



gazette

JANUARY 2026

A Year in Pictures



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January, April, July, and October issues	February, May, August, and November issues	March, June, September, and December issues

This Time of Year

The holiday season is upon us, and I want to extend my warmest wishes to our entire AKC community. This time of year invites reflection, gratitude, and anticipation for what lies ahead—and this past year has truly been one of transition and growth for the American Kennel Club.

Across the organization, we have continued to evolve while remaining firmly rooted in our mission to protect and promote purebred dogs and the sport we all cherish. Change, when guided by purpose and collaboration, strengthens us—and I am proud of the progress we have made together.

That spirit was on full display at the 25th

Annual AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin, held December 13 and 14, 2025, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. It is my pleasure to congratulate GCh.P Ta Sen Westgate Jingle Juice, a Lhasa Apso known as JJ, who triumphed over more than 5,500 competitors to earn Best in Show and a \$50,000 cash prize.

Owned by Susan S. Giles, Cindy Sehnert, and Muriel Wolverton of Manakin-Sabot, Virginia, and bred by Susan S. Giles, Cindy Sehnert, and Ellen Lonigro, JJ was crowned “America’s National Champion” by Best in Show judge Mrs. Rosalind Kramer after



a weekend of extraordinary competition. This distinction is especially meaningful, as the AKC National Championship remains the only conformation event in America to crown an official National Champion. Susan was also crowned AKC’s Breeder of the Year—another crowning achievement to a spectacular weekend.

I would also like to congratulate our Reserve Best in Show winner, GCh.G Tamarack Valley View River of Dreams, a Gordon Setter known as River, owned by Dr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ellen Shanahan and Stacy Threlfall of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and bred by Brian Hubbard, Matthew McGillivray, and JoAnne Van Aller.

With 9,162 total entries, including the AKC Agility Invitational, AKC Obedience Classic, AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes, AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, AKC Rally Champion (RACH) Invitational, Junior Handler events, and the special attraction North America Diving Dogs (NADD) Santa Splash, this milestone anniversary weekend was a remarkable showcase of talent, dedication, and community.

We were also proud to share the event with audiences nationwide as it aired on ABC on December 28, with full weekend coverage available for replay on [AKC.tv](https://www.akc.tv).

As we look ahead, our focus now turns to our

largest educational event of the year—[AKC Meet the Breeds](#) in New York City. This tail-wagging, two-day immersive experience plays a critical role in educating the public about our beloved breeds and the importance of responsible dog ownership. It offers a rare opportunity to meet, play with, and learn about more than 100 different dog breeds, making it an ideal destination for lifelong dog lovers, families, and those just beginning their search for the right canine companion.

Attendees will be able to meet and interact with hundreds of dogs and puppies in booths that showcase each breed's country of origin and historical purpose, speak directly with knowledgeable breed experts, explore responsible pet ownership, and enjoy exciting demonstrations of dog sports and working dogs in action. The event also features engaging activities for children, including

interactive games, photo opportunities, and a fun zone designed especially for young dog enthusiasts.

AKC Meet the Breeds would not be possible without the extraordinary commitment of our clubs, breeders, volunteers, and members. I extend my sincere thanks to every individual and organization whose dedication and passion help bring this important educational experience to life.

As we enter the new year, I remain confident and energized by the strength of our community and the future before us. We will continue to educate, inspire, and lead—ensuring a strong and vibrant future for the sport and the dogs we love.

Best wishes for a bright year ahead.



Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club

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

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

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Win-Win Weekend for Breeder-Handler

Susan Giles and her JJ with BIS judge Roz Kramer

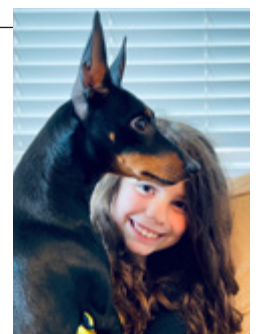
It was the weekend of a lifetime for Susan Giles, of Ta Sen Lhasa Apsos, at the 25th AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. On Saturday, December 13, Giles received the AKC Breeder of the Year Award. “We are proud to honor Susan S. Giles with the 2025 AKC Breeder of the Year Award,” AKC President/CEO Gina DiNardo said. “Ta Sen is associated with top quality, healthy Lhasa Apsos in the United States and her impact on the breed will be seen for many more years to come.”

On the following evening, judge Rosalind Kramer selected as Best in Show the epitome of Giles’s award-winning breeding pro-

gram, GCh. Ta Sen Westgate Jingle Juice—the ANC’s first Lhasa BIS and the breed’s all-time top-winning male.

Congratulations to breeder-owner-handler Giles on her rewards for 52 years of service to her breed and our sport. See her full bio and more information on the Breeder of the Year program [here](#).

On Our Cover
Junior handler Fern Masters with Manchester Terrier Diego, GCh. Texangals Diego’s Got His Knives Out, BCAT.
(courtesy Catherine Masters)





Basset Fauve de Bretagne

New Year, New Breeds

Three breeds entered the AKC Stud Book on January 1. The Basset Fauve de Bretagne, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka, and Teddy Roosevelt Terrier—AKC breeds 203, 204, and 205, respectively—may now compete in AKC conformation events.

Here is a guide to this diverse and delightful trio.

BASSET FAUVE DE BRETAGNE

Hound Group

Home Turf

Brittany (Bretagne) peninsula, northwest France

Job Description

Rabbit hunter

Parent Club

[Basset Fauve de Bretagne Club of America](#)

Backstory

Since Renaissance times, hunting on horseback with

©AKC

UPDATES

packs of swift, long-legged hounds was a favorite pastime, and the exclusive province, of French nobles. Such class privilege was abolished after the French Revolution. With the downfall of the aristocracy, all Frenchmen could now hunt with hounds—but few could afford a horse. The Basset Fauve de Bretagne is among the short-legged, close-ranging pack hounds developed in Brittany to be worked by hunters on foot.

From the Standard

The Basset Fauve de

Bretagne is a small, rough-coated French scent hound ... He is bold and vivacious in character; compact, tough and robust ... Height at the withers should be 12.5 inches minimum and 15.5 inches maximum, with a tolerance of .5 inch over or under for exceptional specimens.

Breed Standard

RUSSIAN TSVETNAYA BOLONKA

Toy Group

Home Turf

Leningrad

Job Description

Lapdog

Parent Club

[Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka Club of America](#)

Backstory

The Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka, or Bolonka for short, is a member of the bichon family that was nearly extinct in Russia by the 1950s, when Leningrad fanciers began rebuilding the stock of bichon-type toys. They hoped to create an ideal urban companion, and in the Bolonka they succeeded admirably.

Sweet, loving, intelligent, friendly, and an alert watchdog, Bolonki do well in such companion sports as obedience, rally, tracking, and agility when trained with a firm but gentle hand. The English translation of Russkaya Tsvetnaya Bolonka is *Russian Colored Lapdog*.

From the Standard

The Russian Tsvetnaya



Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka

UPDATES

Bolonka is a small, sturdy, balanced dog, slightly longer than tall. The breed appears disheveled due to the wavy or curly coat. He moves gracefully with the tail carried over the back ... The coat is long, dense, thick, soft, and supple, with a well-developed undercoat ... All colors are permitted except solid white, spotted, parti-color, or merle.

[Breed Standard](#)

TEDDY ROOSEVELT TERRIER

Terrier Group

Home Turf

United States

Job Description

Ratter

Parent Club

[American Teddy Roosevelt Terrier Club](#)

Backstory

The Teddy Roosevelt Terrier descends from the British terrier types brought to America in Colonial times



Teddy Roosevelt Terrier

to rid the home and barn of vermin. These eager workers probably included crosses of various small hounds and terriers, including the now-extinct English White Terrier.

The Teddy Roosevelt was originally a short-legged variety of Rat Terrier known as the “Type B” Rat Terrier. Known also as the Short-legged Rat Terrier and the Bench-Legged Feist, in the 1990s they were renamed in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, who admired

the tenacity of these feisty ratters.

From the Standard

The Teddy Roosevelt Terrier is a low-set rectangle-shaped small hunting terrier; strongly built, giving the appearance of agility and balance ... At least 8 inches, not to exceed 14 inches ... The coat is short, dense, medium-hard to smooth, with sheen ... Any bi-color or tri-color, without preference, but must always have some white.

[Breed Standard](#)

New International Agreement

The AKC and the Brazilian Kennel Club (Confederação Brasileira de Cinofilia—CBKC), Brazil’s national kennel club and governing body for purebred dogs, have entered into a mutual-cooperation agreement. The agreement is designed to strengthen international collaboration in support of purebred dogs, responsible breeding, and canine welfare in both the United States and Brazil.

Under the agreement, the AKC and CBKC will facilitate the mutual recognition of dog registrations and certified pedigrees.

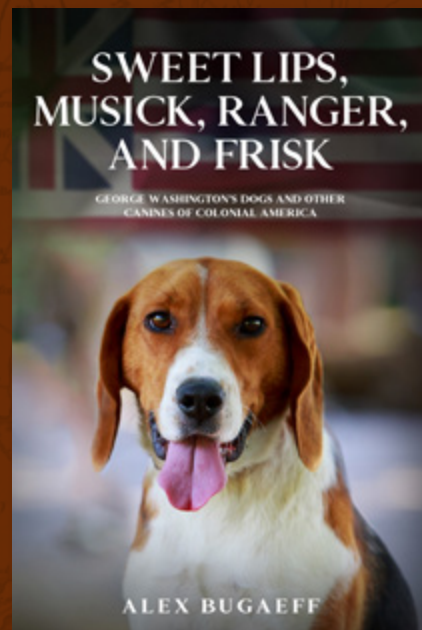
The agreement further encourages cooperation on canine health and welfare initiatives, including the sharing of research, resources, and best practices, and it supports coordinated efforts to promote the value of purebred dogs and responsible dog ownership.

“This agreement reflects

our shared commitment to advancing and preserving purebred dogs through collaboration, education, and responsible stewardship,” AKC President/CEO Gina DiNardo says. “We are excited about the future

ahead as we strengthen our relationship with the CBKC, expanding opportunities to support breeders, advance canine health, and build a strong, sustainable future for purebred dogs and the sport worldwide.”

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

UPDATES

Freeman Wins CHF Award

During AKC National Championship weekend in Orlando, the [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) presented its inaugural Canine Health Discovery of the Year Award to Dr. Lisa Freeman, of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at



Tufts University.

Freeman's award-winning work concerns diet-associated dilated cardiomyopathy. Her research has uncovered a biological mechanism that might explain why dogs contract this devastating disease, and

therefore accelerates the path to prevention and treatment.

"I feel a real sense of urgency with this research. These are people's beloved pets that are affected," Freeman said. "I don't want more dogs to suffer."

Life on the Green Carpet

In honor of Westminster's 150th anniversary, the AKC Museum of the Dog presents *The Life of a Showdog*, a multimedia exhibition of art and artifacts that recalls the people, dogs, and defining moments of Westminster's remarkable history.

The exhibition runs through March 22.

[Tickets](#)



Toy Poodle Ch. Wilbur White Swan, with Anne Hone Rogers (BIS 1956), Sealyham Terrier Ch. Barberryhill Bootlegger (BIS 1924), Boxer Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest (BIS 1951)



TOP: COURTESY TUFTS; BOTTOM: AKC MUSEUM OF THE DOG



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Sari Tietjen assesses group winners Giant Schnauzer Pure of Spirit and Scottish Deerhound Ch. Gayleward's Tiger Woods.

Sari's Big Night

In 2009, the GAZETTE asked Sari Brewster Tietjen to keep a journal of her judging career's pinnacle: Best in Show at Westminster. Her selection remains among the most popular in the show's long history.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

4:30 P.M. My husband, Herman, and I rest and read in our room at the Park Lane Hotel, where I have been sequestered since Saturday.

RING PHOTOS CAROL BEUCHAT ©AKC

TIMES PAST

6:00 P.M. I'm restless and decide to begin getting ready. Since I do my hair and makeup myself, I want to allow enough time for goofs! My husband has it easy, putting on just a tuxedo.

8:40 P.M. Waiting in the hotel lobby for the limo from Westminster to pick us up, we see Captain Sullenberger, the pilot from the U.S. Airways flight that ended up in the Hudson River. Am I nervous? Not yet.

9:10 P.M. A television crew films me going through the back entrance of the Garden, up to the officials' room. Here I wait, and the nerves begin. I repeat to myself the advice I was given by a previous Westminster BIS judge (handed down by an even earlier Westminster BIS judge): "Remember, it's just a fairground barn in Mississippi!" I am given the names of the breeds that won the groups, and



an opportunity to read the standards.

10:30 P.M. Tom Bradley (show chairman) and Peter Van Brundt (Westminster president) escort me to the arena, where we stand just out of sight. The television producer tells me that I have 18 minutes and must point to the Best in Show dog by 10:55. The arena is dark, and the dogs are introduced one by one under a roving spotlight. I can't see them but can hear the enormous

applause for each. I am introduced and enter the arena for the first time.

10:42 P.M. I sign the judge's book, step into the ring, and look at the seven magnificent dogs before me, thinking, "How am I ever going to select just one?" As my hands go over the first dog, the nerves disappear. I individually examine each dog and begin mentally narrowing down to my final selection. It is no easy task, as

TIMES PAST

each dog is a wonderful example of their breed. I give them all one last look and at 10:52 I settle on my choice. I go to the judge's table and sign the book. Then I walk into the center of the ring with Westminster members and the trophies to say that tonight it is the Sussex. Pandemonium ensues.

