheepdogs

JUDGE SELECTION

Whether you are a judges selection committee chairman or a member giving your input on judges to hire, there are many issues to consider.

One of the first things

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that comes to each person's mind is reputation. Mainly, this is a collection of your and other people's opinions, hopefully based on numerous observations of this judge's performance. It is also your knowledge of what they bred, which lines they worked with themselves, and what they value in the breed by what they successfully exhibited. They may be looking for the virtues they had, or they may be impressed with virtues they were always striving for in their program. Did the person develop a line of dogs in your breed that was consistent in quality with virtues you could recognize, regardless of what part of the country you saw them? Do they seem to reward a consistency of type with good movement? Remember, you need to educate yourself in order to make these determinations.

I started in sable Shelties in 1961 and bred sables for several decades, with only an occasional tricolor or blue within the ranks. When I



Shetland Sheepdogs Hieland Ginger, CD, and Hieland Andrew O'Stoneybrook, 1957 (Catherine Brown photo)

started judging I was labeled a "sable judge." Some said, "Bring her a sable that moves very well." About 15 years into judging I had a thought and went back to my records and discovered that even though I mainly bred sables, two-thirds of the time I put up tris and blues for Best of Breed, Winners Dog, and Winners Bitch. The virtues I was

looking for at that time in the breed were in the Any Other Colors. Look for the judges who value the virtues as described in the standard regardless of color.

Do your research. Know if the judge in question shows consistency in type when they have a sizeable entry—not just whether they find the right dog to give first place in a class,

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but they need to care about getting the third and fourth placements right also.

They are judging breeding stock, and this matters to everyone involved. Does the judge demonstrate the priorities of virtues in the entire placements? In order to effectively make these determinations, you need to understand the standard letter by letter.

Is this judge pleasant, fun, and willing to discuss Shelties with the exhibitors after the show? We don't need judges who are gruff, demanding, and unreasonable. However, travel is tiresome, confining, and risky to one's health. Judges deserve hospitality second to none. Judges talk to each other, and clubs don't want to be known for lack of kindness and thoughtfulness.

You need to know the financial status of your club and keep in mind the cost of bringing in a judge. All expenses are rising faster than clubs can generate income. The effect of costs versus income from entries

that come from the judge's draw becomes a real factor. However, even if it's more expensive, bringing in a judge who is rarely seen in your area or is a brand-new judge can be refreshing to exhibitors.

I would like to address another financial issue. Sharing a specialty judge with an all-breed club or another breed club can be advantageous to both clubs, but it comes with difficulties that need to be handled from the beginning. Picking a judge from an all-breeds panel only works if they have enough judges represented on the panel to cover all the days of judging for your breed. Otherwise, they will need to go out and find additional judges. If they have multiple specialties trying to work with them, this can become expensive for the all-breed club. Their hope is that the dogs from the specialties will also enter their shows, making it worthwhile. Don't label an all-breed club as difficult to work with if they have been

stung too many times.

I would like to encourage newer breeder-judges to continue to add breeds to your approved list of breeds. It makes you much more employable and shareable for breed specialties and all-breed shows. Everything about shows is getting more expensive, and I doubt the costs will ever go down. You can help the sport of dogs by advancing your education and adding breeds to make yourself more desirable to all levels of clubs.

If you want to make an impact on who is judging in your area, join a club and get involved.

—Janice M. Leonard,
ASSA Life Member, 50
Year Member, GAZETTE
Columnist

[American Shetland
Sheepdog Association](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

BUYING A PUPPY? CHASING YOUR TAIL?

A retired urban single
is looking for a four-

BREED COLUMNS



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legged roommate to join them on the jogging path daily at the local park and maybe go watch ice skating and pickup hockey games in the winter.

A newlywed couple wants to start a family, but not just yet. They still want to hear the patter of little feet in their suburban condo.

Since both work irregular schedules, they have found a reputable doggy daycare.

When people consider adding a dog to their home, they often visit the American Kennel Club website to research dog breeds. A recent search engine inquiry produced this article: “Does Dog

Breed Affect Behavior? In a Word, Yes.”(1)

The article says, “You’ve likely heard of the ‘nature versus nurture’ concept when it comes to dog behavior. A dog’s breed, hardwired personality, and behavior traits are essentially the ‘nature,’ while socialization and train-

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ing are ‘nurture.’ ” Penny Leigh, director of AKC Registration Development, says that socialization is the most important thing a person can do when they bring a new puppy home.

Although the above statement relates to the content of the introductory video immediately below the article’s headline, it does not appear until well after the discussion of several genomic articles, which offer a variety of information and interpretations of the research.

In the first of these, Timmer and Timmer (2) wave a red flag to the astute reader with their lead sentence. “Many dog breeds are purely about appearance—think poodles and the Pekingese.” A prospective pet owner who has done even minimal research into the origins of the Poodle knows the standard Poodle as a versatile breed, used for hunting and as a water retriever. Despite this off-the-mark introduction to the nature of the

Poodle, the authors proceed to brief their audience on their conclusions, derived from the findings of the citizen science project called Darwin’s Ark.

“In 2022, Darwin’s Ark made canine science history with a [groundbreaking study](#) that earned a [splashy cover story in the renowned journal Science](#). Darwin’s Dogs—the largest canine study of its kind—surveyed the owners of more than 18,000 dogs and analyzed DNA sequences from more than 2,000 dogs. Drawing on this impressive amount of data, Darwin’s Ark researchers debunked the misconception that a dog’s breed is a significant predictor of their behavior. It turns out, only nine percent of behavioral differences among individual dogs can be explained by breed.”(3)

Dr. Jessica Hekman, co-author of the analysis of the Darwin’s Ark data (4), presents a caveat regarding the interpretation of study results. In the final paragraph of the AKC column,

Dr. Hekman is quoted as saying about the publication of her group’s work:

“Be careful with what you’re reading. You may be reading what a journalist’s take on the paper is rather than the actual paper. If you go to the page that the paper is hosted on, you will find a paragraph at the beginning of that—before what we the authors wrote—which is the take of an editor of the journal. It was not written by the [study] authors. That little paragraph does end with saying that you should not use breed to determine what kind of dog you’re buying as a pet. The [study] authors didn’t write that. I don’t want to speak for anybody else but myself, but I disagree with that statement. And I have no power to have it taken down.”

