



# gazette

FEBRUARY 2026



## ANC Wrap-Up



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

JANUARY 2026

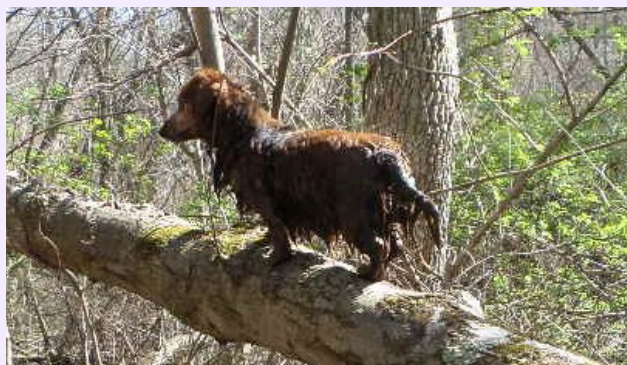
Volume 143, Number 2



## FEATURE ANC Winners

The 25th-anniversary AKC National Championship celebrated the best of the best.

## BREED COLUMNS



### Hounds

Afghan Hounds  
Basenjis  
Bloodhounds  
Borzoi  
Dachshunds  
Grands Bassets Griffons  
Vendéens  
Greyhounds  
Ibizan Hounds  
Irish Wolfhounds  
Norwegian Elkhounds  
Otterhounds  
Petits Bassets Griffons  
Vendéens  
Pharaoh Hounds  
Rhodesian Ridgebacks  
Salukis  
Scottish Deerhounds  
Whippets

American Hairless  
Terriers  
Australian Terriers  
Bedlington Terriers  
Border Terriers  
Bull Terriers  
Cairn Terriers  
Dandie Dinmont Terriers  
Smooth Fox Terriers  
Wire Fox Terriers  
Glen of Imaal Terriers  
Irish Terriers  
Kerry Blue Terriers  
Lakeland Terriers  
Manchester Terriers  
Norfolk Terriers  
Norwich Terriers  
Scottish Terriers  
Sealyham Terriers  
Skye Terriers  
Soft Coated Wheaten  
Terriers  
Welsh Terriers

### Terriers

Airedale Terriers

## BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working Groups	Hound and Terrier Groups	Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups
January, April, July, and October issues	February, May, August, and November issues	March, June, September, and December issues

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## SECRETARY'S PAGES

## MASTHEAD

Tatum's Photo Finish

## UPDATES

Regional Junior Showmanship; CHF honors champions of canine health; AKC.tv's deep video archive

## RINGSIDE

AKC National Championship candid

## SLIDESHOW

AKC Agility Invitational

## TIMES PAST

In the Beginning: A look back at the first ANC, and the all-time roster of Best in Show winners

## VIDEOS

BIS in Orlando; wire Dachsies in Annapolis; Meet the Miniature Schnauzer; A musical tribute to Lab field trials; Retro: Westminster 1965; Snow dogs slideshow

## DOG PEOPLE

Susan Giles

## AKC PARENT CLUBS



# FCM Universal Championship

Four AKC International Dog Shows 2026

For AKC breeds fully recognized.

## FCM Universal Championship

### Special Attraction Dog Shows

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



Expo Santa Fe. Mexico City



November 12–15, 2026

### FOUR ALL - BREED DOG SHOWS

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

**FCM - Panamerican Championship Title**

(Thursday November 12th, 2026)

**FCM - Continental Championship Title**

(Friday November 13th, 2026)

**FCM - Intercontinental Championship Title**

(Saturday November 14th, 2026)

**FCM -Universal Championship Title**

(Sunday November 15th, 2026)

**FCM - Mexican Championship Title**

(All four days)

**AKC - Championship Points**

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

**AKC - Grand Championship**

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



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®



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

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

## Midwinter Roundup

**T**his month, we are delighted to welcome dog lovers from New York City and the surrounding region to one of the AKC's most important educational and public-facing events—AKC Meet the Breeds, taking place February 7 and 8 at the Javits Center.

This immersive, two-day experience offers attendees a unique opportunity to learn more about hundreds of dog breeds, including their historical purpose and function, as well as the responsibilities that come with dog ownership. Visitors will have direct access to knowledgeable breeders and breed experts who are committed to promoting responsible ownership and helping prospective owners make informed decisions.

We are also pleased to welcome lawmakers from the tristate area, providing an opportunity to educate

them about the work of the AKC, the value of purebred dogs, and the needs and concerns of their dog-owning constituents.

AKC Meet the Breeds would not be possible without the dedication of our participating clubs, exhibitors, and their wonderful dogs, along with the tireless efforts of the AKC staff. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone whose hard work and passion makes this hallmark event such a success.

Education and engagement remain central to the AKC's mission, and that commitment extends well beyond our borders.

We are proud to share our new agreement with the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC®) to recognize CKC titles earned in conformation, obedience, and rally. Through this partnership, AKC-registered or AKC-listed dogs that have earned



eligible CKC titles—now or previously—may have those accomplishments recorded on their AKC records and reflected on their AKC pedigrees. This initiative supports international participation in dog sports, reinforces shared values between our organizations, and promotes responsible breeding practices. The AKC Title Application Portal (TAP) provides a streamlined and efficient way for owners to apply for title recognition, enhancing the experience for exhibitors who compete across borders.

In December, the AKC also entered into a mutual-cooperation agreement with the Brazilian Kennel Club (Confederação Brasileira de Cinofilia—

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CBKC), Brazil's national kennel club and governing body for purebred dogs. This agreement strengthens international collaboration in support of purebred dogs, responsible breeding, and canine welfare in both the United States and Brazil. It establishes a framework for cooperation across registration, breeder education, events, health initiatives, and advocacy, while encouraging the exchange of research, resources, and best practices that benefit breeders, exhibitors, and dog owners in both countries.

Together, these agreements reflect our shared commitment to the global protection and preservation of purebred dogs and the sport of dogs.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we were pleased to announce the Regional Junior Showmanship Events planned for this year. These events provide juniors ages 9–18 with the opportunity to compete and develop their skills within a structured, regional format that fosters

continued participation in the sport of dogs. Competitions will follow the same judging format as the Limited Class Junior Showmanship Competition, in accordance with Junior Showmanship Regulations.

To participate, a junior must reside within the designated region and have earned first place in three or more Open Junior Showmanship classes at AKC licensed or member dog shows, including specialty and all-breed events. Juniors must be at least 9 years of age at the time of each qualifying win. A junior handler who is 18 years of age or older at the time of the event may still compete, provided they were under 18 on the date of their final qualifying win.

Regional Junior Showmanship Events will be hosted across the following regions in partnership with AKC member clubs: New England, Mid-East, Southeast, Great Lakes,



Live from New York:  
Meet the Breeds!

Plains, South Central, Northwest, and Southwest. These events underscore the AKC's ongoing commitment to developing the next generation of sportsmen and women and providing meaningful opportunities for young handlers to grow, compete, and succeed.

Additional information, including eligibility requirements and regional details, is available at [akc.org](http://akc.org).

Together, these initiatives reflect the AKC's continued leadership in education, the future of dog sports, and global engagement. We remain steadfast in our promise that everything we do, we do for dogs.

Gina M. DiNardo  
President and CEO  
American Kennel Club

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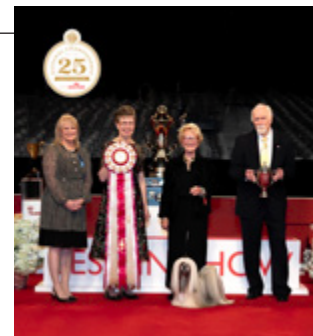
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**A** wonderful moment at December's AKC National Championship was Tatum Bartlett's big win in the Juniors finals. The 17-year-old is a fourth-generation fancier. GAZETTE readers will know her grandmother Linda Souza, who has bred Irish Wolfhounds under the Limerick banner for more than 50 years. "I guess I could say it's in my blood," Tatum told *AKC Family Dog's* Lindsey Dobruck in a [recent profile](#).

The touching photo of Tatum and her PBGV Spotify, moments after she was named Best Junior Handler, was taken by John Ricard. John was

ringside at Orlando and returned with hundreds of candid photos of the big event. We have packed as many of them as possible into this issue. Thanks to John and everyone else who made the ANC's 25th birthday a celebration to remember.



**On Our Cover:** Lhasa Apso GCh.P Ta Sen Westgate Jingle Juice; Holloway photo

JOHN RICARD ©AKC

## Regional Juniors Kick-Off

The AKC has announced the schedule of 2026 Regional Junior Showmanship events, providing junior handlers the opportunity to compete and develop skills within a structured regional format. The events will follow the same judging format as the Limited Class Junior Showmanship competition in accordance with Junior Showmanship regulations.

To participate, a junior must live in the region and have won first place in three or more Open classes in Junior Showmanship competition at AKC-licensed or -member shows. These include licensed or member specialties as well as all-breed shows.

Participating handlers must be at least 9 at the time of each qualifying win. Handlers 18 or older on the date of the show may still



compete, provided they were under 18 on the date of the last win required to qualify.

[2026 Regional Junior Showmanship Schedule](#)

Questions? Write to [juniors@akc.org](mailto:juniors@akc.org).



## AKC.tv Let's Go to the Video!

Complete group and Best in Show coverage from [KC of Palm Springs](#) is now archived at [AKC.tv](#). The archive contains video coverage of dozens of shows going back to 2023, including the last three AKC National Championships.

TOP: DAVID WOO ©AKC; CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL/COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

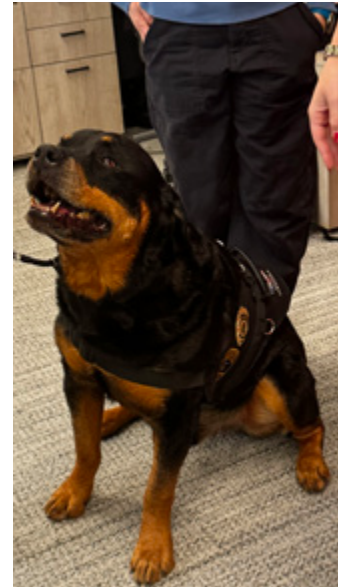
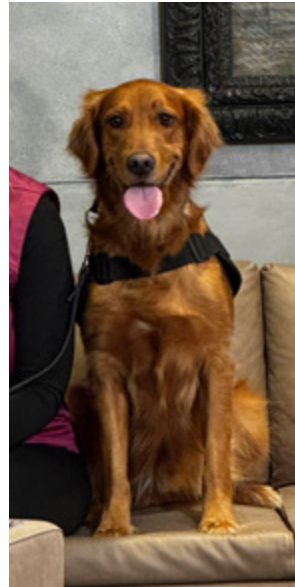
## UPDATES

# Distinguished Visitors

NEW YORK—Last month at AKC headquarters, we received a visit from the New Jersey-based Crisis Response Canines. The therapy group was the recipient of a 2025 Award for Canine Excellence (ACE) in the Teams category.

Crisis Response Canines provides strength, comfort, and emotional support to individuals, families, communities, and first responders traumatized in the aftermath of critical incidents. The therapy teams deploy locally and nationally to mass shootings, line-of-duty deaths, building collapses, natural disasters, and more.

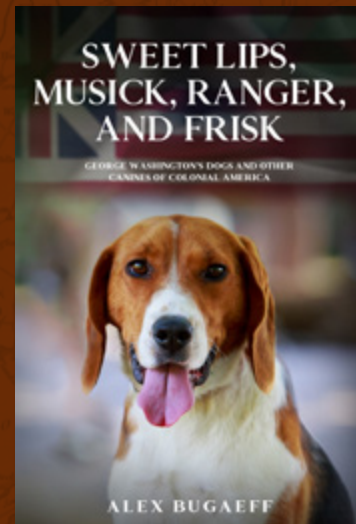
Look for a feature story covering the work of these remarkable dogs and handlers in the next issue of *AKC Family Dog*.



BOTTOM LEFT: SARAH BANKS ©AKC;  
TOP LEFT & RIGHT: KATE MCCROARY ©AKC

For more about the ACE program, and to make an ACE nomination, visit the [AKC Humane Fund](#).

## Before America Had Presidents, It Had Dog Lovers



Drawing on original writings from the period, Alex invites readers on a journey into the lives of colonial dogs—and the humans who adored them.

Available on Amazon as an ebook or in print.  
[www.amazon.com/dp/B0FTZY45K4](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FTZY45K4)

## UPDATES

# CHF Honors Champions of Canine Health

*In January, the AKC Canine Health Foundation announced recipients of its annual awards recognizing leaders in supporting canine health.*

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award is given to a person or organization that has made an exceptional contribution to advancing canine health. Steven Hamblin received the 2025 award for his life-long dedication to consistent



advocacy for canine health.

Hamblin, an AKC Board member, has served as the CHF Board of Directors' treasurer since 2020. He was honored for his advocacy for canine health research through networking, conversation, and a commitment to promoting CHF's mission. Hamblin is a breeder-exhibitor of Pekingese under the Dancing Lion banner.

### DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PARTNERS AWARD

The Health & Rescue Foundation of the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America received the 2025 Distinguished Research Partner Award, recognizing clubs or

organizations for ongoing and outstanding commitment to support canine health research.

The PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation was honored for its longstanding partnership with CHF, making annual investments to drive progress in canine health research.

Most recently, the Foundation has focused its support on a study examining the prevalence and clinical features of idiopathic epilepsy, a chronic seizure disorder, in the breed. Their sustained, research-driven commitment exemplifies how breed clubs can meaningfully contribute to scientific discovery and improved health outcomes for dogs.

HAMBLIN/AKC PHOTO; PBGV/MARY BLOOM ©AKC

## UPDATES

# Government Relations: 2025 Year in Review

*A message from AKC  
Government Relations:*

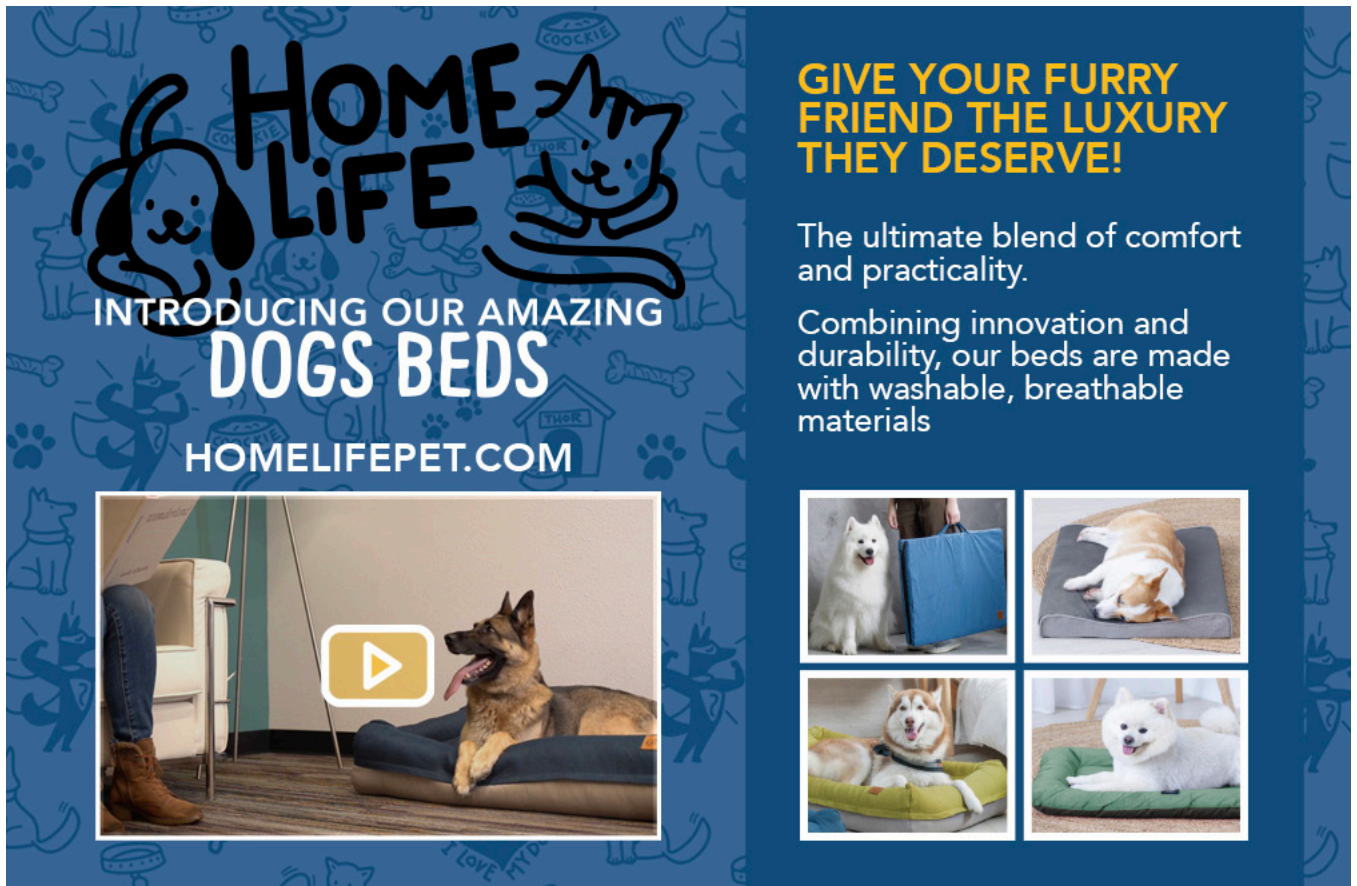
2025 was another busy year for canine legislation and regulation. All 50 states, Congress, and most local communities were in session. The AKC Government Relations department tracked more than 2,000 bills pertaining to dogs and more than 800 proposals for dog-related

administrative regulations across the country.

Additionally, as noted in our 6-month legislative review, more than 1,400 newly elected state legislators took office around the country. This presented both a challenge and an opportunity to educate lawmakers about purebred dogs and canine legislation issues.

Legislative successes clearly demonstrated that the best outcomes and most effective advocacy happen when local club members, federations and breeders—those who are local dog experts, and constituents who are directly impacted—engage with their communities and lawmakers.

[2025 Legislative Year in Review](#)



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# RINGSIDE



*Photos by John Ricard*

AKC National Championship | December 13 and 14, 2025 | Orlando, Florida



JOHN RICARD ©AKC

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AKC National Championship | December 13 and 14, 2025 | Orlando, Florida

*Photos by John Ricard*



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*Photos by John Ricard*



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# RINGSIDE

AKC National Championship | December 13 and 14, 2025 | Orlando, Florida

*Photos by John Ricard*



JOHN RICARD ©AKC



## Flying High in Orlando

**I**n an entry of 718 purebreds and mixed-breeds of all shapes and sizes, dog-and-handler teams in five jump-height categories competed at the December 2025 AKC Agility Invitational, at Orlando, Florida.

See full results on the slideshow YouTube page.

PHOTOS BY JOHN RICARD ©AKC



# ANC Winners

*The AKC signature event's 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary edition  
celebrated the best of the best.*

**The 25<sup>th</sup> annual AKC National Championship**  
presented by Royal Canin,

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida,

December 13 and 14 (total entry: 5,347)

HOLLOWAY WIN SHOTS; BEST BREED BY JOHN RICARD

# ANC 2025

## **Best in Show**

Lhasa Apso GCh.P Ta Sen Westgate  
Jingle Juice; judge Rosalind Kramer

## **Reserve Best in Show**

Gordon Setter GCh.G Tamarack Valley  
View River of Dreams

**Sporting** (entry: 953) Gordon Setter  
GCh.G Tamarack Valley View River of  
Dreams; judge Dr. Donald Sturz Jr.

**Hound** (entry: 802) Afghan Hound  
GCh.G Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman;  
judge Deirdre Petrie

**Working** (entry: 659) Doberman Pinscher  
GCh.P Connquest Best of Both Worlds;  
judge Grace Fritz

**Terriers** (entry: 623) Miniature Schnauzer  
GCh.G Carmel Joe Adamis; judge Beth  
Sweigart

**Toy** (entry: 852) Pomeranian GCh.G  
Artistry's Asian All That Is Good; judge  
Patricia Proctor

**Non-Sporting** (entry 585) Lhasa Apso  
GCh.G Ta Sen Westgate Jungle Juice;  
judge Fred Basset

**Herding** (entry 802) Old English

Sheepdog GCh.B Bugaboo's Give Me  
Smore; judge Carl Gene Liepmann

**Miscellaneous** (entry 71) Basset Fauve de  
Bretagne Enemossens Afterhours Clark;  
judge Michael Canalizo

## **Best Bred-By-Exhibitor in Show**

Smooth Fox Terrier GCh.B Aimhi Side  
Bet, owners Amy Rutherford, Barbara  
Miller, Peter Holson; breeder Amy  
Rutherford; judge Thomas Coen

## **AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals**

### **Best in Show**

German Wirehaired Pointer  
GCh.G Wirewick Afterhours Feels Like  
a Regret, BN, RN, JH, FDC, CGCA,  
CGCU, TKA, ATT, VHMA, VSWB,  
owners Robert Wickes, Marion Hancock,  
Alexis Chism (handler); judge Pluis  
Davern

## **AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed**

### **Puppy of the Year**

Border Terrier Ch. Meadowlake No  
More Cloudy Days; breeder-owner  
Karen Fitzpatrick; judges Thomas Coen,  
Pluis Davern, Rosalind Kramer

## **Best Junior Handler**

Tatum Bartlett; judge Patricia Anne  
Keenan

# ANC 2025



## Reserve Best in Show



## Sporting

# ANC 2025



Hound



Working

# ANC 2025



Terrier



Toy

# ANC 2025



## Non-Sporting



## Herding

# ANC 2025



## Miscellaneous Class



## Best Bred-By-Exhibitor

# ANC 2025



National Owner-Handled Series Finals  
Best in Show



National Owner-Handled Series Finals  
Reserve Best in Show

# ANC 2025

## Best in Show Puppy



## Best Junior Handler





Judge Dorothy Nickles asked, "Who couldn't love that face?"

## JR: *In the Beginning . . .*

*With a quarter century of the AKC National Championship now in the books, it's a fine time to look back to where it all began. From the January 2002 GAZETTE, here is Best in Show coverage of the 2001 ANC, then called the AKC/Eukanuba American Dog Classic.*

MARY BLOOM ©AKC

## TIMES PAST

**W**ith the group judging wrapped up, the lights dimmed and Best in Show judge Dorothy Nickles was escorted to the center of the ring. At the wave of her arm, the Best in Show lineup entered. It is a challenge to understand how any judge could pick out the best from such a magnificent field of dogs—this was a truly captivating gathering of outstanding quality.

Ms. Nickles examined each entry, and when she went over the Bichon, Ch. Special Times Just Right, the auditorium went completely silent. The little white dog was showing his heart out. His ever-steady partner, the immaculate Scott Sommer, took him around, presenting him fluidly and with grace. Soon Nickles walked away, only to return minutes later. “Who couldn’t love that face?” she asked, as she handed the rosette to Sommer.

It was official: The dog known affectionately as JR

had just won the top honors at the inaugural AKC/Eukanuba American Dog Classic.

Asked how it felt to be the Classic’s very first Best in Show winner, Scott Sommer offered a simple reply: “Fantastic.”

Sommer’s proud mother, Cybil, elaborates: “This is a dream come true. Since childhood, dogs were the only thing Scott was ever interested in. He used to hold make-believe dog shows in the front yard. His father would have been so proud tonight.” And as they looked on, JR showed the delighted crowd his well-known two-pawed wave.—Kerrin Winter-Churchill, January 2002

### ANC ALL-TIME BEST IN SHOW WINNERS

*(Judge’s name in parentheses)*

#### 2001

Bichon Frise Ch. Special Times Just Right! (Dorothy Nickles)

### 2001 Group Judging

**Sporting Group** (Michele Billings) Brittany Ch. Magic Sidy You Jest

**Hound Group** (Anne Rogers Clark) Beagle Ch. Shoreview’s Grace

**Working Group** (Roger Hartinger) Standard Schnauzer Ch. Charisma Jailhouse Rock

**Terrier Group** (Edd Biven) Airedale Terrier Ch. Tartan Scottshire Ultra Clide

**Toy Group** (Norman Patton) Shih Tzu Ch. Hallmark Jolei Raggedy Andy

**Non-Sporting Group** (Dr. Harry Smith) Bichon Frise Ch. Special Times Just Right

**Herding Group** (Jean Fournier) Bearded Collie Ch. Brigadoon’s Tuxedo Jake

#### 2002

Kerry Blue Terrier Ch. Torums Scarf Michael (Constance Barton)

# TIMES PAST



*Bloodhound Ch. Heathers Knock on Wood*

**2003**  
Norfolk Terrier Ch.  
Cracknor Cause Celebre  
(Frank Sabella)

**2004**  
No show in calendar  
year

**2005**  
Bloodhound Ch. Heathers

Knock on Wood (Michele  
Billings)

**2006 January**  
Alaskan Malamute  
Ch. Nanuke's Snoklassic  
No Boundaries (Jane  
Forsyth)

**2006 December**  
English Springer

Spaniel Ch. Felicity's  
Diamond Jim (Robert  
Forsyth)

**2007**  
Sealyham Terrier Ch.  
Efbe's Hidalgo at Goodspice  
(Maxine Beam)

**2008**  
Pointer Ch. Cookieland

## TIMES PAST

Seasyde Hollyberry (Dr.  
Robert D. Smith)

**2009**

Scottish Terrier  
Ch. Roundtown Mercedes  
of Maryscot (Robert  
Moore)

**2010**

Australian Shepherd Ch.  
Propwash Reckon Judge  
(Jean Fournier)

**2011**

Standard Poodle GCh.  
Jaset's Satisfaction (Polly  
Smith)

**2012**

Wire Fox Terrier GCh.  
Afterall Painting the Sky  
(Edd Bivin)

**2013**

Portuguese Water Dog  
GCh. Claircreek  
Impression de Matisse  
(Barbara Alderman)

**2014**

Skye Terrier GCh.  
Cragsmoor Good Time  
Charlie (Ron Menaker)



*Wire Fox GCh. Afterall  
Painting the Sky*

**2015**

German Shepherd Dog  
GCh. Lockenhaus Rumor  
Has It v Kenlyn (Robert  
Stein)

**2016**

Puli GCh.B  
Cordmaker Mister Blue  
Sky (Dr. Anthony  
DiNardo)

## TIMES PAST

**2017**

Cocker Spaniel GCh.P  
Silverhall Strike Force  
(Roger Hartinger)

**2018**

Whippet GCh.P Pinnacle  
Tennessee Whiskey (Elliott  
Weiss)

**2019**

Pekingese GCh. Pequest  
Wasabi (Dorothy Collier)

**2020**

Whippet GCh.P Pinnacle  
Kentucky Bourbon (James  
Moses)

**2021**

Giant Schnauzer GCh.G  
Lagniappe's from the  
Mountains to the Bayou  
(Dana Cline)

**2022**

Bulldog GCh. Cherokee  
Legend Encore (Desmond  
Murphy)

**2023**

Shih Tzu GCh.P  
Hallmark Jolei Out of This  
World (Clay Coady)



*Whippet GCh.P Pinnacle  
Tennessee Whiskey*

**2024**

Giant Schnauzer GCh.G  
Hearthmore's Wintergreen  
Mountain, RI, CGC, TKN,  
FITB (Carl Liepmann)

**2025**

Lhasa Apso GCh. Ta  
Sen Westgate Jingle Juice  
(Rosalind Kramer)



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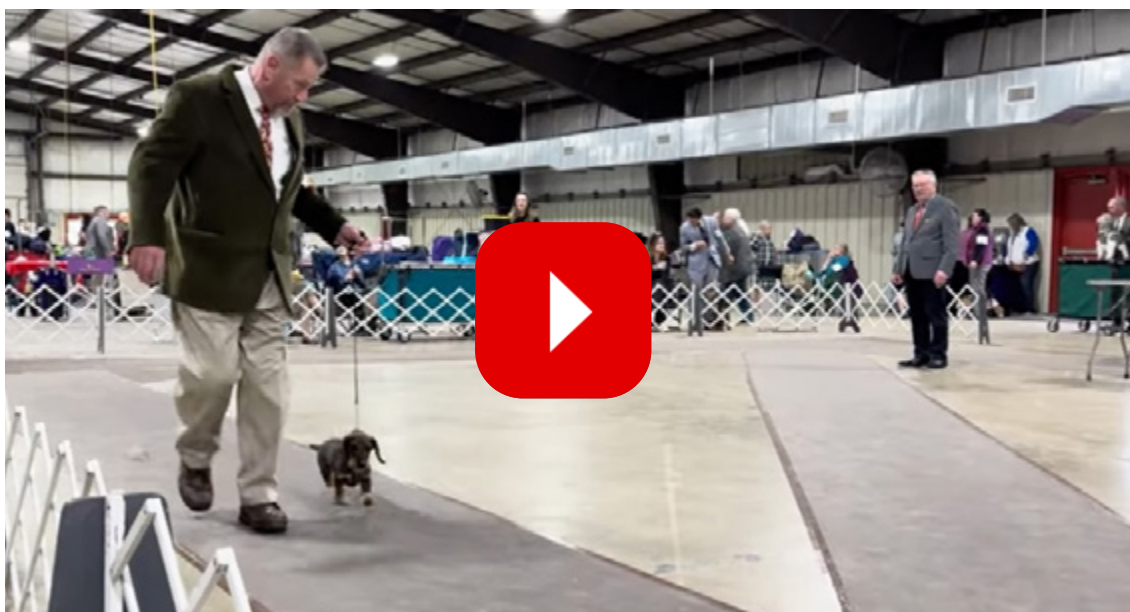
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## ANC Video Roundup