10:55 P.M. The official photographs are taken and then the media swarms into the ring, cameras flashing every which way. Stump, the Sussex, takes it all in stride. It is then that Scott Sommer, his handler and co-owner, tells me that Stump is 10 years old. I had no idea. He certainly does not look it or show it. At the press conference, I learn that he had almost died several years earlier. I am asked what made me select him, to which I answer, beside the usual comments of breed quality and so forth, that it is his night. He is the star!

11:45 P.M. We head for the official Westminster party held at the Garden's Play by Play restaurant. Stump is greeted with cheers. As everyone winds down, I realize that I have not eaten since lunch.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

12:40 A.M. Back at the Park Lane, I am too keyed up to sleep yet. I nibble on some leftovers from the refrigerator. Finally, lights out.

7:00 A.M. We're up. Herman is going to take the train (and the luggage) back home to Rhinebeck, while I go to the Metropolitan Dog Club's Best in Show Brunch.

9:30 A.M. Charlie Palmer's Metrazur Restaurant overlooking Grand Central Terminal's grand concourse is packed with media interviewing Scott and watching Stump eat steak. I meet Dr. Ruth,

who tells me she was at Westminster and rooted for Stump. She says this proves that you can teach an old dog new tricks. CNN's Jeanie Moses interviews me about Stump's age. What a tribute this is to all we go through, as responsible and caring dog owners, to keep our dogs healthy and happy.

1:30 P.M. I leave to catch a train home. Exhausted, exhilarated, and honored beyond all belief at being able to judge Westminster Best in Show 2009. For a child of the sport, it was the thrill of a lifetime. **GZ**

Sari Brewster Tietjen was a second-generation fancier who devoted 60 years to the Japanese Chin. She was an esteemed multigroup judge and a prolific author of dog books and articles. Tietjen won the 1978 Gaines Fido Woman of the Year Award, and she received another Fido for her writing. She died in 2019.



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Photo ops abounded at the 2025 New York AKC Meet the Breeds event.



A Year in Pictures

2025 as seen in the AKC Gazette

The GAZETTE's contributing photographers—including parent-club members and AKC staff—document our sport while keeping an eye on the wider canine community. Here, we present editor's picks from 2025 reflecting their talent and dog sense.

Thanks to all photographers, professional and amateur alike, who immortalized an eventful year in dogdom.

JOHN RICARD ©AKC

Ring Time

Contributing photographers around the country provided lots of dog-show coverage: AKC National Championship (John Ricard); Burlington KC (Kathleen Riley); English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (Tanner Congleton); Chicagoland Shetland Sheepdog Club (Lynda Beam); Irish Water Spaniel Club of America (Jeremy Kezer); National Beagle Club of America (Kathleen Riley); Finnish Lapphund Club of America (K. Booth).



A YEAR IN PICTURES



A YEAR IN PICTURES



Ring Time

A YEAR IN PICTURES



Good Sports

The year saw our fabulous purebreds performing in sports far removed from the show ring: Siberian Husky in agility (Delinda Davis); Icelandic Sheepdog herding (Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America); Multiple breeds in team agility (AKC Agility); Airedale Terrier afield (Scott Lighty), Sealyham Terriers in Trick Dog (Janet Urban); PBGV in Fast CAT (Megan Esherick).

A YEAR IN PICTURES



Good
Sports

Good Sports



A YEAR IN PICTURES

Portraits

Some of 2025's most striking portrait shots: Field Spaniel (McCormick photo); Bernese Mountain Dog (Marjorie Geiger); American Hairless Terrier (Karyn Pingel); Sealyham Terrier (American Sealyham Terrier Club); Skye Terriers (Patricia and Laurent Vincent).

Portraits



A YEAR IN PICTURES



Headliners

Purebred newsmakers of 2025: Curly-Coated Retriever Raisin set the breed record for BIS wins (Sombach photo); During AKC Salutes the Troops weekend at Fort Stewart, Georgia (Kelsie Steber photo), the AKC facilitated the acquisition of a Bulldog mascot for the 3rd Infantry (Brandi Hunter-Munden); The Danish-Swedish Farmdog entered the AKC Stud Book in January (Brooks Mabry); The AKC crowned its first Scent Work Master National champions (AKC photo).

A YEAR IN PICTURES



Headliners

A YEAR IN PICTURES



Headliners



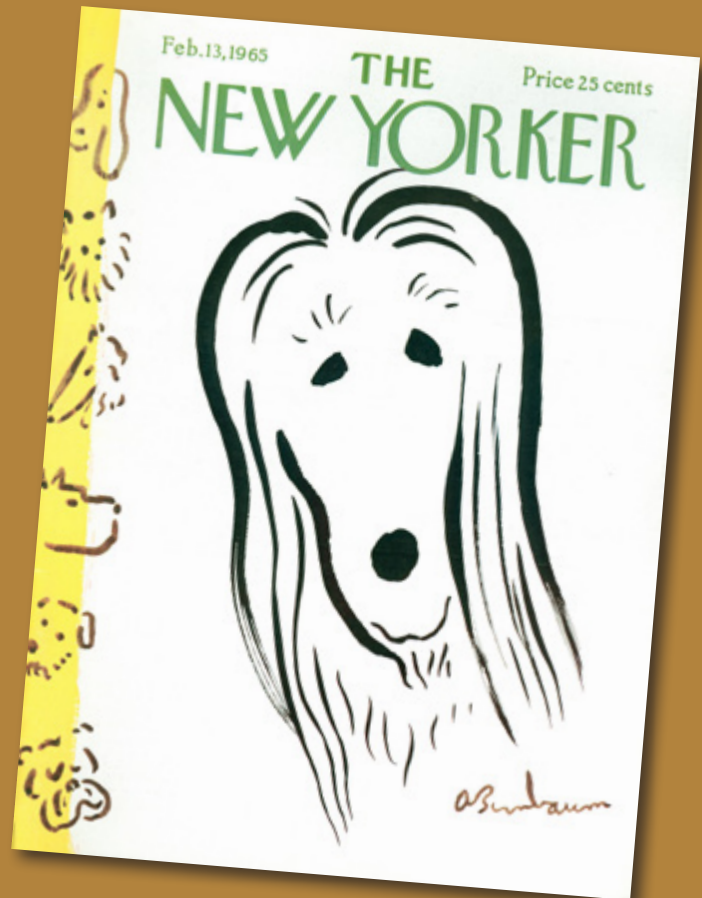
A YEAR IN PICTURES

Museum Pieces

From the AKC Museum of the Dog: “English Setters Drinking from a River,” by Percival Rosseau, from the exhibition Honoring the Point; A lost Megargee Dachshund returned to AKC after 85 years; A vintage cover from the New Yorker in Dog Years exhibition; “By My Side,” by Cailyn Skiles, age 17, AKC National Art Contest.

A YEAR IN PICTURES

Museum Pieces



A YEAR IN PICTURES



Departures

Among dogdom's leading citizens who passed in 2025 was Lois Thomasson, our cherished Irish Wolfhound Club of America columnist. We also mourned the death of all-around great dog man Bo Bengtson.



A YEAR IN PICTURES



Arrivals

Puppies! Hope springs eternal! Gordon Setter (James Thacker), Australian Terriers (Caren Holtby), Toy Fox Terriers (Susan Thibodeaux), Shiba Inu (Corina Tadros)



A YEAR IN PICTURES





Parting Shots

A few 2025 favorites that defy easy categorization: Frolicking Ibizan Hounds (Malwina Przysowa); Cocker Spaniel with matching rodent (a vintage classic by Joan Ludwig); village hunters and their Basenjis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (courtesy Rainshine).

A YEAR IN PICTURES





Where the Past Lives

The American Kennel Club [Library & Archives](#) preserves the history of purebred dogs, the AKC, and the wider canine community. As one of the largest canine research collections in the world and the only national repository dedicated to the sport and enjoyment of the purebred dog, the Library & Archives has provided researchers, breeders, historians, and AKC staff with unparalleled access to the history of the dog fancy since 1934.

In this month's slideshow, based a feature in our August 2025 issue, we present editors' picks from the Library & Archives image collections.



The Doyenne of Dobes

Honoring Peggy Adamson, the 2025 AKC Posthumous Breeder of the Year. 1:21



Fluffy in Florida

Among the newly posted YouTube videos from Fort Lauderdale KC is Christine Calcinari judging Bichons. 7:39

VIDEOS



How Many Toes?

At KC of Philadelphia, NBC's Mary Carillo gets up close with the unique Norwegian Lundehund. 1:56



A Chat with a Legend

Better Breeder Chronicles interviews the one and only Bill McFadden. 1:19:30

VIDEOS



Garden Parties Past

From the pages of the AKC GAZETTE: indelible images from Westminster KC's 150-year history. 0:55



Winner's Circle

A Gazette Gallery: famous Best in Show winners at Westminster. 1:06



David Fitzpatrick

We first ran this drawing in 2021, when David Fitzpatrick’s Pekingese Wasabi won Best in Show at Westminster. This year, Fitzpatrick takes the Garden’s center stage as BIS judge. “The challenge of evaluating seven outstanding specimens sent

forward by experts is the job at hand,” he says. “It is quite an honor and privilege to be a part of the sport’s history by judging at the 150th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, and I want to live up to the responsibility, yet still enjoy the moment.”

BUD BOCCONE ©2026

BREED COLUMNS

Edited by **Arliss Paddock**



This month we welcome long-time fancier Nancy Talbott as our new Golden Retriever Club of America columnist. She takes the reins from Nona Kilgore Bauer, an 18-year GAZETTE veteran and one of the best dog writers around. Thanks, Nona, for the Golden memories.

COURTESY NANCY TALBOTT

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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

THIS MONTH



Sporting

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- 131 Siberian Huskies
- 133 Standard Schnauzers

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

Brittanys

TO TRAIN AND TEACH

The first Brittanys brought to this country were from the province of Brittany in France. They came to hunt. Since the 1930s, when the breed was brought to Central and North America, the Brittany has also developed into an excellent field trial dog along with positive performance in show competition. According to the American Kennel Club, what is unique to the Brittany breed is the fact there are more dual champions than any other pointing breed. Further, consider a specific characteristic of the Brittany: They have many natural abilities—to point game, to retrieve, and most important, to be with people and please them.

This later characteristic, wanting to please, makes the Brittany very trainable. It is important to also consider that at all times, a certain type of person is necessary to teach and refine those natural characteristics.

This story has been given previously in the GAZETTE as to how our family now 50-some years ago brought the first Brittany into our household. With three boys, it just was important for them to have a family pet; it was the Brittany.

All dogs need to learn desired behavior in the home as well as outside the home and in the field during hunting. Before further discussing those who “train and teach,” this writer thought it should be considered what these two words—*train* and *teach*—actually mean, by consulting the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

In the world of the Brittany, one usually understands what is meant by either of these two words. The dictionary definition only created a whole lot of confusion:

—several definitions that referred to locomotives (trains);

—to trail, drag, train;

—to form by interaction, discipline, or drill;

—to make or become pre-

pared for a test of skill;

—to aim or point at an object.

(I guess our Brittanys do “point at an object”—most of the time it will be a quail or one of the other upland game birds.)

The dictionary definition for the word “teach” was just as “interesting” and confusing as that for the word “train.” *Nuf ced!*

Let’s go back to discussing those individuals in our world of the Brittany who train and teach and have worked with the breed—often on a full-time basis. It does take a special person. It’s someone who has had years of experience working with and having had close association with sporting dogs. These individuals have given to the field trial, agility, and conformation sports and asked for nothing in return; a trainer, teacher, and friend, not wanting any credit. Also, the person has had a “lasting” positive effect on many Brittanys and their owners. These “trainer/teachers” have been

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Several Brittany's and their trainer/teachers

willing to share their knowledge and experience of the Brittany.

This breed is so extremely versatile. As stated previously, the Brittany has more dual champions than any other pointing breed. Besides field trial and show

competition, owners of the Brittany also participate in agility tests, hunting dog tests, and NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) events.

Now this article will return to the earlier dis-

cussion about my own personal experience with several trainer/teachers who can be called professional friends. These individuals have spent years working—training and teaching—the pointing-dog breeds, and

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB

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specifically the Brittany.

This first trainer/teacher worked with our second Brittany, FC Just Dew It (Dewey), whose sire was FC Flatwoods Tiger (BHOF 2001). He also worked several other of our Brittans. Dewey was in his prime as a field trial dog around the year 2000. Time marches on, and the association with this individual has been there for the past 50 years. He is such a humble and knowledgeable person with regard to pointing dogs and the Brittany, always willing to share with others. He has for many years no longer taken clients to work their dogs.

Then there is a second trainer/teacher, who spent many years with his father campaigning on the pointing dog field trial circuit. Later he and his wife established a boarding kennel and bird dog training facility. During my adventures with the Brittany there was a time that the first trainer/teacher mentioned above recommended this second

person because he was no longer going to be working Brittans or any other sporting dogs. It was discovered very quickly that this second individual also was an excellent trainer/teacher, always willing to share his knowledge about sporting dogs.