Now, given all of this, we return to our prospective dog owners from the beginning of this column. What do they need to consider before continuing their search for a new

HERDING GROUP

four-legged family member? If they have read the genetic discussions above, they have gone down the rabbit-hole of conflicting results, viewpoints, and statistically contradictory data. How do they get back to the realities of adding a pet to the household? Here are some ideas.

In addition to the space in their home, the exercise and grooming requirements for the dog are also factors. How about what genetic problems occur in the breed they are considering? How will you build the puppy's confidence through mental stimulation, appropriate socialization, and positive experiences? How do you train a dog to build impulse control and focus, so they won't nip at your heels or grab a treat from your hand and get your fingers, too? A reliable recall is a focus skill that involves knowing the importance of the recall word and can save your pet's life.

So, where do we advise

people to look for breed information that is less confusing to potential new pet owners? The parent club websites of the breeds they are considering, for one. Many parent clubs have rescue information and breeder-referral services, advising prospective buyers to contact member breeders who have agreed to comply with the clubs' codes of ethics. Generally, the breeders included have been involved with the breed for many years, do requisite health and genetic testing, and can provide references to other puppy buyers who are willing to comment on their experience working with this breeder and raising a puppy of the chosen breed. It seems that the old-fashioned approach of talking to and visiting breeders, and asking questions about health, feeding, exercise, and training, is still the best way to go.

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—Laura Kiedaisch,
Director
[Swedish Vallhund Club of America](#)

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.

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	MICHELE WRATH	

ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL on **Friday, December 12, 2025**, beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Oak Ridge Kennel Club

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Debarah Billings, Blountville, TN,
Biewer Terrier Club of America

Mark Brandsema, Media, PA,
Delaware County Kennel Club

Kate DeSanto, China Spring, TX,
American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon
Association

Crystal Messersmith, Columbia, SC,
Columbia Kennel Club

Mary Miller, Lexington, KY,
Lexington Kennel Club

Isabel N. Ososki, Troy, IL,
Collie Club of America

Ricki V. Silveria, Mount Pleasant, SC,
Siberian Husky Club of America

Alan Welch, Esq., Whitehouse Station, NJ,
Kennel Club of Philadelphia



gazette

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December 2025 issue!

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fine imposed on Superintendent for alteration of entry after the closing date of entries Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 6.

Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows\$250

Foy Trent Dog Shows\$250

Notification of fine imposed on Superintendent acceptance of entry of dog ineligible to compete at Conformation event, American Kennel Board Policy Manual.

Foy Trent Dog Shows\$250

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\$1300

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendent for failure to obtain AKC approval for a judge change, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 7, Section 8.

Jack Bradshaw Dog ShowsReprimand

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendent for failure to publish a judging program one week prior to the event, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 7, Section 12.

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLCReprimand

Notification of fine imposed on club for failure to have acceptable weighing device available Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 14, Section 5.

Greater Monroe Kennel Club.....\$100

Notification of fine imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17, Section 2.

Michigan Boxer Club.....\$180

Notification of fines imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers, Chapter 13.

Colorado River Labrador Retriever Club of Texas.....\$100

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individuals 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. Matt Reed (Burbank, CA)

Mr. John Strassner (Gilroy, CA)

Ms. Carla Showalter (Hutchinson, KS)

Mr. Sid Showalter (Hutchinson, KS)

Ms. Danielle Strout (Conway, AR)

Mr. DJ Wade (Mount Union, IA)

NOTICE

Ms. Rachael DeSanto (Lake City, FL). Action was taken by the Stephenville Kennel Club for conduct at its October 18, 2025 event. Ms. DeSanto was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and imposed a \$300 fine, effective October 29, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Mr. William McKnight (Ronan, MT). Action was taken by the Mission Valley Retriever Club for conduct at its August 29, 2025 event. Mr. McKnight was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally to a judge and unsportsmanlike conduct during an event – failure to follow a judge's instruction. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the combined penalty as a six-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective September 25, 2025. (Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers)

NOTICE

Ms. Justus Reichert (Aurelia, IA). Action was taken by the Fort Dodge Kennel Club for conduct at its June 14, 2025 event. Ms. Reichert was charged with neglect at or in connection with an event by an 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 five-year suspension of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective July 22, 2025. Ms. Reichert appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Flora Steffan (Ridgefield, WA). Action was taken by the German Shepherd Dog Club of Oregon for conduct at its October 24, 2025 event. Ms. Steffan was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event and disregard of published club regulations. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the combined penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$200 fine. (Border Collies, All-American Dog)

OFFICIAL STANDARD OF THE ICELANDIC SHEEPDOG

General Appearance: The Icelandic Sheepdog is a Nordic herding Spitz, slightly under medium sized, sturdy with erect ears and a curled tail. Seen from the side the dog is rectangular. The expression is gentle, intelligent and happy. A confident and lively bearing is typical for this dog. There are two types of coat, short and long, both thick and very weather resistant. There is a marked difference in appearance between the sexes.

Size, Proportion, Substance: Ideal height at the withers: Dogs 18"; Bitches 16 1/2". Rectangular and strong. Seen from the side, the dog is rectangular, the length of the body measured from the point of shoulder to point of buttock is greater than the height at the withers. The depth of the chest is equal to the length of the foreleg.

Head: Strongly built with close fitting skin. Triangular when seen from above or the side. *Skull* - Slightly longer than muzzle and somewhat domed. Stop - clearly defined though neither steep nor high. Nose - Black. Dark brown on chocolate brown and some cream dogs. The nasal bridge is well-developed, strong and straight. *Muzzle* - Slightly shorter than skull, tapering evenly towards the nose to form a blunt triangle when seen from both above and from the side. Lips - Black, close fitting. Dark brown on choc-

olate brown and some cream dogs. *Bite* - Scissor bite. Teeth - Complete dentition preferred. Cheeks - Clean and flat. *Eyes* - Almond shape of medium size. Dark brown. Can be slightly lighter in chocolate brown and some cream dogs. Eye-rims are black. Dark brown in chocolate brown and some cream dogs. *Ears* - Erect and of medium size, set well apart without being low set. Close to equilateral triangle. With firm edges and slightly rounded tips. Very mobile, reacting sensitively to sounds and showing the dog's mood. Faults - Blue, yellow or round eyes and very light eyes.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* - Moderately long, clean and muscular with no loose skin. The neck is slightly arched and the head is carried high. *Body* - Rectangular and strong, fairly short loin and in harmony with general appearance. Back - Level, muscular and strong. Loins - Broad and muscular. Croup - Moderately short and broad, very slightly sloping and well muscled. Chest - Long, deep and well sprung. Belly - Only a slight tuck up. *Tail* - High set, curled over and touching the back.