*There's plenty of AKC.tv's group and Best in Show coverage from Orlando on YouTube.*

19:38



## Wired!

*WEST FRIENDSHIP, MARYLAND— Alfred Ferruggiaro judges Wirehaired Dachshunds at Annapolis KC. 13:03*

## VIDEOS



### **The Mighty Mini**

Meet the Miniature Schnauzer *is the latest entry in the AKC's breed video series.* 8:22



### **“Just a Whistle and a Prayer”**

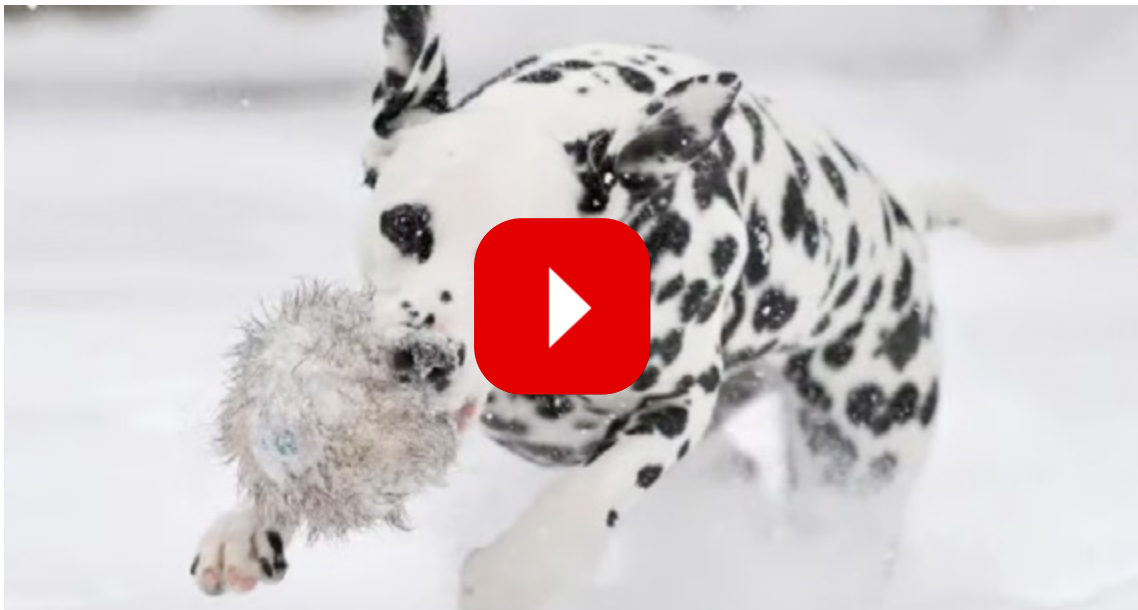
*From Mike Heard, a musical tribute to Labrador Retriever field trials.* 2:23

## VIDEOS



### **“A Wee Bit of Scotch”**

*In this 1965 newsreel, Mamie the Scottie takes Westminster’s Best in Show. Bonus: Best Brace. 1:32*



### **Dogs Who Love Snow**

*A Gazette Gallery slideshow: Purebreds in snowy climes, from the pages of the AKC GAZETTE. 1:18*

## Susan Giles

The thrilling weekend in Orlando that saw Susan Giles named AKC Breeder of the Year before handling her Lhasa Apso JJ to Best in Show was the culmination of 50 years in the dog game. Susan has had many top winners in her time. She says, “When you spend a great deal of time together training, grooming, conditioning, show dogs end up being close to your heart because you’ve spent so much time together. You develop quite a bond. There are those who will always be the special-special dogs in your heart, and they’re generally the ones you’ve shown and specialied.”



BUD BOCCONE ©2026

# BREED COLUMNS

Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)



*In this month's Australian Terrier Club of America column, "Cooperation and Competition: A Breeder's Balancing Act," Caren Holtby writes that "preserving a rare breed isn't just about passion—it's about partnership."*

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

# 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](mailto:Arliss.Paddock@akc.org)



## THIS MONTH

### Hound

- 42 Afghan Hounds
- 43 Basenjis
- 47 Bloodhounds
- 48 Borzoi
- 51 Dachshunds
- 53 Grands Bassets Griffons Vendéens
- 54 Greyhounds
- 56 Ibizan Hounds
- 58 Irish Wolfhounds
- 61 Norwegian Elkhounds
- 63 Otterhounds
- 65 Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens
- 67 Pharaoh Hounds
- 68 Rhodesian Ridgebacks
- 70 Salukis
- 72 Scottish Deerhounds
- 73 Whippets

### Terrier

- 75 Airedale Terriers
- 78 American Hairless Terriers
- 80 Australian Terriers
- 82 Bedlington Terriers
- 85 Border Terriers
- 87 Bull Terriers
- 89 Cairn Terriers
- 91 Dandie Dinmont Terriers
- 93 Smooth Fox Terriers
- 95 Wire Fox Terriers
- 97 Glen of Imaal Terriers
- 98 Irish Terriers
- 100 Kerry Blue Terriers
- 103 Lakeland Terriers
- 105 Manchester Terriers
- 107 Norfolk Terriers
- 109 Norwich Terriers
- 110 Scottish Terriers
- 112 Sealyham Terriers
- 115 Skye Terriers
- 117 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
- 119 Welsh Terriers

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

### Afghan Hounds

#### TO HOLD OR NOT TO HOLD THE TAIL

We have become generic in our stack presentation of the Afghan Hound. Today, I believe the majority of judges expect that we stack our dogs with one hand on the tail to complete the picture. It sometimes seems that a judge may even suspect a negative ulterior motive for an exhibitor to not have a hand on the tail. I assure you, this is not done to “hide” anything, but rather just that the dog prefers to not have that manipulation at its back end. As exhibitors of this breed, we know that it is more important that a hand is held at the front end of the Afghan Hound for an approach and examination of the dog by a stranger.

The standard clearly states that “at a trot” the Afghan Hound moves with his tail carried high. This absolutely completes the moving picture of such a dog of regal bearing.

Nowhere does the



*Afghan Hounds Ch. Asri Havid of Ghanza, Ch. Sirdar of Ghanzi, Ch. West Mill Omar of Prides Hill and Ch. Badshah of Ainsdart (art: Frederick Thomas Daws, 1933)*

standard say anything about said tail carriage at a static pose. Whether the dog is standing with his tail either propped by human hand or naturally dropped behind him at rest bears no difference on the arrogant impression.

Now of course, if the dog chooses to hold his tail up on his own, that may add to the air of self-esteem. Likewise, if a dog stands with his tail down and actually tucked between his back legs, more than likely the sense of apprehension is visible.

It is the exhibitor’s prerogative how an individual dog is presented in front of the judge. The exhibitor knows

the dog and knows which style will make for the best experience.

Please consider the fact that no other sighthound is presented with a manually propped tail. It may be argued that few sighthounds move with their tails held high, but even so, the fact is that some do. All stand with a tail in repose.

Enough time has passed that we’ve lost some major forces in our breed, and forgive me for not mentioning all of them, but to my point, these include the unforgettable Judy and Herman Felton (Mandith), Col. Wallace Pede (Scheherazade), and Ruth

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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“Babbie” Tongren (Ben Ghazi). As Afghan Hound breeders these important figures played hugely appreciated roles, creating foundations for the development and education, hence the promotion of this breed to the fancy as it would rise to the height of its popularity. All four became esteemed judges, and for decades in their positions, they more than requested that their beloved breed be presented without a helping hand on the tail. We always respected and followed their instruction.

To hold or not to hold: There is no question. Both presentations are acceptable, neither preferred, and both are proper and correct.

—Harry Bennett,  
[harryonly@aol.com](mailto:harryonly@aol.com)  
[Afghan Hound Club of America](#)

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### Basenjis

A fellow fancier contacted me with an idea for my column (thank you, Katie Campbell): “Jennifer Power,

of Zanzipow Basenjis, (fancier, breeder, judge from Sydney, Australia) told me about the amazing journey she and her husband have had: They traveled the world over the past few years attending many of the major Basenji specialties and have seen most of the current contenders of the day, to the tune of 500 unique/different Basenjis. There’s got to be an amazing story in that to inspire not only Basenji folks but also those in other breeds.”

And I’ll let Jennifer tell it.

### JENNIFER POWER’S TRAVELOGUE: BASENJIS AROUND THE WORLD

Although I’ve owned, bred, and shown Basenjis for around 25 years, I had an interest in them before we got one. Whilst waiting for my first Basenji, I attended a dog show while on holiday in Santa Barbara around 1999 and sat there gobsmacked at these beautiful dogs. Who would have thought that some 27 years later I would have immersed

myself in everything Basenji, and that my Basenji adventures would take me around the globe?

*When did you come up with the idea of traveling the world for dog shows?*

It’s something I’ve always wanted to do whenever we planned an overseas trip: I would search the internet to see if there were shows, and we would arrange our trip accordingly. My husband used to do it for sporting events, now it’s dog shows. Patriots versus Jets at Meadowlands has been replaced by Basenji nationals.

*How many specialties and shows have you attended—and where?*

Not as many as I’d like, unfortunately; however, there is still plenty of time to add to the total. From the initial show in Santa Barbara, I’ve also been to a hound club show outside of Durban, South Africa, in 2011; the Basenji national in 2023 in Seattle, and again last year in Tucson;

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



From top left: Jennifer and David Power, Sydney, Australia; Top 20 lineup at the 2025 BCOA national specialty in Tucson; 2025 Top 20 winner GCh.S Sirobe No News Is Good News (judges, L to R: Jennifer Power, breeder-judge; Gloria Kerr, AKC group judge; Erin Karst, handler judge); Swedish Svenska Basenji Open Show, June 2025, BIS Enigma A Smile Is My Superpower, owner-breeder-handler Sofie Krigholm (photographer Lena Gonzalez); proud breeder-owner-handler Jennifer Power with Aust Ch. Sup. Ch. Neut. Ch MBISS Zanzipow Bowie's China Girl.

and another all-breed show outside of Portland in 2017. I found myself drawn into watching an all-breed show in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2016, while there with a large group

of friends. Last year we attended the World Dog Show in Finland and had the opportunity to visit the Swedish Basenji specialty and judge an open show the same weekend.

We've booked a Northern Lights holiday for November this year in Norway, so we'll be attending a show while there. Crufts, Westminster, and the Split [Croatia] 4 Summer

COURTESY JENNIFER POWER / LENA GONZALEZ / TONI LEITAO

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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Night Dog Shows are still on the agenda.

*What are your favorite memories?*

So many to choose from ... where do I start? Judging the top 20 at last year's Basenji national was a highlight, as was judging in Sweden. The wonderful thing about memories is that they are usually based around people. Not just lovely breeders and handlers, but judges as well. Gavin Robertson, judging at the World Dog Show, commented to me in the middle of judging the champions lineup, how happy he felt (and impressed he was) at the quality of dogs. Those sorts of memories don't leave you.

*What is the biggest challenge?*

I'd say time or money, or a combination of both. Working full time and with today's living costs, the dollar doesn't go as far as it once did. Also, living in Australia, the distance you need to

travel is so tiring. Factoring in the seasonal differences between the two hemispheres can be challenging too. We both love traveling, so we make it work.

*Any humorous moments?*

The funniest moment would have been our travels to get to the Swedish specialty. After 41 hours of traveling, we had requested that our concierge arrange a taxi to the show. When our booked time arrived, we found out they would be two hours late. Never letting anything get the better of us, my husband checked the local bus timetable and found one that was leaving in less than 10 minutes. We ran to the terminal, boarded, and rejoiced in our resourcefulness. When we reached our destination we disembarked, expecting to see Basenjies everywhere. Nada. Nothing. Zilch. We wandered around the vast parkland; still nothing. We asked the girls working at a cafe if a dog show was on around there. "No, not

here!" A customer in the cafe overheard us and said a Basenji show was just down the road—five miles away. We started walking. It started to rain. Two rain-drenched hours later, we arrived to find we had missed some of the dog classes, but at least the sun had reappeared. We can laugh about it now.

*What friends have you made?*

So many, it's rather humbling. Most started off as Facebook friends, but after our travels, they have become real-life friends. I had met a few of them through their judging appointments in Australia, but the majority through Facebook. In South Africa, after the show, we had drinks with several exhibitors and judges, just talking dogs. At both Basenji nationals, everyone made me feel so welcome, and the conversations went far into the evening. In Sweden, the hospitality again was wonderful, as were the

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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discussions. At the world dog show, a Latvian fancier whom I've become good friends with, and a Polish fancier, presented me with welcoming gifts, and I felt extremely honored. I'd love to put names to paper, but it would be a disservice to those who I'd possibly leave out.

*What is your overall impression of dogs worldwide?*

Definitely not disappointed. Social media has made it so much easier to showcase our dogs, but unfortunately, I think many photos don't do justice. I've witnessed some beautiful dogs across all our trips, but the lineup for Winners Dog at last year's BCOA national and the dog and bitch champion classes at the World Dog Show were outstanding. I wasn't surprised at the caliber of dogs—I knew they would be outstanding—but I was surprised at how many were exceptional. It's a testament to the breeders and owners on both continents.

One aspect that did excite

me was the number of younger handlers perfecting their craft. At the Swedish specialty, my husband and I loved watching Emma Prahls young son, Elton, show their veteran dog. You could see the connection between the two and the bond formed. Very inspiring.

*What country had the nicest facilities?*

Again, it was all very different. In Sweden, we were nestled lakeside in the wilderness. Scenically beautiful, peaceful (apart from the odd howling Basenji), back to nature. The World Dog Show was huge, with almost 100 rings; however, the rings were not conducive to large spectator numbers. In South Africa, the show was held at the base of a mountain on some sporting fields. The bonus there was a bar/restaurant at the grounds for after-show frivolity. Santa Barbara, with the view of the Pacific, was gorgeous. The BCOA nationals were all very different. A sunflower ranch at Argus ranch

in Auburn, Washington, and the Kino Sports Complex in Tucson couldn't have been more opposite, however they both worked well for the shows.

*Where was the best camaraderie?*

All of them. I think because everyone has a common goal or a common interest, everyone tends to help one another. It may be a competition, but the mutual respect is quite refreshing. At the end of the day, no matter who wins, everyone celebrating together is brilliant.

*A huge thank-you, Jennifer, for sharing your adventures and reflections with us. I appreciate you taking the time to answer my questions so thoughtfully. And the next time we are at a show together, I'd love to join you for drinks and dinner. Good to know that the afterparty remains a cherished tradition worldwide.*

—Marcia Woodard,  
[marciabarkless@gmail.com](mailto:marciabarkless@gmail.com)  
Basenji Club of America

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

### Bloodhounds

#### THE VALUE OF WORKING DOGS IN THE SHOW RING

**M**y first exposure to this wonderful breed was on a mountainside in Colorado, when I was asked to follow a Bloodhound search team and be responsible for keeping track of where we were and how to get back to base camp. I fell in love that day. Not only with the dog that was working, but with the entire concept of scent as a forensic tool to help find missing persons. I was lucky. The handler was knowledgeable and willing to share that knowledge. More than 40 years later, I am still in awe of this breed's nose, but I know a lot more about what it takes to keep that nose on track and get the nose where it needs to go.

The standard is vital to creating the perfect working dog. Those angles, wrinkles, topline, neck, and feet are all part of what creates a dog that can go for miles, not one who "runs out of gas" after 4,000 yards.



There was a famous working dog about 20 years ago who was responsible for closing a case involving a child abducted by car. The dog trailed the scent of the child down the freeway but eventually had to be lifted off the trail because he could physically go no further.

This dog had a marvelous nose, but his structure simply could not keep pace with the demands of his job. A working Bloodhound should be a correctly structured Bloodhound, but conformation showing and mantrailing training are both time consuming and absorbing passions, and you do not

get many dogs who cross between the two. This is a shame. For a breed to stay true to its working past, the working dogs must get into the ring to be judged and compared to their peers.

The value of the conformation ring as a socializing and training tool is also often overlooked. Dog shows are loud, with sounds and smells that can overwhelm a young or green dog. Just the barking of a thousand dogs can be an experience that is difficult to get in the regular world. Walking nicely on a lead past rattling crates or blow-dryers is a valuable life

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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skill. Learning to ignore a feisty terrier, a wildly barking dog, or a coy bitch in season are all things that translate to the working realm. Being asked to hold still and be examined by a stranger? Focusing and concentrating on a single task while other things are happening around you? All good training for a working dog as well as a show dog

A working dog is likely to be in good shape, muscular, and active. This allows them to contrast nicely against dogs who have been allowed to represent “stands over more ground” as “fatten then up,” or “elastic gait” as “jiggles when moves” A working dog will not have so much chest as to be mistaken for a Mastiff and will usually be of a reasonable size. They might be more moderate than dogs who never see the inside of a harness, but a judge cannot put up what they don’t see.

The Bloodhound standard allows for a wide variety of styles within the breed. We are not a “cookie-cutter dog,”

and I hope, never will be. To keep our breed healthy, we must remove the blinders that can exist if you don’t see dogs that actually do their job. The best way to balance the tendency for extremes is to put working dogs into the ring for comparison.

Bloodhounds haven’t changed much since the 1890s. Lets keep it that way!

—Betsy Copeland,  
[Copelandia@aol.com](mailto:Copelandia@aol.com)  
American Bloodhound Club

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### Borzoi

#### LURE COURSING WITH BORZOI PART TWO: TRAINING AND CONDITIONING

*My interlocutors for this interview were Borzoi breeders Sandra Moore (Avalon Borzoi); Dr. Anne Midgarden, DVM (Teine Borzoi); and Tom Golcher and KC Thompson (Zoiboys Ranch).*

*Do you train your puppies for lure coursing? If so, how?*

*Sandra: I breed for exaggerated prey drive—or*

desire to chase. Many years ago, Bonnie Dalzell, of Silkenswift Borzoi, said that the way she raised her dogs was to play with litters using a lure toy starting at 6 weeks. Then, you play with them individually at about 10 or 11 weeks to assess each puppy’s prey drive. In my experience, the best courser is the puppy who goes crazy even when you play with the other puppies. Hopefully, the one with the best prey drive is also your best conformation dog.

*Anne: I just put a bag on the end of a lunge whip and let them chase it and play tug of war with it about once a month or less—always—leave them wanting more. It is better to do one puppy at a time.*

*Tom & KC: We use puppy culture program to train our puppies. We check their desire to chase as soon as they open their eyes. When puppies start eating kibble, we start dragging the lure for them to test for lure drive. We set up courses for all ages but have puppies*

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*GCh. DC Avalon Druid Dance Willowind, SC, BCAT, THDN, FDC, TT, RTD, GRC, SORC2, open-field coursing; DC Teine Ruby Stiletto, SC (two photos)—running/catching the lure, and stacked; Silken Swift Ambassador, FCh., driving uphill and showing the importance of a flexible loin; GCh. B DC Zoiboyz Eclipse of the Heart SC GRC JOR CGC TKN, FCh., showing the stretch required by the hind legs, as well as the importance of the long loin vs. back.*

run toward their owner on an easier short course uphill. Running downhill is hard on the dog's shoulders.

*At what age do you think it's safe to start practice runs?*

*Sandra:* Some smaller females can be ready to run at trials as yearlings. Puppies have to get used to the noise of the lure machine and

the noise of the plastic bags going through the pullies. You can start practicing with them on straight 50-yard runs at 6 months or sometimes earlier.

*Anne:* Puppies are quite near-sighted until 16 weeks of age. But short straight runs are good. Again, always leave them wanting more.

*Tom & KC:* In 2005, we

bought 35 acres with the intention of bringing in young dogs, as there were no places to practice. We had great mentors, and that made us want to give back. We put on monthly runs, and we set the course in such a way as to get the dogs used to the sounds, test their instincts, socialize, and introduce new owners and their dogs to the sport. As the dogs get older and stronger we condition them more. We do not really run them before they turn 18 months.

*Is solid recall important for lure coursing?*

*Sandra:* It is important, as not all the fields are completely fenced. If I have a dog who does not come back to me, they do not get to go coursing. You start training at an early age.

COURTESY KRISTINA TERRA / OWNERS

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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I heard a method from a Saluki breeder, who takes his puppies out in the middle of nowhere in hot weather; he calls them and gives water. I use a loud whistle and favorite treats from puppyhood. Borzoi are actually pretty good about recall with some work.

*Anne:* For lure coursing it is meaningless. You go get your dog when the lure stops. Never call them off of it. For hunting, they can't hear you anyway, but training to come to a whistle is helpful.

*Tom & KC:* It is important for open-field coursing, but not so much for lure coursing. If your dog is focused on the lure, you can get them on the finish line.

*How do you condition your Borzoi for coursing?*

*Sandra:* The only conditioning my dogs need to run 700-yard courses is being out and playing at home. In hot weather, the dogs are out after 8 pm and we hear them running all night. Once it's cooler, we take

our dogs on two- to three-mile walks every morning. Walking is good for conditioning their muscles and pads, which is especially important for open-field coursing.

In all these years my dogs have never had any injuries lure-coursing. But the dogs have to be in good condition, and you have to use common sense. Plus, they have to be acclimated—if you run them in the Southeast, they need to be outside during the day more. You need to know your dog, bring shade and water. There is not a ribbon on the planet worth overheating a dog. Once they overheat once, they will have problems with hot weather forever.

When you go open-field coursing, you can't control how far the dogs run. If they sight a rabbit, they can run a mile. Anything over 65 degrees F is probably too hot for that.

*Anne:* Borzoi are relatively lazy coursers compared to Greyhounds and Whippets

(as there is no terrier in Borzoi pedigrees); so, the more fit they are, the better and longer they run. Free-running with kennelmates is good. Running a long fence line works the best. All my excellent lure coursers have been dedicated fence-fighters.

I also road work at a trot beside a bike or golf cart if I am serious. I feed my Borzoi a protein meal the morning of the open-field coursing, which may include eggs, sardines, or meat. I do not feed before lure-coursing trials.

*Tom & KC:* Conditioning is very important. You cannot roadwork a Borzoi fast enough or far enough. Roadwork is endurance work for the heart. The speed muscles can only be developed by hard running. We have a woodpile at the end of our property. Every morning, our dogs run as fast as they can up toward it, because that is where the bunnies live. Running up the grade is for strengthening the loin muscles, and

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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running downhill is for teaching memory muscles to stretch as far as they can.

We have our own lure machine, but you can practice without a machine by using favorite toys and running a dog between two people. Another good trick is suspending a toy in a tree so your dog stands up to stretch his loin muscles. Jumping up on the owners' shoulders stretches those muscles, too—though perhaps that is not the best exercise for the owner! As far as feeding, during the running season we give food with higher protein levels.

—Kristina Terra,

[k.terra@mac.com](mailto:k.terra@mac.com)

[Borzoi Club of America](#)

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## Dachshunds

### HUNTING REALLY ABOVE GROUND

We usually think of Dachshunds as earthdogs—that is, they go to ground to hunt their quarry. But the dachshund is versatile, and some hunters use small Dachshunds

on squirrels.

In the Northeast, the gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) is hunted. We don't have the big fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*) that occur further west and north. The grays are small and quick and athletic. They forage on the ground under oak trees and beeches, and of course they help themselves to corn, apples, and peaches in orchards and on farms. In more densely populated areas they also eat tulip bulbs and dig holes to cache their acorns in window boxes. While digging these holes they often throw out the flowers that were planted there earlier.

The hunting season for squirrels is long, September to February in many states, and squirrels are fairly common, so the dogs can always get a good workout if taken squirrel hunting.

Because the Dachshund is a scent hound, he wants to follow a squirrel's foraging tracks. But the squirrel is a nervous animal, and while on the ground it is very alert. It will start searching

away from a tree, then suddenly run back to the tree trunk and look around for predators. Then it comes back to the ground and begins looking for food again.

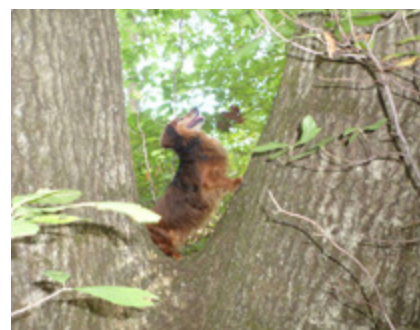
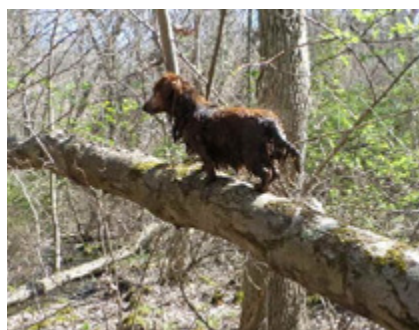
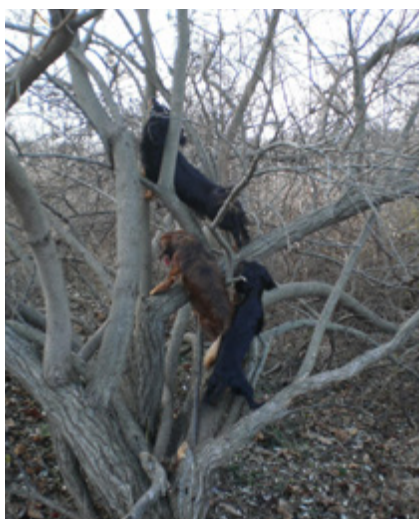
These short, back-and-forth tracks can confuse a Dachshund, especially one who is used to running rabbits. But eventually the dog understands to stay at the tree with the freshest track going up the trunk.

They also learn to listen for the little scrabbling sounds of a squirrel climbing a tree or rustling among the leaves on the ground. The Dachsie will stand still and listen in all directions before taking off after the squirrel. (Even my city dogs can hear a squirrel running on the smooth phone lines high above the back fence. They launch themselves off the patio chairs screaming, by which time the squirrel is two houses away.)

The squirrel will often only go about ten feet up on a tree trunk to watch the dog. (Some park squirrels

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*Dachshunds squirrel-hunting: Bane, Bay, and Hedge, on and in trees and brush. The quarry: In the Northeast, it is the Eastern gray squirrel.*

have been known to come down the side of the tree trunk away from the dog. However, this maneuver may not work if there are two Dachshunds at the tree.) The dogs also learn to watch high in the tree branches as the squirrel runs from branch to branch. The dog not only sees the squirrel but also hears the branches and leaves moving. And some

Dachshunds will try to climb to get nearer the squirrel.

In the winter squirrels will often be found in brush piles, foraging for food rather than working the frozen ground. A small Dachshund is ideal for flushing the hidden squirrel. Sometimes the squirrel will be found under junkpiles or in bulldozed push-piles, which can be large. In this

case the Dachshund clambers and slithers through the logs, making the squirrel vacate.

Even the softer dirt under fallen logs is attractive to squirrels, and we often flush one from under big fallen tree trunks, particularly if there is snow on the surrounding ground.

A squirrel will also try to swim away from pursuing

COURTESY TRUDY KAWAMI

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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dogs, taking to water-filled ditches and brooks. Being scenthounds, Dachshunds are able to track the fleeing rodent and keep the hunt going.

When the dog thinks there is a squirrel up a tree I begin circling the tree, looking for the Bushytail. The dog watches me, and if I put my earplugs in they start barking and getting excited, as they know this means a shot will follow. If I raise the gun and point it upward, they get even more eager. Then, when and if the squirrel hits the ground, they pounce on it, so happy to have hunted.

Sometimes the squirrel jams itself into a hole in the base of a tree, and my smallest Dachshund—five pounds—tries mightily to squirm into the hole and pull the squirrel out.