Which led to the third trainer/teacher, who actually campaigned our Brittans. He is probably the top-winning Brittany handler, who is more than willing to share his techniques with anyone who asks. His knowledge of this field trial sport is impeccable. He is the reason that our Brittany Glade Run Irish (Irish) became one of the top field trial Brittans during the years 2015–2019, after which he was retired and now is a part of our breeding program.

The fourth trainer/teacher worked with Dewey in the show arena. She also competed with another of our Brittans, Nuf Ced Herb Score (Herbie), who completed his show championship in a major event at the Tidewater Kennel

Club, in May 2001. The significances of this event was that Herbie finished his championship so quickly, in roughly two months. He was also a great hunting dog, even though he was “just OK” in the field trial competition, which has led to him also being a part of our breeding program, using frozen semen. However, even more important is the fact that the individual who handled Herbie has devoted her life to the Brittany world. Her knowledge and humble willingness to share it has elevated to the important position of teaching judges who perform their duty in the show arena. She also continues to train and show Brittans. She welcomes the challenge of showing a Brittany of an unusual color, liver roan.

In conclusion, it is hoped that those who read this article will understand the importance of all those individuals who train the sporting dogs, and the effect they have had on the breed and its owners. This article

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is meant to be a tribute to all those special people, the trainer-teachers who have a passion for the sporting breeds and naturally the Brittany. Thank you to all of you!

—David Webb,
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American Brittany Club

Pointers

PREP YOUR POINTER TO PROSPER AS YOUR PAL

Pointer puppies are the gift that keeps on giving. You bring home a cute playmate who grows into a beautifully elegant, powerful, and loyal friend and guardian. It is important to raise your puppy to ensure the ease of the journey toward that destination.

Pointers are incredibly clever, acutely aware of their surroundings, and attuned to the needs of their humans. This means that they need a great deal of socializing and basic training so they can handle a range of environmental stimuli and people they might



encounter, adapt quickly to unusual sounds and sights, and recognize what their humans desire.

You can support your puppy by making a consistent effort to take your puppy to dog-friendly stores and events; expose him or her to technology (television, cars, speakers, things that make loud or odd noises, and so on) early on; train your pup at home (regularly reinforcing basic commands with praise and reward,

crate training, leash-walking, letting him play on dog-sports equipment like agility tunnels and balances) and in other environments (enrolling in classes and going to dog shows and/or field training, if that's your interest); make playdates for your puppy with other dogs and people; and so on.

Your puppy should also receive affection every day so he or she will be confident you are there to provide a secure home base

COURTESY HELYNE MEDEIROS

BREED COLUMNS

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from which to explore the world. Pointers are kind-hearted, sensitive souls who prosper with gentle encouragement and direction.

Pointers' minds as well as their bodies grow best through activity. Pointer puppies thrive with regular exercise on natural terrain. Allow your puppy's physical coordination and strength, as well as mental curiosity, to develop through regular romps on the grass, in woods and fields, and through streams. This can also help the pup expend excess energy and be calmer in the home.

Exercise on unnatural surfaces such as roads and sidewalks can be hard on the dog's body, so limit these and aim for natural terrain.

Pointers also often have faster metabolism than other dogs their size and age. To ensure your puppy grows optimally, take advice from your breeder or vet and feed high-quality dog food, and increase food beyond what the bag recommends if your puppy is underweight. Food

serving recommendations are based on research on various breeds, some of which have very different metabolisms than Pointers; thus, rely on not just the bag's feeding guide, but also your eyes and the expertise of Pointer breeders to decide the amount a puppy should have.

Generally, Pointer puppies are not prone to obesity, so a hungry Pointer puppy is more often than not one who should be fed.

In short, while your puppy can grow into an amazing Pointer no matter what, you can do things to help facilitate the ease of that process. Go the extra mile to socialize and train the pup, show the pup consistent affection, provide regular exercise, and make sure he or she is provided proper nutrition and healthcare.

Good luck, and congratulations to anyone who decides to have a wonderful Pointer join your home!

—Hayley Thompson,
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[American Pointer Club](#)

German Shorthaired Pointers

THE SHORTHAIR COAT

Some breeds are defined by their coat, others by the job they were bred to do, and others by their place of origin. With the German Shorthaired Pointer, it is all three.

The Shorthair was bred for multiple functions in addition to having a coat that would complement or enhance his keeping ability, as it pertains to other aspects for which the breed was being developed.

Over 60 years ago, German breed authority Herr H.F. Seiger wrote of comments made about the breed during its early developmental years. He said, "What a satisfaction to listen to the well-wishing warnings from fanciers of other breeds: 'You breed your dog too beautiful—it is too beautiful and noble for the rough work outside in the fields!'"

He further said that the beauty of the Shorthair rests on sound fundamentals through trials to produce the

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German Shorthaired Pointer

suitability for the tasks for which the breed was being developed. The best of the trial *Siegers* (field champions) are identical to the most beautiful dogs in the ring.

Much consideration was given to the Shorthair coat. They didn't want the body hidden under long or thick coats. It was a source of great pride to see the muscles functioning and vein-work evident as the dog worked the field, indicating what was considered a look of nobility.

Bred to retrieve on both land and water, sometimes in cold, icy conditions, and to work through heavy brush and muddy fields yet live in the home as part of the family, the Shorthair's coat was critically important. Much thought was put into the type of coat that met these conditions and would still be short enough to show the dog's lean athleticism at work.

It was observed that in nature the coat and hair of the otter, beaver, and polar bear resisted ice and snow

and shed dried mud easily. It was important that the Shorthair's coat would not catch, snag, pick up burrs, nor become entangled in heavy brush, as was often the case in the breeds with longer coats or more porous hair. Softer hair or curled fur created other problem of matting or the need for periodic cutting.

The breed's founders wanted an efficient coat that protected the dog in the field yet made him an easy keeper in the home.

It is because of the breed's founding with these purposes in mind, along with some trial and error, that the Shorthair coat today is what it is: short, thick, tough, and hard to the hand, while thinner and soft to the touch on the head and ears. The slight oily property found in a fine hair undercoat helps with insulation, gives waterproof qualities, and allows the coat to dry quicker and withstand cold, wet, and icy conditions.

It is *not* a double coat, nor is it a wire coat. The hair

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

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shaft in the Shorthair coat is relatively consistent in length—with the exception of under the tail, where it is slightly longer, and on the head and ears, where it is shorter and a bit softer.

If one gently pulls some of the Shorthair's body hair (dark or white) and rolls it between the thumb and forefinger, the texture should be readily apparent: round and smooth, yet with resistance; not soft. It is this attribute that gives the coat its identifying feel under hand.

—Patte Titus,
chexsix@mac.com

German Shorthaired
Pointer Club of America

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

THE WAY WE WERE

For those of us who are “veteran” exhibitors and breeders and have been in the dog show world for many, many years, conversations turn to talking about “the way we were.”

I went to my first dog

show decades ago when I was very young. I don't even remember attending the Virginia Kennel Club dog show in Richmond, Virginia. From Virginia we moved to Staten Island, and there are definite memories of going to dog shows in New Jersey. We traveled on Route 9 prior to the existence of the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway.

Most of the indoor shows were in National Guard armories. They were in cities—for instance in Newark, Paterson, Jersey City, and West Orange and Teaneck, New Jersey.

All these dog shows were benched. We had to stay all day with dogs on the benching. As a child, it was pretty boring. I was not old enough to show in Children's Handling. Quite often we had the only Chesapeake Bay Retrievers at the dog show. Of course, we stayed all day and showed in the Sporting Group. On weekends, my friends from school would go camping and go for “Sunday drives.”

They had never heard of dog shows, and I never admitted that was what my family did on the weekend.

Our family developed some traditions that continued on with my own children when we all went to dog shows. Ice cream—we would stop for ice cream on the way home, and usually it was a Howard Johnson—and you must remember the 28 flavors. To this day, when our dogs earn a major win in the breed ring, or qualify in obedience or rally, they get an ice cream cone!

Outdoor shows were definitely more fun. Many were still benched. One of my more delicate memories is of the tents set up to be used as restrooms. Holes were actually dug in the ground, and wooden seats were placed within each cubby in the tent. A woman dressed in white kept clean water available in a bowl for hand-washing, and small cloth towels were available. These were used at show sites that had no permanent bathroom facilities available.

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From above: American Chesapeake Club national specialty show, 1960—judge Maxwell Riddle, Best of Breed with owner-handler Richard DiVaccaro, Best Opposite with owner-handler Dr. Daniel Horn; 1962 ACC national specialty—judge James Trullinger, breeder-owner-handler Janet P. Horn with Best of Breed Ch. Eastern Waters' Baronessa, who went on to win three nationals; 1986 Purina Invitational show—judge Michele Billings, owner-handler Dr. Daniel Horn with Ch. Eastern Waters' Break O' Day, CD, JH; 1988 ACC national—judge Mrs. Alfred (Esme) Treen, breeder-owner-handler Nathaniel Horn with Ch. Eastern Waters' Diamond Dust (L–R: Jim Bomberger, judge Mrs. Treen, Betsy Horn Humer, Meghan Connor, Lew Lowenthal, and dog Dusty with Nathaniel Horn); 1987 ACC national—judge Mrs. Anne Rogers Clark and owner-handler Dr. Daniel Horn with BISS Ch. Eastern Waters' Break O' Day, CD, JH.



We showed at Sandy Point State Park, right on the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis, Maryland. After the judging, everyone took their Chesapeakes down to the beach, and they would all go swimming. We showed at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. The breed rings were all along the grassy area

next to the stadium, and obedience rings were underneath the stadium in the shade!

When I was in high school and during college, still living at home, we would go to dog shows in Pennsylvania. At that point in time, Chesapeakes rarely if ever, placed in the Sporting Group. In order to make

the breed more visible, my parents would always stay for the group when they went Best of Breed, but sometimes there was a litter of puppies at home. They would leave the dog show and drive home to feed them. I would stay and take the Best of Breed winner into the Sporting Group. It was very interesting to “stack” my dog and to have the judge walk by and never even look at my dog. It was as if I were invisible! At that

COURTESY BETSY HORN HUMER

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time, when we showed our dogs, we were all “on our knees,” the way that handlers still exhibit setters and spaniels today.

The Trenton Kennel Club stands out in my memories, because several national specialty shows were held there in consecutive years. At one point the showgrounds were outdoors at the National Guard Armory on Route 206 in Princeton, New Jersey. That first weekend in May did not always have the best weather. One year it was cold and windy, and eventually the tent did blow down.

Unlike dog shows today, where very little alcohol is consumed on premises, whether under a tent or in the show building, the hard liquor came out that day. Our young daughter, who was just a year old, was all bundled up in a stroller. The weather got worse and worse, and we wrapped her up in a blanket and carried her around. I have to admit that we did have some “spirits” to keep us warm. When we left, unfortunately, we

left her stroller behind. We were probably on the road for 20-30 minutes when I remembered. Yes, we turned around and went back to the muddy, windy show site and picked it up from the benching area.

Trenton Kennel Club moved shortly after that to Washington Crossings State Park, where the national specialty show was held again in conjunction with the all-breed show. That year it poured and poured again. Cars had to be towed out. The grounds in the park were ruined with deep ruts. Trenton Kennel Club was no longer welcome and moved to yet another show site.

As our family grew, we would all go to dog shows. One of the favorites was Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, in Pennsylvania. It was held on the grounds where a June Fete was taking place. The proceeds from the June Fete went to benefit Abington Hospital. Dog show profits were also donated to the hospital. After showing our dog, we

would walk over to the other part of the grounds, where there was some great food to purchase—which was much better than the average “dog show hot dog”! There were vendors and face-painting stations, and it made those particular dog shows tons of fun for our children.

Another favorite was the Berks County Kennel Club show held at the Berks County Fairgrounds. Some of the regular food stands were open for the dog show. Everyone loved the funnel cakes that we always purchased when we were there! I personally was very sad when Berks County KC moved to the Lehigh Valley KC site at Macungie Park. Funnel cakes are not the usual dog show fare but can usually be found at an annual state fair.

Many dog shows are no longer held in their original area. In the East, there are several fairgrounds where we find them: The Eastern States Exposition Center, known as the “Big E,” in West Springfield,

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Massachusetts. In Maryland, there is the Howard County Fairgrounds, in West Friendship. Up and coming, the new kid on the block is Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia.

This column is titled *The Way We Were* not only because of the changes in dog show sites, but also in reference to the movie of that name produced in 1973, starring Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand. Robert Redford was one of my all-time favorite actors. His recent passing and the memories and review of his movie career was an added influence to create this column in reference to dog shows and *The Way We Were*.

—Betsy Horn Humer,
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American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

2026 WORLD CURLY SEMINAR

The United States is a very big place, especially

geographically. We tend to forget there are other parts of the world where the Curly population is also thriving. Yes, the internet has made it easier to see what is happening in other parts of the world, but we still tend to focus on home.

Enter the World Curly Seminar, which is held every four years. It is a one-stop shop for all things Curly. In the space of a few days, there are many opportunities to connect with the world Curly-Coated

Retriever community. I attended the WCS in 2022, which was hosted in Stockholm, Sweden. I got to meet people up close and personal who were formerly just names (and faces) on Facebook. There were approximately 100 Curlies in attendance from over fifteen countries. There were seminars, field demonstrations and a rally exhibition, not to mention a conformation specialty. It was a true smorgasbord of Curlies!