Forequarters: When seen from the front the forelegs are straight, parallel and strong. Angulation - Shoulders are well laid back, oblique and muscular. Dew-claws - Required and may be double. Forefeet - Slightly oval, toes well-arched and tight with well-developed pads. Faults

– No dewclaws.

Hindquarters: When seen from behind the hind legs are straight, parallel and strong. Thighs – Broad and well muscled. Dewclaws – Required. Well-developed double dewclaws desirable. Hind feet – Same as forefeet. Faults – No dewclaws.

Coat: Double coat, thick and extremely weather resistant. Coat length ranges from short to long. There are two types: Short-haired – The outer coat of medium length, fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs. It is longer on the neck, chest and back of thighs. The tail is bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat. Long-haired – The outer coat is longer and fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears, and front of legs, longer on the neck, withers, chest and back of thighs, with fringes on the back of the forelegs. The tail is very bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat. Presentation is to be in a natural, unaltered condition. Specimens where the coat or whiskers have been altered by trimming or clipping shall be so severely faulted as to be effectively eliminated from competition. Coat quality is more important than length.

Color: The allowed colors are fawn and or red in various shades ranging from cream to reddish brown, chocolate brown in various shades, shaded grey,

and black. White always accompanies the color. Lighter shading often occurs on the underside of the dog anywhere from the throat to the tip of the tail. On shaded grey and quite often on fawn and reds, a dark mask, dark tips to the outer hairs and dark hairs in the coat may occur as an overlay or sable appearance. Black and chocolate brown dogs most often have traditional tan markings in any of the various colors, on the cheeks, over the eyes (eyebrows), below the tail, on the underside of the tail and on the legs. Pied dogs have patches of color on the body. On a white background and can have the accompanying white markings. The patches of color, which can vary in size should predominate. The white markings, which are often irregular, are a blaze or a part of the face, collar, chest, socks of varying length and tip of tail. Color on or near the ears is preferred. Faults – A solid black or brown mantle or saddle on fawn or red dog (hound markings).

Gait: Displays agility and endurance with good driving action covering the ground effortlessly.

Temperament: The Icelandic Sheepdog is a hardy and agile herding dog which barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving sheep and other livestock. The Icelandic Sheepdog is by nature very alert and will always give visitors an enthusiastic welcome without being aggressive. The Icelandic Sheepdog

is cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful and confident with a gentle temperament. A confident and lively bearing is typical for this dog.

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in proportion to its degree.

Approved November 10, 2025
Effective March 2, 2026

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

Mrs. Jacquelyn Glenn (106335) MO
(816) 516-4720
cardigan@peoplepc.com
Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Karen (Gronberg) Shaner (118217) KS
kishaner@icloud.com
Siberian Huskies

Liz Yoder (118155) TX
(817) 821-2124
lmyoder@sbcglobal.net
Shetland Sheepdogs

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Maria Arechaederra (110565) CA
(949) 981-7646
ederrakuv@aol.com
Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Komondorok

Mr. Mike Bennett (112839) OK
(918) 760-6456
darlinmikey@libertyakitas.com
Basenjis, Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian

Ridgebacks, Salukis, Doberman Pinschers

Mrs. Judith A. Brown (0253) TX

(713) 249-3364

judithabrown@sbcglobal.net

Airedale Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO

(303) 883-1610

ckathy219@gmail.com

Briards, Pyrenean Shepherds, Shetland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Mr. John Constantine-Amodei (26418) FL

(215) 527-0056

john@adamis.org

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers

Mrs. Debra L. Davis (25320) MI

(248) 515-2290

emislsdavis@gmail.com

Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs

Dr. James R. Davis (111469) MA

(774) 219-1530

epiccockerspaniels@gmail.com

Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels, Vizslas,

Weimaraners, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mrs. Shauna DeMoss (92470) CO

(970) 234-5512

demossakcjudge@gmail.com

Boerboels, Boxers, Dogues de Bordeaux, Rottweilers

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) SC

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Biewer Terriers, Havanese, Manchester Terriers

Mrs. D'Arcy Downs-Vollbracht (101253) AZ

(928) 716-7191

darcy@dvmlawfirm.com

Whippets, Bedlington Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers

Ms. Karen Dumke (7168) WI

(920) 279-4519

karenadumke@gmail.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Russell Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, West Highland White Terriers), Italian Greyhounds, Shih Tzu, Berger Picards

Mrs. Nancy Eilks (23143) WI

(920) 650-2299

eilks@gdinet.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Brittanys, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Sussex Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani)

Mr. David Fitzpatrick (27307) PA

(717) 586-0961

dcfitz7@aol.com

Wire Fox Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Mrs. Christine Goodin (113467) VA

(804) 310-5203

deellittlepoms@aol.com

English Toy Spaniels, Miniature Pinschers

Mrs. Nancy Griego (90264) NM

(505) 681-8020

nrgakc@spinn.net

American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Finnish Spitz, French Bulldogs, Lowchen, Poodles, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Marlene Groves (108243) CO

(303) 243-0440

marlene@buffalgroves.com

Afghan Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, Rottweilers, Bouviers des Flandres

Ms. Britt E. Jung (66281) TX

(703) 626-9149

brittej@gmail.com

Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Alaskan Malamutes, Dogo Argentinos

Mrs. Shelley Miller (102995) NC

(919) 525-5001

sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Irish Water Spaniels, Wirehaired Vizslas

Laura Munro (101581) CA

(916) 768-5175

laura@daneaffaire.com

Mastiffs

Mrs. Rebecca Myers (113529) FL

rebeccamyersch@aol.com

Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Rottweilers, Shetland Sheepdogs

Mrs. Janet Parcel (104351) IL

(630) 830-5823

westielydy@comcast.net

American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Dr. Valeria Rickard (92450) VA