The Dachshunds really like to hunt squirrels, and it's a good way to get them in shape for hawking season. Squirrels are plentiful in most woods and are crafty enough to give a challenging hunt. For those who think

only “hawkin’ dogs” hunt the trees, smoothie Ember, from a show line, would beg to differ.

—Teddy Moritz and  
Trudy Kawami,  
[salixbrooklyn@aol.com](mailto:salixbrooklyn@aol.com)  
[Dachshund Club of America](#)

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### Grands Bassets Griffons Vendéens

*We are delighted to welcome the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen to the AKC GAZETTE breed columns for the first time.*

#### INTRODUCING THE GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN

The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (GBGV) is a distinct French hound breed, not simply a larger version of the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen.

Officially recognized as separate breeds in 1972, Grands and Petits differ in structure and standards. The GBGV is taller, with longer proportions; ears that reach the end of the muzzle; a domed skull matching the

muzzle's width; and dark, almond-shaped eyes.

Their coats are mostly white with bi- or tri-color markings, while solid colors are not acceptable under AKC standards. Built for endurance, they should look balanced, never long and low or tall and square—and are adept at hunting hare, roe deer, or wild boar.

Temperamentally, GBGVs are intelligent, methodical, and eager to please, generally exhibiting better recall than Petits but retaining strong scent-driven instincts. They excel in AKC companion and performance events, require regular grooming, and must be kept on a lead or within a secure area due to their drive to follow scents.

Among the four Vendéen hounds—the Petit, Grand Basset, Briquet, and Grand Griffon—each was bred for specific game and terrain in France. The GBGV's spirited disposition and need for both physical and mental stimulation make them rewarding yet challenging companions.

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*Built for endurance, Grands Bassets Griffons Vendéens should look balanced—never long and low or tall and square. They are adept at hunting hare, roe deer, or wild boar.*



When considering a GBGV as a family pet, it is important to provide consistent training and early socialization to help them adapt to household routines. Their sociable nature means they usually get along well with other dogs and children, but their independent streak calls for patient,

positive reinforcement. Prospective owners should also be prepared for their vocal tendencies, as GBGVs are known to use their voices both while hunting and at home. —*The GBGVCA Breed Preservation Committee*

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

## Greyhounds

### EOS, THE MOST PORTRAYED GREYHOUND

This month's column was inspired by a trip to Windsor Castle this

summer. In the Queen's sitting room hangs a family portrait of Prince Albert in his hunting clothes, Queen Victoria, and their child Vicky. Eos, the Greyhound, sits at the feet of the Prince while Vicky plays with some of the dead game brought in. The picture is entitled "The Game" and was commissioned by the royal pair shortly after their marriage in 1840.

The painting took five years to be completed and hung at Windsor Castle. The original design was altered to accommodate the addition of their child, the Princess Royal. All the family's castle dogs are included in this painting—Islay and Cairnach, the Dandie Dinmonts—but Eos, the Prince's favorite, is quite prominent.

It is suspected that some artistic license was at play in this portrait; while Queen Victoria truly loved Prince Albert, it is doubtful that he was allowed to strew dead animals about on the drawing room carpet.

COURTESY JOLANDA HUISMAN

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*Edwin Landseer's "A Favourite Greyhound of Prince Albert" (1841), depicting Eos with the prince's beaver tophat, ivory-topped cane, and leather gloves; bronze of Eos on the Isle of Wight.*

also featured in a portrait by Landseer with Princess Alice and another with Princess Vicky.

Eos was a black female with a streak of white on the back of her neck and from her muzzle to her back-skull, and more on her underside. Eos was given to Albert, while a German count, at the age of 6 months. He brought Eos to England in 1840 when he was wed to Queen Victoria. "Preceding their marriage, in answer to an inquiry by the Queen, Prince Albert wrote back that Eos kept herself well, is friendly if there was plum cake in the room, and put out if caused to jump over a stick. She is a keen hunter who is sleepy afterward, proud, and contemptuous of other dogs." (Jagow, 1938, p. 46)



Queen Victoria was a patron of the famous painter Sir Edwin Landseer, who provided the royal couple

with art lessons and one additional rather whimsical painting with Eos as the centerpiece. Eos was

The next painting, started and finished in 1841, was

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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presented to Prince Albert for Christmas of that year by the Queen. The composition features Eos with her shiny black coat guarding Prince Albert's beaver tophat, his ivory-topped cane, and his leather gloves and is in sharp contrast against the red tablecloth in the background. Landseer borrowed these items to sketch, and the prince's manservant became quite alarmed when the Prince called for them and they could not be found.

The whole project was a secret, and this life-size portrait of Eos was a surprise and was well received by the Prince, according to the Queen's journal of the day.

The last of Landseer's painting of Eos was a memorial painting delivered to Prince Albert on his birthday, a month after she died. Queen Victoria commented in her journal that the Prince was most distressed and that Eos had been his constant companion for 10 and a half years. The composition

of this portrait shows Eos with Princess Alice resting against her side with a dog toy in hand.

Albert and Victoria had a romantic marriage and are said to have loved each other dearly. They were both animal lovers and had dogs that were very much a part of the family.

One of the activities they enjoyed together was sketching their dogs. Queen Victoria compiled their etching into several volumes of work. She and Albert were tutored by Sir George Hayter and Landseer and developed their artistic abilities throughout their marriage.

In one of the etchings, Eos is shown with her collar with her name on it, standing with her tongue lolling out of her head; another has her perched over the top of a sofa. She is also portrayed with the Dachshund Waldmann.

These volumes are housed in the Royal Collection Trust, along with descriptions and images of the

Landseer paintings, etchings, and watercolors of Eos and the other household dogs.

Eos was also celebrated by Prince Albert in a silver table centerpiece and two bronze statues—one that stands over her grave in Windsor Home Park, and one which was a cast of the original, standing at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

See <https://www.rct.uk/collection/search> for more information, pictures, and the references for this article.

—Patricia Clark,  
President and JEC  
[Greyhound Club of America](#)

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## Ibizan Hounds

### TYPE, STYLE, AND THE IBIZAN HOUND: A BREEDER'S RESPONSIBILITY

One of the great privileges and responsibilities of breeding Ibizan Hounds is learning to see beyond personal preference and momentary fashion, and instead anchoring our decisions in type. Not style.

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



Ibizan Hound, June 2006 (Carol Beuchat photo)

Not trends. Not what happens to be winning this season. Type.

The Ibizan Hound standard is, and must remain, our ultimate source of truth. It is the blueprint that connects us to the dogs that came before us and to those still working today in their country of origin. These are not relics of the past, nor museum pieces preserved only in photographs. Ibizan Hounds continue to exist as functional hunting dogs in Spain; athletic, efficient, and unmistakable in silhouette, movement, and expression.

That reality matters. It should ground every serious breeding decision we make.

Within the Ibizan Hound, there is room ... healthy room for variation in style. Style reflects expression, proportion, substance, and nuance. It allows breeders to leave a signature without erasing the breed. Style must never be confused with correct type, however. When that line blurs, we risk drifting away from what makes an Ibizan an Ibizan.

The standard can be wordy, and it can sometimes be misunderstood as overly technical. Take the description of the ears: *wide open, a sharp cone truncated at the base*. This is not poetic language; it is functional, descriptive language meant to protect something very specific. The Ibizan ear is large, open, and upright, with very slight inner and outer corners. It is not the ear of a Basenji. It is not the ear of a Pharaoh Hound. It is not the ear of a Cirneco. Those breeds have beautiful, correct ears of their own, but the

Ibizan ear is uniquely Ibizan, and it contributes powerfully to breed type.

When we begin accepting “close enough” because something is stylish, eye-catching, or currently popular, we dilute that uniqueness. Over time, the breed becomes generic, not incorrect in any one dramatic way, but quietly less itself.

This same caution applies to color, coat, and other features that, while described in the standard, are not unique to the breed. These elements matter, but they should never outweigh the *structural* and *functional* hallmarks that define the Ibizan Hound. Movement, front assembly, balance, outline, and overall athletic utility are not decorative, they are essential. The Ibizan is a hunter, a jumper, a dog meant to move across challenging terrain with efficiency and purpose.

Which brings me to a question I believe breeders must be willing to ask themselves honestly:

Is a less-than-ideal tail

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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carriage, paired with a truly correct and functional front, more worthy of breeding consideration than a dog with a beautiful tail but a generic front?

That question is uncomfortable because it forces us to rank priorities. It asks us to decide whether we are breeding for lasting breed integrity or for immediate visual appeal. A tail carriage, while important, does not hunt rabbits. A correct front does. A correct front supports sound movement, endurance, and longevity. It supports the very reason this breed exists.

None of this suggests we should ignore faults or excuse them. But breeding is the art of managing strengths and weaknesses while protecting *what is essential*. When breeders become overly fixated on surface features—or worse, confuse them with features specific to type—we risk losing the deeper, functional identity of the Ibizan Hound.

As mentors, breeders, and

stewards of this breed, our job is not to create carbon copies or chase fleeting ideals. Our job is to preserve a living, working heritage. The standard gives us the framework. The dogs in Spain remind us of the purpose. And our responsibility is to bridge the two with clarity, discipline, and respect.

Type is not negotiable. Style is personal. And knowing the difference may be the most important skill an Ibizan Hound breeder ever learns.

—Meegan Pierotti-Tietje, Heron and Hound; AKC GAZETTE columnist, IHCUS Board of Directors

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

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### Irish Wolfhounds

#### ICONIC HEADPIECES

Different dog breeds can often be identified by their remarkably unique heads, which, for all intents and purposes, are considered iconic. This is especially true for the noble Irish Wolfhound, whose distin-

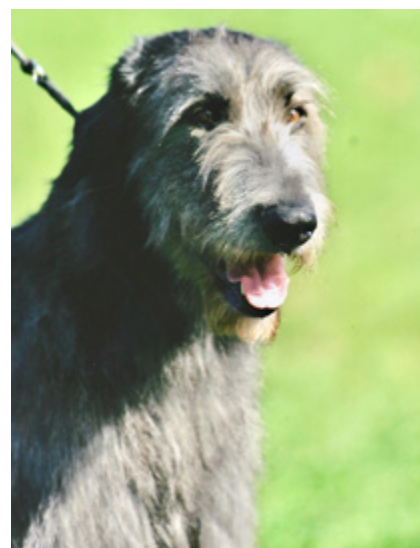
guished head is a hallmark of his stature. To celebrate this, we even have specialty shows that feature a class competition to honor “Best Head.” These competitive classes highlight the crucial role the Wolfhound’s head plays in the breed’s type and silhouette.

Our breed’s prototype, England’s 1885 Irish Wolfhound breed standard, serves as the foundation for the American (AKC) breed standard, which remarkably has only undergone minor modifications. Those occurred in 1947, when our club adjusted the ideal height and weight, and again in 1950, when we removed the comparisons to the Great Dane and Deerhound from the preamble. Nearly untouched, this is a rare and meaningful distinction, as only a handful of breeds have retained their original 19th-century standards.

Our breed standard, which consists of just 414 words, summarizes the cherished head in clear and straightforward terms: “*Long, the*

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*frontal bones of the forehead very slightly raised and very little indentation between the eyes. Skull, not too broad. Muzzle, long and moderately pointed. Ears, small and Greyhound-like in carriage.”* Furthermore, the head is the first individual part of the IW detailed and ranked fourth in the List of Points in Order of Merit, which says: “*Head: Long, Level Carried high.*”

As caretakers of the breed, we have the responsibility of upholding the original vision and purpose set forth by those who came before us. Their insights are essential to preserving this venerated gazehound.

*A gallery of lovely Irish Wolfhound heads: a Wolfhound at a show; Cinneide, 17 months; Declan, 8.5 years; Fizarran; Gartha of Ambleside; Jane; Santa.*

However, as in many aspects, we are observing a change in the quintessential headpiece. Unfortunately, it has become common to see broad, heavy skulls—some even partially rounded—headpieces that are bulky,

COURTESY OWNERS / LISA DUBÉ FORMAN

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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blocky, or brick-shaped, accompanied by shortened muzzles.

We often encounter round eyes—some of which can appear slightly bulging—and a noticeable lack of pigmentation around the eye, which can be very displeasing.

Far too many heads tend to be plain, dull, adorned with excessively long and abundant furnishings, and lack expression. All of which are atypical and detract from breed type.

The ideal Wolfhound head is long with a flattish back-skull, breadth, and a slightly prominent occiput. The back-skull tapers gently, with minimal stop, to a long, moderately pointed muzzle, but never snipey. There should be plenty of foreface in front of the eyes or, at the very minimum, an equal-length muzzle to the back-skull with level, somewhat parallel planes. There is no profound cheekiness or heavy fill under the eyes, but refined fill. The Wolfhound's headpiece must exhibit

strength without bulk and be in proportion to its overall build.

The head is beautifully highlighted by its sought-after, soft “Irish” expression: a nostalgic, faraway look, showcased by almond-shaped or oval dark eyes or a color that harmonizes with the hound's overall coat color—all of which convey a deep sense of soulfulness. This expression truly captures the essence of the breed: a wistful, knowing regard that is uniquely characteristic of gazehounds. The 1948 Afghan Hound standard eloquently describes this look as “*eyes gazing into the distance as if in memory of ages past.*”

The headpiece serves as the natural segue for the requisite Greyhound-like shape, which begins at the skull.

Wolfhound headpieces lacking essence are more than just my personal view. I'll never forget the time I was seated ringside, waiting for my friend who was judging.

As I sat there with her friends, one of them asked what breed I had started with. When I replied, her response was immediate and blunt. She wondered how I could abide the Wolfhound's lack of expression, noting that every one she'd seen over the years looked like they were perpetually stoned.

Her comment was made with an air of impartiality, free from any personal bias—a perfectly objective observer capturing a growing sentiment in just one striking sentence.

The Wolfhound's archetypal headpiece is its glorious crown. I will close with the famed Ambleside Kennels Alma J. Starbuck's characterization of this unique aspect: “The head is the index of type, for the head often identifies a breed.” Indeed, so relevant to her that the cover of her definitive book, *The Complete Irish Wolfhound*, is a gorgeous illustration of a Wolfhound headpiece—not the entire hound, but

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

just its crowning jewel.

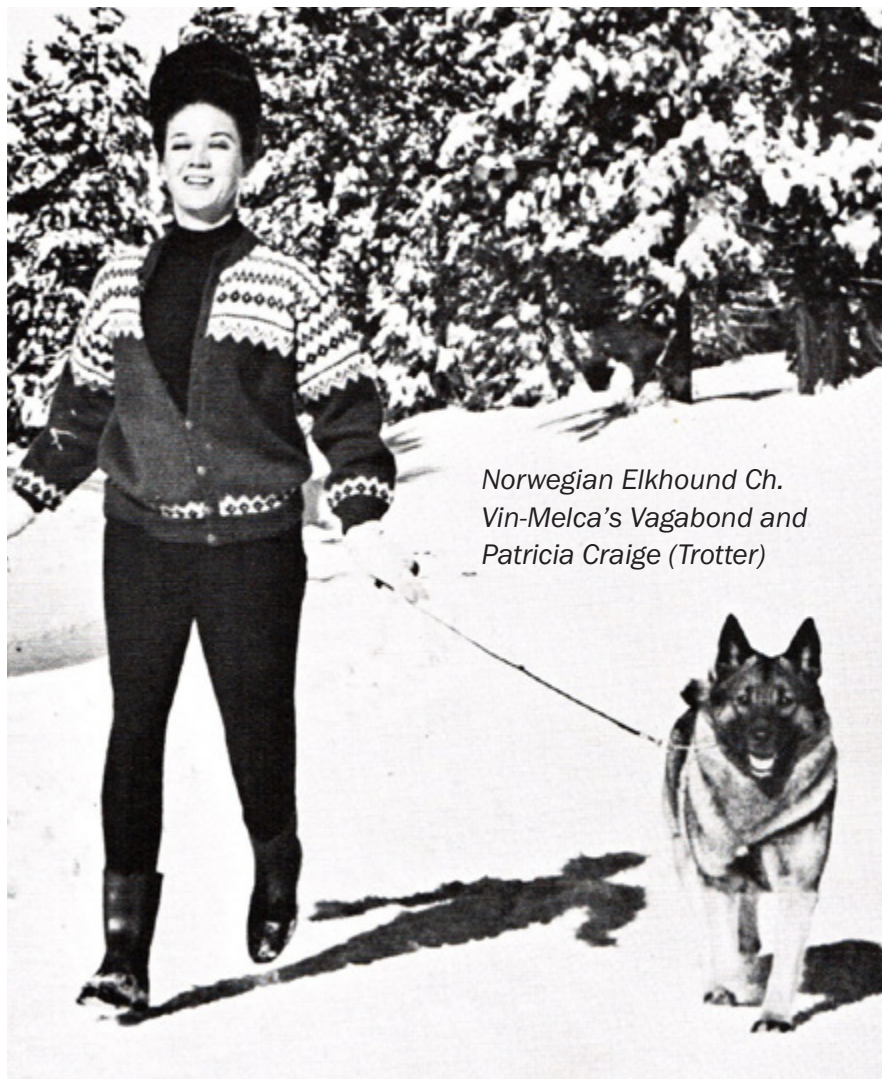
—Lisa Dubé Forman,  
[lisa@lisadubeforman.com](mailto:lisa@lisadubeforman.com)  
Irish Wolfhound Club of  
America

### Norwegian Elkhounds

#### WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW LEGACIES

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) dog show. Held annually since 1877, each breed entered has made its mark through the dogs, exhibitors, and judges in its orbit. Let's look at where the Norwegian Elkhound, recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1913, has landed in Westminster history.

The first year the breed appeared at Westminster was in 1925. The breed's first U.S. champion, Ch. Grimm of Lifjell, a Norwegian import, finished the following year, in 1926. That makes 2026 the centennial of that milestone. I wonder if that first champion was also the breed winner at



*Norwegian Elkhound Ch.  
Vin-Melca's Vagabond and  
Patricia Craige (Trotter)*

Westminster in 1925.

Group competition at Westminster began in 1924. The Norwegian Elkhound was originally placed in the Sporting Group. By 1930, when the Sporting Group had grown too large, many breeds were combined to

form the Hound Group. The Dachshund was brought in from the Working Group.

The 1930s was an era of great progress for the breed. By 1934, there were 89 Norwegian Elkhounds registered with the American Kennel Club.

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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It was also the first time the breed earned a group placement at Westminster, a Hound Group II award. This seemed fitting, since America had glimpsed President Herbert Hoover's "First Pet," a Norwegian Elkhound named Weege, at the White House in newsreels. The pup was a gift from the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, founded in 1934 and recognized by the AKC as the official parent club of the breed in 1935.

It took eight years for another group placement at Westminster, with a Group IV in 1942. The breed had to wait 17 years, but it hit the big time, with a chance at Best in Show. In 1959, Ch. Torasen's Bjonn II became the first Norwegian Elkhound to win the Hound Group at Westminster. The dog was owned by Pitch Road Kennels of Connecticut. This win opened the floodgates. In 1962 and 1965, the breed captured two more WKC Group IV placements.

In 1970, Ch. Vin-Melca's Vagabond took home the second WKC Hound Group win, starting an owner-breeder-handler legacy for the record books. Vagabond took the Hound Group again the following year in 1971.

Pat and Ch. Vin-Melca Homesteader won the group in 1974. In 1977 and 1979, Pat handled her two-time WKC Hound Group winner Vin-Melca's Nimbus. She also took two Hound Groups in 1986 with Vin-Melca Call to Arms, and in 1989 with Vin-Melca's Calista. Pat and Calista earned back-to-back wins again with the 1990 Hound Group win.

Four years later, Pat and Vin-Melca's Marketta took back-to-back WKC Hound Group wins again in 1994 and 1995 to cement the breed's top-winning history at the show. (Interestingly, according to *akc.org*, every Norwegian Elkhound WKC Hound Group winner since the first in 1959 has that year's winner, Ch. Torasen's

Bjonn II, in its pedigree.) However, even with all those group wins, the Norwegian Elkhound never won Best in Show.

The last year a Norwegian Elkhound won the WKC Hound Group was in 2017, with Pat handling Vin-Melca's Daggardwood Delight to the honors. In a twist of fate, I was working at Westminster by then, as its PR manager, and I had volunteered my own Norwegian Elkhound show dog for a Fox Sports TV commercial.

During a TV break in the Hound Group, I looked up and saw the TV ad playing on the Madison Square Garden Jumbotron. I took that as a good omen for the breed. Pat won the group 10 minutes later.

I went backstage to congratulate her on her 11th Hound Group win. I had been at the Garden cheering on Pat and her Norwegian Elkhounds for her last five Hound Group wins. But I clapped and hooted the loudest in 2017

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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during Best in Show, hoping Pat would finally win the ultimate prize. It wasn't meant to be.

But the most famous breeder-owner-handler in our breed went on to judge Best in Show in 2021. Pat created a cultural moment with her memorable remarks as she awarded the big purple-and-gold rosette to that year's winner. "Every pet may not be a show dog, but be assured, every show dog is a pet," she said during the live broadcast.

To help commemorate Westminster's 150 years, the new Vin-Melca Hound Group trophy, dedicated to Pat Trotter and donated by Westminster Kennel Club member Tommy Milner and his wife, Merry Jeanne, will remind future winners of our breed's glorious contributions.

—Lisa Peterson,  
Newtown, Connecticut;  
[Lisa.peterson@barngirlmedia.com](mailto:Lisa.peterson@barngirlmedia.com)

[Norwegian Elkhound Association of America](#)

## Otterhounds

### THE SURPRISINGLY INTELLIGENT OTTERHOUND

In the last column, I explored how people learned about and acquired their first Otterhound. I also asked people what surprised them most about Otterhounds after they had shared their home with them for a while. Of course, several people mentioned the mess a large, hairy dog with big feet, long ears, and a beard can bring into the house (big surprise, *not!*), especially a hound who spends his time outside nose to ground and dragging those ears through grass, mud, snow, burrs, and so on.

Some hounds dig; some eat items that humans find distasteful (excrement) or necessary (TV remotes). Yet new owners and old veterans agreed that one trait surprised them most: how intelligent their Otterhounds are!

Before Border Collie and Malinois owners start laughing, remember there is a difference between trainability and native intelligence.

All herding, sporting, and working breeds were selected and trained to work with people and respond to their directions. Whether it be to fetch an animal the hunter has shot, move the sheep from one field to another, or protect one's property, these dogs learn what humans want from them and deliver it to an amazing extent. They are definitely extremely trainable and biddable.

Otterhounds, like most hounds, are bred to do a job that humans can't do. We cannot run down deer or gazelles, chase foxes across fields on foot, or find and track otters all day. *They can; our job is to follow, not lead.* Hounds do not need to look to a human to figure out what they should be doing. They are on their own to figure out how to get where their noses lead them. Their intelligence works independently.

This independence can be frustrating when training a hound to obey. They actually catch on quickly, but

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*With their inquisitive, problem-solving nature, Otterhounds can apply their considerable skills in surprising ways.*

they are impatient with repetition. Two sit commands probably produce two sits; three or four sits, nope. They've lost their focus and are now sniffing.

Noses can get them in trouble on recalls, too. "When their nose turns on, their hearing turns off" is a common Otterhound saying. I dropped a long leash once, when I was in a forest preserve, and my Otterhound took off for 40 minutes in a spot he didn't know. We called, looked, and checked the surrounding roads when he came back to the van for a drink of water. Obedient? No. Smart enough to track back to the car when he got thirsty? Definitely.

Living with an Otterhound can be just as challenging at home. They simply figure out how to get from one place to the place they



COURTESY EIBHLIN GLENNON

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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want to be by unlatching gates, opening doors, and opening cabinets and closets. Otterhound owners have round doorknobs, not the lever ones, for very good reason: Any hound worth her dinner can put her paw on the lever and push. Gate latches? My first Otterhound watched me flip the gate for a day; I turned around to see him flipping the latch up. The next day he opened it and explored the neighborhood. (Who was the intelligent one in this case?)

Refrigerator doors are special targets because they hide a world of good food. After trying velcro strips and most everything else she could think of, one Otterhound owner stuck a broom handle between the two doors. As she left the kitchen, her hound was busy tugging the broom handle out. Automatic ice-makers on the outside of refrigerators present a refreshing game.

Pushing buttons, sliding doors, hitting levers—all so

easy compared to pursuing an otter through the countryside and rivers!

Otterhounds have great memories, another mark of intelligence. Once they see you hide something like a favorite toy, they will remember and check that spot every time, no matter how long ago they found it there. Since they are independent thinkers, they usually find what they want, not necessarily those keys or that cell phone that humans hold so dear. But with specific training? Who knows!

Unlike most trainable dogs who fasten their eyes on their owners, waiting for a command, Otterhound owners work to get their hound's attention (most often with food) and lure their nose off the ground. They understand the world with their nose, not their eyes, and they have the intelligence to figure out how to reach the object they smell by running, digging, swimming, or kitchen counter-surfing. They just don't need us to teach them that.

So before choosing to live with an Otterhound, consider how well you are able to cope with a creative, intelligent being covered with hair which collects everything they encounter outdoors and foils many of what we thought were our best efforts to stymie their inquisitive problem-solving nature.

Up for the challenge?

—Eibhlin Glennon,  
Riverrun Otterhounds;  
[Eibhlinglennon@yahoo.com](mailto:Eibhlinglennon@yahoo.com)  
[Otterhound Club of America](#)

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## Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens

### BALANCE IS NOT SUBJECTIVE

As with any purebred dog, the breed standard has an efficient description of balance. The balance must maintain the form and function of the breed. This is exactly how one should evaluate the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen (PBGV) too.

When you see a PBGV, the balance is as important as when evaluating a Dane

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*Far left, down from top: Balance in head structure; a PBGV puppy, whose coat might hide good balance; three examples of correct balance.*

*Center, from top: An example of ideal balance ratio 1:1.25; two examples of incorrect balance.*

*Above: Mature PBGV with abundant coat, where a tactile exam is necessary to determine good balance.*

or a Chihuahua. It should be the image of the standard. You need enough leg for quick movement, a compact body for agile manipulation on the hunt, and the length of neck needed to give a PBGV the ability to get down to where the scent is wafting.

As a starting point, at 1 year of age the PBGV

should measure between 13 and 15 inches at the withers. A deviation from this height requirement is the only disqualification in the breed and should be a prominent part of an accurate evaluation. Structural faults common in all breeds are as undesirable in the PBGV as in any other breed.

When the PBGV is viewed

COURTESY JAN ZIGICH / OWNERS

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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in profile, the U.S. standard describes correct balance as “somewhat longer than tall when measured from point of shoulder to buttocks, as compared to the height from withers to ground.”

Nowhere in the standard is “long and low” used to describe the breed. Too often a PBGV is, unfortunately, described as a hairy Basset breed. This is an inaccurate description of this agile hunter.

As a breeder, when I review my dogs, it is most important that I find a ratio of 1:1.25 to 1:1.3 at 8 weeks. This ratio will offer me a mature PBGV meeting my ideal balance.

Length of leg is key to balance, and it is a contributing factor when a dog is in the field, in the performance ring, or moving around a breed ring. The length of leg from elbow to ground should be “slightly more than half the height from withers to ground.”

The confusion may be with the descriptor “slightly,” but take the word

at its value.

An active hunter needs length of leg, a short loin, and a balanced body that can sustain hours in the field. A PBGV lacking correct balance (low on leg or low and long in loin) would find it difficult to maintain the stamina needed to work the field.

A proudly carried head, in balance with the body, completes the overall picture. Heavy head, long or low-set ears, or a muzzle that overwhelms the back-skull will definitely disrupt the presentation of a balanced PBGV.

In ratio, the PBGV head should be longer than its width by a ratio of two to one. Ears should be set on slightly below the line of the eye and reach almost to the end of the muzzle.

Hair can be deceiving too, so it is just as important to do a thorough tactile review to “feel” proportions of head, ears, body, and tail.

—*Jan Zigich, 2021*

[Petit Basset Griffon Vendeén Club of America](#)

## Pharaoh Hounds

### PHARAOH HOUND MOVEMENT

**H**ow does your Pharaoh Hound move? Do you really know? You cannot make a good evaluation until you can stand away from him and watch someone else move him. Do you know what to look for, specifically?

While viewing him from the side, you can tell what his topline is like when moving, if it sags, is level, roaches, or is flat, or if it is correct, almost flat, having a slight rise over the loin.

From the side, you should be able to tell if he has good reach in front and good drive in rear. This can only be achieved if the dog has proper front angulation balanced with correct rear angulation. Unfortunately, many Pharaohs today are not in balance, having straight shoulders while being over-angulated in rear.