In 2026, it is being held in



Curly-Coated Retriever Ch. Black Rod of Sicca Wei, 1970

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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Copenhagen, Denmark. The website with all the information you will need is <http://www.cws2026.dk/>. The event takes place August 24–28. One of the unique features of these seminars is that you can stay on property in well-appointed cabins that put you in the center of the action.

While the physical configuration of the event makes it more approachable, it is the access to people who are as passionate as we are about our special breed that makes this something not to be missed. Four years ago, I had the unimaginable opportunity to meet the breeders of the girl I imported. I also got to put my hands on her dam and half-sisters. This was the thrill of my trip. It was only possible because I made the effort to attend the World Curly Seminar in Stockholm.

The itinerary is packed with workshops, presentations, demonstrations, and an actual conformation show. The lunches and dinners are a wonderful opportunity to meet with old friends and make new

ones. It is also wonderful to just sit down at the end of the day and exchange stories about our amazing dogs. The trials and tribulations they have put us through over the years are universal.

Please consider putting the 2026 World Curly Seminar on your radar next year. It quite possibly will change your perspective on the status of our breed. Breeders in the U.S. are a cog in the wheel of a much bigger picture. It behooves us to take into consideration all aspects of the breed to which we have devoted so much time and effort. Even more important than the serious business of breeding dogs is the perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of meeting the incredible people who are the guardians of the world of Curly-Coated Retrievers.

I truly hope you join us next August. You will have a great time!

—Ellen Manes,
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Curly Coated Retriever
Club of America

Golden Retrievers

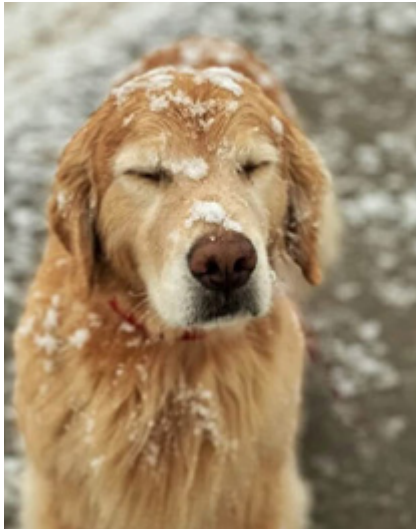
A MIDWINTER THANK-YOU AND INTRODUCTION

I want to begin with best wishes to Nona Kilgore Bauer as she begins her retirement from serving the Golden Retriever community for 18 years as the AKC GAZETTE breed columnist. For those who do not know Nona, let me share with you her contributions to our breed.

Nona is the author of many books about dogs. Among them are *Dog Heroes of September 11th: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs*; *Golden Retrievers for Dummies*; and *Retriever Madness*. Nona is a 16-time (at last count) Dog Writers Association of America nominee (and frequent winner). She was the recipient of the cherished Vern Bower Humanitarian Award from the Golden Retriever Club of America. In nearly five decades of retriever ownership, Nona's dogs have excelled in hunting tests, field trials, and obedience trials.

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“Catching snowflakes may be the most fun a Golden can have on a gray, chilly day.”

Nona, enjoy the opportunity to focus on the joys of retirement! I will do my best to take on this column, following humbly in your stellar footsteps.

As a quick introduction: My love of all things “dog” was evident by the time I was 3, when I drew leashes and stick-figure people with a green crayon on every dog in the “D” volume of our *Encyclopedia Britannica*. My parents were believers in small mixed-breeds, and so I admired a neighbor’s Golden Retrievers from afar.

Years passed, during which my mother gave in to



her canine-obsessed daughter by dropping me off at the local dog show and picking me up when I called on the pay phone after Best in Show.

Finally, in 1976, I made my first purchase of a Golden Retriever from a local newspaper ad. Although she did earn a CDX, Heather had serious temperament and health issues. I realized that this

was *not* what I was looking for in a Golden, and I began searching for a reputable breeder. Three years later, I was privileged to be able to buy a puppy sired by an amazing Golden Retriever whom I had watched win both the Sporting Group and High in Trial at the same show. The puppy and I grew together and earned Champion, Utility Dog, and Working Certificate

KATHY WHIPPLE / COURTESY NANCY TALBOTT

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Excellent titles. And so it began.

After 49 years with Goldens, my home is currently shared with two Goldens, a Labrador, and a Pug.

As I close this first column, fall is beginning to progress from brilliant color to bare branches. You will read this in the heart of winter, perhaps after taking your retrievers for a long winter walk. You may have bundled up against cold winds in the North or crisp desert mornings in the West, or you threw on a light jacket for a perfect beach afternoon in the South. Those in temperate climates may have ventured with their dogs to a nearby mountain to visit the snow.

Whether you live in or just visit snow and ice country, maintain your dog's healthy feet by trimming the hair neatly to keep ice-balls at bay, and check each time they come inside to remove ones that have collected. Correct weatherproof and resilient Golden coats,

rather than soft coats open to the elements, keep our companions comfortable when enjoying a romp in the snow; however, noses, lips, ears, genitalia, and footpads are subject to frostbite. If your own face is burning from the cold, limit the time your Golden is outside.

And then, let it snow! Catching snowflakes may be the most fun a Golden can have on a gray, chilly day. Indeed, many of us have had to insist that a Golden Retriever come indoors when the temperature is near zero, when what she really wants is to lie on a snowdrift and put her face into the wind. It is our responsibility and privilege to guard our dogs against severe temperatures.

It is an honor to begin as your GAZETTE columnist to celebrate and learn about this breed that we love. Topic suggestions are welcome. Stay warm and joyful!

—Nancy Talbott,

belgoldnt@gmail.com

[Golden Retriever Club of America](#)

Labrador Retrievers

Our guest columnist for this issue is Theresa Kucan.

MY JOURNEY TO COMPETITIVE OBEDIENCE

Having a dog when I was young was not an option. After I got married, I talked my husband into getting one. I knew nothing about dog sports. However, I was fortunate to get a Labrador Retriever from a good breeder. She introduced me to her partner who showed in the breed ring. She advised me where to go to learn how to show my dog and answered any silly question I might ask. He was the first dog I titled, Ch. Shamrock Acres Tai Pan K.

With my second dog I thought I would try field trials. After much time and patience from the exceptional pro trainers, my second dog became AFC Snakes Stacked Deck. Then I did hunt tests and some field trials. Dutch was a Master Hunter. He qualified for the

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A top-notch obedience team: guest columnist Theresa Kucan and Labrador Retriever Striker (OTCH T's Strike Force, UDX2, OM3, BN, CGC, FTA)

2005 National Retriever Championship Stakes in Ontario, Canada, and completed eight out of 10 series.

Two of my dogs were in the Master National Hunt Test that our club held on in September 2000. Trump finished the test, and Missy was one of the test dogs. My seventh dog, Thunder, was a Master Hunter and won first place in a field trial Qualifying. Unfortunately, he died early in his career.

Thunder and I trained with a great group of hunt

test people in Maryland and Delaware, and Linda had a Standard Poodle. (When I competed in hunt tests in Texas, I saw some awesome Poodles competing and told myself one day I would like to compete and hunt with one.) Several months later, Linda called and said she had a litter of Poodle pups, and I was first on her list. I told her I had to have a Lab first. She understood my mental situation and called back and said a Lab breeder has one pup left that is 11 weeks

old, and I should go look at the puppy. Well, Striker came home with me.

Unfortunately, I had my right shoulder replaced three months earlier, and Striker took advantage of me in our training. Linda told me to check out Top Dog Obedience. I did, and that was the start of my obedience competition.

I went with three training venues: Allentown Dog Training Club, Obedience Road, and Top Dog Obedience. This exposed me to many training tech-

COURTESY THERESA KUCAN

BREED COLUMNS

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niques.

Not only is Striker my competitive obedience dog, but he is also my physical and emotional helper.

Together we have accomplished more than I ever hoped for. Trainers and competitors have all helped me understand rules. Like, what is a double command? Well, you cannot wipe your nose with your right hand while heeling.

This is what we have accomplished in 2025:

February 8—The Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster (We qualified in both tests, and a third in Utility; no placement in final tally.)

June 20—OTCH title

October—At the Labrador Retriever Club National Specialty at Purina Farms, we competed in Utility B and Open B. We also received Striker's ribbon for Obedience Top 20.

December—Striker's entry for the 2025 AKC Classic was accepted.

—Theresa Kucan and OTCH T'S Strike Force,

UDX2, OM3, BN, CGC, FTA

[The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.](#)

English Setters

RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS

Most of us with English Setters know that once upon a time, when our great-grandparents were young, English Setters were a popular breed. They were one of the first nine breeds accepted into the AKC in 1884. Chances are, when you've had your dog at a dog show or been out for a walk, you've encountered seniors who say something like, "I had one of those dogs when I was a boy (or girl). We used to hunt all day ..."

Sadly, public tastes change. More people live in cities today, and fewer people hunt. Sometimes we're lucky if people don't mistake our dogs for "long-haired Dalmatians." For years now AKC has been registering fewer than 1,000 English Setters per year—a lot fewer. The situation is

even worse in the U.K., where our breed originated. The English Setter has been hovering there with about 300 registrations per year, barely managing to stay off the Most Vulnerable Native Breeds list most years.

If this was the entire story for English Setters today, it would indeed be a dismal picture. However, it's not the whole story, and I think there are some things we can do to make things better for the breed we love.

According to figures from 37 FCI countries, the English Setter ranks about 19th in popularity among all breeds worldwide. Seriously. I'm not kidding. Some 29,771 English Setters were registered in these countries in 2013, according to research. This does not include the Kennel Club in the U.K., or AKC numbers. It does include Italy, which registered 14,510 English Setters in 2011, and France, which registered 5,390 in 2015. (These are the most recent numbers I could find for each country.)

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English Setter

In fact, the English Setter has been the most popular breed in Italy and one of the most popular breeds in France. Most of us here in the United States have no idea of the popularity of our breed in Europe. We're used to feeling isolated with a breed that few people recognize, but that's not the case everywhere.

I'm told that many of the English Setters registered in France, Italy, and other European countries are hunting dogs. They're not the bench dogs or

"Laveracks" that we're used to. However, there are plenty of show breeders in these countries with beautiful dogs. Some American breeders have already had wonderful results working with European breeders such as Fairray Kennels, Blue Baltic, Setter Della Cruismay, Los Vitorones, Fanchon, and others.

Why do I mention the worldwide population of English Setters? Because we need to be mindful of our breed's genetic health, and numbers are important. These numbers don't tell the entire story, because a breed's total population is not the same as its effective population—the number of dogs contributing genetically to the breed—but having more dogs is certainly better than being on the verge of extinction. For example, the worldwide population of Labrador Retrievers is vast. They have been the number-one breed in many countries, including the U.S., yet their effective population size

was estimated in a 2008 study to be 114, at least in Great Britain (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2390636/>). A number lower than 100 is considered to be critical by conservation biologists; less than 50, and a breed is considered to be at serious risk for the future. So, just because a breed has large numbers does not guarantee their genetic health. In that same study the effective population size for English Setters (in the U.K.) was about 29, with a number probably similar for American English Setters. The breed COI for 22 generations for U.K. and American English Setters is about the same.

If we do have such a low effective population size, it would be wise to think about where we could find other English Setters to increase it. European English Setters are one source. From a genetic/health point of view, even if most of the English Setters registered in Europe are hunting dogs, that's fine. We should also reconsider

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

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the English Setter field dogs, handsome Rymans, and Llewellins here in the U.S. which most show breeders have shied away from for decades. I'm not suggesting that we should all start including these dogs in our breeding plans right away, but when people start worrying about genetic diversity in English Setters, I think they need to keep in mind that there is far more diversity in the breed than they may realize. Some of these populations of ES have been separated from each other since the days when Purcell Llewelin was still breeding dogs. These English Setters may go by different names or be different "strains," but if we reach the point where we start to think our breed has lost too much diversity, we do have places to turn within the breed. Some other countries and their kennel clubs are already considering this option for certain breeds with low genetic diversity.

The same is true for many sporting breeds that had a

show/field split in the 20th century. Breed genetic health for the future could be improved by returning to the breed's roots and having a rapprochement with its field family. Not that this would be easy. Many field breeders are dead-set against show dogs and show breeders. But if the health of our breeds is at stake, we may need to work together.

I know this view will not be favored by people who detest upright tails and who hate the thought of breeding to field dogs, but if it means keeping our English Setters healthy and viable for the future, I think it is something we need to consider.

Of course, the main problem for English Setters in the United States—and for many other breeds—is that we are losing breeders. When you lose breeders, you also lose dogs, litters, and puppies. That's a big problem—and a subject for another day.

If you have read much about Mr. Llewelin's breeding, you probably know

that he did not hesitate to cross his Laveracks with other hunting dogs in his efforts to produce the kind of dogs he wanted. His most successful dogs were the result of breeding from a dog that was half Gordon. Other sources reveal that he bred to Irish Setters and produced some beautiful dogs. Many of his dogs can be found in our late-19th-century/early 20th-century pedigrees. Llewellins that are 100-percent pure have been registered by the Field Dog Stud Book (FDSB) for decades, making this a very interesting source of genetic material for English Setter fanciers. They are registered as a separate breed from the English Setter in that registry. The fact that Mr. Llewelin was sometimes working with outcrossed dogs should be taken into account by people trying to figure genetic diversity in the English Setter.