(703) 919-8753

vrickard@jovalairedales.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Cane Corsos, Dogo Argentinos, German Pinschers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Leonbergers, Newfoundlands, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies

Dr. Vicki Sandage (98425) KY

(606) 922-9552

sandfoxdvm@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (Afghan Hounds, Basset Hounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendéens, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos)

Ms. Karen R. Schneiner (103945) NJ

(609) 417-0200

doxyladynj@gmail.com

Whippets, Cotons du Tulear

Mr. John Schoeneman (98359) NC

(704) 363-7238

schohaus1@aol.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Short-haired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Gordon Setters, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas)

Ms. Lynette Stewart (99407) LA

(760) 505-3498

lynets4@aol.com

Collies

Bella Thompson Corwin (107246) OH

(937) 844-3557

home@belmark.us

Collies

Ms. Anna M. Vaughn (102565) OK

(918) 906-3776

anna@cme-usa.com

Brittanys, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Weimaraners

Mrs. Cindy Vogels (6275) CO

(303) 589-8395

cgvogels@gmail.com

Working Group (Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Cane Corsos, Chinooks, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Doberman Pinschers,

Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Giant Schauzers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schauzers, Tibetan Mastiffs)

Lisa Waldo (110998) AL

(978) 870-8932

kensingtonkennels@msn.com

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Mrs. Pamela Waldron (56812) WA

(360) 770-2403

endorgriff@comcast.net

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Sandy Weaver (94535) GA

(770) 310-6932

sandy@sandyjweaver.com

Biewer Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Pomeranians, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu

Margaret S."Margie" Wilson (67005) WI

(262) 498-7896

wufwuf113@gmail.com

Flat Coated Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Weimaraners, Wirehaired Vizslas

Pamela Wilson (64914) TX

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wilscot@sbcglobal.net

Bichons Frises, Cotons du Tulear, Keeshonden, Shiba Inu

Ms. Leigh Ann Yandle (82616) GA

(704) 904-8129

leighannyandle@gmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Canaan Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Pulik

Mrs. Lisa Young (43070) AZ

(605) 390-1135

youngsongbeagles@gmail.com

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Golden Retrievers, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Mike Bennett (112839) OK

(918) 760-6456

darlinmikey@libertyakitas.com

Mrs. Morgan Brooks (118187) FL

(904) 962-3182

monarkgoldens@gmail.com

Mr. Tanner Congleton (118165) NY

tannerrcongleton@gmail.com

Mr. Michael Simpson (118218) TX

(737) 240-1444

mike01simpson@gmail.com

Miss Artemis Tsagarakis (118157) MA

keonkennels@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

Mr. Christopher Arnone (104129) NY

(914) 475-3008

c.arnone71@hotmail.com

Vizslas

Julie Babcock (116033) NV

(702) 496-3761

babbysbulldogs@gmail.com

Bulldogs

Mr. Ron Perry (118093) KS

(913) 405-4944

crimsonacre@me.com

Irish Setters, JS-Limited

Mrs. Maureen Schneider (110816) NC

(336) 376-3965

iwcol@aol.com

Collies

Ms. Joan Scott (116663) GA

(302) 521-5986

manky97@aol.com

Pointers, Briards, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Ms. Karen M. Zimny (117896) MN

(507) 835-5660

karen@pantheonbulldogs.com

Bulldogs

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Joyce Adams-Taylor (99787) NY

(845) 658-8197

jkaatskill@gmail.com

Irish Terriers

Mr. Gary L. Andersen (6176) AZ

(480) 323-0487

glandersen@cox.net

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Mudik, Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds)

Mrs. Terrie Breen (65930) CT

(860) 539-6222

brenta@aol.com

Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds, Cotons du Tulear, Poodles

Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX

(281) 989-3130

touchstone0525@att.net

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Komondorok, Portuguese Water Dogs, Tibetan Mastiffs

Bridget J. Brown (102665) AL

(205) 515-8753

jackeye@bellsouth.net

Lagotti Romagnoli, German Wirehaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Gordon Setters, American Water Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels

Mr. Joseph Buchanan (104137) PA

(610) 931-3670

kennelaleema@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (American Foxhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, English Foxhounds)

Mrs. Robin Casey (92447) WY

sgborzoi@aol.com

Balance Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds)

Ms. Melanee Clark (107776) OK

(605) 670-1889

stellarkennels@gmail.com

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins (107395) MI

(810) 919-2306

veritygoldens@me.com

Gordon Setters, Irish Setters

Ms. Helen Dorrance (19022) TX

(512) 964-3294

gdkdogs@gmail.com

Cirnechi dell'Etna, Scottish Deerhounds, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Dogues de Bordeaux

Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS

(410) 829-2455

bethdowney539@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds, Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Harriers, Otterhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Plott Hounds

Mr. James M. Fankhauser (18843) MI

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Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen

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Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck
Tolling Retrievers

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Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse
Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, German
Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers,
Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels,
Welsh Springer Spaniels

Mrs. Sally George (82793) CA

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sg.gypsy@gmail.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shep-
herds, Belgian Malinois, Bouviers des
Flandres, Briards, Old English Sheep-
dogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Swed-
ish Vallhunds

Mrs. Brandy Greenhagen (113965) CO

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brandygreenhagen@comcast.net

Bouviers des Flandres, Mudik

**Mrs. Debra Long Gschwender (18252)
ID**

(208) 477-3925

dlgschwender@gmail.com

Brittanys, Flat Coated Retrievers, Labra-
dor Retrievers, Gordon Setters, American
Water Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels,
Giant Schnauzers, Cairn Terriers

Ms. Judy A. Harrington (16665) MA

(413) 267-5236

jahyeesss@comcast.net

Australian Cattle Dogs, Border Collies,
Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher Mountain
Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Lancashire
Heelers, Mudik, Pumik

Ms. Kari Hill (80054) SC

(864) 616-8882

charthill@yahoo.com

Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers

Dr. Laura J. LaBounty (96455) NH

(603) 352-8597

specialcollies@msn.com

Norwegian Buhunds, Pyrenean Shep-
herds

Mrs. Molly Martin (6650) AL

(334) 546-0628

mollydmartin@gmail.com

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs

Ms. Robin Mathews (110537) NJ

(732) 501-9581

bisdogs@aol.com

Otterhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Bearded
Collies, German Shepherd Dogs