As important as it is to evaluate Pharaoh Hound movement from the side, more emphasis must be placed on judging him coming toward and moving

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



away from you. It is only then that you can see if the Pharaoh Hound is moving correctly, as called for in the standard, “The legs and feet should move in line with the body.” This means that if you could see his footprints, you would see two parallel lines of footprints. He should not single-track, with feet converging toward a center line, which is desirable in some breeds, but not in Pharaohs. This cannot really be seen from a side view, but is easily apparent when the dog is moving away and back to you.

Years ago, with majors hard to find, I entered two of

our bitches in three shows. One of them, I’ll call her B, was only entered to assist in raising a possible major. The other, A, was by far the better of the two, and we hoped to win with her. Unfortunately, the judges that weekend placed emphasis on judging movement from the side and our elegant, but single tracking, B won all three days.

I have suggested that if you want an accurate example of how your Pharaoh moves, gait him on damp sand or light snow. The tracks he leaves are proof that he either moves correctly, leaving parallel tracks,

or incorrectly, either single-tracking or moving with rear legs off to the side. This last is often caused by the dog lacking correct shoulder angulation while being over-angulated in rear, and in order to avoid stepping on his own front feet, he must move his rear feet to the side.

There is no arguing with the tracks in the sand or snow. Whatever the reason, if he is not leaving parallel tracks, your Pharaoh is not moving correctly. —Mrs.

*Rita Laventhall Sacks, 2015*

[Pharaoh Hound Club of America](#)

## Rhodesian Ridgebacks

### FORM AND FUNCTION

“Form and function” is a rallying cry among many breed aficionados. Identifying function is easy in many breeds. The function of most of the Toy breeds is companionship. The Sporting Group is filled with dogs that retrieve birds on land and in water, sniff them out and point. The

DAVID WOO ©AKC

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



Herding Group includes many breeds that still do the job for which they were intended. Terriers, even those bred solely for the show ring, can still rid the room of vermin.

With the Rhodesian Ridgeback, identifying function can be a bit more confusing. The Ridgeback is not a breed of ancient ancestry. The current-day Rhodesian Ridgeback descends from a ridged African Khoi Khoi dog. That dog was of medium size, with prick ears and a wiry coat. These native dogs were selectively bred with a number of European breeds to create the animal for

which the original standard was penned.

Our breed, famously known as the African Lion Hound, was employed by big-game hunters to keep the lion at bay during large game hunts. This breed was created to be brave and necessarily agile. The other jobs assigned to the breed were those of an all-around farm dog, guard dog, and companion. This was a dog that could run off baboons, drive cattle, hunt small and medium game, and provide companionship.

Ridgebacks are still used in Africa at Kruger National Park to assist game wardens, where they act as a warning

system for foot patrol rangers.

My mother, who passed recently at 93, spent a good part of her childhood in South Africa. When I brought my first Ridgeback home, 45 years ago, she declared that my dog bore no resemblance to the Ridgebacks she had seen in her youth; those dogs were menacing guards of the estates and not housepets.

Breeders have certainly “prettied up” the Ridgeback since its early days. The constraints of our litigious society and the fact that we are mostly a non-agrarian society has led to the breeding of dogs with a temperament more suitable to urban and suburban living.

Here at home, there are no lions to keep at bay and no baboons to run off. Ridgebacks can still guard the property and family and be devoted companions.

Even if a purebred dog’s original job has become obsolete, it is bred to a standard. The standard is used as a blueprint so that dogs meet the specifications that

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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would allow it to the job for which it was originally intended. The ability to hunt by both sight and scent survives genetically.

Features that we should reward in a Ridgeback (form), in both the show ring and our breeding program, are things that would allow them to fulfill their original job (function).

A Rhodesian Ridgeback should be able to travel all day over rough terrain, survive predators, and blend in with their surroundings. A functional dog should have good feet; heavy, bladed bone; large, round eyes; open nares; and a strong jaw. The dog should have a body that is slightly longer than tall which allows for effortless, agile movement.

This is a large, not giant-breed dog. Rewarding dogs who are significantly over the standard does not reinforce correct type.

This is a breed that should be able to trot all day. The Ridgeback should have a deep, capacious chest that provides maximum lung and

heart space, allowing for the bursts of speed needed when hunting.

The breed should be one of the many allowable shades of wheaten that allows it to seamlessly blend into the African landscape.

In a breed that was originally a “Jack of all trades,” there is a tendency for breeders to select for a portion of the breed’s characteristics and breed for that one trait. The curriculum vitae of the Rhodesian Ridgeback includes lion hunting, coursing of various game, guarding, and companionship. Selectively breeding for any one of these jobs would create an animal not equipped to be the “generalist” our standard calls for. A correct representation of the Rhodesian Ridgeback standard should be able to accomplish all of these tasks and still chase the baboons out of the garden.

—Danielle Sand,  
[dsandvmd@icloud.com](mailto:dsandvmd@icloud.com)  
[Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States](#)

## Salukis

### GETTING INSIDE OF A DOG

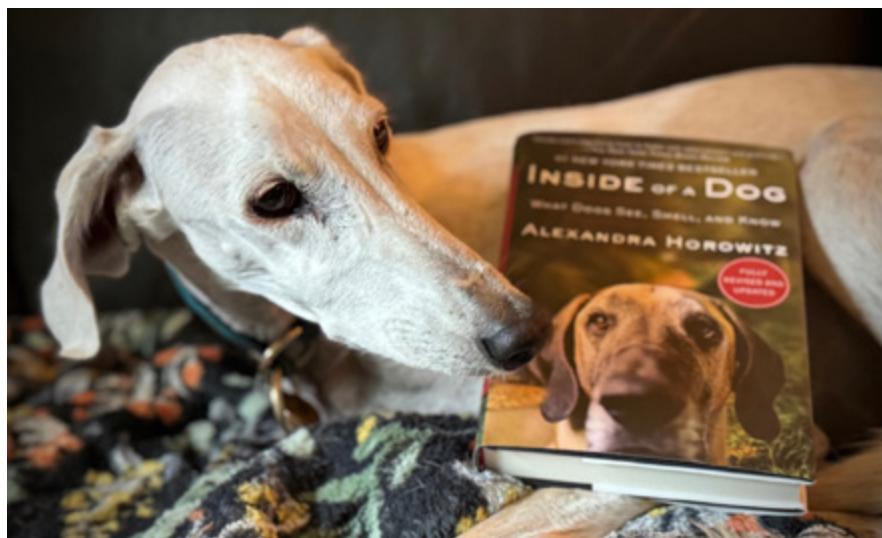
**W**hy does your Saluki (or any dog) see poorly just 10 inches in front of their nose, yet still quickly spot thrown tennis balls or speeding hares at a great distance? And how *does* your dog know when you are due home from work?

There are a few useful books about Saluki history and breed-specific husbandry (which I’ll cover later this year), but if you want to better understand how your Saluki and the rest of dogdom perceive the world, and why they behave the way they do, you must read Alexandra Horowitz’s fully revised *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know* (2025).

As a canine cognition scientist and author, Horowitz has done so much observation and research on dogs that one is tempted to suspect she’s maybe on her second, incredibly productive life. Horowitz has the splendid gift of being able to write about canine science

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



*Inside of a Dog* earns the Saluki Nose of Approval.

in an easy, conversational manner—like having coffee with a friend, talking and joking about your dogs as they snooze or play around you.

Horowitz’s life work began with the idea that to better understand dogs, we need to try to “see” the world as they do (even if imperfectly with our far-inferior smelling ability). She uses the concept of *umwelt*—German for “what life is like as the animal.” Our *umwelt* is very different from those of horses, pigeons, turtles, sharks, and even insects. And dog *umwelt* is largely about scent. Their noses and

olfactory organs are perfectly made for finding odor molecules to inhale, store, know, and paint the canine’s world view.

In the 19th century, it was falsely believed that Salukis and other sighthounds didn’t use their noses when hunting. Of course they do, but not to the perfection of the master sniffers you’ve seen at airports, or with law enforcement and rescue teams. The mechanics of canine smelling are more sophisticated than you might have imagined but Horowitz explains these in fine style.

I’m going to attempt some canine *umwelt* here. The pages of *Inside of a Dog* give me a pleasing “new book aroma”—a mixture of paper and ink and, if unopened for some time, perhaps a whiff of mustiness. For dogs, there is indeed the new smell of paper and ink (individually), but also wafting into their nostrils are the book’s oldest smells from manufacturing chemicals, pulp, the colored ink used on the dust jacket, and the oily metal of the binding machines.

And still more. Odors of skin residue from workers (with hints of hand lotion or soap?), cardboard shipping boxes, inventory stickers, and maybe even the bookstore cat who’d napped on the display stack. Through their olfactory *umwelt*, your dog knows better than you where the book has been—and it might even smell like something worthwhile to gnaw.

Horowitz explains for us the dog’s senses and anatomy, as well as the *umwelt* roles of each. Just two of my favorite research-derived

COURTESY BRIAN PATRICK DUGGAN

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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nuggets are the unique muscles (lacking in wolves) giving dogs expressive eye mobility to make knowing, inquisitive looks—and about their own preferences for left or right turns, magnetic north, and even to “pee and poo along the north-south axis” (p. 302!).

We all make assumptions about our breeds—Salukis are said to be catlike, aloof with strangers, adept at food thievery, too intelligent to be tricked into obedience exercises, and so forth. Horowitz gently reminds us to “allow for their dogness,” as they are “individuals first, members of a breed second.”

*Inside of a Dog* is full of new research and thinking—and you’ll meet her charming pooches, Pumpernickel, Finnegan, Quiddity, and Tilde.

I’m a better dog person for having read it again. It’s delightful education.

Thank you, Alexandra!  
—Brian Patrick Duggan,  
[bpduggan@mac.com](mailto:bpduggan@mac.com)  
[Saluki Club of America](#)

### Scottish Deerhounds

#### WHAT IS MENTORING, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

As breeders, we can contribute to our breed in many ways. If a love of our breed is a given, then one of the most important ways we can contribute is to actively mentor the people interested in Deerhounds and those who take our puppies home. In conversations, we often talk about bringing more people into the fold. One way that we can encourage this is by mentoring new people, even people waiting at the door of the breed.

Mentoring is a way to give back to our breed. The very first way we can mentor is to connect and share with people who express interest in our wonderful breed, as we talked about in the last column. Part of this involves helping them to understand a Deerhound’s needs and gifts. Another part is helping them to know what their responsibilities will be in providing a home that will allow a Deerhound to fulfill its potential. Doing this on a

caring, personal level will help create a rewarding, ongoing relationship, and may forge friendships that will enhance lives—ours, our puppies’, and our new owners’.

If a family turns out to be a good fit, how can we continue to mentor them? Some breeders separate homes into “pet” and “show” homes. The show homes tend to get the most attention, and sometimes the pet homes ride off into the sunset. Is this a good idea? Pet owners are as invested in their dogs as show-potential owners, so it benefits every owner to learn as much as possible, and our investment in all our owners is well worth our time and energy. We have a giant breed, and they have special needs in terms of food, exercise, and health. If we do a good job of educating owners, they will know that they have someone they can trust to guide them through thick and thin.

How else can we mentor? Hopefully we want to leave our breed in the best shape possible for those who come

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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after us. The best way to do that is first, breed the very best Deerhounds we can. Second, share the knowledge and experience we've accumulated, by assisting new people, thoughtfully and responsively.

For people interested in showing and/or breeding, we can help them understand the whole show picture, advising and encouraging them through success and failure. If we're nearby, we can help them with handling their dog in the ring. If not, we can suggest classes, or help find another experienced person willing to help. We can help with understanding what classes to enter at AKC shows and how shows are structured.

As they grow in the breed, we can help them understand the importance of choosing wisely in breeding, and support them in their choices. Whelping puppies can be a smooth experience, or it can be problematic—being there for them when whelping occurs can be an incredible contribution

for a first-timer. Whelping can make or break a new breeder—having a helping hand at that time can be all the difference. Feeding and raising puppies can be a challenge—when to start, and what to feed?

Giving proper exercise and socialization—these are key elements a newcomer may need guidance with.

Hopefully someone was there for us as we began our adventure with the breed. Whether or not that happened, we can sleep better knowing we are passing the torch to others so it can continue to burn brightly!

—Frances Smith

[Scottish Deerhound Club of America](#)

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## Whippets

### THE 39TH AWC NATIONAL

Once again, the American Whippet Club (AWC) is gearing up for its 39th national specialty show, to be held in Pasco, Washington, April 11th through 18th.

The national specialty is

a week for people from all over the world to celebrate all things Whippet, and a perfect opportunity for judges, aspiring judges, and enthusiasts to understand and enjoy all the things that make this breed so versatile and special.

The specialty events take more than a week because the Whippet national would not be complete without offering the many events in which Whippets excel, and a large majority of exhibitors compete in a variety of these venues. The AWC highly recommends that all aspirants to judge this breed make an effort to watch them compete in the signature performance events that test their athletic prowess. The national is the perfect place to understand what makes a Whippet a Whippet.

The week starts on April 11, with two days of lure coursing (ASFA and AKC), agility, and scent work. On Monday, April 13, we begin the obedience, rally, Triathlon, and Versatility conformation events, plus

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP



the first day of the juried art show.

On Tuesday begins the several days of health clinics, with board-certified specialists testing for normal hearts, eyes, and hearing—all discounted and subsidized by the Whippet Health Foundation. The obedience and rally trials continue, followed by the Breeders Sweepstakes, the Futurity and Maturity judging, and the award ceremony for the Triathlon and Versatility winners.

Wednesday begins the regular class dog judging through to Winners Dog, followed by Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Extended

Generations, Veteran Sweepstakes, a seminar on handling, and another on Whippet Health. During all of this, we *also* offer CGC and Trick Dog testing.

Thursday morning is the AWC Annual Meeting, followed by the start of bitch judging, Parade of Honors, the Altered competition, and an afternoon social. On Thursday evening we get together to celebrate the Top Twenty and the NOHS Top 15 presentation.

Friday the 17th will see the completion of the bitch judging, all the Veteran, Lure Coursing, and Racing classes, a Juniors seminar, and the classroom Judges' Education program.

Saturday begins with the Junior Showmanship classes, followed by the much-anticipated Best of Breed competition, where there are usually well over 100 champions competing for the ultimate award. It is the very best opportunity for judges' ringside mentoring. The awards banquet is on Saturday night—and for

those who haven't had their fill of "Whippet Week," there is racing on Sunday.

The stellar judging panel for the week includes many famous and accomplished names of the Whippet and performance event world: Mary Dukes (Delacreme), Kim Pritchard (Cariad), Sue Vernon (Summit), Gail Boyd (Ableaim), Rhonda Gifford (Regalia), Linda Buchholz (Swiftsure), Cydney Petit (Kalina), Courtney Hynes-Robinson (Rosmoor), Justin Dannenbring (Orion), Claudia "CJ" Miller (Woodrose), Helen Sause, Donald Rennick, Chip Taylor, Gillian Crawford, Mary Hermon, Tracy Hill, and Victoria Lovejoy.

For more information on any or all of these events, contact National Event Chair Brad Briscoe ([briscoebrad@msn.com](mailto:briscoebrad@msn.com)), and for Judges' Education, David Samuelson ([samuelsond@aol.com](mailto:samuelsond@aol.com)).

We hope to see you there—it will be epic!

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

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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### Airedale Terriers

#### THE VERSATILE AIREDALE: FROM WAR DOG TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

Building on our theme from 2025, this year's articles will include interviews with Airedale owners who train and condition their dogs in activities that accentuate the Airedale's versatility, intelligence, and loyalty. In our first article, I am honored to interview Claudia Weakland, who trained her Airedale, Finnegan, and is presently training her teenage Airedale, Biko, in search and rescue.

I met Claudia last year and was immediately drawn to her passion for Airedales and her commitment to the challenging search-and-rescue mission. This remarkable woman and her pups shoulder the heartwarming and, sadly, sometimes heart-wrenching search and rescue mission and are exemplary ambassadors for our breed.

*Please tell us about yourself. How and when did you*

*become involved in Airedales?*

My name is Claudia Weakland. I reside in rural Pennsylvania with my wife and our 7-month-old Airedale Terrier, Bighen Gilded Echo of Finnigan (call name Biko). I owned Miniature Schnauzers and competed in AKC obedience trials for 20 years. In 2010, I had my first actual contact with two Airedale Terriers while I was teaching a rally obedience class. I found myself drawn to their temperament and level of intelligence in mastering tasks.

*What drew you to the search and rescue mission? And why team with an Airedale for search and rescue?*

One of my students was involved in K-9 Wilderness Search and Rescue (SAR). I volunteered to be a subject for their dogs during training, and in a short time, I knew that I wanted to become a SAR K-9 handler. It offered me the opportunity to indulge in my love

for the outdoors and working with dogs while making a difference and giving back to the community.

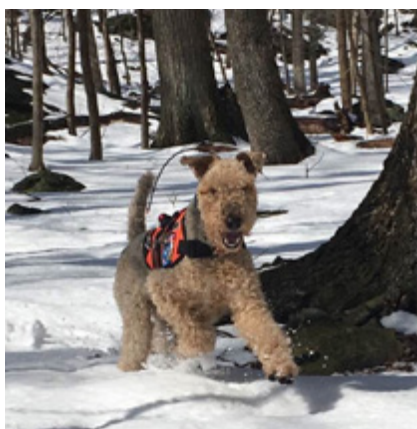
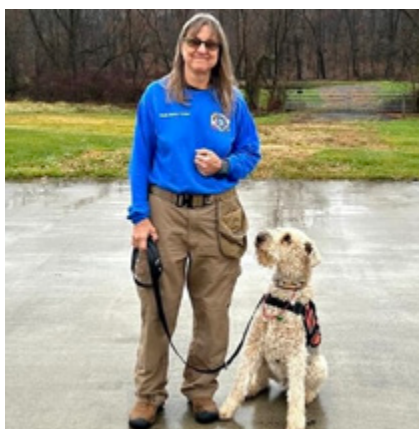
I researched the Airedale Terrier as a possible K-9 partner and discovered that during the two World Wars, a British officer named Edwin Richardson trained Airedales to locate wounded soldiers on the battlefield for the Red Cross. The dogs were favored for their determination, intelligence, and scent acuity. In 2014, I brought home Joval In Franklin's Footprints (AKA Finnegan), and he changed my life irrevocably.

*Tell us a little about SAR training and certification. Is there a difference between SAR Urban and Rural training and certification?*

Training a SAR dog typically takes 1.5 to 2 years of dedicated training, involving both the dog and handler, beginning with foundational skills, followed by specialized search skills introducing scent work, navigation, and working in varied terrains

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



Claudia Weakland and Finnegan, her first Airedale trained in search-and-rescue; right: Claudia's young Airedale, Biko.

and conditions. After significant hours (often 600+), teams must pass a rigorous certification test. Urban SAR K-9 training involves realistic disaster simulation with collapsed structures, rubble piles, confined spaces, and simulated disasters.

*How did Finn take to SAR training?*

In all honesty, Finnegan mastered the skills required of a SAR K-9 much faster than I achieved the requirements of a K-9 handler. In 2016, at the age of 2, Finn became the first dog to achieve Live Find Wilderness SAR K-9 in our group. To earn this title, he successfully found a subject hidden in 60-80 acres

of unfamiliar wilderness, returned to me, and took me back to the subject in less than 1.5 hours. By 2019, Finn had provided services for enough searches to earn the AKC Search and Rescue title.

*Is there a particular SAR event that is most poignant for you? And is there one that*

COURTESY CLAUDIA WEAKLAND

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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*you recall as most joyful or richly rewarding?*

At our first official search, I watched Finn work in the darkness of night, and it was an amazing thing to witness. To watch him continue to focus and search through streams and mud and thorn bushes, into ravines and up and down steep grades, gave me so much respect for him. To see him stand in the middle of thick bushes and raise his nose searching for a scent gave me a feeling that I cannot put into words. This experience made all the training with Finn worth it.

Since that first task Finn and I have been on many searches, ranging from intense heat to rain to extreme cold. Some with happy endings, others not so much. We climbed mountains, fought through undergrowth, and crossed waterways. Through all of this, we were a team, forging a bond that I have never shared with another dog.

We talked in a language that only he and I under-

stood. Through the most subtle change in his posture, his ear-set, his tail, his manner of movement, and his eye contact he talked to me, and I answered him with my own body language. This bond was the most rewarding part of our journey.

*Now that you are training a second Airedale in SAR, what keeps you interested in SAR?*

There is something indescribable about working with a K-9 partner, facing the challenges of the terrain, weather conditions, and so on, to locate someone who is in potential distress or imminent danger.

*Do you have any advice for other Airedale owners who may be interested in SAR? And advice for breeders on traits necessary for success in SAR?*

My advice would be to join a local search and rescue group to learn the fundamentals of SAR and the skills required. Puppies who have strong play drive,

high energy, confidence, and natural curiosity and who like people have great potential to be successful in SAR. This probably describes most Airedale puppies!

*Claudia, thank you so much for sharing your insight and experience in training and handling an Airedale in SAR. Your work is both inspirational and genuinely reflective of the versatility of our breed!*

For those readers interested in learning more about search and rescue, the National Association for Search and Rescue is an excellent resource, at <https://nasar.org/>.

For our next article, I look forward to covering our upcoming Airedale Terrier Club of America National Floating Specialty weekend in Fort Worth, Texas. Get your “Boots, Barks & Bluebonnets,” and let’s trot those Airedales out there!

—Nancy A. Nykamp,  
[meadowaire.terriers@gmail.com](mailto:meadowaire.terriers@gmail.com)

[Airedale Terrier Club of America](#)

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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### American Hairless Terriers

Our guest author this month is Janet Skinner of Palm Harbor, Florida.

#### AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIERS ROCK THE AGILITY RING!

Having participated in AKC agility for over 20 years, mostly with Scottish Terriers, I had no idea how different it would be running with an American Hairless Terrier (AHT). Little did I know how much fun we would have!

AHTs are very agile by nature and eager to please. When I got Mika, a coated AHT, from her breeder, she was 16 months old and had been showing in conformation. Her breeder felt that Mika would be better suited for performance sports, such as agility. She wasn't wrong, and her age let us start training immediately! (Note: AKC requires dogs to be at least 15 months old prior to competing in agility.)

Mika absolutely *loves*

agility! People comment how much they enjoy watching her as she exudes utter joy. They can tell it is her favorite thing in the world to do. Given the AHT's intelligence and bid-dability, training Mika came easily. Combine that with AHT structure and musculing, which is imperative for another major factor in agility, speed, and AHTs have what it takes to fly around the agility course. So, truly agility is a natural fit for the breed.

In addition to being built to run and jump, AHTs bond deeply and quickly with their people. That means establishing a working partnership for agility is easily accomplished. Mika loves being with me and wants to please. She pays attention to me in the ring and is highly focused on her task. Having said that, she is so fast that giving verbal cues way before she gets to the next obstacle is imperative. If I don't, she will just decide for herself where she should

go! So doing agility with an AHT requires the handler know the course well. Preparation is the key.

I am surprised we don't see more AHTs competing in agility. For those who are thinking about trying the sport, please don't hesitate! You and your dog will have more fun than you ever imagined.

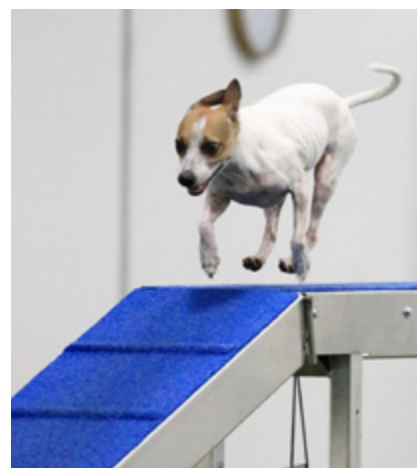
Starting with basic obedience training (e.g., sit, down, come, stay) before training for agility is the first step to success. Once you have mastered basic commands, find a club or private trainer who offers agility training. Most AKC agility clubs offer classes and host trials where you can ultimately compete with your AHT.

There are also many online resources that offer agility training advice and videos. Check out One Mind Dogs <https://www.oneminddogs.com> or Bad Dog Agility <https://baddogagility.com> if you want to go that route.

It is also helpful to have

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



*Mika, a coated American Hairless Terrier, “absolutely loves agility,” says her owner. “In addition to being built to run and jump, AHTs bond deeply and quickly with their people. That means establishing a working partnership for agility is easily accomplished.”*

some agility equipment in your yard. I have a small yard but have room for a few jumps, a full set of weave poles, and a combo contact trainer. Just a few minutes a day makes a huge difference in the dog’s performance and allows you to provide fun exercise for your AHT without

leaving home.

If you want to have some fun with your AHT, please give agility a try. This breed is so playful, smart, and joyful that the sport seems to have been designed just for them. Even when we don’t qualify in our runs, Mika always finishes the course with a huge grin on her face

and her tail wagging happily.

Try it with your AHT! Mika and I would love to see you out there. —Janet Skinner, [janetskinner61@gmail.com](mailto:janetskinner61@gmail.com)

Thank you, Janet!  
—Karyn Pingel,  
[Wmk.ahts@gmail.com](mailto:Wmk.ahts@gmail.com)  
American Hairless Terrier  
Club of America

COURTESY JANET SKINNER / JC PHOTO DAZE / GREAT DANE PHOTOS

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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### Australian Terriers

#### COOPERATION AND COMPETITION: A BREEDER'S BALANCING ACT

Behind every great litter is a network of collaboration, a spirit of excellence, and a shared commitment to the Australian Terrier's future.

After over a decade of loving and breeding Australian Terriers, I've learned that preserving a rare breed isn't just about passion—it's about partnership. Cooperation and competition might seem like opposites, but in the world of purebred dogs, they're two sides of the same coin. Working together keeps our breed healthy; striving to excel keeps it visible. Both are essential if we want to see the Australian Terrier thrive for generations to come.

#### **Cooperation: The Heart of Preservation**

For a small breed like ours, cooperation forms the foundation of everything we do. With limited

breeding stock in North America and abroad, no breeder can succeed alone. We must share dogs, semen, and health information across state, province and country borders to protect our gene pool and prevent inbreeding. Every collaboration strengthens the breed's future.

A recent example from my own kennel illustrates this perfectly. I bred my bitch, Gracie, to a male bred in Finland—a carefully considered outcross chosen to widen the genetic base of my line.

The owner in Holland and I agreed on a semen swap, balancing costs. It was a partnership built on trust and mutual respect. We compared pedigrees and health results and celebrated together when the litter arrived. That experience reminded me that cooperation isn't just practical—it builds an international community united by love for the breed.

Another breeding required a different kind of team-

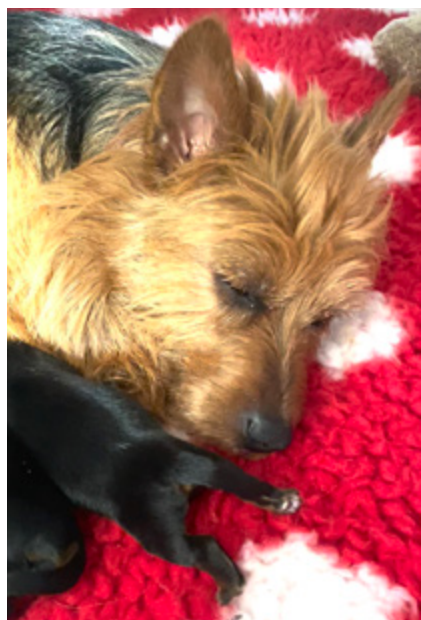
work. I chose a dog that wasn't a "Top Dog" in the ring but a much-loved champion living with a family across the country. His pedigree complemented my girl's beautifully, as I believe breeding decisions should be guided by what's best for the dogs—not convenience or prestige, I was willing to travel.

That choice demanded effort from all parties. The stud lived far away and the owners also had to drive. Still, I packed my bags, flew across the country, and stayed with one of his co-owners for ten days to complete the breeding. It was exhausting, and everyone had to get involved—but worth it. Doing what's right for the breed often takes that kind of commitment.

Of course, cooperation isn't always smooth sailing. Passionate people bring passionate opinions, and disagreements happen—over pairings, standards, or breeding goals. But if we keep long-term priorities in mind—healthy dogs, a

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



*“When I looked at Gracie’s litters in the whelping box—tiny, strong, and full of promise—I’m reminded that this balance [between cooperation and competition] truly works. It’s what keeps our small, spirited breed alive and why I’ll always keep striving to do my part.”*

sustainable gene pool, and the future of the Australian Terrier—we can move forward together. New ideas and fresh approaches

shouldn’t divide us; they keep our breed evolving and resilient.