—Carlotta Cooper,
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English Setter Association
of America

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Gordon Setters

A LOOK BACK AT SOME GORDON SETTER FIRSTS

Who was the first Gordon Setter to be recorded as a champion by the American Kennel Club?

The search started with *The Gordon Setter: History and Character* (1976), by Godfrey St. George Gompertz, who wrote about Gordons when he wasn't busy writing about Chinese ceramics. His research pointed to two imported dogs, Ch. Grouse (wh. 1876) and Ch. Beaumont (wh. 1883). Both those dogs brought those titles with them when they were imported. Gompertz lists several Gordons whelped in the U.S. as candidates: Ch. Ivanhoe and his littermate Ch. Leo (wh. 1892) as the two earliest.

With assists from the GSCA archives committee and the AKC historian, we know that Beaumont is first listed as a Champion in the May 1889 AKC GAZETTE. In the GAZETTE from January 1889, three other Gordons



"A Gordon Setter" by Alexander Pope Jr., 1896

are already listed as champions. Those three Gordons were Ch. Argus, Ch. Royal Duke, and Ch. Madge. That was the inaugural issue of the GAZETTE, so the search for those three is now ongoing via data downloads of early AKC studbooks. Stay tuned.

As far Gordons in the field, it's much easier to find information. The first Gordon Setter field trial was held by the first incarnation of the Gordon Setter Club of America (GSCA) in 1893, and the second in 1894, and according to *The*

Complete Gordon Setter, by Jean Look, both attendance and performances were poor.

The GSCA was reincorporated in 1924, and while interest in field activities among member was high, it was confined to inter-club trials mostly on the East Coast under the American Field organization.

The first recorded field trial winner was Svane June (wh. 1922), who developed late but recorded three All Age wins in 1929 and 1930. Her daughter Svane June's Baby (wh. 1929) did not

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begin competing until she was 8 but then recorded 16 wins over 300 competitors. June's Baby lived to be 15 years old.

In 1949 the GSCA finally revived field trials under the AKC rules by holding a trial in New Jersey, and by 1952 there were multiple trials, and that has continued to the present.

The first AKC-recorded Gordon Setter field champion holds a double distinction, as she was also the breed's first recorded dual champion. That dog was DC Loch Ridge Saegryte's Tibby, owned by George and Jane Penterman, of New Jersey. She finished her field championship in 1952, and her show championship in 1955. She was also the dam of the second field champion, Page's Shurriridge Liz, owned by Jack Page of Connecticut. To add a bit more to her notoriety her mother, Blakeen Saegryte, is still used today as the illustration for the Gordon Setter breed standard.

In 1993, the first GSCA National Field Championships were held at Kildeer Plains wildlife area in Ohio, and FC Belmor's Knight Train, owned by Barbara Morris (Virginia), became the first National Field Trial Champion. He was handled to that win by the late Jim Basham, who was honored with the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award for performance events.

Shadowfax Blade Runner, owned by Cliff Schneff (Florida) and Jim D'Amico (New Jersey), won Amateur Championship at the same trial.

Kildeer Plains also served as the location of the first American Field Championship stake for Gordon Setters. The Mid-American Gordon Setter Field Trial Club Open Shooting Dog Championship was first run in 1981, but it took until 1983 for the title to be awarded. The first winner was Belmor's Pretty Belle,

owned by Dr. Joel Morris (Virginia).

—Jim Thacker,
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Gordon Setter Club of America

Irish Setters

EXPERIENCING THE IRISH SETTER RING AT MORRIS & ESSEX

We all have a bucket list, whether it be large or small. The bucket list identifies goals we individually inspire to experience at some point during our lifetime. In 2000, I was in my third year of showing our Irish Setters. I had read about the Morris & Essex show being revived and as I perceived, celebrating a tradition long dormant. Someday, I thought, I'd love to experience the excitement of combining the old tradition with the modern day.

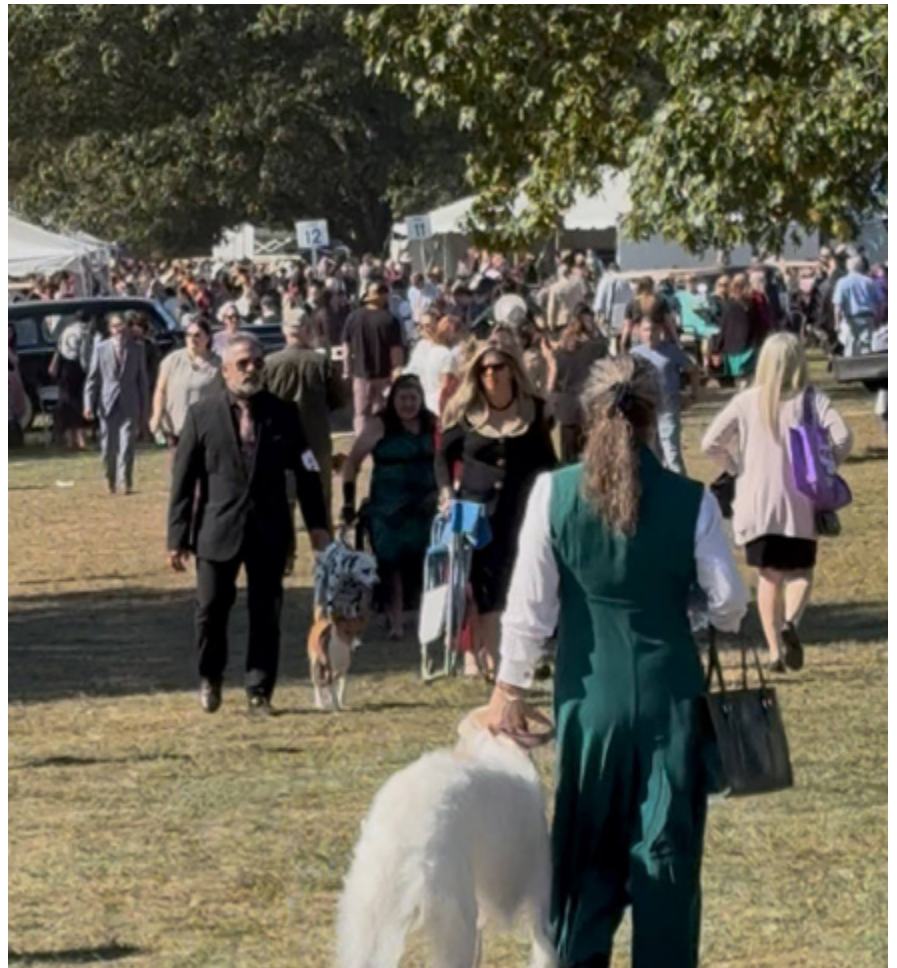
Years flew by, as they do, and somehow it was year 2024. I knew that Morris & Essex, being held every five years, would be held in 2025. A bucket-list goal

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Columnist Dawn Secord with Irish Setter; a view of the scene at Morris & Essex.



was within reach. Not only would I be able to show one of my Irish Setters, but I could attend as a vendor for my dog art. I knew the experience would be extraordinary—a strong word, but well chosen—*extraordinary* almost feels inadequate.

We arrived at the venue at 5:15 A.M. to set up my art and get our dog ready. To our surprise, a string of headlights lay ahead of us with no end in sight. We pulled into the show

grounds just before 6 A.M. and were directed to the vendor parking. Instantly, we were surrounded by people hustling around us hurriedly and organized. The incredible element was the excitement in the air. People were all smiling and laughing. There was a unique atmosphere of energy.

To everyone's relief, ring time was delayed 30 minutes

to accommodate the traffic coming into the park.

The camaraderie was like nothing else I had experienced. People were dressed in their time-appropriate American attire to celebrate the tradition of the show orchestrated by Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge in 1927. That first show had an entry with fewer than 20 breeds represented. In 2025, the

RICHARD SECORD

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entry was limited to 4,455 dogs. The entries received exceeded that number.

Being in my art booth, I was able to visit with people who were in attendance from all over the U.S., had flown in from other countries, and local residents who had walked several miles to see the show in person. Likewise, being an exhibitor and dog owner, I was able to have a common interest with all. Everyone had the same unified enthusiasm for being at “Morris & Essex.” I was grateful to be in a unique situation to interact with such a diverse group of people who otherwise I would not have been.

Though I have experienced being in the conformation ring with my Irish Setters since 1997, attending large shows and small, this was different. This was electric. I was not thinking about winning, I was thinking how amazing it was to be in the footsteps of those who had gone before me in this historic show. Standing outside the ring,

waiting for Irish Setters to enter, was a moment that would be engrained in my memory forever. My bucket list was happening at that very moment. Our judge, respected Robert Robinson, was someone I had known for many years. I ran around the ring, dressed for the occasion with my feathered hat, filled with our beautiful red dogs, my own beautiful red dog at my side. I celebrated the gorgeous dogs Mr. Robinson chose for the coveted placements. My husband and I were relishing being a part of history in the making.

A huge thank-you to all the numerous volunteers who so unselfishly gave their time and support to make this show possible for our fancy. Attending this show was an amazing bucket-list goal—and I was able to take my Irish Setter along for the ride.

—Dawn Secord,
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[Irish Setter Club of America](#)

Irish Red and White Setters

TRAVELS WITH DUCHESS

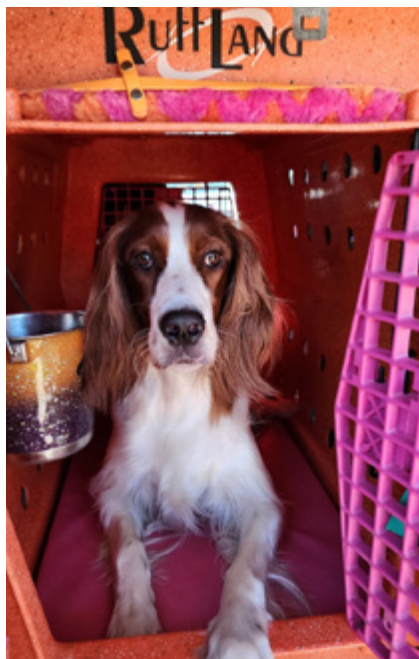
On the road again. The places we go are varied: from around town to Wisconsin, Missouri, and Virginia. Mostly around Texas. Duchess likes being on the go. She is always ready to “kennel up.” With the car door open and kennel door open, she steps up into the back seat with a big stretch. Tucks through the kennel entrance. Turns around. Plops on to the cushion. Comfortable. All set for the next adventure.

Duchess is aware of the sights. She can see through the slits in kennel’s hard-shell walls. Feel the air conditioning. Participate in the conversation. Sneak a treat. An excellent navigator. She knows the way to frequent haunts.

Especially the veterinarian. Her smile gets bigger. She loves going to see all the staff. I have been assured they would never spoil her. They do take excellent care of her. We go there a lot. She

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Setup to safely exercise puppies while traveling; Zellee (GCh. Rose View Unleash the Sparkle, BN, RI, FDC, BCAT, SWE, SCM, SIM, SEM, RATN, CGCA, CGCU, TKI, VHMA, VHMP, FITB), 3 years old, in her orange travel kennel, and her mom, Witty (Ch. Killary's What's New Pussycat, RN, FDC, FCAT2, SWD, SWME, CGCA, CGCU, TKI, VHMA, FITB), 7 years old, in her purple kennel; the kennel setup in the back of the car; Zellee content in her orange kennel; smiling Witty in purple kennel. From Morgan Dart, owner of Zellee and Witty: "We are based out of Central Wisconsin. We travel extensively throughout the Midwest, exhibiting at scent work trials, conformation events, Fast CAT, rally and obedience trials, and various events, as well as hiking as a family. We travel nearly 40,000 miles a year, with our IRWS safely secured in their kennels. With their fans, shade cloth, and water buckets, they are cool and comfortable no matter the weather."

COURTESY MORGAN DART / CHRISTINA PHILLIPS

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went to puppy kindergarten there, and boarded with them. Plus, all the checkups, mom's "silly questions" visits, vaccines, and sometimes just to say hi.

Another place Duchess likes to go is Lowe's. We walk, run really, up and down every aisle. The employees stop to pet her. She makes so many new friends. There may even be other dogs. It is a suitable place to train. The next stop is PetSmart—more people and pets to meet, and aisles to explore. She says hello to the fish, birds, small mammals, and adoptable cats. We also go to the beach. We walk the Surfside Jetty and stop by Shy Pond. So many birds to see.

We travel around Texas for AKC events. Our first was a puppy conformation show in Conroe. It was not what I was expecting. We really upset the junior handler. She knew what to do, we did not. Duchess had fun ... that is what was important. We showed in Austin, Sinton, and Houston, along with obedience and rally

events. The Hunt Tests were in Caldwell or West Point. One freezing morning I thought Duchess needed a potty break. I pulled over and opened her door ... well, she did not. "It is too early, too cold!"

Our biggest trip was to Purina Farms, in Gray Summit, Missouri. A specialty show celebrating the IRWSAA Anniversary. So many IRWSs in one place! We had a wonderful time meeting owners and dogs. A beautiful facility, a big show. Duchess got blue ribbons and a Purina towel. It was a scenic drive through middle America—we followed historic Route 66.