Mrs. Chris Ann Moore (108927) AR

(479) 221-0555

bisacd@aol.com

Balance of Working Group (Anatolian
Shepherd Dogs, Greater Swiss Mountain
Dogs, Mastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs,
Saint Bernards, Tibetan Mastiffs)

Mrs. Sandra K. Nadalin (104545) OH

(614) 877-3047

sknadalin@earthlink.com

Black Russian Terriers, Boxers, Great Pyrenees

Mrs. Sherry Patton (110239) TX

(315) 518-6542

4everbts@gmail.com

Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, English Toy Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, Pomeranians

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA

(310) 991-0241

jrami68620@aol.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Collies, Pumik

Ms. Ann H. Roth (63187) NC

(910) 232-5976

hametthounds@juno.com

Berger Picards, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Lancashire Heelers, Norwegian Buhunds, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pulik, Pumik

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693

yogi@mtaonline.net

Balance of Working Group (Kuvaszok), Shetland Sheepdogs

Ms. Ellen W. Schultz (110815) TX

(713) 899-2418

apollogoldens@att.net

Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Inge Semenschin (27410) CA

(510) 620-9688

ingeakc@gmail.com

Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Plott Hounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Channing Sheets (99781) CA

(415) 254-2582

cashe90@hotmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Beaucerons, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs)

Mrs. Helene Stearns (101598) PA

(570) 595-3097

cairns@aberdeencairns.com

Glen of Imaal Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mr. Karl M. Stearns (101597) PA

(570) 595-3097

kstearns@kmstearns.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American Staffordshire Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Teddy Roosevelt Terriers)

Mr. Eric Steel (98787) NY

(646) 479-9177

ericsteel@mac.com

Borzois, Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Mr. Jon Titus Steele (55162) MI

(989) 860-9677

jonaauroral@gmail.com

Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, Lowchen, Xoloitzcuintli, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Mudik

Mr. Scott Toney (110847) NC

(704) 968-4491

midwoodchin@gmail.com

Sussex Spaniels, Boston Terriers, Bull-dogs, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers

Ms. Cynthia Woodward (105631) TX

(501) 425-3454

cyndrwood@yahoo.com

Akitas, Giant Schnauzers, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards, Samoyeds, Standard Schnauzers, Miniature Bull Terriers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Stephanie M. Hawkins (117677) GA

(470) 452-7235

eisahounds@gmail.com

Ms. Kate M. Holmes (117063) OH

(440) 412-6778

holmesgreen1@msn.com

Salena McCloud (117311) CT

(860) 383-5827

sbmcccloud02@gmail.com

Mrs. Wendy J. Snyder (30049) OR

(541) 520-3533

serenitydachshunds@yahoo.com

BEST IN SHOW

The following person, has successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Mrs. Kelly D. Reimschiessel (66207) UT

(801) 361-8619

kileipoms@gmail.com

Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA

(571) 318-2768

outlawgwp@aol.com

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Sheila Monks

Mr. Karl M. Stearns

**REGULAR STATUS APPROVED
OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES**

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments, and their names have been added to the list of **regular approved** judges for the class indicated.

Gail Katz (107964) CA

626-253-0060

smlact@aol.com

Regular Rally

**NEW PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/
TRACKING JUDGES**

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a **Provisional** basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system.

They may now accept assignments.

Renee Morris (109375) DE

302-245-8842

rgmmorris93@comcast.net

Provisional Rally

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:

ALANDAYL – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Alana M. Hanzie
 ARCADIA PLACE – Vizsla – Alyssa J. Perkins
 COTUFAS – Old English Sheepdogs – Georgina Jensen
 DANEKRAAFTS – Great Danes – Laura L. Coomes & Priyanka Deshmukh
 DELA PASSION – Poodles – Carol A. Dean
 DI LAKEWOOD – Doberman Pinschers – Richard A. Pezzino
 DOMINO – Papillons – Laura F. Temperato
 FRANKFORD – Sussex Spaniels – Tracyann Perry
 KATZENJAMMERS – French Bulldogs – Allan G. Routh
 LAURIE&JOE – Labrador Retrievers – Laurie J. Zalewski
 LOHANA'S – Biewer Terriers – Lael Rogers
 SOVEREIGN'S – Schipperke – Charles S. Wilson & Magen A. Wilson

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

B & B – Bernese Mountain Dogs – Christine E. Donnamiller & Bronson J. Frankart
 BRIGHTMOOR – Pembroke Welsh Corgis – Morgan A. Grizzle
 BY DESIGN – Australian Cattle Dogs – Heather D. Ritchie
 DEN-WOLF – German Shepherd Dogs – Denese Wolfson
 LA CHUPARROSA – Chihuahuas – Kathy D. Wigal
 LAKE ERIE – Wirehaired Pointing Griffons – Jeremiah L. Georgia
 OBERON – Papillons – Lori C. Ludke-Borgen
 RENAISSANCE – Whippets – Che M. Rivera & Audrey M. Boyer
 ROYALTON – Bearded Collies – Sarah Burke
 RUGER'S RIDGE – Labrador Retrievers – Sydney Bagby & Ethan Bagby
 SANDSTORM – Whippets – Alma J. Jenkins & Don D. Jenkins
 SMOKEY WATER – Chesapeake Bay Retrievers – Derrick L. Sanderson
 STATELINE – Australian Shepherds – Sara J. Galinas



SECRETARY'S PAGES

STONEWOOD GOLD – Golden

Retrievers – Maria W. Randell

TALLY-HO – Borzoi – Rebecca Pacheco

THISTLE HILL – Siberian Huskies –

Marceline Guyette

WILD RIVERS – Labrador Retrievers –

Kiira A. Parry & Chris Parry



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NY
NOVEMBER 10-11, 2025**

The Board convened on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 8:34 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present at the Meeting: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Ms. Sally Fineburg, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Daniel Smyth, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Mr. Harold Tatro, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, and Ms. Ann Wallin. Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Robin Stansell and Ms. Sylvia Thomas joined by video conference.

The Chief Operating Officer (Mr. Gordon Comfort), Chief Financial Officer (Mr. Ted Phillips) and Executive Secretary (Ms. Sheila Goffe) were also present.