Breed clubs also play a vital role in this cooperative

effort. They educate the public, promote responsible ownership, and support health testing and genetic research. Every new breeder

COURTESY CAREN HOLTEY

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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who joins, every puppy placed in the right home, and every owner who falls in love with the Aussie terrier strengthens our community.

### **Competition: Keeping Standards High**

While cooperation sustains us, competition inspires us. The show ring motivates breeders to uphold Type, Structure, and Temperament. Preparing my dogs for shows pushes me to study the standard more deeply and appreciate the breed's essence—its keen expression, medium bone, and spirited confidence.

Healthy competition also keeps our breed visible. When an Australian Terrier wins in conformation or performance, people take notice. Those moments in the spotlight attract new interest and inspire others to get involved.

Competition drives improvement, too. Many breeders now use DNA testing, temperament assessments, and health

screenings to ensure each generation is stronger than the last. Every ribbon or title earned isn't just personal pride—it's proof of what our breed can achieve when we all strive for excellence.

### **The Bottom Line**

Preserving a rare breed like the Australian Terrier isn't about choosing between teamwork and rivalry—it's about embracing both. Cooperation ensures our dogs' health and sustainability. Competition drives excellence and keeps the breed in the public eye.

When I looked at Gracie's litters in the whelping box—tiny, strong, and full of promise—I'm reminded that this balance truly works. It's what keeps our small, spirited breed alive and why I'll always keep striving to do my part. — Caren Holtby, Tidewalker Australian Terriers; [Caren@tidewalker.ca](mailto:Caren@tidewalker.ca)

[Australian Terrier Club of America](#)

## Bedlington Terriers

### **C'EST LA DIFFERENCE**

In the past 18 months, I have observed Bedlington judging at two major events: Crufts at the NEC in Birmingham, England, with a 100-plus entry, and the Bedlington Terrier Club of America Grand National Specialty at Exton, Pennsylvania, with a 60-plus entry. I was pleased to see some splendid dogs at both venues, but the differences in the make and movement between many dogs in Great Britain and the United States were striking in some cases. We know that our dogs are different genotypically in that there are minor differences in the markers for copper storage disease, requiring different tests in Great Britain and North America. The phenotypical differences lead to this discussion.

To seek some answers, I delved into the approved breed standards at the Royal Kennel Club (RKC) and the American Kennel Club (AKC). At first glance, the

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



obvious difference is the length of the standards with the AKC standard being 200 words longer than the RKC's, with greater detail in the description of the head. In some cases, the standards are identical, word for word, but there are some key areas where the differences are notable.

### ***Gait/Movement as defined by the RKC standard***

Capable of galloping at high speed and have appearance of being able to do so. Action very distinctive,

rather mincing, light and springy in slower paces and slight roll when in full stride.

### ***Gait as defined by the AKC standard***

Unique lightness of movement. Springy in slower paces, not stilted or hackneyed. Must not cross, weave or paddle

### ***Discussion***

The AKC standard in General Appearance states that Bedlingtons also gallop at great speed, so that aspect is addressed sepa-

rately. Mincing is defined as moving or behaving in an affectedly dainty or delicate way. It's difficult to reconcile that with good movement. Hopefully, dogs that are displaying a slight roll in full stride are not pacing or displaying sidewise movement. On the other hand, the AKC standard is not specific about full stride, which would obliterate the unique lightness of movement. One wonders why breeders and judges need to be cautioned that dogs must not "cross, weave or paddle"!

### ***Eyes as defined by the RKC standard***

Relatively small and bright. Ideal eye has appearance of being triangular.

### ***Eyes as defined by the AKC standard***

Eyes almond-shaped, small, bright and well sunk with no tendency to tear or water. Set is oblique and fairly high on the head.

### ***Discussion***

In comparing the two

# BREED COLUMNS

## HOUND GROUP

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standards, it isn't difficult to see why our dogs are a bit different in this respect. I wonder what latitude the term relatively small eye must lead to in breeding decisions in Great Britain. The RKC standard does not address the eye set.

### **Color as defined by the RKC standard**

Blue, liver, or sandy with or without tan. Darker pigmentation to be encouraged. Blues and blue and tan must have black noses; liver and sandies must have brown noses.

*Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.*

Skull covered with a profuse silky 'top knot' which should be nearly white.

### **Color as defined by the AKC standard**

Blue, sandy, liver, blue and tan, sandy and tan, liver and tan. In bi-colors the tan markings are found on the legs, chest, under the tail, inside the hindquarters and over each eye. The top-knots of all adults should be

lighter than the body color. Patches of darker hair from an injury are not objectionable, as these are only temporary. Darker body pigmentation of all colors is to be encouraged.

### **Discussion**

Both standards encourage darker body pigmentation, and we have addressed human intervention of this, which is obvious in both venues, in previous columns. The AKC standard is far more detailed, and nose color is addressed separately in that standard. The RKC standard does not address the issue of dark patches as a result of injury. It is remarkable that black dogs or nearly all black Bedlingtons are exhibited at major dog shows in Great Britain. It's difficult to find justification of it in the RKC Bedlington breed standard.

### **Tail as defined by the RKC standard**

Moderate length, thick at root, tapering to a point and

gracefully curved. Set on low, never carried over the back.

### **Tail as defined by the AKC standard**

Set low, scimitar-shaped, thick at the root and tapering to a point which reaches the hock. Not carried over the back or tight to the underbody.

### **Discussion**

Obviously, gay tails are not acceptable in either standard. The AKC guideline that the tail should reach the hock is useful. Both standards call for a low tail-set. Tails carried tight to the underbody is observed in Great Britain and is not addressed in the RKC standard.

These are just the most significant differences that are noted when observing Bedlingtons at exhibition. There are more issues that can be discussed in future columns.

—Lucy Heyman, Spring, Texas; [lucy@carilloncares.com](mailto:lucy@carilloncares.com)

[Bedlington Terrier Club of America](#)

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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### Border Terriers

#### REDGATE

Looking around at our sport, you'll notice an abundance of gray hair and wrinkles—myself included. For continuity between generations, we should find opportunities to recognize and learn from those instrumental breeders nearing retirement.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of visiting Judith Rivers, of Redgate Border Terriers. She and her husband, Tom, have retired to a bucolic riverfront property deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Judith is just one of many impressive longtime breeders with years of experience and wisdom to share.

She is soft-spoken and reserved, but there is a staunch competitor within, determined to produce dogs that exemplify the standard and possess the equipment and pluck to do a day's work in the field as originally designed.

Combining several lines with an eye for “the perfect

dog,” Judith has charted a successful course for over 30 years. She has consistently produced champions who win at regional and national specialties and capture the coveted “Best Otter Head” award. Our conversation follows.

*Judith, how did you get your start?*

Judith: It was the mid-'70s. I was unable to find a suitable teaching gig, and I saw an ad for a groomer and thought: “I can do that!” For eight years, I groomed professionally and owned and bred Yorkshire Terriers. Then, at a dog show, I met my first Border Terrier and was hooked.

*What hooked you?*

That endearing Border Terrier look was love at first sight. Then I fell for its spunky charm. The Border Terrier is the world's most perfect dog: a total package of moderate size. It might have swayed me that my ancestors came from the town of Ingram, in the

Border country where the breed originated.

*Where did your foundation stock come from?*

It was Kate Murphy whom I happened to meet at that first dog show. So, it figured that my first Borders came from her kennel, Cymri Hill. Bob and Ruth Ann Naun's Oldstone borders joined the pack.

Later I connected with breeders overseas and imported dogs from Finland (Foxforest) and Denmark (Borderhouse).

*What were the goals of your breeding program?*

I'm a sucker for a good head, but everything else is also important: hide, coat, movement. If you have all of those things and a fabulous head, that's the result I'm going for. When I first started, one of my most influential mentors said to me ‘without the head, it is just a little brown dog.’ That is still with me today.

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



Upper left: Judith Rivers with a puppy. From top center, a gallery of Redgate Border Terriers: Ch. Redgate Fairlight; Ch. Redgate's All About Eve, JE, BCAT; Ch. Redgate's Forest Phantom; Ch. Redgate's Forest Raven; Ch. Redgate's Prince Harry; GCh. Redgate's Moonstruck, JE.

*What do you look for in a pup you would keep?*

I have other people look at my pups from around eight weeks. At 10 weeks, my puppies “get their legs”; they aren’t all tummy. At that point, I look at the

overall structure, the head, and the bite. I’m looking at angulation, forechest, butt shelf, and for the tail to come right off the spine. Even though I can’t exactly describe when it’s right, you can see when it’s right.

You can tell the alignment of the bite even before the pups have teeth. You want the lower gum to be behind

the upper gum, and hope the top teeth come in first.

You want a “one piece” head, even in a puppy. Wide-set eyes, small ears, short, broad muzzle. All along I’ve been comparing their heads, but you must remember that heads can develop slowly, so it’s important to know what is behind your lines.

COURTESY JUDITH RIVERS

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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I haven't done temperament testing, but I watch them for weeks. I don't want the rowdiest puppy, and I don't want the real quiet one; just a nice middle of the road.

*What are you proudest of?*

I'm proudest of the relationships I've built and the friends I've made. Without them, it's no fun at all. I'm quite pleased because I think my dogs have been consistent. I am proud that the people I have worked with and the combinations I've made have turned out to be consistent examples of Border Terriers that meet my sense of the standard and my vision of type.

*Where is the breed headed?*

I hope that Borders are not heading toward being a very popular breed, because I think that's bad for a breed. Terriers are not for everyone—they need time, attention, and a job. I don't think the limelight is the place for a Border.

I'm not as connected these

days as I'd like to be, but I think the breed may be better off than we were 20 years ago. Overall, the Borders are better than they were 20 years ago, and the health testing that we do has been an improvement.

*As you retire from breeding, what message would you like to share with future generations?*

Enjoy your dogs, and enjoy your friends. If you like to go to shows, make your goal not just to win but to enjoy the day.

*Thank you, Judith.*

—Bobbie Kelley,

[bobbie.e.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:bobbie.e.kelley@gmail.com)

[Border Terrier Club of America](#)

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## Bull Terriers

### THE CHALLENGES OF PRESERVATION BREEDING

I was inspired by a conversation I had recently with a fellow Bull Terrier breeder. We were discussing what we thought the measures of success might be for a breeding program.

The conversation mandered a bit. We posited the obvious that producing healthy, well-made dogs with good temperaments that could enjoy a modicum of success in the show ring and create a legacy of well-bred, well-made dogs, could certainly qualify as markers of a successful breeding program—of course, the ideal being that said dogs would carry on for generations not only in one's own breeding program, but in others' too.

Isn't having a lasting impact on the breed what we should all aspire to? Isn't sharing our success to further others' success also a necessary component to creating that legacy?

From my observations, successful preservation breeders often find themselves in paradoxical situations as they try to build and grow their breeding programs. They may send dogs to other countries; they may take on mentees who are deemed unworthy; their dogs win and provoke envy instead of garnering respect.

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



*“A preservation breeder does not lose sight of his or her goals, because they are clear, defined, and come from knowledge, experience, respect for the breed standard, and having a well-developed eye for the Bull Terrier.” Right: Russell Lamonby.*

The world turns on its axis, the good, the bad and the ugly rear their heads, yet successful preservation breeders persevere regardless of setbacks and public opinion. Their passion, their vision, and their goal of moving the breed forward remain steadfast despite trends, flavors of the moment, and human contention.

These paradoxes highlight the complexity of maintaining a breeding program while nurturing new talent and navigating numerous relationships. Successful preservation breeders often face criticism or misunderstanding, yet their commitment to the vitality of the breed compels them

to make difficult choices for the long-term benefit of Bull Terriers. Despite external pressures, their dedication to ethical breeding and mentorship ultimately shapes the future of the breed.

In reflecting on these challenges, it becomes evident that creating a preservation breeding program involves agile zigzagging around numerous obstacles along the way. Each decision made for the betterment of the breed may carry inherent risk and reward, requiring breeders to balance personal ambition with the broader interests of the community.

Through thoughtful collaboration and unwavering integrity, preservation

breeders leave an indelible mark that extends far beyond individual accolades.

A preservation breeder does not lose sight of her goals, because they are clear, defined, and come from knowledge, experience, respect for the breed standard, and having a well-developed eye for the Bull Terrier. They refrain from excessive politicking but engage in the community; they study dogs; they study pedigrees; they share their knowledge; they make informed decisions and they never, ever waver in their belief that they are working to improve and preserve the unique qualities of the Bull Terrier. Ultimately, their

COURTESY AUTHOR

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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dogs speak for their breeding program.

When an exhibitor might grouse about his dog not being favored by a judge, the late Russell Lamonby, one of the finest and most successful preservation breeders of Bull Terriers in the history of the breed would shrug his shoulders and say, “Breed a better dog.” Indeed.

I would be remiss in not mentioning that the BTCA Silverwood Trophy competition and national specialty held in Palm Springs, California, October 29–November 2, 2025, attracted a bounty of beautiful Bull Terriers and their people from all over North America. Congratulations to the winners!

—Victoria M. Sottile

[Bull Terrier Club of America](#)

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### Cairn Terriers

#### WHY A CAIRN CAN BE SPARRED—AND SHOULD!

“Self-confident and alert, Cairns look

their best when properly sparring under the watchful eye and close control of experienced handlers. Judges are encouraged to request that dogs be allowed to interact with each other.” —*CTCA Illustrated Standard*

During sparring, two terriers are brought together about a yard apart and regard each other. They perk up. Their attitude and expression change when looking at a stranger. Terrier breeds are divided into those that can be sparring, and those that should not. Breeds developed to hunt in packs and those with an ancestry from fighting dogs are not sparring. For the breeds that do spar, however, this exercise will show terriers at their best.

But what makes the Cairn Terrier a breed that can be sparring? Cairns were developed as working farm dogs. They cleared land and buildings of vermin, and served as family companions living inside the home.

While never developed

as pack dogs, Cairns are some of the most social of all terriers. Cairns focus strongly on their human family members. A typical Cairn can be found sleeping in a ball at your feet or may prefer to watch you silently from a few feet away. They also make excellent burglar alarms, alerting to any noise, and definitely barking when something is up!

Why Cairns can be sparring is determined by their intelligence, independent thinking, and incredible hunting drive. Cairns are so keenly intelligent that they decide on their own what they choose to do on any given day. Typically, this breed will know what you want, whether in house manners or obedience training, but a Cairn chooses whether to do it. A Cairn will look right at you and say: “OK, I know what you want. But before I do it today, I want to know what it’s worth to you.”

Every day is a new negotiation with a Cairn—even if they have done the thing

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



Cairn Terrier

a hundred times already. Cairns can make outstanding obedience and performance dogs for the right person. They are trainable, providing their human is patient, consistent, and can find something the Cairn wants or enjoys. A good trainer is able to judge the Cairn's mood on that day. The independent Cairn makes up his own mind when, what, and if!

Another facet of Cairn personality is what I call "the switch." Cairns have incredibly strong hunting

drive, and they can be oblivious to pain, danger, and their human attempting to recall them.

They can change from appearing to be asleep (with one eye open!) to all-out "game on" in pursuit of quarry so quickly that they may seem like completely different animals. Cairn hunting style is to silently observe for quarry and wait until it comes into sight. Then in a burst of movement, a Cairn can travel 30-40 feet and nail his prey in the space of two

or three seconds. Typically, a Cairn then drops its target, as it's no longer fun once it goes limp. This independent and stealthy hunting style is characteristic of the breed.

Cairns form small groups but not large packs. A dominant bitch, several younger girls, and usually a single male seem to be their preferred social unit, in this breeder's experience.

When a newcomer dog meets a Cairn group, these dogs "check out" each other before interacting more. Two Cairns encountering each other express attention with ears up, tail up, and an interested gaze.

When possible, a judge should consider sparring Cairns to see the alertness and expression that define the breed's personality. A sparring Cairn, with head, ears, and tail up, shows the keen attitude and expressive fire we value.

—Pat Joyce,  
[patjoyce1@att.net](mailto:patjoyce1@att.net)  
Cairn Terrier Club of  
America

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

### Dandie Dinmont Terriers

#### VERSATILITY AWARD PROGRAM AND 2026 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

It comes as no surprise that the Dandie Dinmont Terrier has been a recognized breed for a very long time, both here and in the country of origin—the United Kingdom. The Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America (DDTCA) has, in various forms, been a member club of the American Kennel Club for over 100 years, with a focus on conformation events.

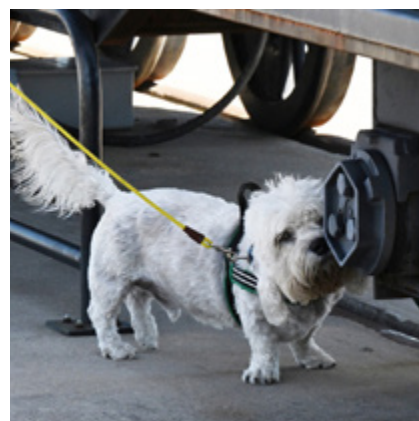
In recent years, Dandie Dinmont owners across the U.S. have expanded their horizons to include a growing interest and participation in performance events. In 2024, the DDTCA Board of Governors recognized the importance of supporting and recognizing the Dandie Dinmont's success in performance events with the creation of a Performance Recognition program.

The Versatility Award Program was launched with



*Dandie Dinmont Terriers were bred for the skills and drive to excel as all-purpose helpers on the farms of southern Scotland and Northern England. To highlight the Dandie's abilities, the parent club has launched the Versatility Award Program.*

the first class of awards presented at the beginning of 2025. The first class of winners included nine Versatility Awards and five Versatility Excellent Awards. Certificates,



created by Richard Yoho, were presented to each winner, and invitations to participate in a recognition program at the 2025 national specialty were issued. The Versatile Dandie

COURTESY OWNERS

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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parade took place during the 2025 national at Purina Farms. Large rosettes were presented to each winner in attendance, and the crowd recognized their accomplishments.

Some interesting information concerning this first class of versatile Dandies:

Seven of the nine Versatile Dandies have a Ch. or GCh. in front of their name;

Four of the five Versatility Excellent Dandies have Ch. or GCh. in front of their name;

One Versatility Excellent dog has 16 titles after her name;

Five of the nine Versatile Dandies carry the King's Mtn. prefix in their names!

Why, you may ask, has the DDTCA embarked on such a recognition program? Tracing the history of the breed reveals that the Dandie Dinmont was bred to have the skills and the drive to excel as an all-purpose helper around the farms of southern Scotland and Northern England. They work close

to their owner, which can be highlighted in many of the performance events found in the modern world of performance events.

The challenge facing the club was to recognize and encourage participation in dog sports while at the same time recognizing those amazing Dandies who excel in a variety of dog sports.

Critical to this "large tent" approach was the decision that a conformation title is not required. In fact, the points from the conformation ring are only for achieving the champion or grand champion titles; all other points come from the catalog of 19 performance competitions, including participation in preservation events recognized by the DDTCA.

In order to become a Versatile Dandie, the owner or co-owner must be a member of the DDTCA at the time of application. A star (analogous to point) system has been assigned to each recognized sport,

with a minimum of seven stars required from at least three of the recognized sports and events to qualify as a Versatile Dandie. The Versatility Excellent requires at least 12 or more stars from a minimum of four recognized sports and events. The highest recognition, the Versatility Supreme award, requires 15 or more stars and a working dog title. A working dog title is defined as a title obtained in earthdog, Barn Hunt, or NASDA. The first Versatility *Supreme* award will be presented at the 2026 specialty!

The DDTCA will sponsor a Parade of Versatile Dandies and award rosettes to all new versatility titleholders for the previous year. New for the 2026 national weekend will be a full day devoted to performance events specifically designed to create opportunities for Dandie Dinmonts to earn titles toward recognition in the Versatility awards program.

The national specialty weekend will begin on

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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Thursday, May 28, with the Gateway Terrier Association Show and a full day of performance events for Dandies based at the Purina Farms Event Center. The national specialty is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, at the Missouri Rhineland KC all-breed show at Purina Farms, followed that evening by the annual banquet and silent auction event, also at Purina Farms.

The Lakes Region will host a designated regional specialty on May 29, and the Mid-America region will do their designated regional specialty on May 31 as part of this weekend.

Check our website, <https://www.ddtca.org> for a complete listing of events, dates, and times.

It is a pleasure to be back writing this column for the AKC GAZETTE. As always, suggestions for future columns are welcome!

—Sandra Wolfskill,  
DDTCA President, [sandy-wolfskill@gmail.com](mailto:sandy-wolfskill@gmail.com)

[Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America](#)

### Smooth Fox Terriers

**MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM E. DOSSETT OF “TOOFOX”: A WORLD OF REFLECTION ON THE SMOOTH FOX TERRIER**

*This columnist talked with Mr. and Mrs. William Dossett (Bill and Betsy) on October 18, 2025. The Dossetts have, for many years, been very influential in the Smooth Fox Terrier breed with their dogs under the Toofox name. We wanted to learn how they got their start in Smooth Fox Terriers, what they look for in Smooths, and what they prioritize in breeding plans, as well as their observations on current developments in the breed. Comments are edited.*

*[Columnist/Interviewer:] I am so happy to talk with you! I am a longtime admirer of your Toofox Smooths, especially the outstanding producer, Ch. Toofox the Colonel. (I also appreciated Bill's instruction on grooming in the video on Smooth Fox Terrier grooming so many years ago. It is one of my treasured possessions!) Please*

*tell me how you got interested in Smooths and what attracted you to the breed.*

*[Interviewees:] Actually in 1968, in Texas, we took a tan and white Smooth Fox Terrier male. We rescued him on his way to being abandoned; so, our first Smooth was a rescue. His name was Spots, and he lived happily in our family. We moved to Iowa for 18 months, and then when back in Texas we got a registered Smooth female who was in Louisiana. She didn't happen to get along with the Whippets living in the home, so we took her. She was Mini Echo.*

*She was bred to Paragon of Gaycliffe, and we got Miss Me Too Spot, so named because she was always wanting to go along wherever, wagging her tail as if to say, “Take me too!” She was the number-one Smooth female for 1976, with outstanding wins such as a five-point major, the first on two days from Novice class!*

*We don't know the exact*

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



Bill and Betsy Dossett's first Smooth Fox Terrier, Spots, with their son, Billy, in 1969. ("No, I can't share my popsicle, Spots!")

number but think we have bred over 200 Smooth Fox Terrier champions. We have never, though, stressed numbers in our program, and numbers are not our motivation for showing more.

*Smooth Fox Terriers can do so many things. Tell me more*

*about your experiences.*

*(Betsy speaking)* Sometimes I feel that these things are meant to be, they are "divine intervention," "God's purpose." I brought Too Spot to a nursing home and gave a talk to a group of residents with the very friendly Smooth, happy to engage. After the talk concluded,

the nursing home director asked if I would take the dog into an individual room where a man she described as a "shut-in" was not communicating, apparently depressed, having lost his wife.

Not wanting to frighten the man, and unsure how Too Spot would react, I placed Too Spot at the end of his bed, carefully watching how Too Spot might react. Gradually, the man pulled Too Spot toward him and talked for the first time since he got to the nursing home—a win-win!

*That is an amazing story. Tell me about your priorities in breeding Smooths.*

*(Bill answering)* My advice is: Don't go by just photos in selecting dogs. Be careful about possible ear-fixing and tail-fixing in the breed. Be confident in the pedigrees. You have to have well laid-back shoulders and dogs that are not straight in the rear, no straight stifles. Then you need correct head and ears. You need to have

COURTESY BILL AND BETSY DOSSETT

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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the correct personality, alert and mischievous. Things can change in a puppy; you don't want them tugging on toys, which may impact their teeth and bite.

*(Betsy speaking)* You have to have the structure to begin with and then the personality. Some things can change and some not: it takes experience to know.

*What about type and methods of using bloodlines?*

We have been breeding the same type for years. We do line-breeding. We go to a lot of shows to see in person what is produced; to view and evaluate. For example: We were at the World Dog Show in Paris. We noticed a certain Smooth. He turned out to be a son of our dog Junior, a grandson of The Colonel. He arrived at the show through other parties. We also went to England and visited Peter Winfield, who had the number-one Smooth at the time, Riber Rarity. Peter gave us a daughter of Rarity, Toofox Riber Reality, and that is

how we got English lines. We, in choosing partners for our dogs, look for what we need for each female. We take a world view and try to observe dogs in person. We have been in Stockholm and Paris as well as the U.S. shows.

*Do you watch dogs on video to learn about them?*

*(Bill answering)* What you get from videos depends very much on the camera angle; you need proper camera angles to see the movement straight down and back.

*Do you have some general comments on the state of the breed at this time?*

I see some wide shoulders, therefore wide fronts. People seem to have a false impression as to what is correct shoulder construction and layback and as to just what is a short back.

*What do you think about bringing new people into Smooths and mentoring them?*

*(Betsy talking)* We have mentored very many people. It is not just about the dogs, it is about the people.

*What is your general plan for your breeding program?*

*(Bill answering)* We have line-bred for the same type the whole time. Using "The Brat" *(Note: Ch. Ttarb The Brat, from Australia)* was the first really outside dog, and we were the first to breed to him in the U.S. He had a gorgeous head, and he improved shoulders.

*Thank you so much for providing this overall view on your many years in Smooth Fox Terriers.*

—Kristi L. Tukua,

AKC GAZETTE columnist for Smooth Fox Terriers

[American Fox Terrier Club](#)

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## Wire Fox Terriers

### ILLUSTRATED STANDARD

It is the responsibility of every breed parent club to define the standard by which specimens of the specific

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

breed are defined. Standards are written and illustrated to present to the reader or the viewer the ideal specimen of the breed. The readers should be breeders, exhibitors, and judges. At the very least each standard should include description of the critical elements of the breed as if one were looking at a painting in an art gallery.

It was 2006 when the American Fox Terrier Club (established in 1885) last published an Illustrated Standard and now created a more “user friendly” guide. The purpose of the guide is clearly stated on the first page of the 2025 edition: “Our goal continues to be the preservation of the breed standards and to help in their modern-day interpretation.”

The publication presents a brief history of the breeds, immediately followed by a key for ease of reading and understanding the important points. There is a Glossary of Terms that forms a basis for understanding the descriptives. Examples of often-

misunderstood terms used among Fox Terrier fanciers are *hunter* and *sparring*. The term *hunter* as used in the standard refers to a type of horse. *Sparring* does not mean bringing out two dogs to snarl and attack, but rather is a controlled exercise where the dogs demonstrate their courage and attitude.

The similarities between the two breeds are illustrated via models and the written word and cover every body part in great detail, from the black nose to the tail-set. Throughout the guide disqualifying elements are noted in bold red, and objectionable elements appear in bold blue.

Breeders, exhibitors, and judges should pay careful attention to what makes a Fox Terrier a Fox Terrier, and not a different-color Welsh or Lakeland Terrier. Fox Terriers should be strong and sturdy, short backed and symmetrical, neither too small nor too big to perform the tasks they were bred for 150 years ago.



While the two breeds share the same physical characteristics and disqualifications they differ in coat. The Smooth Fox should have a coat that is smooth, but hard and dense. The Wire Fox’s coat has a wiry texture; it is dense, slightly waved but never curly. The Wire Fox must be hand stripped, never using clippers or scissors, to maintain the wiry texture and the color.

When examining the coat of the Wire Fox judges should use their thumbs to see if they can separate the wiry coat and at the same time feel for shortcuts taken by the exhibitor for the final

COURTESY AFTC

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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ring presentation.

Coat color and markings are really a matter of personal taste. The guide points out that white should predominate, while tan and black markings can be large or small, with no preference to their location.

A judge may be deceived when looking at a dog that has a color (usually black) mark on the body that seems to affect the topline; or a tan color marking on one front or rear leg that seems to affect the movement. Judges need to develop keen eyes and hands when examining each dog so as not to deny a good specimen because of an illusion.

While individual body parts and coat and presentation are important criteria, nothing is more important than movement. If the Fox Terrier can't move correctly, it can't perform the job for which it was created. The guide points out the pendulum motion of the terrier front and the propulsive power of the hind legs, both of which come from a

correct skeleton and muscles.

This newest edition of the Illustrated Standard presents in a compact format the typical or breed characteristics (body form, coat, and temperament) that define the Wire and Smooth Fox Terriers. Copies of the Illustrated Standard are available from Sheila Thulin, 9803 W. Azalea Court, Sun City, AZ 85351 (e-mail [tophat3@me.com](mailto:tophat3@me.com)).

—Joan Gordon Murko, Woodland Park, New Jersey; [donohill@optimum.net](mailto:donohill@optimum.net)  
**American Fox Terrier Club**

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### Glen of Imaal Terriers

#### THE TURNSPIT DOG

The home page of the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America website, <http://www.Glens.org>, says, "According to legend, the Glen of Imaal also has a unique task which it was expressly designed for: It was a turnspit dog. The turnspit was a large wheel which, when paddled by the dog, would turn the spit over the

hearth—a canine-propelled rotisserie, if you will."