At age 12, Duchess is having trouble getting in the car. She can no longer turn around in the kennel. We discovered this visiting the vet. I had to remove the top for her to step out over the bottom half. She laid on the back seat for the ride home. I purchased an impact dog car harness that uses a seat-belt to restrain in a crash or sudden stop. It is built

to federal motor-vehicle safety standards created for child-restraint systems.

Here are some safety tips:

Avoid leaving your dog alone in car. Keep him or her in a travel kennel for comfort and safety. Use a harness to prevent accidents. Ensure kennels are well ventilated. Adjust the AC to prevent overheating. Regularly check collar for fit. Have owner information on collar. Familiarize yourself with local laws and regulations. Follow your veterinarian's recommendations for travel. Get a health certificate. Follow rules at rest stops, and check the pet policies for where you stay overnight. Consider food and eating on the road. Packing for travel. Have your go-bag ready.

—Cynthia Lancaster

[Irish Red and White Setter Association of America](#)

Clumber Spaniels

Our columnist for this issue is Norma Simpson.

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IT'S 10 O'CLOCK ... DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR PUPPIES ARE?

If you would, for a moment, harken back to the days when at 10 o'clock every evening an announcement would appear on the television, no matter the programming: "It's 10 o'clock: Do you know where your children are?" A check-in with reality about an item of importance to everyone. Breeders, I ask you the same: Do you know where your puppies are? All of them?

Having surveyed Clumber breeders on the "official" referral list, I learned of myriad methods of ensuring puppies are placed carefully in permanent, attentive homes. Unfortunately, life circumstances can throw us a curveball—so where is the safeguard for the puppy then?

The respondents had contracts that spelled out the details, followed by personal phone calls to the potential family. Background checks (if any) varied but included



Clumber Spaniel

such things as veterinary references, personal references (often two or three deep!), inquiries to local law enforcement and animal control searching for any abuse or violation charges, and questions about experience with the breed and willingness to work with a mentor/club member if necessary.

Involvement with other breed clubs or animal centered organizations (confirmed) was a positive

attribute. Willingness to have another club member visit the home—yes. Trusting the breeder, who should have extensive knowledge of the attributes of each puppy, to choose the perfect puppy for a particular family's situation—again—best-case scenario. These also, however, ran the gamut to basic information, puppy price, and quite general clauses.

But then, what happens when the perfect puppy is

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

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placed in the perfect home, and a crisis arises? Maybe a human health concern, possibly a loss of employment, an unexpected move, or God forbid, a natural disaster; the list is endless of problematic situations than can befall us. Where is the safeguard for said puppy when these things happen?

Again, everything from “I’ll take the dog back, help you place it, bring it here, and work together with you” to “you can return the dog but there will be no exchange of money.” All of which emphasizes the importance of choosing a breeder you can work with, one who aligns with your personal views of puppies, their placement, and ultimate responsibility for their welfare.

The Clumber breed is relatively small in numbers to this day (currently 149th) for many reasons—limited gene pool (which has improved greatly over the years), difficulty of getting pregnancies to take,

and unexpected fragility of Clumber puppies for at least the first few weeks.

Medical miracles are assisting in increasing our numbers—but are they simply numbers? Or are they living, breathing embodiments of the creatures we adore?

Each puppy, whether show, companion, performance, or somewhere in between, is an ambassador for the Clumber breed. Each is a reflection of the breeder who placed it. New owners should feel that their breeder truly cares for the little one they now cherish and would be ready to stand in the gap at a moment’s notice should the need arise. Likewise, owners should have a solid plan in place should the unthinkable happen, but that is a topic for another time.

Breeders, it’s 10 o’clock. Do you know where your puppies are? (All of them?)

—Norma Simpson,
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Clumber Spaniel Club of America

Cocker Spaniels

EXPLORING BEGINNING FIELD WORK WITH THE VERSATILE COCKER SPANIEL

Those who have a Cocker Spaniel, or have read about the breed, are well aware of all the different activities of which a Cocker is capable. The Cocker generally loves to please their people, merrily engaging in activities. This columnist had long wondered about the route to interest new people in field work with Cockers. A huge benefit for those who explore this is the understanding they come to of the real-life link between form and function that the standard presents.

Honestly, I have wondered about the breed’s instinct in the field since my first Cocker Spaniel, while we were on a walk through deep grass along railroad tracks, surprised me by unexpectedly flushing two large pheasants right in front of me!

We were fortunate to obtain interviews with two individuals who are very

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Versatile Cocker Spaniels: [top] Hunting Star's Constellation JH, call name Stellie, owned by Vickie Dahlk, of Wisconsin; [bottom] GCh. MACH RACH 7 Skiboo's Javalin Censational Night Action, CD, PCD, BN, RM 15, RAE 14, JH, FDC, MXB, MJS XF, CA, FCAT 2, CGC, ATT, FTI.

knowledgeable, experienced, and successful in training their Cocker Spaniels for field. We were especially curious about how to determine if a young Cocker is interested in this endeavor, the basics in starting a puppy, and each individual's take on aspects of form and function in the breed. (Some comments of both individuals may be edited.)

We first spoke with Vickie Dahlk, who lives in Wisconsin and is the Field Chair for the American Spaniel Club, Inc., the parent club for Cocker Spaniels. She has long bred Cocker Spaniels under the Hunting Star name.

Interviewer: What is your participation in field training?



COURTESY VICKIE DAHLK / DR. JEANNE S. GRIM

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VD: I have pheasant hunted with Cockers since 1986, with my first Cocker.

Regarding starting with field training, how do you know if a particular Cocker is suited for and interested in field work?

VD: At the American Spaniel Club national in July (at least every other year) in St. Louis, Missouri, at Purina Farms, we have a booth set up for an instinct test and people are very interested in it. We usually have about 38 dogs participate, and we are checking with pigeons and feathers, since there is a lower pheasant population.

What is the first thing to do if you want to start a Cocker puppy in field training?

VD: You don't have to do full obedience training first. The first command to "come" when called is necessary, especially as sometimes you will be working on public lands. From 8 weeks on you can teach "sit" and "come." At 5 to 6 months, after the second are in, you can introduce

the puppy to small pigeons or quail, dead. Gradually you can get the young dog used to loud noises. Use a cap gun, a starter gun. The pigeon is the preferred kind of bird to start with; don't start with a larger bird, which could scare the puppy. You can use bumpers (canvas "dummies") to start to encourage the dog to learn to hold things in their mouth and learn to drop them.

How do you typically train your dog?

VD: I train at 5–6 months, one dog at a time. Sometimes I run the Cocker I am training with an older dog who can "quarter," to learn the quartering pattern and confidence. I give verbal praise and use the word "hup," which means sit and stay, and give a toot on the whistle so they associate it with the command. Some dogs take longer, perhaps one year, to show instinct.

How do you find land for training?

VD: You can sometimes use a backyard or a park.

In Wisconsin the DNR has land specifically for training dogs. You get a permit and pay a fee for year-round training.

Do you have comments on the form of the Cocker Spaniel as it relates to its function as a small sporting spaniel?

VD: My sister, Venee Gardner, does more with show Cockers in the field. My Cockers were originally from show lines. I now breed for lesser coat. We believe in correct structure. I am concerned that Cocker muzzles seem to be getting shorter and shorter.

What do you do with the coat on your dogs going into the field?

VD: I trim the ears, face, and feet. I don't touch the back coat; it is protection in the field.

What are the various levels of field work for the Cocker to do?

VD: There is a Working Dog Class, Working Dog, then Working Dog Excellent, Master Hunter with different requirements for finding

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birds on land, retrieving, and swimming a little. About six or seven years ago we produced a YouTube video with Nancy Gallant in American Spaniel Club Judges' Education for Hunt Test judges. The video is called "Form Follows Function." (Columnist's note: I highly recommend it! It is informative and inspiring.)

VD: Postscript: I am a lifelong board member for our club, Cocker Spaniel Hunting Enthusiasts. We have members across the country, and our mission is to keep the Cocker as a hunting dog. We train and hold American Spaniel Club Working Dog tests, AKC hunt tests, and AKC field trials. Our club was started about 30 years ago by a group of five women who wanted to form such a club. We have kept it going today and we are also an American Spaniel Club member club. *Thank you for all the information, Vickie!*

Next we were privileged to interview Dr. Jeanne S.

Grim, who is a practicing veterinarian in Georgia. She chairs several American Spaniel Club Committees and is a licensed Hunting Test judge. She has long bred Cocker Spaniels under the Skiboo's prefix. Skiboo's has produced champion Cockers for show and performance for over 25 years, emphasizing the versatility of the Cocker Spaniel. This columnist asked Dr. Grim about starting out a Cocker puppy with an eye toward participation in events, including field work. We also asked her thoughts on how to interest new people with Cockers in field work.

JSG: As to the basics in field training, "It is all about the heart." I look for instinct and so much heart, I do a puppy temperament test. The first thing I like to see is a natural instinct to retrieve at 8–10 weeks of age and a puppy that will bring back the object retrieved.

Next, I start with the puppy at 4–5 months old to encourage the puppy to pick up small birds such as dead quail or to chase

little quail. I don't want the puppy whacked in the face by a bird.

Then, I encourage the puppy to go to the water's edge and expose the puppy to water. I get them in water, get them to bird scent, and get them to retrieve. I start with a bird, not canvas. You can use a dumbbell and put it in the mouth.

There is variation. Some may be very different in interest in activities than another, even with litter-mates. There is, I feel, a genetic component to carry in a certain way.

Water is important. Some like water. If they get scared, you have to do work to get them over it. I get in the water with them, if they don't like it and will not train. You can take an older dog along that likes to swim. You build confidence, you go walking through cover, different grasses, spend time. It takes time. This is a matter of "natural instinct."

How do you see the link between form and function in a Cocker that is going into

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performance events such as agility and for field training?

JSG: They need to have good structure. They need good rib-spring, good angles, and a strong rear. They need good patellas.

So that we continue to encourage people to participate in conformation in showing and performance events, what do we need to do?

JSG: We have got to get interest in the young people in purebred dogs.

How do you handle the issue of coat when training Cockers in the field?

JSG: Coat texture is important. You want a hard coat; non-staining, beautiful hair. I keep my dogs in puppy coat for the field. I cut the coats down for the field. Heavy coats are not fair to the dog. They get tangled in briars. Oiling a long coat for field doesn't work.

Do you have comments on public outreach and the general state of purebred dogs?

JSG: Public outreach is important. Mentors are important. I have a problem

with breeders who breed dogs for money and breeders who do no health testing.

What are some considerations in finding a place to train your dogs in the field?

JSG: Georgia has some restrictions on dog training on public lands. I travel a lot. Note also that AKC wants a field trainer to be proper in handling gun safety and have appropriate insurance.

Thank you, Jeanne, for all this good information.

—Kristi L. Tukua,
columnist

[American Spaniel Club](#)

English Cocker Spaniels

NEW YEAR, OLD DOGS

Happy 2026! It's another new year! But I would like to discuss something not so new: your old dogs.

If you are lucky enough to have an old dog, then you are lucky indeed. The oldsters have a bit of dignity about them and are usually done with a lot of the foolishness of their younger selves, though English Cockers can always

be counted upon to be fools when it comes to food! Climbing on counters, raiding trashcans—English Cockers will continue to enthusiastically pursue the last crumb well into their dotage. I often tell people who ask how to tell when their English Cocker is nearing the end, “When your English Cocker doesn't enjoy food anymore, then that is good indication.”

We are fortunate in English Cockers that our breed typically ages beautifully. The muzzles and ears of both solids and part-colors may silver into a lovely mature face.

The occasional dog won't gray out at all. And, in general, they don't suffer long, drawn-out declines; instead, they will be doing great and then suddenly go downhill.

As your dog ages, it is even more important to keep up with grooming. You need to check for any new lumps and bumps and keep the lip folds extra clean. But if your dog is having trouble standing up for a grooming

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English Cocker Spaniel

session, there is no shame in keeping your oldster in a short haircut.

You may have noticed that as your dog has aged, so have you! So, it may be more comfortable for you both to have your senior dog in a shorter cut, even if you have a professional groomer do the grooming. This will make it easier for you to bathe and dry your dog in between grooming sessions. And trust me, your dog does not mind having less hair!

Something that does get

overlooked with older dogs is that we stop doing things with them—maybe from fear of overexerting them, or maybe there is a younger dog who has taken over these pastimes. Please, don't do this! Keep including your old dog, even if it's just for shorter duration. Your dog wants nothing more in this world than to be with you. So by all means, take your senior dog on a short hike, and let them sniff around the field like they did in their youth. Take the aging ex-show dog to a show, even if he is not entered, and let him have a short turn in the ring in the evening when no one else is showing.

I have seen 15-year-old ex-Best in Show winners go out to the end of the lead and nail a perfect stack, even after years out of the ring. Of course, a nice, long nap followed, but it made the old dog so happy!

Even if your older English Cocker is “just a pet,” take them with you on trips whenever possible. They will love it, because they are with

you.

Forgive your oldsters when they have an accident in the house, or if they seem confused. It is a tribute to the care you have given that your dog has made it to this point.

Cherish them ... time comes for all of us.

—Beth Hendrick,

bhendrick@verizon.net

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

English Springer Spaniels

TAKEN BY SURPRISE: WHEN KIDNEYS FAIL

In her book *Four Paws, Five Directions: A Guide to Chinese Medicine for Cats and Dogs*, Cheryl Schwartz, DVM, notes, “The kidney acts like the roots of a tree, carrying water and nutrients into the body and filtering toxins out.”