Copies of the October 13-14, 2025, Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review. Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by

Ms. Fineburg the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Fineburg, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Stansell, Mr. Tatro, Ms. Wallin, and Mr. Fugiwara. Absent: Mr. Smyth and Ms. Thomas) to approve the October 2025 Board Meeting minutes.

PRESIDENT

Ms. DiNardo provided the Board with an update on cooperative staff efforts to present a strong 2026 budget to the AKC Board for approval at this meeting.

She also highlighted the recently signed agreement with FCM, the Federacion Canofilia Mexicana, the official Kennel Club of Mexico to host the FCM Universal Dog Show, an AKC licensed dog show in Mexico City in November 2026. She recognized the efforts of key staff to accomplish this milestone.

Updates were also provided on strong progress in PCI compliance and affiliate funding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Legal Status Report

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of October 2025.

Communications, Social Media & Digital Content Q3 Report

Brandi Hunter Munden, VP, PR & Communications, joined this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Munden provided a quarterly update on AKC Communications department media coverage totals and activity highlights, as well as the social media and digital content totals and activity highlights.

Performance Highlights

- 4.11% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications; slight decrease due to the lack of consumer facing press releases which is what is generally sent to these audiences.
- 8.5% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (.25% from Q3 2024).
- Maintained a 94% positivity rating.
- Media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) on par with Q3 2024.

AKC Education Q3 Review

Ashley Jacot, VP of Education, joined this portion of the meeting by video confer-

ence. She provided an overview of the department's key programs and accomplishments in the third quarter.

AKC Canine College (AKC CC)

In Q3 2025, AKC Canine College developed and published three new courses. The Learning Management System (LMS) now hosts 491 courses encompassing 1,358 modules.

AKC Groomer Program Transition

AKC Canine College continues to support the ongoing Groomer Program transition, guided by three primary goals:

- Unify digital delivery under a single platform.
- Expand the AKC SAFE program across grooming salons, franchises, and large-scale providers.
- Strengthen the Professional Groomer Credential (PGC) and National Certified Master Groomer (NCMG) programs.

Registration Benefit + Puppy Training – Basic Skills

The Email Marketing and AKC CC teams partnered to automate a daily email to new dog registrants, providing access to the Puppy Training: Basic Skills course. Since launch, more than 2,500 registrants have accessed the course.

AKC CC Breed-Specific Courses

In Q3, AKC CC released three new breed-specific courses (Weimaraner, Miniature Schnauzer, Labrador Retriever), updated three, and advanced ten others through development or Parent Club review. Q3 enrollments totaled 1,084, up 324% from Q2 and 38% year-over-year.

Required Judge's Exams

In Q3, 2,684 exam enrollments were purchased, including 1,316 breed exams, 205 judge recertification exams, 297 performance exams, and 866 CGC Evaluator exams. Three breed exams, Saluki, Mudi, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier, were updated. In collaboration with Judging Operations, hotspot-style question formatting was corrected in Anatomy exams, with new imagery and test items implemented to ensure functionality and clarity.

Rally Judge's Education

Rally Judge's Education officially launched in Q3. Subject Matter Experts Diane Schultz and Linda Morris are finalizing course outlines and compiling materials from multiple AKC sources. The first course outline is complete and under review, with development scheduled for Q4 and program release targeted for 2026.

Public Education

- *Meet the Breeds with Bailey Videos*

Two additional Meet the Breeds with Bailey videos were released this quarter, bringing the total to seven (Beagle, Labrador Retriever, French Bulldog, Golden Retriever, German Shepherd Dog, Poodle, Dachshund).

- *AKC National Art Contest*
The AKC National Art Contest completed its second year in Q3, celebrating young artists ages 5–18.
- *AKC Public Education Programs and Resources Webinars*
Preparations are underway for two Public Education webinars on October 7 and November 11, 2025.
- *AKC Bailey's Summer Reading Challenge*
The Summer Reading Challenge concluded with participation doubling over last year.
- *AKC Patch Program Update*
The AKC Patch Program, established in 2018, was refreshed this quarter with updated formatting and simplified questions to improve accessibility for younger participants.

AKC Library and Archives

- *Reference Services*
L&A received 94 reference requests in Q3, resolving 70 with 24 in progress.
- *Technical Services*
The upgraded Digital Library launched successfully in Q3. Work continues to enhance search indexing

across 110,000+ documents.

- *Digitization*

Collaboration continues with member clubs to digitize archival materials. Early submissions revealed inconsistencies in file-naming conventions, prompting a coordinated effort to standardize formats for long-term stability. Technical Services is also digitizing historical photographs and rule books to broaden public and internal access.

Webinars

In Quarter 3 of 2025, AKC Education hosted seven webinars for 1,142 participants. The following webinars were offered in Quarter 3 of 2025:

- Breeder Development Webinar Series:
 - “What Happens When the Gonads are Gone? Long-term adverse health consequences following spaying neutering.”
 - “The Canine Estrous Cycle, Timing and Breeding.”
- Getting Started Webinar Series:
 - “Getting Started: AKC Obedience.”
- Groomer:
 - “Choose Your Star - Learn! - Understanding Pattern Lines, and Industry Terminology.”
 - “Review and FAQs on Conformation Judging Procedures, Policies

and Guidelines.”-Two Sessions

- “How to Run an Open Show- Hosted by Nancy Nelson.”

Groomer Education

Following the August 2025 transition of Groomer Education to AKC Education, integration and modernization efforts have advanced in alignment with AKC’s strategic pillars of education, safety, and professionalization.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented unaudited preliminary financial statements as of September 30, 2025. Net Operating Loss is \$4 million primarily due to lower registration revenue, excluding investment income of \$2.3 million. Operating revenues total \$66.4 million, led by registration (litter and dogs) totaling \$24.2 million. Operating expenses total \$70.3 million.

2026 Budget

Mr. Phillips presented information on the 2026 Budget.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Smyth, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Fineburg, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Stansell, Mr. Tatro, Ms. Wallin, and Mr. Fugiwara. Absent: Ms. Thomas) to approve the 2026 Budget as submitted to the Board.