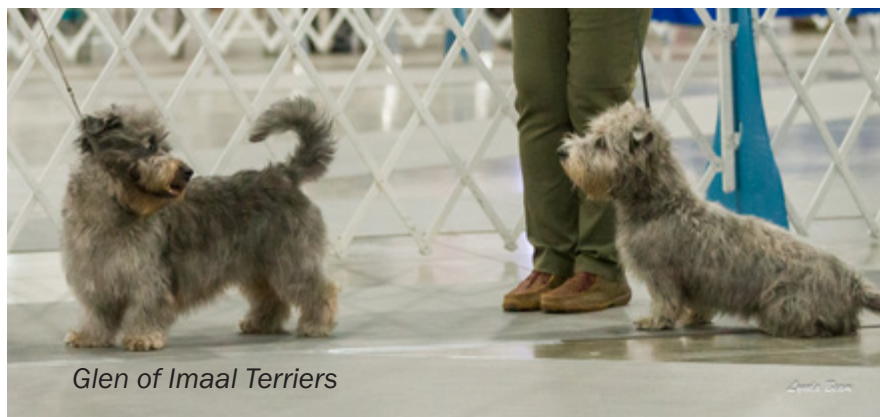
In the AKC Meet The Breeds book (2012 edition), you can read, "This [the Glen] is one of the four native Irish terrier breeds. It originated in the Glen of Imaal in County Wicklow, where it was used to hunt badger and fox and to cook dinner, the latter in its unique occupation as turnspit dogs, turning roasting meat over open fires."

At many all-breed dog shows, a club representative will read a brief description of each breed as it is judged in the group competition. This helps spectators to remember the breeds that appeal to them. This description usually includes the turnspit lore. Who wouldn't remember a dog who helps you cook dinner? The number of people who mention this to me at shows is further proof of its effectiveness.

This often-debated part of Glen lore, whether you accept it or not, functions quite effectively as a hook,

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



Glen of Imaal Terriers

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

How do you draw attention and recognition to a rare breed of terrier that no one has ever heard of before? The breed doesn't appear in old paintings, or in literature. We don't have a Glen as famous as Toto the Cairn, or Asta the Wirehaired Fox Terrier. We don't have a connection to great literature like the Dandie Dinmont Terriers and Sir Walter Scott. We

aren't the largest terrier, nor the smallest. The Glen is a medium-sized dog with a coat of medium length.

I just smile when someone asks me about my turnspit dogs. I have seen the images of dogs in wheels above open hearths and have no reason to doubt that dogs could have been used that way at one time. There is even a drawing of a turnspit and a mention of Glens being used for this purpose in the book *The Native Dogs of Ireland*, copyrighted by The Irish Kennel Club in 1984. In reference to the Glen's purpose, it says, “In addition (to hunting badger and foxes), he had to spend long hours propelling dog wheels (a treadmill used for operating dog churns or

fire spits. The Glen of Imaal Terrier's short, crooked front legs and his powerful rear made him ideally suited to this task.”

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

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

—Jo Lynn,

[irishglen@aol.com](mailto:irishglen@aol.com)

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club  
of America

## Irish Terriers

### IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF CHICAGO CENTENNIAL

*In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago, we invited its Historian,*

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



*Early gathering of the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago, established in May 1926; montage from ITCC hospitality night, June 2000*



*Mary Best, to give the below account of the rich history of this storied club.*

The Irish Terrier Club of Chicago, established in May of 1926, is the oldest of any regional breed club now in existence in the U.S. Its first

specialty show was held in Chicago with the Western Specialty Club Association show in November 1926, with 30 dogs. That was a good number for a fledgling group, and it started a great tradition for the Midwest.

At that time, eight dogs were required for three points, 10 for four points, and 20 dogs for five points. Today, 100 years later, numbers are four for three points, five for four points and six for five points. Specialty shows have been held through wars and even through COVID, (including two concurrent shows, with entries of 18 dogs each), and the tradition continues today.

After the first few years our bedrock members were Rudolph Jensen (Nutbrown) and Edward O'Keefe (Shannon View), who held the presidency alternately over the first 40 years; with William Butler as secretary. The names of John Best (Blackacre), Suzanne Griffiths (Greenbrier), and Patricia Kostal (Airlies) were frequently seen.

In 1976, the annual

COURTESY ITCC

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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specialty joined with the newly organized Great Lakes Terrier Association (now the Great Lakes All Terrier Association), which held their shows at Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake, Illinois. Our highest entry was 44, in 1992. Membership in the ITCC then was about 70.

From the 1990s forward, the Midwest gained several active kennels to add to those mentioned earlier. The names of Huntermoon (Bruce and Nancy Petersen), Diamond (Bob and Gloria Geddes), Breezy's (Terri and Barry VandeZande), and Sugarbush (Tom and Diana Miller) were to be found at most shows.

In addition, our roster of heroes includes Sharon Lindgren, Steve Rybacki, Bill Webber, Lori McGuire, and too many more to mention. Our membership spans the country with members from the East, South, West, and Canada. Many of them make the trek to participate and show off their dogs, too.

Currently, members of our club and their Irish are successfully competing at the championship level in the performance disciplines, following the pioneering examples of Deb and Mike Constant. Activity in obedience, rally, agility, Barn Hunt, dock diving, Fast CAT, and tracking proves what we all have known: Irish Terriers can do it all!

The Irish Terrier Club of Chicago continues without a hitch. Irish Terriers have a lot to do with that. Their traits of loyalty, steadfastness, strength, and determination are mirrored in the owners who participate. Much like a family, Irish Terrier owners are "related by dog" and have been tirelessly keeping the club functioning. There is a true camaraderie among us. As in the beginning, we are dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our breed and showcasing the Irish Terrier's versatility through the club's various events.

The celebration will continue through 2026, cul-

minating on the weekend of June 13 and 14, when we will be hosting the Irish Terrier Club of America traveling specialty, as well as holding our 100th Irish Terrier Club of Chicago specialty. For information, please see <https://www.irishterrierclubchicago.org>.

—Submitted by Michael A. Kowalczyk, [kowalczykm@charter.net](mailto:kowalczykm@charter.net)

[Irish Terrier Club of America](#)

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### Kerry Blue Terriers

Guest author David Poynter has been involved with Kerry Blue Terriers for over 25 years as a student, historian, and advocate for the breed. He is a dedicated student of the Kerry Blue Terrier breed standard, an AKC Breeder of Merit, and a member of the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club (USKBTC).

### THE MAKING OF AN IRISH FARM DOG

The Kerry Blue Terrier

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



*From Kerry Blue Terrier archives: The dogs of Botho Lilienthal on a boating excursion; Ch. Tailteann's Princess Jill; Ben-Edar Blaise, Ben-Edar Black Prince, and their dam, Ch. Ben-Edar Bettie*



did not originate as a breed shaped by fashion or formal standards. Its foundation was practical, forged by the demands of rural Irish life. On small farms where survival depended on versatility, the Kerry emerged as an all-purpose farm dog—expected to guard the home, control vermin, assist with

livestock, and hunt when necessary. Selection was guided by function, temperament, and durability. Understanding this working perspective offers insight into the breed's true character and explains why correct structure, sound temperament, and resilience remain central to the Kerry Blue

Terrier standard.

For an Irish farmer, a dog's value was proven over long days of work, in harsh weather, and on uneven ground. A Kerry who could not endure physically or mentally had no place in the breeding program. Selection began with one question: Can this dog work reliably and hold up over time?

A working Kerry required a strong, athletic build—balanced rather than bulky, agile rather than heavy. Sound structure was essential. Weak joints, poor angulation, or inefficient movement led to fatigue,

COURTESY DAVID POYNTER / USKBTIC

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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injury, and failure. Efficient, ground-covering movement allowed the dog to patrol fields, work hedgerows, and navigate rough pasture without wasted energy. Proper shoulder and rear angulation provided reach and drive, enabling the Kerry to shift quickly between tasks. Durability mattered more than perfection; a dog who broke down physically, regardless of appearance, would not be bred.

Temperament was equally critical. The ideal Kerry was bold but not reckless, confident without being quarrelsome. Courage was necessary for confronting predators, vermin, and intruders, but so was judgment.

A farm dog had to think independently. Intelligence and trainability allowed the Kerry to adapt to varied tasks and respond to direction, yet much of his work required initiative rather than constant command. Overly aggressive dogs were unreliable, timid ones ineffective. Balance defined

usefulness. Work ethic separated the adequate from the exceptional. Kerry Blues need persistence to remain engaged all day, maintaining focus and purpose without encouragement. This determination was essential.

The Kerry's distinctive coat served a practical purpose long before it became a hallmark of breed type. A soft, dense, wavy coat provided insulation against cold and damp while offering protection from rough terrain. Water resistance was essential in Ireland's climate, where rain and mud were constant. Excessive coats requiring constant care would have been impractical; function dictated moderation.

A working Kerry required a strong head, powerful jaws, and a correct bite. Dispatching vermin, defending himself, and carrying objects demanded functional strength rather than exaggeration. Alert expressions reflected awareness and engagement. The Kerry was expected to

notice movement in grain stores, scent intruders along hedgerows, and respond instantly. A good nose and keen sensory awareness were practical necessities. Every feature had a purpose, usefulness outweighed uniformity.

On a working farm, chronic weakness could not be tolerated. Kerry Blues needed to thrive under demanding conditions with minimal intervention. Sound constitution and overall hardiness were essential for long-term usefulness.

Longevity mattered as well. A dog who worked reliably for years offered stability to the household and value to future generations. Reproductive soundness ensured capable offspring, preserving the traits that mattered most.

Selection was disciplined and practical. Dogs unable to meet these demands were removed from breeding consideration, ensuring that strength, resilience, and ability were passed forward.

From a farmer's perspec-

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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tive, breeding decisions were simple: Function came first. Proven ability outweighed pedigree. Dogs were bred because they demonstrated reliability, endurance, and stable temperament over time. Selection by performance, not theory, preserved the breed's practical qualities long before formal breed standards existed.

As the Kerry Blue Terrier moved from the Irish farm into formal recognition, breed standards emerged to preserve what function had already shaped. Structure, movement, temperament, and coat were not invented; they were described and refined.

When properly understood, the AKC standard supports the Kerry Blue's working origins, ensuring the breed remains physically and mentally capable.

Viewed through the lens of an Irish farmer, the Kerry Blue Terrier is a dog of purpose and substance. Strong, intelligent, adaptable, and resilient, the breed was

shaped by necessity and preserved through thoughtful selection. While modern life no longer demands the same work, the qualities that once made the Kerry Blue indispensable remain essential.

Sound structure, balanced temperament, and working character are not relics—they are the foundations to the AKC standard and Kerry Blue Terrier's future.

—David Poynter,  
[davidjpynter@hotmail.com](mailto:davidjpynter@hotmail.com)  
United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

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### Lakeland Terriers

**THE LAKELAND: WICKED  
SMART, DEVIIOUS,  
EXASPERATING, BIG DOG IN A  
SMALL BODY**

Any breed that was developed for doing a job was molded into a form and character that can be counted on, generation after generation. Sure, some of those traits can be lost if not continuously selected for, but the Lakeland Terrier's unique mind has persisted even though most today do

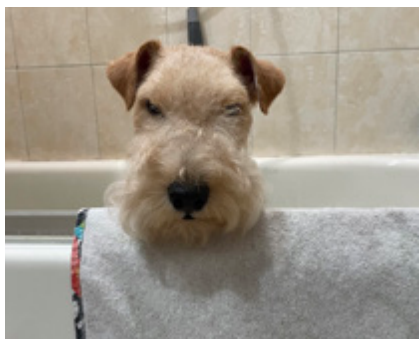
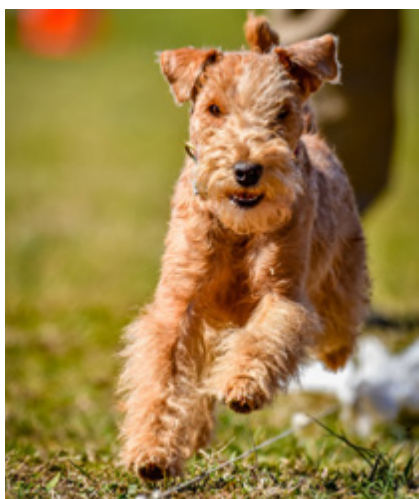
not hunt and kill large foxes in harsh climates amid dens formed from volcanic rock.

Prominent among the required character traits for an animal that is expected to travel miles in a day in miserable weather, risk his life to do battle with a quarry larger than himself, and then travel miles in even more miserable weather back home has got to be his sense of humor: "You want me to go *where*, in this cold, drizzling rain? To risk my life to kill a big, mean, fox? What an adrenaline rush! I'm in; when do we head out?" Or: "Go for a walk? You are crazy, man, it is 90 degrees in the shade in this town. You go for your walk, and I'll wait here in the air-conditioning, and you can tell me all about it when you get back. I can sniff your shoes and clothes and learn all I need to know about the park."

Those of us who are enchanted by this breed love their quick minds and their charming (though sometimes exasperating) personality. If you want a

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



performance dog, they can excel at agility, dock diving, scent work—anything that taps into the “fun center” of their brain.

Not a top choice for

*Lakeland Terriers can excel in a wide range of activities—including Fast CAT (GCh. Hollybriar Never Say Never Again, DCAT, SE, ATT, TKN, SIN, SEN), earthdog (Tolyn’s Cairo Jameson, MX, MXJ, MXF, JE, FCAT, RATCH, CZ8B, STR, TKN), agility, and dock diving (Yeti).*

obedience; they are too analytical. Let me provide an example. One Lakeland I knew was entered in an obedience trial for the first time at the level where retrieving a dumbbell was required. Day one: Dog sits at owner’s heel. She throws dumbbell, gives retrieve

command. Dog remains seated. Time passes. She gives second command (dog has now failed, of course); dog doesn’t move, so judge goes over, picks up dumbbell, and hands it to handler. Dog and handler leave the ring. Day two: Same exercise. Handler tosses

COURTESY AMY FRYE / FRANCES ROBERTS / KATE LENHART / DEANNA NORWOOD

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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dumbbell. Dog remains sitting but immediately looks over at the judge, as if to say, “Based on yesterday, we have a human to retrieve the dumbbell—so hop to it, buddy, we are waiting.” But give them a goal that taps into an adrenaline rush, and they will learn so fast you may not be able to keep up with them.

But the Lakeland breed is not all about fun and games. Because of their highly developed sense of smell, it is not just scent work activities they excel at. *Even without training* Lakelands can be outstanding service dogs. Highly attuned to their owner, they can detect minute changes in body chemistry. That enables them to become service dogs for veterans and other trauma victims, sensing the body chemicals released as a result of fear or agitation. They can become “medic alert” companions, with or without training!

I have a friend who has had multiple Lakeland PTSD service dogs over the

years. He has worked with a group of similar veterans. Their organization, Wags For Warriors, has helped place and train owners and dogs. One day, while at a session, the Lakeland belonging to one of the instructors began to lick his leg repeatedly. Now, licking behavior is something Lakelands do the express frustration. Her owner thought this new behavior was weird, until he went for a physician appointment the next day. Turned out that he had developed a blood clot right where the dog was licking.

This Lakeland is no stranger to the local veterans hospital; she accompanies her master to all visits and hospitalizations. Lakelands are serving also as diabetes alert dogs and service dogs for the autistic and other conditions. Big *however*: Lakelands are impulsive, opportunistic, and wicked smart at getting around their owner’s wishes. They can size up a person’s “dog savvy” in no time. Don’t

even contemplate getting a Lakeland unless you are prepared to convey to the dog that *you* are alpha!

—Pat Rock,  
[hollybriar@widomaker.com](mailto:hollybriar@widomaker.com)  
United States Lakeland  
Terrier Club

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### Manchester Terriers

#### PRESERVE AND PROTECT

Reading though old **R**issues of the AKC GAZETTE, I came across the February 2009 article about the development of the American Manchester Terrier Club Hall of Fame. Donna Gates, Virginia Antia, and Sue Moodie put in extensive research time, legwork, and dug through library archives to put together the list of the first recipients. They did this in 1987 when the internet was very new, and going online was not common. This was a Herculean effort at the time, and for many a task that would be difficult to take on. Their diligence and dedication resulted in the wonderful program we have

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

today that is meticulously maintained by Roberta Berman.

The effort involved for any breed club to keep track of breed history and information has always been a very manual and often tedious process until a few decades ago. This made me think about how much has changed when it comes to archiving and data collection. Now with just a few clicks of a mouse or swipes on a device, we have documents, pictures, and history at our fingertips. This is a chance to bring the past forward and better understand from whence a breed came. In order to move forward, we have to look back and follow the story.

Researching and maintaining the history of a breed that is hundreds of years old can be daunting. Centuries of history is often limited to artwork and a few preserved stories. In 1959, when the American Manchester Terrier Club was created, a historical point was



Manchester Terriers

marked. Since then, the club members have worked diligently to preserve many documents and pictures chronicling the breed. This was done by keeping boxes of documents and hundreds of paper files. Now there are social media groups focused on Manchester Terriers in art and photos.

There are online discussions about old pedigrees and dogs long past. The *AMTC Newsletter* often spotlights long-ago kennels and dogs that are in many of today's pedigrees. We have the ability to chat in real time with Manchester owners all over the world about what they know and

COURTESY OWNER

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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what they have learned. Maintaining all of this breed history is so very important to preserving a breed.

The AMTC has upgraded the club archive capabilities with a computer and scanner, allowing the club to digitize as many paper documents and pictures as possible.

There are also plans to digitize all of the videos available, as moving images tell a much bigger story than just a snapshot or painting. It is so important for the club to preserve this rich history of the breed while having the ability to share it with the members in an easier-to-digest form.

Additionally, there are plans to digitize many of the books documenting the Hall of Fame dogs. Once all documents are electronically catalogued, the ability to do word searches and comb through hundreds of documents instantly gives power to the researchers that they have never had before.

Also, the chance to go

back 50 years from now and look through this digital footprint and swim through the history of the Manchester will be a powerful tool. It will indeed allow future generations to reap the benefits of all of this amazing knowledge that would otherwise be lost as breeders and enthusiasts pass on. Who knows how archiving and digital documents will progress in the next half a century—maybe we will have floating screens or virtual libraries? I am sure archivists from 50 or 100 years ago never imagined the capabilities we would have today, nor did they imagine so many of us would be interested in maintaining it.

I look forward to more history in review as I read the old AKC GAZETTE issues, thanks to an archivist who chose to preserve them. Who knows what else I will find!

—Robin Gates,  
[robings42@gmail.com](mailto:robings42@gmail.com)  
American Manchester  
Terrier Club

## Norfolk Terriers

### MENTORING AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

Follow an octogenarian on Facebook who was an Olympic equestrian and who still rides several horses on his property in Vermont. He also actively mentors young riders and often reminisces about the old days when kids were “barn rats” who learned to ride by jumping on their horses and riding bareback through neighboring fields and on rural roads where traffic was scarce.

He’s not stuck in the past, though, and acknowledges that the passage of time (including the development of once open land into housing developments and strip malls) has both literally and figuratively altered the landscape.

This reminds me of the time when I had my Beagle, Candy, and I showed her in what was then called Children’s Handling. On at least one occasion I remember my father dropping me off at a large, outdoor show

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



Norfolk Terrier Ch. Max-well's Weatherman (Hillside Studio photo)

and then coming back several hours later to pick me up. And what did I do without parental supervision? I showed my dog. I talked to spectators. I talked to owners. I asked complete strangers about certain breeds. I even met the reporter for the local “big city” newspaper who wrote a regular column about dogs and dog shows. As I recall, everyone was more than happy to chat with the inquisitive 12-year-old wandering the grounds with her field-bred Beagle.

For better or worse, times

have changed for dog shows. The opportunity to mentor new or prospective owners often gets lost in the shuffle. Bench shows are a rarity and, at most shows, dogs are clustered with very busy handlers who often (legitimately) don't have time to chat with newbies. Even if they do, they most often aren't handling their own dogs and probably can't answer, “Does Fido sleep on the bed at home?” This isn't a criticism of handlers. They have a job to do. But, it is unfortunate that talking with

newcomers often gets lost in the shuffle. Even the junior handling classes sometimes suffer from ‘anxious parent syndrome’ where winning trumps learning. Kudos to those individuals who judge the juniors and who patiently explain their decisions.

This brings us to mentoring in Norfolks. As a breeder, if you sell a puppy to someone who might be interested in conformation or performance events, are you prepared to mentor them, even long-distance?

If someone says they would like a female puppy, do you insist that it be spayed or do you discuss the possibilities of co-ownership and offer to teach them the ropes if you both consider the bitch to be of breeding quality?

The Norfolk Terrier Club (NTC) does mentor judges, and that's a good thing, but mentoring new owners, potential exhibitors, and future breeders is also vital. Anyone who owns a Norfolk can step up and be a mentor, even if it's answering the most basic of questions such

COURTESY BARBARA MILLER

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

as “Where did you get your Norfolk?”

There’s an old saying that sometimes people “don’t know what they don’t know,” and this is certainly true in the dog world ... and it shouldn’t be criticized. This is where experienced people can expose new owners to the possibilities ahead. The NTC’s associate membership is a great way to get novice owners involved with the club. Giving someone new to Norfolks an associate membership can get them hooked on the possibilities that lie ahead.

—Sheila Foran,  
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Norfolk Terrier Club

### Norwich Terriers

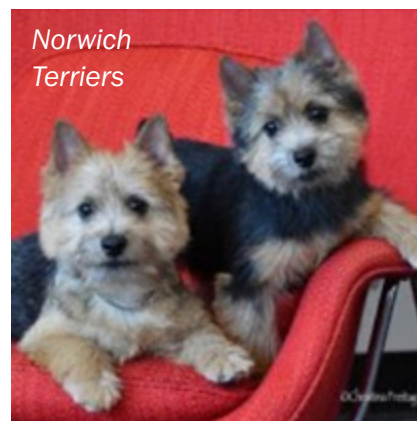
#### THE COST OF PREDICTABILITY

There is a cost for predictability when you purchase a purebred dog. Think about the word *purebred*. The meaning is clear in that you are purchasing a dog from a breeder who has extensive knowledge of the breed, who respects

the long-term commitment one makes to new owners as a mentor to them. This breeder can share with the new owner what they may expect in living with a Norwich Terrier. It goes without saying that it costs the breeder to do the research, looking for the best-possible stud dog, health testing, stud fees, travel. Prenatal and postnatal care of the dam and puppies are just some of the notable costs associated with breeding responsibly.

A dialogue between a potential buyer and a responsible breeder was shared with me not too long ago. It struck a chord with me, and I elected to incorporate some of the more pertinent points of the dialogue in this article.

Two questions prospective owners ask are “Do you have a Norwich Terrier available?” and “What is the cost?” When you share with them the amount you are willing to place a Norwich puppy for, they exclaim it’s way too expensive.



Let’s look at the scenes behind the breeding of this litter. You had to either buy or breed your bitch, pay for her health clearances, pay for routine veterinary care, and for some, pay the costs associated with her championship. Then you had to pay to attend shows in search of the best choice in a stud dog for your bitch.

After you have selected the stud dog, you pay the stud fee. Costs associated with that breeding could include travel with your bitch to the stud dog, collection and storing frozen semen, and potentially the cost of insemination.

Once the litter is on the ground, there is the 24/7 dedicated time this breeder has spent monitoring and

COURTESY JUDI HARTELL

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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supporting the dam and the litter for the first three weeks following the whelping. Then comes the cost of veterinary care for the litter, vaccinations, examinations, and clearances.

Norwich Terrier litter size is another component, as there are typically only two or three in a litter, sometimes only one. Sometimes you go through all the time and expense and the bitch fails to conceive.

By now you have thousands of dollars invested in this litter. These puppies will be well socialized by the breeder prior to placing in a new home and the breeder will be able to share—with predictability—what to expect living with this puppy.

Finally, the responsible breeder of a *purebred* Norwich Terrier is always available to the new owner, for the life of the dog, for any questions or problems that may arise. Purchasing from a responsible breeder, you are purchasing not only a Norwich Terrier that will

look and behave like the AKC description of the breed, but for the knowledge, support, experience, love, time, and sacrifice that the breeder has made for you to make this one-time investment in a new family member.

The Norwich Terrier has a character unique to its breed. It is a small compact dog ready to hunt vermin in your yard, play with you, walk with you or just sit on the couch with you as you watch television. These are *predictable* traits you may expect when you pay for a Norwich from a responsible breeder that you cannot reliably predict when you select a dog from a shelter or from a “Doodle” breeder. The Norwich Terrier evolved over many years to become typical of its breed. Yes, there is a cost for acquiring a true-to-type Norwich Terrier that will become part of your family for years to come.

—Judi Hartell,

[DataDawg11@gmail.com](mailto:DataDawg11@gmail.com)

[Norwich Terrier Club of America](#)

## Scottish Terriers

### CARING FOR A GERIATRIC SCOTTIE

I am charting new waters these days, as I have a 14-year-old Scottie in my pack—I’ve never achieved this with any of my dogs. Typically, I have dogs that age into their 13<sup>th</sup> year, but I reached this new milestone in May. On occasion, you hear of Scotties getting up to 15, and rarely to 16, so there is little out there to help those of us who find ourselves with such a senior citizen.

My dear girl goes back to my foundation stock, and most of those dogs (male and female) have lived well into the 12-year range, so I suspected she would as well. When she passed age 13, I steeled my nerves and told my veterinarian that it might be a challenging year, so be ready. In true terrier form, my old girl didn’t follow the rules, and neither did her littermate brother, who is also now 14 years old.

But having an aging dog is similar to living with

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

an aging parent; there are adjustments that need to be made to our lifestyles to accommodate their age, changing capabilities, appetites, and reduced energy. My dogs live as a pack with me in my home and aren't kenneled, so they are my constant companions throughout the day, and I have noticed numerous changes that required some accommodation.

First, she sleeps a lot, and I mean constantly. If not up and eating or taking care of business, she is sound asleep, so I needed to find a way to gently wake her without being completely startled. I found that a gentle fingertip down her spine is a nonthreatening approach, and she wakes and gently raises her head.

Upon waking, I find it is best to either direct her to a nearby door or carry her outside to relieve herself. While that works most of the time, some accidents will happen, and housetraining is often broken simply because she can't react or



move as quickly as she used to. Thus the carpet shampooer is now in permanent residence in the hall, along with numerous spray-bottles of necessary products.

Like most senior dogs, she has diminished eyesight and hearing, so communication became a challenge. Waving

arms and raised voices are the norm. Because of this, she will often find safe corners in which to nap during the day, where she feels protected and less vulnerable. After she found these, I made sure there was a dog bed or fleece in those locations for added comfort.

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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I take my pack for walks twice a day—the mile-long morning walk, and a quick trip around the block just before bedtime. As she aged, my old girl would walk away when I pulled out the leashes, while the others bounced in anticipation of the outing. The diminished sight and old bones just weren't up for either walk, so I let her stay behind. However, in doing so, I found her toenails weren't being ground down on the asphalt and concrete, so they needed to be monitored and cut, as they can grow rapidly and hinder movement if not kept trimmed.

The hard show coat is now a distant memory, but I have always refused to just clipper my dogs after their show career. I like the look and feel of the longer jacket, but at 14-plus, the coat is now soft. So, I leave her coat at a reasonable length and keep her head properly groomed, though the beard and eyebrows are much shorter, as they succumb to constant bedhead with all the napping.

After my dogs reach 6 years of age, I like to do an annual full blood panel just to make sure we keep an eye on any existing issues or spot any new ones. After age 12, I enter a different mindset, where I'm not sure that if anything is detected, extraordinary measures should be undertaken, as the treatment may be riskier than the issue. Perhaps this maybe where the phrase "ignorance is bliss" comes into play. However, I do keep an eagle eye on her every movement and action.

Her last teeth cleaning was at age 11, and my vet warned me that this would be the last cleaning, as they are very cautious about using anesthesia on senior dogs. We removed a few teeth as needed, and I monitor her ability to chew kibble and biscuits. Since that last birthday, she still loves to chew ice, but the biscuits are more of a challenge, so I break them up or find a softer alternative. I have always cooked chicken and rice (along with kale and

carrots) to add to their kibble, and I use this to create a little "meatball" for her morning medications, which for the most part she will eat. Some mornings, however, she spits it out and eats the grains of rice and leaves the pills. So, it's on to Plan B to get her medications down for the day.