If you have ever had a dog die from kidney disease, you became a changed dog owner. You suddenly consider, often to the point of obsession, everything your

COURTESY BECKY PARCHMAN

BREED COLUMNS

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dog eats and everywhere he goes: Is he walking on Roundup, pesticides, or other poisons and toxins? You worry about the quality of the water he drinks: Is it filtered and as healthy as it can be, and is he drinking enough? Does his food have too much protein? Are the proteins high quality and easily digestible? Does he have dirty teeth that are toxic to his kidneys? Is his breed one that has higher incidence of kidney disease? Has he eaten a kidney toxin, such as grapes, xylitol, or others? The questions and worries go on and on.

The book *Unlocking the Secrets to Canine Kidney Wellness: Unlocking a Longer, Healthier Life for Your Dog*, by Dr. Faith Phillips, explains:

“Although they are relatively small in size, the kidneys perform numerous life-sustaining tasks that affect nearly every body system. The primary role of the kidneys is to filter the blood. Every day, a dog’s kidneys process a large volume of

blood through tiny filtration units called nephrons. These nephrons act as sieves, selectively allowing waste products and excess substances to pass into the urine while retaining essential components, like proteins and blood cells.”

Dr. Phillips says there are two types of kidney disease—acute kidney injury (AKI) and chronic kidney disease (CKD):

“Acute kidney injury is a sudden decline in kidney function. It typically develops over hours to days and is often triggered by a specific, identifiable event. Causes may include toxic ingestion such as antifreeze; grapes; raisins; certain medications like NSAIDs; severe infections (like leptospirosis, pyelonephritis, tick-borne diseases, and canine herpes virus); dehydration; shock; obstruction of the urinary tract; trauma or significant blood loss. Kidneys provide many very necessary functions for the overall health of our dogs.”

Rita Hogan, C.H., in

her book *The Herbal Dog: Holistic Canine Herbalism Applications, and Practice*, shares:

“Your dog’s renal system consists of the kidneys, bladder, ureters, and urethra. The kidneys, like the liver, filter blood and preserve, process and balance chemicals, like amino acids, glucose, phosphorus, potassium, and sodium. In addition, they help maintain balanced fluid levels while screening hormones that regulate blood pressure and communicate with bone marrow when red blood cell counts are low. In filtering blood, the kidneys resorb glucose, salts, and water into the bloodstream, leaving urine (comprising toxins and other substances) as waste.”

Dr. Julia Roach and Dr. Michael Shen are staff veterinarians at Dr. Harvey’s natural products. Food and supplements for optimal kidney health can be reviewed and ordered from their website. In “What Causes Kidney Failure in

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Dogs,” we learn that the common causes of kidney failure are “age; toxins; any illness or injury that causes decrease in blood flow; poor diet (particularly a life-long diet of only dry food); high-protein diets that can overwork the aging kidney; and certain medications.”

Symptoms for kidney concern may include any of these: “drinking excessive water; lack of appetite; excessive urinating; incontinence; lethargy; overall weakness; bloody urine; tiredness; pale gums; ulcers in the mouth or stomach; seizures; weight loss; stumbling; bad breath; vomiting; poor coat appearance; kidney stones; urinary tract infections and urinary crystals.”

Dr. Karen Becker, in her article “The Slow Creep of Kidney Disease in Pets,” includes seizures, coma, and acute blindness as rare symptoms possible in advanced CKD. Dr. Becker recommends having blood and urine tests done, including SDMA (symmetric-dimethylarginine)



English Springer Spaniel

to check for elevated waste products like BUN (blood urea nitrogen) and creatinine, as well as protein in the urine. “Pets with CKD often have diluted urine (low specific gravity) because their kidneys can’t concentrate urine like they used to. Toxins in and around the home can be very damaging to a dog’s kidneys.”

The Vet Explains Pets educational website offers an

extensive list of toxins often related to kidney damage. In “Common Concerns and Answers Related to Toxins Causing Kidney Failure in Dogs,” the list includes plants inside and outside (lilies, azaleas, and sago palms); all kinds of chemicals in the house, garage, and outdoors, including cleaning products, pesticides, and antifreeze; medications, including

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NSAIDs, acetaminophen, and antidepressants; and foods, including grapes, raisins, onions, and chocolate. Also fruit pits, currants, human cardiac medications, topical prescription creams, poisonous mushrooms, and rat poison are very toxic to canine kidneys.

Rita Hogan's book *The Herbal Dog* includes an extensive chapter on vitamins and minerals often given to dogs. Every supplement's description includes extensive toxicity symptoms. Hogan emphasizes that Vitamin D is fat soluble and can easily be overdosed and harm the kidneys. Your veterinarian can draw blood for a screening of your dog's vitamin and mineral levels.

Are there action steps you can take every day to work toward healthier kidneys in your canine companion? Yes. You can take your dog to the veterinarian any time you think they are not feeling well or not quite themselves. Since dogs often take a long time to develop loss of kidney function symptoms to

point you toward kidney illness, it is imperative to find out why your dog is acting less than perky. You can also keep his teeth clean: Brush them daily, and have your doctor professionally clean them as needed.

Search under cabinets, in the garage, the barn, and all around your yard for products that could be toxic. Try to replace old, perhaps toxic, cleaners and yard chemicals with pet- and human-friendly products. Don't allow your dog to spend long periods of time alone in the yard to taste plants or find toxic products.

Replace food bowls that might have been made with lead or heavy metal products. Invest in high-quality, U.S.-made stainless-steel bowls. Refresh water bowls at least once a day and wash them in hot, soapy water, or have two sets and include one set in the dishwasher every day. Start right now encouraging your dog to drink more water. Never limit water because of fear-avoidance accidents in the house;

water is so very important to your dog's kidney filtration of toxins and waste products.

Think creatively of ways to give your dog more liquids. In *The Herbal Dog* Rita Hogan suggests great ideas for enhanced hydration: "Foods for kidney health: asparagus, beets, berries, broccoli, brown rice, carrots, celery, cranberries, cucumbers, eggs, kale, kidney beans, mackerel, pasture-raised meats, peas, phytoplankton, sardines, spinach, string beans, sweet potatoes, watermelon, and wild rice."

Do you add water to your dry food? Excellent idea. Feeding a fresh, moist food is an even better idea. A high-quality canned food added to meals will give your dog more moisture. Read all food labels, and don't feed lower-quality foods that contain chemical preservatives and dyes. The money you spend for higher-quality, natural ingredient dog food may save you money on veterinary care as

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your dog ages.

No matter what disease or medical condition that ends a beloved dog's life, most of us would spend every nickel we own or could borrow to bring them back, wouldn't we?

—Sarah Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia, author, *Devoted to Dogs: How to be Your Dog's Best Owner*, <https://wzwz.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063681811726>

English Springer Spaniel
Field Trial Association

Field Spaniels

BEYOND POINTS AND TITLES

I have been fond of saying “a dog is not a robot.” Our lovely dogs are training companions and our obsession in the fancy, to be sure, but they are oh, so much more: Best friends, confidantes, furry roommates, emotional support, family! Heart and soul, love, pride, and joy. They are our very reason for living at times, and what keeps us going, what gets us out of bed and

moving, facing another day throughout the rollercoaster of life. I have said that even if we never set paw in a ring again, my dogs would still be my dogs, with every breath until the very end of time. They own their worth as valued, cherished, trained companions who are my heart and family.

As a serious student of dog sports and the conformation fancy, you and I undertake the very human aspect of competition that takes on judgment, winning and losing, and measuring up.

Some of that is competitive; placements, rankings, having to do better than another. Other times it is the competition with yourself, reaching for your personal best, improving your score and obtaining a qualification. Either way it is important to see the human ego involved.

No dog ever filled out an entry form or asked to do these trials and shows and tests. We have to bear in mind the process and the product, the entire picture.

Remember the journey as well as the destination.

As an exhibitor, it is always my prerogative to pull my entry. If I feel conditions are unsafe or it is not in the best interest of my dog, I would much rather eat the entry fee, swallow pride, do whatever it takes for the good of the animal entry. My dog's safety and health come first.

No ribbon, title, or trophy is worth enough in my book to justify the sacrifice of a dog's well-being.

Far too many times we have seen people who seem self-serving, and greedy, pushing limitations and beyond the good of an animal. I personally prefer a more European approach to the slow growth and careful training that yields graceful maturation and soundness both physically and mentally, not to mention longevity and a lifetime of valued companionship barring any complications.

Is it all about the mighty major? Getting those points, those double QQ's, those class placements or scores or

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Field Spaniels Brigadier of Mittina and Flowering May of Mittina, with Richard Squires, c. 1968

coveted wins that we work hard for?

At the end of the day, no. These things are mere benchmarks we humans use to measure our success. This proves useful to the breeding program, the human ego,

and the assessment of our practices in training. In the great scheme of things that is their most useful purpose.

Putting the time, energy, and money into our canine investments is highly worthwhile as a hobby and

pastime. We can all agree that these endeavors bring us much joy and camaraderie, keeping us passionate and active as we pursue our dreams.

Having the relationship we and our community desire with this species is paramount to our success as a society, with the small world of the fancy and dog sports a mere microcosm of the world in which we live.

It is my hope that we see and consider not only the numbers and letters surrounding these amazing animals but value their overall health and spirit as well. They are truly a gift beyond any measure, and that is definitely more than enough.

—Shannon Rodgers,
shannontrodgers@gmail.com
Field Spaniel Society of America

Sussex Spaniels

“IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS?”

“Is there a difference between male and female Sussex?” This is an

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often-asked question. Of course, it comes from people wanting a new member of the family or sometimes even someone wanting to show (and win). Males are generally a bit bigger than females, the weight for the breed being 35–45 pounds. Personally, I like to be able to tell a male from a female by simply looking and not by turning one over to check. The males tend to be heavier boned, and the females have a more feminine look to them.

We all know that every dog is different, but after over 50 years in the breed I have found that while girls in any breed are supposed to be the sweetest most easy going, this isn't always the case in Sussex. The males are the ones that want to cuddle with you, to follow you around, to sleep next to you, and to adore you on a daily basis.

Females are bossy, and most generally in a house with both males and females, a female will most often end up being the “alpha.” A girl



will be the first one to the door when someone knocks or rings, while a male will look up from his pillow on the couch to see if it is really a threat (in which case he will become a terrific watchdog) and be at the door in a second. If it is Grandma or a friend bearing treats, a male will then roll over for a belly-rub, while a female will make a fool of herself with bouncing and barking.

Both sexes can do well with other dogs if introduced carefully. While two

males will sometimes start a ruckus, one will generally quit and walk off grumbling. Two females in a fight are more apt to keep fighting until you break it up, and even then will often hold a grudge. Remember, you are in charge and must put a stop to this.

Sussex of either sex are generally good with people, as long as they are well socialized. If a Sussex is to be your only dog, then sex doesn't mean too much—but if there are two or more

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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people in your house, you should expect a Sussex to bond with one person above all others.

We are currently at a “high” here in the U.S. It is hard to believe that there are actually seven litters currently “on the ground.” That is to say, they are born and thriving. This doesn’t mean these puppies are all available; many are promised, but it means that this is an excellent time to reach out to people in the breed. Just type in *SussexSpanielClubofAmerica* on your computer or phone for all kinds of excellent information and contacts.

This is a good time to start planning for the 2026 SSCA National Specialty. It will be held in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, October 30 and 31, and November 1. For more information, contact the Show Chair, Val McNelis, at 765-465-6274 or vmcnelis@mcsherr.com.

Hug your Sussex! They love you more than you can possibly know!

—Marcia Deugan,

ZiyadahReg@aol.com
Sussex Spaniel Club of
America

Welsh Springer Spaniels

THE RIGHT MATCH

The official standard of the Welsh Springer Spaniel, when describing temperament, says the Welshie is “an active dog displaying a loyal and affectionate disposition. Although reserved with strangers, he is not timid, shy nor unfriendly. To this day he remains a devoted family member and hunting companion.”

Breeders put many hours of thought into decisions about which family will receive which puppy in a litter. They consider each puppy’s temperament and personality, as well as the families on the waiting list. Which puppy for the family with four children? Which to the young and active single woman? Who is the right match for the newly retired couple?

And while each puppy

fits within the temperament standard outlined above, all breeders know that puppy personalities fall along a continuum. Which puppy is the first to settle down in your lap? Who is the natural leader? Who is the most hesitant to try something new?

When I bought my first Welsh Springer, the breeder let me choose between two male pups she thought would both be show quality. As she described the puppy I eventually took home, she said, “He has that indefinable ‘look at me’ quality. He has a strut when he moves around the room. He’s a natural show dog.” And although my dear Ike was never the perfect physical embodiment of a Welsh Springer, he loved to show and finished his championship in an era when “bigger is better” was taking over in our show rings, although he was clearly on the small end of the standard. He had a presence in the ring that drew the eye.

His breeder described it perfectly: *indefinable*. That

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Welsh Springer
Spaniel

certain something that makes a dog perfect for you and your family. Puppy families are eager to learn which bundle of Welshie joy will be theirs. “But the little one is *sooooo* cute!” “But the fat one is *sooooo* funny!” As breeders we’ve all heard these pleas. A responsible

breeder holds firm, however, and makes the best decision based on their knowledge of the puppy and the situation where he or she will be placed.