COO

Gordon Comfort, Chief Operations Officer and Linda Duncklee, Director, Registration Services & Breeder Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Registration Division Update

Ms. Duncklee presented the Board with an update on new initiatives, completed projects, and key metrics.

The Division is focusing efforts on transforming the registration experience to improve revenues and customer engagement in 4 key areas: Streamlined registration processes, expanded options for breeders and customers, enhanced digital experience, and strengthened customer engagement through canine college programming.

Specific initiatives include:

- Sponsorship collaboration: Working on more sponsor opportunities across registration platforms.
- Partnering with the Marketing Department to drive registration and awareness.
- Customer Service (CS) Support: Setting up CS teams for improved client relationship building and outcomes.
- Alternate Color Pilot Program: Improving record accuracy and customer satisfaction by identifying alternate or non-standard colors.

- Guest Login: New “guest login” to reduce barriers to registration and increase online registration.
- User Experience Simplification: Making registration easier for breeders and new puppy buyers.
- Digital evolution: Refining and improving the online registration experience.
- Package Optimization: Enhancing user experience and digital design.
- AKC DNA: Increasing DNA sales and revenue through registration.
- Education: Increasing the registration value proposition by introducing customers to AKC Canine College and specifically resources for new puppy owners.

Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Comfort updated the Board on the progress of the AKC Strategic Plan. Some progress has been made on key elements of the 2025 plan. Other key elements will undergo review, adjustment, or development to assure alignment with new or revised corporate objectives, budget priorities, IT capacities, and AKC’s broader transformation efforts. The revised 2026 strategic plan will maintain mission and corporate objectives; adjust departmental objectives, strategies and initiatives in alignment with the 2026-28 budget and IT capacity; and introduce

revenue and cost planning as a standard element of the departmental planning processes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services, participated via video conference.

Schipperke Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Schipperke Club of America, Inc. (SCA), has received proposed revisions to the breed standard as a result of a petition from the membership. The standard was last revised and approved by the AKC Board November 13, 1990.

Staff recommends the Board approve the proposed revision to the Schipperke standard and approve to ballot the membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Upon a Motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Wallin, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Fineburg, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Stansell, Mr. Tatro, Ms. Wallin, and Mr. Fugiwara.

Opposed: Dr. Davies. Absent: Ms. Thomas) to approve the proposed revision to the Schipperke standard and approve to ballot the membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Parent Club Request to Retire Bizzeeboots (Old English Sheepdog)

The Old English Sheepdog Club of America has requested the retirement of the kennel name "Bizzeeboots" on behalf of the owners.

Staff recommends that the Old English Sheepdog Club of America's request to retire "Bizzeeboots" be granted.

This will be discussed further at the January 2026 Board meeting.

Peruvian Inca Orchid Eligibility to Compete in the Hound Group

The Peruvian Inca Orchid Club of the United States has submitted a petition seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Peruvian Inca Orchid to be eligible to compete in the Hound Group. Staff recommends that the AKC Board of Directors approve the petition as well as the proposed breed standard to be eligible to compete in the Hound Group on January 1, 2027.

This will be discussed further at the January 2026 Board meeting.

Government Relations (GR)

Update Third Quarter 2025

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations provided the Board with an update on third quarter 2025 activities of the Government Relations (GR) Department.

Year-To-Date

Legislative/Regulatory Tracking: As of October 23, 2025, legislatures in 6 states (Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Wisconsin) and Puerto Rico and District of Columbia are in session. Congress is in session despite the current government shutdown, meeting intermittently on spending measures and proposals to re-open the government.

The AKC GR team has been monitoring more than 1,800 bills at the federal, state and local level that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and well-being of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the sport and the American Kennel Club.

AKC GR is monitoring more than 650 pending proposed regulations (administrative or implementing changes) to dog laws at the state and federal level.

GR has published 150 legislative alerts online, via social media, and via geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents. GR provided written and/or oral testimony or public comment on more than 120 measures.

Third Quarter 2025

AKC GR has been active in tracking and responding to a myriad of legislative proposals at the federal, state and local level; developing new resources for clubs and enthusiasts; and providing one-on-one and resources and strategy assistance to clubs, federations and communities facing legislative challenges and seeking to improve their outreach to policymakers. Many legislatures concluded their official business by the end of the second quarter. This has allowed AKC GR staff to focus more heavily on public outreach and proactive policy engagement with lawmakers, constituents and the public during the third quarter.

Ms. Goffe highlighted Q3 trends in the areas of breeder licensing and regulation, dangerous dog issues and bans on the retail sale of purpose-bred pets were highlighted.

Highlights of key departmental activities highlighted include:

- Legislative activity
- Legislative successes
- Alerts/testimony
- Policy blogs

Other Q3 project highlights included:

- New online resources
- Legislator/ Policy conference and outreach events (for lawmakers)
- Legislative seminars and training

events (for clubs, federations and AKC constituents)

- Advocacy/ lobbying activity
- Key media outreach and published articles
- Coalition building
- Detection Dog Task Force

Legislation can move at a fast pace. More details and recent updates are available online at the AKC GR Legislative Advocacy site, www.akcgr.org.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events and Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Stewards of Children® Training Across All Sports

Staff provided a summary of the impact this training has had on the number of judges by sport.

More than 13,000 individuals completed the training course, which focuses on increasing awareness of the exploitation of youth. The training has contributed to increased awareness and supports efforts to create a safer and more respectful sport environment.

While the percentage of judges taking the course has varied by sport, the Board felt this was a valuable program and the training should be treated in a similar manner across the sports.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Fineburg, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Stansell,

Mr. Tatro, Ms. Wallin, and Mr. Fugiwara. Opposed: Dr. Davies. Absent: Ms. Thomas) to reaffirm that all AKC judges take the Stewards of Children® training and test.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Mark Desrosiers, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Allowing Specialty Clubs to Offer Classes in Breeds of Similar Background, Origin, or Purpose

Chapter 2, Section 7 and **Chapter 2, Section 8** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* defines that a specialty club may hold a show confined to the breed which it sponsors.