My twice-daily health check on her well-being is whether she does her "Happy Dance" at breakfast and dinner. If I see her hopping up and down in anticipation of getting her food, then I know she is feeling OK, and we can look forward to more time together. My uncharted path continues each day until ...

—Richard C. Bumstead,  
[glencclark6517@yahoo.com](mailto:glencclark6517@yahoo.com)  
Scottish Terrier Club of  
America

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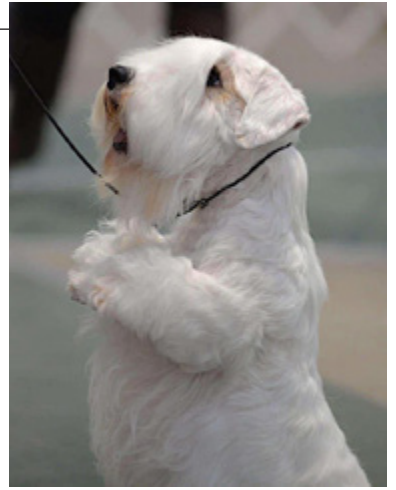
## Sealyham Terriers

### SEALYHAMS WAITING IN THE WINGS: PRE-RING RELAXATION RITUALS

Just like humans, dogs can experience anxiety—

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



Sealyham owners have come up with ways to help their dogs feel safe and secure at performance and companion venues. Shown are Blackmore's Rose, on the grooming table; Ch. Cooper, in the ring; Remi (shake, yawn tricks); Allie, back-up trick; Fitz, head-down trick; Augie and Fergie, walking to relax; Dobby, sit-up trick; LSP, ready to go.

physical stress-responses that raise their heart rate and

cortisol levels. Is it normal when a dog shakes, drools, or lip-licks excessively, or pants or whines in response to noise, crowding, unusual

smells, or temperature variations?

It's not, according to many training experts. One says, "These are signs a dog does

COURTESY OWNERS

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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not feel safe enough to relax. The cause is often cortisol—the stress hormone. High cortisol in dogs leads to constant alertness, muscle tension, and restlessness.”

Our Sealyham owners and handlers have come up with ways to help the breed feel safe and secure at performance and companion venues. Some employ rituals that help release the pressure and make adjustments prior to competition.

“I arrive an hour early and walk my Blackmore Sealyhams around the show environment,” says Pattie Kennedy, ASTC Board VP. “If they stress with tail down, I find a seat, pick them up, then play with them until the tail goes up—then treat immediately. Always praise and play. Blow-drying relaxes them as well.”

Routines for our Sealyhams can help to reassure calm, by alleviating stress. Tricks and games can be used for confidence building, as is evidenced by Sandy Schneider and

her Sealyhams, LSP and Dobby. “Tails and treats” is her motto. She elaborates on easing the pressure: “Is the tail up and happy, eager for treats? Each Sealyham has his or her own triggers and expectations; work on those before ring time. If there’s too much pressure, it’s not worthwhile to a Sealy ... they will check out. Leave enough time for potty—and keep them *cool!*”

**Oxytocin** is commonly known as the “love hormone.” Studies have shown that petting and touching can elevate oxytocin levels between dogs and owners, reinforcing their emotional bond, alleviating stress, and promoting social interaction.

Ellusion’s Sealyham, Remi, can be needy at times, and touch is his go-to. “Sometimes talking calmly, playing, and touching is enough to help Remi feel calmer—no treats needed,” say Michelle Erickson-Grove and Erika Dunleavy. “Sealyhams may whine, or talk, if stressed, but for Remi, *yawning* is a very

noticeable nonverbal behavior signaling his stress.”

Not all Sealyhams look alike, behave alike, or even talk alike. Some have triggers that ignite a series of behaviors that can be worked on if the handler is aware of them before ring time.

“I worked for years with different techniques to restore my Sealy Allie’s focus on me,” says Ashley Tilley. “Strict obedience exercises prior to going in the ring, watching other dogs to generate interest, and replicating the environment of an agility trial beforehand for less anxiety—in different environments. Leaving treats far outside of the trial area reduced the stress and kept her focused on performing. A few minutes before each agility run, tricks helped to keep her focused.”

Some Sealyhams like to engage with others. “For de-stressing, to get some of the energy out, I walk Sealyham Auggie around most of the building, because he loves to say

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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‘Hi’ to people he knows,” explains Courtney Suthoff. “[We] practice jumps before the agility ring for listening to me and emphasizing patience. A lot of our time is spent loose-leash walking. During our walk, we practice obedience—sit, wait, and down—to reinforce Auggie’s listening skills. [He gets] treats for calm and good behavior.”

Overstimulation can redirect as barking or whining. The key is identifying whether what you are seeing is stress behaviors or excitement. Robin Murtha says, “Each of my dogs have required, at times, a different strategy to alleviate stress. With my Sealyhams Fitz and Dexter, a bark or low growl are definite indicators of discomfort levels. Most times, a simple hand-touch, tricks, a shake, or down/sit/down eases the stress. Frequent check-ins with encouraging words are always welcomed—and of course, treats!”

From AKC judge and trainer Gerard O’Shea:

“The most important expectation [regarding] the dog is that he or she leaves the show ring thinking it was fun. Not that the whole experience was just pressure, because you the handler, felt so much pressure. Win the dog—not all the energy to win the class.”

Handlers get stressed too. Distract yourself, stretch, go for a walk. Move. Both humans and canines thrive on routine, which creates predictability, safety, and confidence.

Dog handlers say: “No goal in the show ring or otherwise is worth sacrificing your dogs or your mental and physical well-being.”

Tails up!

—Bev Thompson,

[thompscom@aol.com](mailto:thompscom@aol.com)

[American Sealyham Terrier Club](#)

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### Skye Terriers

This month we continue with information on grooming the Skye Terrier. Following is advice from Elaine Hersey.

### GROOMING PART TWO

All dogs should be regularly groomed, and since Skye Terriers are a naturally long-coated breed, it’s especially important that consistent grooming is a regular part of life for both dog and owner.

Grooming should not be a negative or stressful experience for the dog, so it’s vital that they are acclimated to it at the puppy stage of life. First of all, the puppy should be comfortable sitting on a grooming table or other grooming surface for brief periods of time—always supervised, of course. Then eventually transition to having them lie down, then lie on their side. This allows the person who’s grooming to check the undercarriage and inside the legs, as well as the groin area, for matting and tangles, as well as abnormalities like skin lesions, lumps, and so on.

Sessions also should include inspecting your dog’s nails as well as examining their mouth and teeth. A major benefit to this is

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



The Skye Terrier can be trained to lie down on the grooming table for a comfortable grooming session; light brushing a few times a week is beneficial so the coat does not become tangled. Above right: MBIS MBISS GCh.S. Gleanntan's Sure Shot Greyjoy, 2024 BIS Montgomery County KC (photo courtesy Antoinelle Vulpis, with permission of John Ashbey)

that when the dog goes for veterinary appointments, they are used to having their body handled, which makes these visits less stressful.

To allow a Skye's coat to become tangled or matted is painful for the dog when brushing is eventually attempted, and cutting or shaving a Skye coat to the skin results in a very unattractive look for this coated breed.

For me, the only tools needed for non-show grooming are an oblong brush with medium pins, a metal comb, and my preferred grooming spray.

When bathing our dogs we wash the body first, then feet, and lastly the head.

Most dogs don't mind having their body washed—so as not to upset them, leave the head for last.

We use a mild shampoo that also contains a conditioner. Wet the coat, then work in a small amount of shampoo. After rinsing the body coat, start on the head, doing the same. Make sure to be extra careful not to get water in the dog's ears.

After washing, towel-dry to get much of the wetness, then apply a light spray of grooming product. Finally, we use a hand-held hair-dryer set to medium—again starting with the body first, and brushing as we move the dryer along the body. Often

the head is almost dry so we may not use the dryer on it, but if we do, it's set on low.

Between baths, a totally dry coat should not be brushed, since this will result in hair breakage. A light spritz of grooming spray should be used to coat the hairs, so that brush and comb glide through easily with minimal tugging and damage.

Begin by introducing the brush and comb with just a few strokes on the coat. Once the dog is comfortable with this, have him lie on one side. Start brushing the chest and undercarriage. Lift each leg and brush underneath, then the groin area.

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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Use the comb on the feet, where there may be small mats. It may take a while for the dog to be accepting and comfortable with this, and initially they will most likely struggle a bit, but it is completely worth it and necessary.

Once the underside is finished, have the dog sit, then start on the body and legs.

The head is the last thing I work on. A comb may be used on the face, neck, and ears.

I've found that a few times a week, light brushing is very beneficial so the coat does not become too tangled, especially if your dog goes on regular walks and can pick up all kinds of things in their hair. This takes just a few minutes, and depending on the texture of the coat, makes a real difference.

Grooming can be and should be a bonding experience for dog and owner.  
—E.H.

Thank you, Elaine.

—Judith Tabler,

[JudithATabler@gmail.com](mailto:JudithATabler@gmail.com)

[Skye Terrier Club of America](#)

## Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

### UVEAL MELANOMA

#### FOLLOW-UP

Last year I reported on Coco's treatment for uveal melanoma. A routine CAER exam at a dog show eye clinic had revealed melanosis, a pigmented area, in Coco's left eye. Follow-up with Washington State University Veterinary Hospital ophthalmologist Dr. Kevin Kaiser confirmed that the melanosis was indeed melanoma and would require surgery to prevent metastases, pain, and eventual removal of the eye. We opted for laser eye surgery, which went well, and several follow-up exams indicated recovery was progressing as expected.

At the time of my last report, it appeared that the cancerous cells had been removed, and other than rechecks every six months, this ordeal was behind us. Unfortunately, at seven months post-surgery, the pigmented area had expanded and thickened,

indicating that cancerous cells remained and were again invading the eye.

Dr. Kaiser recommended repeat laser surgery. However, if the second laser surgery also failed to remove all the cancerous cells, a third laser surgery would not be possible. In that case iridectomy, surgical removal with a knife, would be the only option.

While iridectomy has a higher long-term success rate, there are greater risks of complications compared to repeating laser treatment. Potential complications include excessive bleeding and/or increased pressure in the eye, both of which could be managed with additional treatment and would be limited to the post-surgery recovery period. An advantage of surgery is the ability for the surgeon to remove a larger margin, the area around the pigmented area, to ensure removal of all the cancerous cells. The third option, no treatment and continue to monitor, was not acceptable to me!

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

We opted for iridectomy, and it was scheduled for two weeks later. Again, I dropped Coco off in the morning and picked her up in the afternoon. Again, she kept her fall, but this time she had to wear a cone—24/7 for two weeks!

The post-surgical home care was much more complicated, too. Coco was prescribed an oral pain medication once a day for six days, another oral medication every eight to 12 hours as needed for pain, an oral antibiotic once a day for 10 days, a steroid eyedrop twice a day, and an antibiotic eyedrop four times a day. I had to make a chart to keep track of her medications! The pressure in Coco's eye was a little high after surgery, so I took her back the next day for a pressure check.

At the one-week follow-up exam there was fibrin filling the majority of the pupil, so Coco had a TPA injection (tissue plasminogen activator) that required sedation, but she only had to stay in

the clinic for a couple hours until fully awake.

The antibiotic eyedrops were continued four times a day for 10 more days, then stopped. The steroid drops were continued twice a day for 10 more days, then reduced to once per day.

At the one-month follow-up exam, there was no indication of regrowth of the mass. The steroid eyedrop was continued daily for two more weeks, then changed to every other day. (Every other day turned out to be much more difficult for me to remember!)

Coco recently had a three-month post-surgery follow-up exam, and I'm happy to report that everything looks good. The steroid eyedrop was discontinued and replaced with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesic eyedrop, twice per week. I anticipate instilling eyedrops Mondays and Thursdays will be much less complicated than remembering eyedrops every other day!

Dr. Kaiser wants to see



*Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier*

Coco again in six months, and I expect she'll be seeing him every six months after that, but her recovery is going well.

Once again, I feel very fortunate that the Washington State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital has a local specialty clinic with ophthalmology service available. But more importantly, I have a renewed appreciation for the importance of the routine health evaluations that not only help reduce or eliminate the incidence of health problems in our breed, but also contribute to the health and well-being of our beloved

COURTESY: LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

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pets. Had I not had a CAER exam to verify that Coco would not pass hereditary eye conditions to her offspring, I would not have had the opportunity for early treatment of melanoma and to save her from a painful condition and loss of her eye.

—Shelly Sumner,

[shelly.sumner@icloud.com](mailto:shelly.sumner@icloud.com)

Soft Coated Wheaten  
Terrier Club of America

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### Welsh Terriers

#### PROMOTING THE WELSH TERRIER

Because of our love for the breed and desire to keep it out of the hands of disreputable breeders, Welsh Terrier fanciers have protected the breed by keeping it out of the public eye. We have been exceptionally careful to prevent Welsh from being in great demand, therefore we may have inadvertently discouraged the promotion of our wonderful breed to the point where few people are even aware that the breed exists or that a Welsh might be exactly what

they are looking for.

Welsh Terriers make great companions and superior housepets. They are wonderful dogs for apartment dwellers because of their size. Welsh can be picked up and carried in elevators, while big dogs need to be on the floor, which may be intimidating to other people and dogs in crowded spaces.

They can be paper trained as well as trained to “go” outdoors, so bad weather needn’t be a problem. Welsh do quite well with two or three walks a day, plus “potty” walks. No need to walk or run for miles each day. Their crates fit nicely in a corner of the kitchen or bedroom.

Properly trained, they needn’t be barkers. Yes, when they are at dog shows, like most terriers they bark at dogs going by their crates, but in home situations most Welsh are fairly quiet. When they do bark, the bark sounds like that of a much bigger dog, which can be a plus in an apartment complex.

In a suburban setting and

with a fenced yard, Welsh are the ideal housedog. They love older children, can be trained to get along with other dogs, and usually will even tolerate cats they are raised with. More pluses are easy maintenance and limited shedding (no dog is free from shedding unless he is completely bald). Brush dogs and cut nails weekly, have him professionally clipped and bathed every 10 to 12 weeks, and that is all the routine grooming he will require.

Welsh usually are very healthy and handle cold as well as hot weather quite well. The average lifespan is 12 to 14 years, with many living longer.

We promote the breed by taking our dogs to obedience classes and showing the rest of the world that terriers are indeed trainable. It’s always nice (although it doesn’t happen regularly) to get a first in an obedience trial full of Border Collies, Tervurens, Golden Retrievers, and other “trainable” breeds. More people

# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP



inquire about Welsh Terriers when they see them at obedience trials than they do when they watch them at conformation shows. If you train your dogs in public areas (always on lead, please) you will get a chance to discuss the breed with many people, so always carry your business

card when you go out with the dog. Of course we need to tell prospective owners that the intelligence and activity level of the dogs require training in order to live happily with them.

Older dogs make fine companions for many older people who couldn't cope with a puppy. If our

breeding stock is well raised and trained, placement of 4- to 8-year-old dogs is not difficult and is a plus for everybody.

Many of my older dogs go to homes where the people started with a puppy 30 years ago but, now on their third one, have decided that an older dog would be better this time. These people and their dogs are the greatest salespeople for the breed. Always keep in touch with them, and let them know when there is an older dog available. Chances are they have a friend who has fallen in love with their dog and wants one of their own.

Promoting the breed doesn't mean being careless about placing your puppies. There is a fine line between having people know about how desirable Welsh Terriers are and creating such demand that the disreputable breeders become involved producing Welsh Terriers as just another commodity. —

*Diane Orange, 2014*

[Welsh Terrier Club of America](#)

COURTESY: HOT DOG PHOTO

**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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## ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**, beginning no earlier than 9:00 a.m. There will not be a Delegate Forum.

## DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

**Dennis N. Corash**, PhD, Penrose, CO,  
Terry-All Kennel Club

**Martha H. Goings**, Huntington, IN,  
Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club

**Gregory Hastings**, Hillsdale, WY,  
Cheyenne Kennel Club

**Dr. Michelle R. Rowland**, Washington, IL,  
Illinois Valley Kennel Club of Peoria

**Lee Sohl**, Kent, CT,  
First Company Governor's Foot Guard  
Athletic Association

**Sally N. Wynn**, Murfreesboro, TN,  
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America

**Michael F. Zywicki**, New Glarus, WI,  
American Cesky Fanciers Association



gazette

Click here to read the  
February 2026 issue!



# SECRETARY'S PAGES

## NOTICE

### REPRIMANDS AND FINES

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

Foy Trent Dog Shows .....\$250

Notification of fine imposed on Superintendents for failure to distribute ribbons within 60 days Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 5, Section 12.

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC .....\$1500

Notification of fine on Superintendent for acceptance of entry of breeds ineligible to compete at the event, Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Section 7.

Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows .....\$275

Notification of fines imposed on club for providing conflicting event closing dates, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 6, Section 9.

American Brittany Club .....\$100

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

Bedlington Terrier Club of America.....\$25

Dog Training Club of Tampa .....\$100

Notification of fines imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, AKC Herding Regulations: Farm Dog Certified (FDC) Test Regulations, Chapter 9.

Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.....\$120

AKC Judges FDCT/Mariah Woodward .....\$100

Notification of fines imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT Regulations, Chapter 2.

Doberman Pinscher Club of Columbus Ohio.....\$50

Youngstown All Breed Training Club, Inc.. .....\$50

Notification of fines imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers, Chapter 1.

Sand and Sage Hunting Retriever Club .....\$200

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



# SECRETARY'S PAGES

Central Savannah River Area  
Retriever Club.....\$100

Notification of fines imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 13. Eastern

German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc. ....  
.....\$100

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Ohio .  
.....\$50

## NOTICE

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

- Ms. Kathy Doehler (Pueblo, CO)
- Mr. Phillip Lanier (Stafford, VA)
- Dr. Amanda Rizner (Shapleigh, ME)
- Ms. Lisa Sutliff (Fort Pierce, FL)

## NOTICE

Ms. Kaitlin Chell (Encinitas, CA). Action was taken by the South Coast Vizsla Club California for conduct at its September 7, 2025 event. Ms. Chell was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event

Committee's report and set the combined penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$200 fine. (Miniature America Shepherds)

## NOTICE

Ms. Kathleen Knoles (Springfield, IL). Action was taken by the Muncie Kennel Club for conduct at its August 14, 2025 event. Ms. Knoles was charged with conduct characterized by the Staff Event Committee as threatening or menacing behavior that does not result in physical contact. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-year suspension of event privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective September 17, 2025. Ms. Knoles appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board's report and findings were presented to the AKC Board of Directors. The AKC Board of Directors based on the report and findings of the Trial Board set the penalty at a three-month suspension of event privileges and a \$300 fine, effective September 17, 2025. (American Hairless Terriers, Chinese Cresteds)

## NOTICE

Ms. Danielle Strout (Conway, AR). Action was taken by the Arkansas Kennel Club for conduct at its August 8, 2025 event. Ms. Strout was charged with physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature and inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee

reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a two-year event suspension and imposed a \$2,000 fine, effective November 1, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

## OFFICIAL STANDARD OF THE MINIATURE BULL TERRIER

**General Appearance:** The Miniature Bull Terrier must be strongly built symmetrical and active, with a keen, determined and intelligent expression. He should be full of fire, having a courageous, even temperament and be amenable to discipline.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** Miniature Bull Terriers should be of correct size, compact, strongly built, with maximum bone and substance for their size while at times appearing balanced. In *proportion*, the Miniature Bull Terrier should give the appearance of being just off square, measuring from breastbone to rear of thigh – slightly longer than tall. Height 10 to 14 inches as measured from the withers to the ground.

**Head:** The *head* should be long, strong and deep, right to the end of the *muzzle*, but not coarse. The full face should be oval in outline and be filled completely up, giving the impression of fullness with a surface devoid of hollows or indentations, i.e., egg shaped. The profile should curve gently downwards from the top of the *skull* to the tip of the nose. The top of the skull should be flat across from ear to ear. The distance from the tip of the nose to the eyes should be perceptibly greater than that from the eyes to the top of the skull. The underjaw should be deep and well defined. To achieve a keen, determined,

and intelligent expression, the *eyes* should be well sunken and as dark as possible with a piercing glint. They should be small, dark, triangular and obliquely placed, set high up on the dog's head, placed closer to the ears than to the nose. Blue eyes are a disqualification. The *ears* should be small, thin, and placed close together, capable of being held stiffly erect. The *nose* should be black, and bent downwards at the tip. The *lips* should be clean and tight. The *teeth* should meet in either a level or scissor *bite* with correctly placed canines. The teeth should be sound, strong and perfectly regular. While correct dentition is desirable, it should never be considered more important than the traits of the breed outlined in this standard.

**Neck, Topline, Body:** The *neck* should be very muscular, long, and arched; tapering from the shoulders to the head, it should be free from loose skin. The back should be short and strong with a slight arch over the loin. Behind the shoulders there should be no slackness or dip at the withers. The *body* should be well rounded with marked spring of rib and short coupled. The chest should be broad when viewed from the front. There should be great depth from withers to brisket, so that the latter is nearer to the ground than the belly. The underline, from the brisket to the belly, should form a graceful upward curve. The *tail* should be short, set on just below topline, and carried horizontally. It

should be thick where it joins the body and should taper to a fine point.

**Forequarters:** The shoulders should be strong and muscular, but without heaviness. The shoulder blades/scapula should be laid back and approximately the same length as the upper arm/humerus. When viewed from the side the elbow should be directly below the highest point of the shoulder. The legs should be big boned but not to the point of coarseness. The forelegs should be of moderate length, perfectly straight, and the dog must stand firmly upon them. The elbows must turn neither in nor out, and the pasterns should be strong and upright. The feet are round and compact with well-arched toes like a cat.

**Hindquarters:** The hind legs should be parallel when viewed from behind. The thigh and second thigh are very muscular and well-developed. The stifle joint and hock are well angulated with hind pasterns short and upright. The feet are round and compact with well arched toes like a cat.

**Coat:** The coat should be straight, short, flat and harsh to the touch with a fine gloss. The dog's skin should fit tightly.

**Color:** For white, pure white coat. Markings on head and skin pigmentation are not to be penalized. For colored, any allowed color to predominate. Allowed colors: Brindle, Black Brindle, Black and Tan, Red, Fawn – With or without white and/or smut markings. Any other color is a

disqualification.

**Gait:** The dog shall move smoothly, covering the ground with free, easy strides, Fore and hind legs should move parallel to each other when viewed from in front or behind, with the forelegs reaching out well and the hind legs moving smoothly at the hip and flexing well at the stifle and hock. The dog should move compactly and in one piece but with a typical jaunty air that suggests agility and power.

**Temperament:** The temperament should be full of fire and courageous, but even and amenable to discipline.

**Faults:** Any departure from the foregoing points shall be considered a fault, and the seriousness of the fault shall be in exact proportion to its degree.

**Disqualifications:**

*Blue eyes.*

*Any color other than allowed.*

**Approved January 13, 2026**

**Effective April 1, 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](mailto: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

### **Christine Boutwell Perry MD (118323) KS**

(816) 547-4115  
christine.boutwell@icloud.com  
Irish Setters, JS-Limited

### **Ms. Leslee Cavanaugh (118383) VA**

(804) 240-6953  
lrcav@verizon.net  
Boston Terriers

### **Mr. Alex Clay (116829) FL**

(904) 334-2338  
aclay2838@gmail.com  
Irish Setters

### **Deborah A. Edwards, PhD (118349) FL**

(281) 639-2505  
daefsu@outlook.com  
Flat Coated Retrievers

### **Ms. Melissa Renee Hartley (118387) SC**

(803) 467-7548  
melissa@sindarkennel.com  
Weimaraners, JS

### **Mrs. Heather Johnson (118321) CO**

(719) 650-2227  
dogtrn@msn.com  
Bullmastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs,  
Samoyeds, Bouviers des Flandres, Old  
English Sheepdogs

### **Ms. Vicki Lord (118326) ID**

(208) 484-4855  
vickilord@gmail.com  
Labrador Retrievers, JS

### **Ms. Sue Wellenstein (118373) WI**

bugziere@gmail.com  
Bernese Mountain Dogs

## ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

### **Mrs. Leonore Abordo (93981) NM**

(503) 301-7138  
oxota@yahoo.com  
Azawakhs, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds,  
Pharaoh Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

### **Mrs. Vicki Allenbrand (91374) KS**

(678) 429-4609  
vicki.allenbrand@gmail.com  
American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Irish  
Wolfhounds, Scottish Deerhounds

### **Dr. Azalea Alvarez (97321) FL**

(954) 600-5480  
minsmere954@yahoo.com  
American Hairless Terriers, Border Terriers,  
Cesky Terriers, Norfolk Terriers,  
Norwich Terriers, Rat Terriers

### **Mr. Kurt D. Anderson (18749) CT**

(203) 640-6460  
Belgian Laekenois, Canaan Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Miniature American Shepherds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pulik

### **Ms. Shira Lee Barkon (108315) PA**

(610) 587-5542  
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, German Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Komondorok, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Standard Schnauzers

**Ms. Louise M. Brady (67185) CA**

(805) 217-4685

German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, Vizslas

**Dr. Jennie Chen (114233) MN**

jennie@romanreign.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Newfoundlands, Old English Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Lucretia Coonrod (111397) OK**

(785) 217-5192

kanpoint@yahoo.com

Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Gordon Setters, English Cocker Spaniels, Rat Terriers, Poodles

**Mr. Justin Dannenbring (46593) MT**

(951) 733-1618

Afghan Hounds, Salukis, Italian Greyhounds

**Mr. Mark Darwish (115389) SC**

(864) 617-2727

wishmar123@gmail.com

Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boerboels, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux, Neapolitan Mastiffs

**Ms. Elaine Demopoulos (108485) FL**

(321) 948-2285

elainedemop@comcast.net

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, American Foxhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens, Whippets

**Ms. Karrie Dollar (111131) WI**

(715) 213-0017

Bracci Italiani, Pointers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Irish Setters

**Ms. Mary Dukes (99597) NC**

(951) 283-4770

putupyr@aol.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Weimaraners, Chinese Shar-Pei

**Ms. Mary Faeth (101477) CA**

(530) 210-7791

American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Otterhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

**Mr. Kevin M. Flynn (66204) MA**

(781) 378-0293

Bichons Frises, Dalmatians, Norwegian Lundehunds

**Mrs. Linda C. Flynn (66205) MA**

(781) 378-0293

lcflynn@comcast.net

American Foxhounds, Beagles, English Foxhounds, Harriers

**Mrs. Linda C. Foiles (3785) NC**

(540) 522-9937

Papillons, Pugs

**Ms. Donna Gilbert (58963) CT**

(203) 253-5422

Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Belgian Malinois, Briards, Collies, Old English Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Jan Ritchie Gladstone (96299) NC**

(267) 251-4483

Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Cotons du Tulear, French Bulldogs, Lowchen, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers

**Mr. Neal Goodwin (45218) CT**

(626) 327-2311

Belgian Sheepdogs, Border Collies, Collies

**Mrs. Lisa Graser (37267) TN**

(608) 655-1993

Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear, Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels

**Gigi Griffith (109593) TN**

(760) 908-8188

terranova57@gmail.com

German Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Old English Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA**

(540) 247-1121

junko@guichonchi.com

Biewer Terriers, Manchester Terriers

**Mr. David E. Hagey (19208) AZ**

(541) 914-4757

dlfoxglove@outlook.com

Basenjis, Whippets, French Bulldogs

**Mr. Duff Harris (91790) CA**

(714) 425-0454

allegro6@ix.netcom.com

Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Poodles, Xoloitzcuintlin

**Mr. Steve Hayden (6674) IL**

(217) 725-3647

Balance of Working Group (Alaskan Malamutes, Siberian Huskies)

**Ms. Deborah A. Hubbard (102869) RI**

(401) 284-6303

deb@fridaygoldens.com

English Setters, Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

**Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (99451) UT**

(435) 770-0334

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Papillons

**Mr. Bryan Martin (3207) OR**

(847) 922-8735

bkmshows@aol.com

Bracci Italiani, Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Bullmastiffs, Leonbergers

**Mrs. Cindy Meyer (15141) IL**

(815) 985-4707

Bracci Italiani, Lagotti Romagnoli, Pointers, English Setters, English Cocker Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

**Ms. Bonnie Money (105681) IN**

(317) 452-2204

Boxers, Great Pyrenees, Komondorok,  
Neapolitan Mastiffs

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

(770) 329-4768

jmoses0924@aol.com

Azawakhs, Beagles, Borzois, Cirnechi  
dell'Etna, Grand Basset Griffon Ven-  
deens, Ibizan Hounds, Norwegian  
Elkhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons  
Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds, Redbone  
Coonhounds