The staff presented its recommendations including feedback from the September Delegate meeting to:

1. Insert a new Chapter 2, Section 9 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to allow specialty clubs to hold events to include classes for breeds of similar purpose or origin; and

2. Insert a new Chapter 3, Section 17 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to establish the awarding of Best in Event at a show held by specialty clubs where classes for breeds of similar purpose or origin are offered.
3. A proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would articulate that if a dog awarded winners is awarded Best in Event at a show held by a specialty club where classes for breeds of similar origin, background or purpose are offered, it shall be awarded the greatest number of championship points awarded to winners in any bred or variety competing at the event.

Responding to a request from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee, without objection, the Board agreed to return the proposal to the Delegate Parent Clubs and Delegate Dog Show Rules Committees for further study.

Hangtown Kennel Club of Placerville, CA 3rd Show Request

Hangtown Kennel Club of Placerville, CA has requested a one-year exception to hold a third show with their current two shows in May 2026. Hangtown Kennel Club's long-term partner, the Kennel Club of the California Sierra, is planning on not holding a show in 2026 in order to reorganize.

The Cluster Chair of the Mission Circuit,

which are the only shows that prevent Hangtown Kennel Club from qualifying routinely for three shows, expressed no objection to approval.

This recommendation may be approved by a vote of the Board.

Staff recommended approving Hangtown Kennel Club of Placerville, CA's request.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedures and advance the measure immediately.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve Hangtown Kennel Club of Placerville, CA's request to hold a third show with their current two shows in May 2026.

Fines and Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

(Fines and reprimands are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Events and Entries

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events and Tim Thomas, VP, Conformation,

joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Judging Approval Process – Requests to Advance Beyond Two Groups

The Board considered the proposal to modify the *Judging Approval Process* to add the denial of a Request to Advance as a matter that may be appealed to the Board Appeals Committee, and to modify the acceptable methods of appeal to via video conference or written appeal, with an in-person appeal only available if the applicant does not have the ability to meet via video conference.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to add the denial of a Request to Advance as a matter that may be appealed to the Board Appeals Committee, and to modify the acceptable methods of appeal to via video conference or written appeal, with an in-person appeal only available if the applicant does not have the ability to meet via video conference. The revisions are effective November 12, 2025.

[\(See Appendix A.\)](#)

CLUBS

Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Report on Member Club Bylaws Approved in September and October

Border Collie Society of America (1999)

Del Monte Kennel Club, Monterey, CA (1978)

Labrador Retriever Club (1936)

Pekingese Club of America (1909)

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America (1958)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in September and October

Golden State Biewer Terrier Fanciers, greater San Jose, CA (including communities north to Santa Rosa, south to Salinas, and west of Interstate 5), 20 total households, 12 local.

Ohio River Basin Shiba Inu Fanciers, greater Indianapolis, IN (including communities north to Spring Grove, IL, west to Springfield, IL, southeast to La-Grange, KY and south to Elizabeth, IN), 24 total households, 12 local.

Sporting Dog Club of Central Arkansas, greater Little Rock, AR (including communities in the triangle southwest to Hot Springs, north to Dover and east to Cabot), 24 total households, 14 local.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance 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

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 charges preferred.

Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions as of September 24, 2025

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of September 24, 2025.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

MARKETING

Brandi Hunter Munden, VP, PR & Communications, Kirsten Bahlke, VP of Marketing, and Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Canine Partners Rebrand

Staff briefed the Board on plans to rebrand the Canine Partners mixed breed program. A cross-departmental task force under the direction of Gina DiNardo is

developing and implementing a strategic action plan to revitalize AKC's mixed breed program to better deliver on the needs of mixed-breed dog owners and increase enrollments. A number of key milestones have been achieved and are on track for completion in November 2025. A soft launch is planned for Q1 of 2026.

AKC.org Search Improvement Plan

Staff briefed the Board on efforts to improve website search functionality. To date, search engine platforms have been switched, and custom enhancements have been implemented. Additional steps to improve functionality include additional short-term improvements before the end of the year, and more sweeping changes, using the latest technology and onsite search optimization in a site redesign scheduled for 2026.

Biewer Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Biewer Terrier Club of America, Inc. (BTCA) has submitted a proposed revision to the breed standard. Revisions are based upon questions received from judges since the breed became recognized. Staff recommend the Board approve that the BTCA ballot the membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

The Board offered several recommendations to clarify the revision.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to to approve the Biewer Terrier breed standard revision, with recommended grammatic changes. ([See Appendix B.](#))

CONSENT

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following consent agenda items:

Bracco Italiano Stud Book

The Bracco Italiano Stud Book is scheduled to close on July 1, 2026. The Bracco Italiano Club of America requested keeping the Stud Book open for an additional five years to accept dogs from the United Kennel Club and the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. The Board VOTED to approve that the Bracco Italiano Stud Book remain open until July 1, 2031.

Icelandic Sheepdog Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America (ISAA) submitted a proposed revision to the breed standard. The results of a ballot have been received, and the proposed revisions were approved by the club membership. The Board VOTED to approve the balloted revisions with an effective date of March 2, 2026. ([See Appendix C.](#))

Delegate Approvals

Donald M. Bright

To represent Tidewater Kennel Club of Virginia

Published October, November 2025

Prof. Tom K. Lewellen, PhD

To represent Gig Harbor Kennel Club

Published September, October 2025

Pamela B. Peat

To represent Affenpinscher Club of America

Published October, November 2025

Dawn Sealy

To represent Tri-City Kennel Club

Published September, October 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

The Board recessed at 5:21 p.m. Eastern.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 8:41 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office except for Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Stansell and Ms. Thomas, who participated via video conference.

The Chief Operating Officer, Executive Secretary, and Chief Financial Officer were also present.



SECRETARY'S PAGES

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

It was VOTED (unanimously) to adjourn on Tuesday, November 11, at 11:34 a.m. Eastern Time.

Attest: _____

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



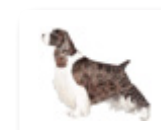
Curly-Coated Retriever



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



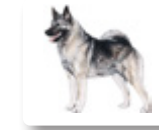
Harrier



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



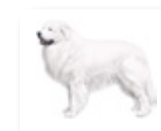
German
Pinscher



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



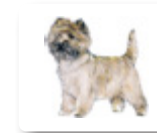
Bedlington Terrier



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



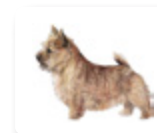
Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



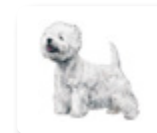
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



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

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/>