**Mrs. Betsey Orman (99925) WI**

(847) 778-7661

brambliepup@gmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Beaucero-  
ns, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher  
Mountain Dogs, Lancashire Heelers)

**Mrs. Jean Pero (30743) CO**

(303) 475-7302

jmpero3@gmail.com

Maltese, Pomeranians, Russian Tsvet-  
naya Bolonkas, Shih Tzu

**Mr. Shawn Petersen (116127) NV**

(775) 315-4727

Australian Shepherds, Bouviers des  
Flandres, Collies, German Shepherd  
Dogs

**Mr. Jay J. Roden (104891) OH**

(513) 207-4937

Boerboels, Tibetan Mastiffs

**Mr. Jeffrey P. Ryman (93219) WA**

(425) 876-2213

Balance of Herding Group (Australian  
Cattle Dogs, Belgian Tervurens, Border  
Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Miniature  
American Shepherds)

**Sheree Sanchez (97389) CO**

(719) 313-1755

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, American  
Staffordshire Terriers, Border Terriers,  
Manchester Terriers, Scottish Terriers,  
Bearded Collies, Bouviers des Flandres,  
Finnish Lapphunds, Lancashire Heelers,  
Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland  
Sheepdogs, Pumik

**Mr. Michael L. Savage (111869) WA**

(509) 999-1800

Beagles, Harriers, Salukis, Scottish Deer-  
hounds

**Linda Sebastiani (113117) CA**

(916) 721-6827

bellawoodleos@comcast.net

Great Pyrenees

**Ms. Joyce Siddall (98695) CO**

(303) 548-1125

Beaucerons, Briards, Entlebucher Moun-  
tain Dogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,  
Pulik, Spanish Water Dogs

**Mr. Gus C. Sinibaldi (103241) NC**

(954) 614-9308

Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers,  
Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Span-  
iels, English Springer Spaniels, Sussex  
Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

**Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. (6347) CA**  
(609) 351-3647  
danieljsmythesq@aol.com  
Flat Coated Retrievers, English Setters,  
Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels,  
Irish Water Spaniels, Danish-Swedish  
Farmdogs

**Mrs. Carol Sommerfelt (7007) TN**  
(865) 986-1614  
Kerry Blue Terriers, Affenpinschers, Ha-  
vanese, Maltese, Russian Toys, Russian  
Tsvetnaya Bolonkas, Yorkshire Terriers

**Mr. Walter J. Sommerfelt (4787) TN**  
(865) 986-1614  
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Finn-  
ish Spitz, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lun-  
dehunds, Schipperkes)

**Mr. Eric Steel (98787) NY**  
(646) 479-9177  
Azawakhs, Basenjis, Bloodhounds, Petits  
Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Portuguese  
Podengo Pequenos, Scottish Deerhounds

**Ms. Angela Stevanus (112189) CA**  
(951) 640-6819  
Miniature Bull Terriers, Lhasa Apsos,  
Tibetan Terriers

**Mrs. Cindy J. Valko (110124) PA**  
(412) 780-6129  
German Pinschers, Great Pyrenees,  
Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Ku-  
vaszok

**Ms. Michelle VeuCasovic (17767) OH**  
Gordon Setters

**Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield (80829) MO**  
(573) 760-3616  
n2rotts@yahoo.com  
Australian Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers,  
Norfolk Terriers

**Janet Warner (103607) NM**  
(253) 255-6796  
janagram@aol.com  
German Wirehaired Pointers, Ches-  
apeake Bay Retrievers, Gordon Setters,  
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

**Ms. Judith White (95513) OH**  
(330) 327-3760  
American Staffordshire Terriers, Minia-  
ture Bull Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten  
Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

**Ms. Kathy Wilkins (6799) GA**  
(770) 315-4452  
lochlynfarm@gmail.com  
Bearded Collies, Canaan Dogs, Norwe-  
gian Buhunds, Pumik, Swedish Vallhunds

**Ms. Claire Wisch Abraham (100709)  
VA**  
(571) 318-2768  
Manchester Terriers, Russian Toys

**Mr. George Wright (105383) NJ**  
(908) 996-3024  
Dachshunds, Poodles, Pugs

## ADJUNCT APPLICANT

The following person application has been accepted for the breed(s) specified under the Adjunct System **but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.**

### Dr. Yves Belmont (112207) GA

(678) 521-5601

akc.yvesbelmont@gmail.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Teddy

Roosevelt Terriers, Russian Tsvetnaya

Bolonkas

## JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

### Ms. Anastasia (Anna) Anderson (118379) WA

(509) 998-9047

stasiaboxers@gmail.com

JS

### Mrs. Marcy Johnson (118351) WA

(206) 510-3467

marcy\_johnson@msn.com

JS

### Mrs. Rebecca McMilton (118405) CA

rebeccamcmilton@gmail.com

JS

### Mr. Ronald Morelos (45220) CA

(714) 457-6477

ron.moralos@gmail.com

JS-Limited

## 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. Alex Wheeler (113371) MA

(508) 287-9115

alexwheeler.dogs@gmail.com

Dachshunds, Giant Schnauzers, Airedale

Terriers, American Staffordshire Terri-

ers, Australian Terriers, Cairn Terriers,

Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,

Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lake-

land Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers,

Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Ter-

riers, Scottish Terriers, Welsh Terriers,

Affenpinschers, Brussel Griffons

### Liz Yoder (118155) TX

(817) 821-2124

lmyoder@sbcglobal.net

Shetland Sheepdogs

## ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

### Maria Arechaederra (110565) CA

(949) 981-7646

ederrakuv@aol.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian

Terriers, Boerboels, Komondorok

### Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO

(303) 883-1610

ckathy219@gmail.com

Briards, Pyrenean Shepherds, Shetland

Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

**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. D'Arcy Downs-Vollbracht**

**(101253) AZ**

(928) 716-7191

darcy@dvmlawfirm.com

Bedlington Terriers, Manchester Terriers,

Norfolk Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers

**Mrs. Nancy Eilks (23143) WI**

(920) 650-2299

eilks@gdinet.com

Balance of Sporting (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

**Mr. Steven Herman (6305) FL**

(813) 973-3153

ljlucin@gmail.com

Bullmastiffs, Rottweilers, Cardigan Welsh Corgis

**Brenda Holmen (109522) MN**

(612) 871-6970

medcitystaffs@gmail.com

Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers,

Bedlington Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

**Ms. Britt E. Jung (66281) TX**

(703) 626-9149

brittej@gmail.com

Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Alaskan Malamutes, Dogo Argentinos

**Jennifer Lazowski (105991) VA**

(717) 823-2501

whirlaway12@gmail.com

Bloodhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Otterhounds

**Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX**

(832) 345-2100

joao.machadotx@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Afghan Hounds,

Dachshunds, Whippets, Airedale Terriers,

Border Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers,

Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers,

Welsh Terriers, Bichons Frises, French Bulldogs

**Dr. Camille McArdle (66682) MN**

(612) 743-7329

camillemca@gmail.com

Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Samoyeds

**Mrs. Rebecca Myers (113529) FL**

rebeccamyersch@aol.com

Doberman Pinschers, Rottweilers, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Janet Parcel (104351) IL**

(630) 830-5823

westielyd@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, Cani Corsi, Dogo Argentinos, German Pinschers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Leonbergers, Newfoundlands, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies

**Dr. Judi M. Roller (102261) WI**

(608) 370-2679

judir7024@gmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Berger Picards, Cannaan Dogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Shetland Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds

**Dr. Vicki Sandage (98425) KY**

(606) 922-9552

sandfoxdvm@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (Afghan Hounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Basset Hounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeens, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos)

**Ms. Karen R. Scheiner (103945) NJ**

(609) 417-0200

doxyladynj@gmail.com

Whippets, Cotons du Tulear

**Dr. Stephen J. Schellenberg (42891) MN**

(651) 338-9311

paradockerries@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers

**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 Vizslas)

**Jan Schreiber (17450) WA**

(253) 846-7999

ashenafea@msn.com

Barbets, Curly-Coated Retrievers

**Mr. Dennis B. Sprung (3855) NY**

516-637-6567

dbremember44@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (American Foxhounds, American English Coonhounds, Azawakhs, Basenjis, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Basset Hounds,

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, Cirneco dell'Etna, Dachshunds, English Foxhounds, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeens, Harriers, Ibizan Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otterhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds, Plott Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Redbone Coonhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, Sloughis, Treeing Walker Coonhounds), Skye Terriers, Pekingese

**Mr. Robert E. Stein (37717) TX**

(210) 725-0661

topwinn@gmail.com

German Wirehaired Pointers, English Setters, Boykin Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Affenpinschers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Russian Toys, Lhasa Apsos

**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, Cani Corsi, Chinooks, Danish-Swedish

Farmdogs, Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Komomdorok, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers, Tibetan Mastiffs

**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, Shih Tzu, Russian Toys

**Mrs. Lisa Young (43070) AZ**

(605) 390-1135

youngsongbeagles@gmail.com

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Golden Retrievers, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES**

**Mr. Tanner Congleton (118165) NY**

tannerrcongleton@gmail.com

**Mr. Draper A. Palmer (118146) GA**

(801) 698-7474

draper\_p@yahoo.com

## BEST IN SHOW

The following persons, having 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

### Mr. Dale Martenson (111413) OK

(817) 517-3304

castlemar3@hotmail.com

### Mrs. Wendy Paquette (111059) IN

(812) 207-0467

wendylpaquette@hotmail.com

### Mr. Jeffrey P. Ryman (93219) WA

(425) 876-2213

jeff\_ryman@hotmail.com

## REINSTATED JUDGE

The Judging eligibility of the following person has been reinstated.

### Mr. Dennis B. Sprung (3855) NY

(516) 637-6567

dbsremember44@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, Beagles, Greyhounds, Whippets, Poodles

## CONFORMATION JUDGE: RESIGNED BREED

The judge below has notified AKC to resign their privileges for the following:

Mr. Jeffrey Pyle

German Shepherd Dogs

## EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE

Mrs. Toby Frisch

## DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Vala (Peggy) Breckley

Mr. Karl A. Dingman

Mrs. Nancy E. Harrison

Mr. Jerry Lee Howse

Mrs. Cynthia M. Savioli

Thomas Yates

## 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.

### Kayelene Hawthorne (108326) CA

949-246-3114

tutu619@yahoo.com

Regular tracking VST

### Anne Rosenberg (103175) NJ

609-519-8289

annelrosenberg@hotmail.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.***



# SECRETARY'S PAGES

## **Mclusky, Rebecca (100033) TN**

352-339-1910

rebecca.mclusky@comcast.net

Provisional Tracking TD/TDU

## **Jenny Cuccinello (104080) CA**

916-804-4463

vcdk9s@comcast.net

Provisional Tracking TDX

## **EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES**

Rick Cox - Obedience /Rally, FL

## **REGISTERED HANDLERS**

Letters concerning registered handlers and handler applicants should be addressed to the Handlers Department at 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617.

The American Kennel Club will at the request of a registered handler applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their handling qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available upon request, to the registered handler or handler applicant.

It is the responsibility of all registered handlers to notify the Handlers Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your handlers record, the website and the Handlers

Directory. Please notify the Handlers Department at (919) 816 - 3884 or Email [handlers@akc.org](mailto:handlers@akc.org)

## **NEW REGISTERED HANDLER APPLICANT**

The following individual has submitted an application for the Registered Handler Program.

### **Ms. Kayla Byers**

7611 W Minor Ct

Gosport, IN 47433

## **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:

ABOSCOBEL – Cavalier King Charles

Spaniels – Helen K. Norton

AURORA WILDS – English Cocker

Spaniels – Gretchen Clark

CAERLEONDANES – Great Danes –

Dr. Rachel M. Wisnoski

CASTLE RIDGE – Cardigan Welsh

Corgis – Edward T. Castellano

CLEAR CREEK – Pembroke Welsh

Corgis Kristina Elsik

CUMBERLANDRIDGE – Australian

Shepherds – Gregory A. Horn

EDGEWATER – Papillons – Macy L.  
Green & Melanie L. Green

HAPICHIN – Japanese Chin – Lisa K.  
White

HOLD'EN POINT – Brittany –  
Samantha N. Choffel & Madeline J.  
Marshall

LAKERIDGE – Poodles – Debra  
Ferguson – Jones

MTN – TOP – Doberman Pinschers –  
Rod S. Brooker

PEMBERLEY – Labrador Retrievers

SAILAWAY – Portuguese Water Dogs –  
Ellen W. Cousins & David D. Cousins

STELLA – Border Collies – Patricia A.  
Williams & Tony Williams

TYE RIVER – Havanese – Lillian E. Bibb

## REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

ALANDAYL – Cavalier King Charles  
Spaniels – Alana M. Hanzie

ARCADIA PLACE – Vizsla – Alyssa J.  
Perkins

COPPERTHORNE\_ German  
Shorthaired Pointers – Otis C. Batchelor  
& Christine A. Kasmal

COTUFAS – Old English Sheepdogs –  
Georgina Jensen

DANEKRAAFTS – Great Danes –  
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



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE,  
NEW YORK, NY  
JANUARY 12-13, 2026**

The Board convened on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 8:33 a.m. Eastern Time.

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Present at the Meeting: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Daniel Smyth, Mr. Robin Stansell, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Mr. Harold Tatro, and Ms. Ann Wallin. Ms. Sally Fineburg and Ms. Sylvia Thomas joined via 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 November 10-11, 2025, Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the November 2025 Board Meeting minutes.

## **PRESIDENT**

Ms. DiNardo provided the Board with an update on preparations for the AKC Meet the Breeds® event February 7-8 at the Javits Center in New York City. The event will be larger than in previous years, and 147 Parent Clubs have already signed up for booths. Ticket pre-sales are ahead of the same time period last year.

AKC experienced outstanding results from the telecast of AKC National Championship. Viewership of the event on the ABC television network was the highest ever, with a consistent average of more than 1.37M viewers and 1.7M at peak. ESPN2 reported a six-fold increase over last year's viewership.

Registrations for both dogs and litters were below budget for December 2025.

Leadership continues to have fruitful meetings with foreign registries, many of whom have expressed an interest in enhancing their relationship with AKC. Plans are underway for four AKC shows in Mexico in November 2026.

## **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 Status update as of December 2025.

## **Updated Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures**

Staff provided recommendations to update Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures, last amended July 9, 2012, to ensure accuracy, and provide clarification and consistency with current Trial Board administration.

Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures (“Procedures”) are issued pursuant to AKC’s Charter and Bylaws and intended to assist Trial Board members and participants in AKC’s disciplinary process with respect to the functions and processes of AKC Trial Boards. The Procedures offer background on Trial Boards and their functions, address the preliminary, hearing and decision processes of Trial Board proceedings, including the Appeal Trial Board, and guidance regarding Event Committee Appeals to the Trial Board.

Staff identified the need to update the current Procedures considering:

- (1) outdated information,
- (2) in response to questions raised by participants and Trial Board members which could be clarified with updates to the Procedures,
- (3) an opportunity for more cost and time-efficient proceedings, and
- (4) the recognized need to address participant conduct within the Procedures.

Staff provided recommended edits and additions to address the above.

This will be discussed further at the February 2026 Board meeting.

## **Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines**

At its November 2025 meeting, the Board requested that staff prepare guidelines surrounding the review, appointment, actions, term and termination of Trial Board members.

Pursuant to the AKC Charter and Bylaws, staff prepared the Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines to address the Board’s request and establish further written requirements and expectations for Trial Board members.

The presented Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines (1) provide guidance regarding application, qualifications and requirements for Trial Board members, (2) establish terms limits for members, and reiterates the Board’s

power for at-will removal of Trial Board members under the AKC Charter and Bylaws, (3) offer best practices for Trial Board members to follow in their handling of AKC disciplinary matters, and (4) highlight actions and behaviors which AKC prohibits and would warrant the removal of a Trial Board member.

The Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines will assist the Board in their review and appointment of Trial Board members and provide education and instruction to Trial Board members on the expectations of the role.

This will be discussed further at the February 2026 Board meeting.

### **AKC CHF Quarterly Update and Financials**

Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CEO of AKC CHF, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The Board received a report for the AKC Canine Health Foundation for the fourth quarter of 2025. 2025 was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AKC CHF and marked Year 1 of a new strategic plan.

2025 AKC CHF highlights include the building, by staff and leadership, from the ground up, a foundation that did not exist at the start of the year, including a redesigned website, a unified, organization-wide approach to quarterly-themed

campaigns, refreshed branding, and new collateral.

New platforms were launched to showcase our science and expand our reach, from the monthly Canine Health Discovery Webinar Series, which far exceeded participation goals, to the introduction of the Canine Health Discovery of the Year Award.

Together, these efforts strengthened AKC CHF visibility, unified its voice, and established new workflows for staff that represent significant advances in how CHF communicates its mission and impact for all dogs

### **CHF Financials**

CHF's Statement of Activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2025, reflects an Operating Deficit variance of (\$183K). The variance would shift to a positive \$244K had the budgeted Endowment and Management draws totaling \$428K taken place by this point in the fiscal year.

The draws were approved in June but delayed until needed, and taken in November 2025, resulting in an (unaudited) variance shift to a positive \$244K.

Much of the variance reflects CHF's continuing commitment to reinvest in the Foundation through our strategic plan. CHF recognizes the momentum generat-

ed through coordinated messaging, reinforced by early positive feedback from constituents. Building on this success, CHF has made a deliberate choice to sustain our involvement and maximize its impact.

Investment gains (largely unrealized) of approximately \$2.94 million, combined with delayed transfer of the Endowment and Management Draws, bring our September YTD variance to a positive \$3.79 million.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss private and confidential legal/business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

## **FINANCE**

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented unaudited preliminary financial statements as of November 30, 2025.

Net Operating Loss is \$5.9 million primarily due to lower registration revenue, excluding investment income of \$3.2 million. Operating revenues total \$83 million, led by registration (litter and dogs) totaling \$28.8 million. Operating expenses total \$85.8 million.

## **COO**

Gordon Comfort, Chief Operating Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting. Tim Pursell, Senior Director, IT, participated via video conference.

Staff updated the Board on IT transformation efforts including a discussion of expectations for potential future consultants.

## **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.

## **Pointer Proposed Breed**

### **Standard Revision**

The American Pointer Club has submitted proposed revisions to their breed standard in the areas of size, proportion and substance, head, back, color, and gait. The Pointer standard was last revised in 1975.

This will be discussed further at a future Board meeting.

## **American Hairless Terrier Stud Book**

The American Hairless Terrier Club of America has requested to keep the breed stud book open. Sport Services recommends that the American Hairless Terrier Stud Book remain open until January 1, 2031.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, sec-

ended by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedure and to immediately consider the request by the American Hairless Terrier Club of America to keep the breed's stud book open.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to keep the American Hairless Terrier Stud Book open until January 1, 2031.

### **Borzoi Breed Standard Correction**

The Borzoi Club of America, Inc. (BCOA) submitted a request to make a correction to the breed standard. In 1972 the word "broad" referencing hocks, was inadvertently omitted from the text of the proposed standard.

Staff recommended that the Board approve BCOA's request at this meeting and make the correction to the Borzoi standard at the next printing of the Hound Standards.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Dr. Knight, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedure to immediately consider the correction to the Borzoi standard.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Dr. Garvin the Board VOTED (unanimously) to make a correction to the breed standard to insert the word "broad"

referencing hocks, which was inadvertently omitted from the text of the proposed standard.

### **Parent Club Request to Retire Bizzeeboots (Old English Sheepdog)**

The Old English Sheepdog Club of America has requested, on behalf of the owners, the retirement of the kennel name "Bizzeeboots".

This will be discussed further at a future Board meeting.

### **Government Relations (GR) Update**

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations, provided the Board with an update on legislative and regulatory matters.

### **COMPANION and PERFORMANCE**

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events, Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events, and Douglas Hurley, Director of Agility, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Request For Dalmatians to Participate in Herding Events**

The Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) has submitted a request to allow Dalmatians to participate in AKC Herding events.

The purpose of the AKC Herding program is to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the Herding breeds and to demonstrate they can perform the useful functions for which they were

originally bred. Over their long history, there is some evidence of Dalmatians being used as a multi-purpose farm dog, including for herding. The breed has demonstrated its herding skill in other organization's events.

Staff recommended approving the request from DCA to allow Dalmatians to participate in herding events.

This action pertains to the *AKC Herding Regulations* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, it would become effective when the programming is completed to allow the breed to earn Herding titles.

This will be discussed further at the February 2026 Board meeting.

### **Change to Agility Regulations to Allow Frameless Tire**

The Board considered a staff recommendation to change *AKC Agility Regulations* to add the frameless tire as an optional piece of equipment in the ISC classes only. This would include standalone events or similar FCI events as an optional piece of equipment.

Unlike the current AKC tire (a fully enclosed, breakable ring suspended in a frame), the frameless tire lacks an external frame, having the tire mounted directly to the support uprights. Its adoption in AKC ISC events would align the

program more closely with FCI practices, provide consistent experience for competitors preparing for international competition, and allow for increased variety in ISC course design.

If approved by the Board, these changes would become effective March 1, 2026

This will be discussed further at the February 2026 Board meeting.

### **CONFORMATION**

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Mark Desrosiers, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Mississippi Valley Kennel Club**

Staff updated the Board on the Conformation events approved to be held by Mississippi Valley Kennel Club and Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club in May 2026.

### **Impact of Allowing Monorchid Dogs to Compete in Conformation**

Pursuant to a request at the October 2025 Board meeting, staff provided the Board with research regarding the potential impact of allowing monorchid dogs to compete in Conformation.

### **National Owner Handler Series (NOHS) Revisions**

Pursuant to a request at the October 2025

Board meeting, staff reported to the Board on potential revisions to the NOHS program.

Encouraging NOHS exhibitors to continue to participate is important to the future of Conformation. Staff is supportive of an initiative approved by the Board in 2025 to award NOHS Levels of Achievement titles. This initiative is currently in the queue for programming.

### **Fines and Reprimands**

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

*(Fines and reprimands are reported on the Secretary's Page.)*

### **Events & Entries**

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

### **JUDGING OPERATIONS**

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events and Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Conformation Judging Statistics**

Staff updated the Board on statistics related to Conformation judging applications considered by the Department during the preceding three months. The following is the list of New Breed (NB) and Additional Breed (AB) applicants whose applications were presented for final approval from October through December 2025.

#### FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2025 YEAR END

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
NB	75	74	1	1	0	1	148	146	0
AB	422	403	13	5	0	4	1978	1939	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2126</b>	<b>2085</b>	<b>6</b>

**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY  
2025 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	<u>Wthdrn</u>	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
February	8	8	0	0	0	0	14	14	0
March	14	14	0	0	0	0	20	20	0
April	5	5	0	0	0	0	38	38	0
May	4	4	0	0	0	0	5	5	0
June	3	2	1	0	0	0	6	5	0
July	4	4	0	0	0	0	11	11	0
August	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
September	7	7	0	0	0	1 <sup>d</sup>	14	14	1 <sup>d</sup>
October	11	11	0	0	0	0	14	14	0
November	6	6	0	0	0	0	8	8	0
December	9	8	0	1	0	0	13	12	0
<b>NB TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>148</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>0</b>

**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY  
2025 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	<u>Wthdrn</u>	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	8	8	0	0	0	0	33	33	0
February	43	40	2	1	0	0	207	201	0
March	36	35	0	1	0	0	192	189	0
April	43	42	1	0	0	0	183	182	0
May	43	38	5	0	0	1 <sup>a</sup>	203	192	2 <sup>a</sup>
June	30	27	2	1	0	1 <sup>b</sup>	147	140	1 <sup>b</sup>
July	26	24	1	0	0	0	116	115	0
August	43	41	1	1	0	1 <sup>c</sup>	190	185	9 <sup>c</sup>
September	41	41	0	0	0	0	188	188	0
October	45	43	1	1	0	0	224	219	0
November	37	37	0	0	0	0	164	164	0
December	27	27	0	0	0	1 <sup>c</sup>	131	131	6 <sup>c</sup>
<b>AB TOTAL</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>6</b>

## **CLUBS**

Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting.

### **Report on Member Club Bylaw**

#### **Approved Adding Junior Membership**

Beaver County Kennel Club, Beaver County, PA (1956)

### **Report on Member Club Bylaws**

#### **Approved in November and December**

German Shepherd Dog Club of America (1913)

Finnish Spitz Club of America (1993)

Kuvasz Club of America (1991)

Montgomery County Kennel Club, Norristown, PA (1911)

Mountaineer Kennel Club, Monongalia County, WV (1974)

### **Report On Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in November and December**

Agility Club of Aiken County, Wagener, SC (including communities north to Blythewood, southwest to Barnwell and east to Columbia), 22 total households, 21 local.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Herding Group Club, Gulfport, MS (including communities west to Interstate 59 (including Slidell and Pearl River, LA), north to Wiggins, MS and east along Interstate 26 to Semmes, AL), 35 total households, 17 local.

Sailfish Capital Agility Club of Florida, Stuart, FL (including communities of Port St. Lucie and Palm City), 20 total households, 13 local.

Toy Dog Club of Indiana, greater Indianapolis, IN (including communities northeast to Angola, southwest to Springville, east of Routes 31/67 and Interstate 69, south to Route 50), 25 total households, 12 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.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

### **Approval of Annual Fees**

The *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.* require that the Board of Directors set deposits annually for the submission of complaints pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, as well as deposits for appeals to an Appeal Trial Board pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7.

The current deposit to file a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, is \$625. The current deposit to file an Ap-

peal to an Appeal Trial Board, pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7 of the AKC Bylaws, is \$250.

Staff recommends that these deposits be changed to \$675 for Article XII, Section 1 complaints and \$275 for an Appeal to an Appeal Trial Board effective immediately.

This will be discussed further at the February 2026 Board meeting.

## **AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility**

Pursuant to a request at the November Board meeting, staff provided an overview of discipline and the penalties associated with violations to the Code of Sportsmanship and Civility Enforcement Policy.

## **Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken**

The Board received a report of actions taken.

## **Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Non-Inappropriate Treatment**

The Board received a report of charges preferred.

## **Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Inappropriate Treatment**

The Board received a report of charges preferred.

## **Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions as of November 26, 2025**

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of November 26, 2025.

*(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)*

## **Consent**

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following consent agenda items:

## **Peruvian Inca Orchid Eligibility to Compete in the Hound Group**

The Peruvian Inca Orchid Club of the United States 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. The Board VOTED to approve the petition, breed standard and eligibility to compete in the Hound Group effective January 1, 2027.

## **Miniature Bull Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America, Inc. (MBTCA), submitted the results of its membership ballot for proposed revisions to the breed standard which has not been revised since being recognized by AKC on May 14, 1991. The primary change is color. The Board VOTED to approve the balloted revisions



# SECRETARY'S PAGES

with an effective date of April 1, 2026.

[\(See Appendix A.\)](#)

## **Delegate and Club Approvals**

Mark Brandsema

To represent Delaware County  
Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: November,  
December 2025

Mary Miller

To represent Lexington Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: November,  
December 2025

Ricki V. Silveria

To represent Siberian Husky Club  
of America

Published in *AKC Gazette*: November,  
December 2025

Alan Welch, Esq.

To represent Kennel Club of Philadelphia

Published in *AKC Gazette*: November,  
December 2025

## **Approved for AKC Membership**

Oak Ridge Kennel Club

Households/Local: 106 HH/15L (Oak  
Ridge, TN/Knox County excluding  
Knoxville)

1st Licensed Show: April 1, 1947

Published in *AKC Gazette*: November,  
December 2025

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Report of the Retirement Plans Committee**

Ms. Wallin, Chair of the Retirement Plans  
Committee, provided an update on the  
status of AKC Retirement Plans funding.

### **Report of the Audit Committee**

Mr. Tatro, Chair of the Audit Committee,  
provided an update on recent audit report-  
ing.

### **AKC November 2026 Board Meeting**

Following a motion by Mr. Fugiwara,  
seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the majority of  
the Board VOTED to change the Novem-  
ber Board meeting date to November 5-6,  
2026 and to hold the Board meeting at the  
Raleigh, North Carolina office.

## **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, January 13, at 11:48 Eastern  
Time.

Adjourned

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



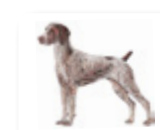
English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



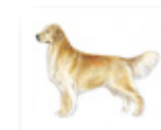
Flat-Coated Retriever



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



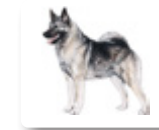
Harrier



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



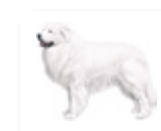
German Pinscher



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



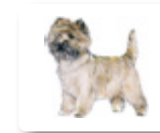
Bedlington Terrier



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

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



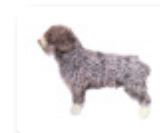
Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



# AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

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

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>