Some of the best days for a breeder are the days when puppies leave for their new homes. The pups are

welcomed into the loving arms of the people they will learn to love above all others. As the standard says, the puppy will become “a devoted family member.”

—Wendy J. Jordan

[Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America](#)

Spinoni Italiani

THE SPINONE ITALIANO—IN A NUTSHELL

The Spinone Italiano is an all-purpose gundog. He is primarily a pointer, but he also flushes and retrieves. The breed hunts upland game birds and waterfowl, and in some parts of Europe he is still used for rabbit and fox. The Spinone is considered a “feather and fur” hunting dog.

The Spinone is a robust dog, as in rawbone and brawn, robust as in depth of chest and spring of rib, robust as in heavily built, and husky but never robust due to being overweight.

The build of a Spinone is square, or almost square. To be specific, a Spinone

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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is as long as they are tall, from the point of sternum to the point of the buttocks and from the ground to the withers, with an inch of forgiveness in length.

The Spinone has a unique head, with its diverging head and muzzle planes that allow the nose to naturally point downward to catch scent while still looking forward so the dog can see where he is going. A Spinone should be allowed to carry his head naturally as he moves out. As such, a Spinone is to be exhibited on a loose lead. Stringing a Spinone's head up defeats

the purpose of the breed's distinct head and nose.

The head is long and lean, with an oval skull that tapers at the sides and a prominent occipital protuberance. The muzzle should be square when looking straight, on versus the triangular shape of many of the hound breeds. A classic Roman nose is desirable. Think about Michaelangelo's sculpture David—classic!

A Spinone has an almost humanlike eye. The eyes are yellowish-brown, with the darker eye on darker-colored Spinone and the lighter eye on lighter-colored Spinone.

“That nose!” and “Those paws!” are often-heard exclamations from people first meeting a Spinone. The nose is large, bulbous, and spongy, and the paws are large yet compact.

No, a Spinone is not “swaybacked,” as we Spinone folk hear so many times. The Spinone topline has a break at the 11th thoracic vertebrae, about six inches behind the withers. If you can't see the break, then feel for it—it's there!

After the break, the second section of topline rises into a solid loin. The hipbones then fall away from the spinal column at an angle of about 30 degrees, with the tail following the line of the croup. A Spinone's tail is carried horizontally or down, never up. Do not think a Spinone is not a happy dog because his tail is not up—far from it!

A Spinone is different from so many other breeds in that he has shoulders that form approximately a 105-degree angle, pasterns that are slightly slanted,

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moderate bend of stifle, and long hocks that are one-third of the length of the rear leg. Speaking of hocks, a Spinone's hocks are also straight and perpendicular to the ground, as cowhocks are a fault.

The skin is thick, and the coat is harsh and wiry, and the skin and coat are a main part of what the breed is all about. The name Spinone comes from the Italian word *spino*, which translates to "thorn."

The Spinone coat allows the dog to get through heavy, thick brush, particularly brush that has sharp, slicing knifelike needles or the ever-so-sticky little seeds, as his coat either glides right through or the coat pulls out, staying with the brush rather than the brush coming with the Spinone. That is also why there is no undercoat on a Spinone; there is nothing soft and downy to catch and hold them in the brush.

The Spinone coat should not be soft and fluffy and long, nor should it be tight

to the skin. The ideal coat is one-and-half to two-and-a-half inches in length, with a tolerance of a half-inch under or a half-inch over the designated length. Measure out two inches, say, with your thumb. Two inches is right in the middle of the one-and-half to two-and-a-half-inch coat length per the breed standard. Two inches it is not as short nor as long as most seem to think, based on what is being exhibited in the show ring. The legs should form a rough, brushy column, never with any long, floppy fringes—that is, no fluffy, puffy legs.

The Spinone is the ultimate wash-and-wear dog and should remain in a natural state with just occasional brushing and hand-stripping. Yes, he does have to be groomed in order to keep that natural look, and stripping helps keep a correct coat harsh and wiry. A Spinone should never be scissored. To scissor a Spinone coat results in a soft, thick coat that defeats the entire purpose of the

dog's hunting abilities in harsh and brushy terrain. No excessive grooming and no scissoring does not mean no grooming at all.

As a hardworking gun dog, the Spinone has an easy, pounding trot that goes the distance—never fast, but easy and determined. With his solid underline and minimal tuck-up, a Spinone was not built for speed. Picture in your mind the terrain of the Spinone's land of origin: northwest Italy. This hunting dog hunted on the foothills and mountainsides of the Italian Alps (think mountain goat) and down low in the swampy, thick marshes at the base of the mountains. Speed was not required. A strong, substantial, and unhurried yet steady-going dog was needed, and that was the Spinone.

Overall, the Spinone is a hunting dog who is not high octane, who will put food on your table, and who when not in the field loves to be on the sofa right next to you.

—Daina B. Hodges, 2018
[Spinone Club of America](#)

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Vizslas

THE FAST CAT GATEWAY: IGNITING THE FUTURE OF DOG SPORTS

Our local Vizsla club recently dove headfirst into the world of performance events by hosting our first-ever Fast CAT trial (Coursing Ability Test). We initially researched fun activities for our 2026 national specialty's welcoming festival; however, after some quick calculations, we decided to take the leap, purchase all the necessary equipment, and become trial hosts ourselves. With a wonderfully supportive venue eager to embrace dog sports, the fit felt right.

Our debut trial wasn't without minor snags, but the vibe was electric. We were happy to see the familiar faces of seasoned competitors, yet the real thrill came from the flood of newcomers. They arrived nervous, watched their dogs rocket down the 100-yard lane chasing that glorious plastic bag, and left absolutely glowing. It was a clear, vivid

reminder of what makes dog sports so infectious. Fast CAT is undeniably the perfect "gateway drug" to dog sports!

For many of us, the journey into the dog fancy begins with a single, foundational event—a conformation class, a field training session, or now, perhaps, a Fast CAT run. My own path started with a humble blue ribbon in the conformation ring. Soon after, I was hooked, embracing agility and field work. It quickly became a complete lifestyle. My social circles and competitive spirit now revolve entirely around these challenging and rewarding endeavors.

Hosting this trial brought me back to that initial rush, and I wondered how many of those first-time participants were "bitten by the bug" that weekend. It sparks joy to think about offering them a clear path forward. Many were a "complete mess" the first time, with dogs out of control, no extra leash, or no releaser

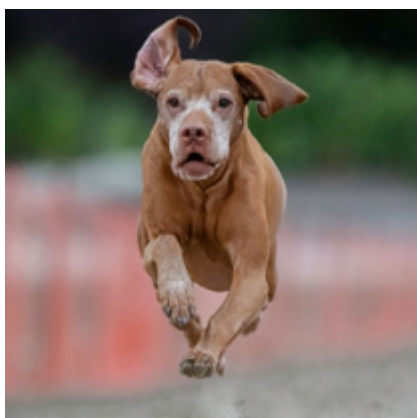
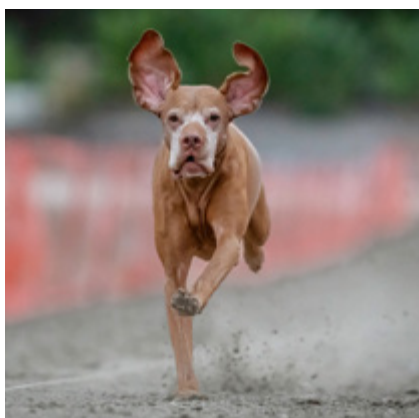
person—but this is where our established community shines. Kind guidance and encouragement are the bridge. Already, we see those first-timers from the initial event offering tips and assistance to the newest participants, wearing a hint of pride. This is the delightful concept of the dog fancy: fostering mutual enjoyment while our dogs have the time of their lives running as fast as they possibly can.

Beyond the sheer fun, the Fast CAT trials offer a valuable lesson in slowing down. It was a weekend to relax, forget about year-end points, and simply enjoy the dogs, friends, and laughter. For our club, the event has proven lucrative, paying for the equipment at the first trial and poised to be a significant fundraiser going forward.

This experience reminded me of the volunteering requirements I encountered as a young rider in equestrian three-day eventing. Perhaps the AKC should consider a similar structure.

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Imagine the empathy and gratitude that would build in our sport with a similar rule. It would offer a new appreciation for the effort required to host, and it's a powerful tool for fostering new involvement. For our December Fast CAT, we're adding a Trick Dog and CGC (Canine Good Citizen) tent to showcase the diverse community and opportunities the AKC has to offer.

We've all chosen this community. We've found a way to make performance competitions sustainable, and we have a fresh pool of passionate participants. I challenge the entire dog fancy to use platforms like Fast CAT to grow our community organically. Deal out some accolades, share some wisdom, and reap the delicious rewards.

As agility competitor and enthusiast Gail Storm said,

Vizslas Sisu and Sloan running in Fast CAT

“The real joy is in the privilege and ability to step to the start line with your dog by your side, not in the crossing of the finish line, victorious over others.”

—Jamie Walton,
jamie@professionaldesign.org

[Vizsla Club of America](#)

Weimaraners

THOUGHTS ON USING

CRYSTALS

As Weimaraner owners, we are well aware of certain quirks in our breed. Anxiety in many forms can play a role in our dog's lives, from separation behaviors, to crate panic, to barking at cars or other dogs. There

PHOTOS BY NICOLE AT PAWPRINTS

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are many “fixes” for this, from drugs to bark collars. One avenue worth pursuing might be the use of crystals.

Research has proven that the use of crystals dates back to Mesopotamia, with the Sumerians over 4,000 years ago. What is interesting is that the use of crystals rose independently in ancient Egypt, India, China, and Greece. If the past is any indication, it has to be concluded that there must be something to be learned.

In the 1970s, crystals became popular in the U.S. with the New Age movement. Since then, these gems have been around with many dedicated devotees.

Just how do these work? According to the Bhatt Integrative Veterinary Specialty website, crystals emit subtle vibrations based on their composition. These vibrations can support energy balancing, calming, vitality, and bonding, which would be the most important for the Weimaraner. There are more positive

characteristics, depending on the gem used.

There is a definite protocol to using crystals. First, always use polished, tumbled stones. The starter minerals should be cleansed and charged in a number of ways. They can be left in the sunlight or moonlight for a few hours, soaked in sage tea or salt water, or simply washing them with a mild soap and warm water then leaving in the open air or

placed on a bed of salt overnight. There are other ways to do this but these seemed to be the easiest.

For the Weimaraner, rose quartz and amethyst would appear to be the most valuable as they are thought to promote calmness, stress relief, bonding and emotional healing. Clear quartz is thought to be good for energy balance and general wellness.

Other crystals with



ROMIE DECOSTA © AKC

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supportive properties include blue lace agate, called the “Peace Stone,” said to promote soothing energy to help with fear, separation anxiety, and over-excitement. black tourmaline, the “Protector,” provides grounding and absorbs stress and negative energy. This one can be placed near the crate to help create a “protective zone.” Green aventurine is the Healer and best for senior dogs or those suffering from illness or injury.

Crystals must be introduced slowly and one at a time. Amethyst is recommended on almost all the sites explored. Create a calm space ritual—about 5–10 minutes once daily—and carefully observe your dog as you hold the stone while petting the dog. Let the dog show interest or move away as they wish. The stones can be placed near the dog’s bed or even in a kennel area if multiple dogs sleep in a room. It is important that the crystals are not placed where they

are able to be ingested.

After introducing amethyst, rose quartz can be added and placed near the dog’s bed. Clear quartz is said to amplify their effect, but must be placed a little apart.

Many of our dogs are sensitive to fireworks which tends to increase as they get older. Holding Amythest in the palm of the hand while sitting next to the dog is said to help settle them.

Once you have determined what crystals work best for your Weim, you can even incorporate them into a collar. Bear in mind that these is not a substitute for veterinary care but a complement to it.

Obviously, not every Weim is in need of this, as some simply go through life without a care. Those dogs who seem to be more sensitive to life’s changes might benefit from this interesting form of therapy. Just like people, some of our furry friends may be open to the vibes created by these ancient crystals.

—Barb Didjurgis,
barb2357@yahoo.com
Weimaraner Club of
America

Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

PROTECTING THE BREED’S DUAL-PURPOSE HERITAGE

The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon continues to earn its reputation as a truly dual-purpose gundog—one that performs with honesty and intelligence in the field while maintaining the conformation, temperament, and structure our standard describes. As the breed grows in popularity and national visibility, including Griffons such as Rosie, a 2026 Westminster invitee, we are reminded that recognition in the ring must always remain grounded in the breed’s original purpose.

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

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balance between field ability and breed type is the foundation we are responsible for preserving.

Form, function, and the Griffon's working identity

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

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

The Griffon in the Field

Those who hunt behind

a Griffon know its strengths: a remarkable nose, natural tracking ability, intensity on point, and an unwavering desire to cooperate. A well-bred Griffon works within a natural range, adjusts to terrain and scent conditions, and maintains a steady, earnest work ethic.

Participation in NAVHDA tests, AKC Hunt Tests, and real hunting situations remains essential to preserving these qualities. Even modest involvement—one hunting season, a Natural Ability test, or basic field training—helps breeders and owners appreciate how deeply structure, temperament, and performance are connected.

Honoring dual-purpose excellence: The Brandy Memorial Trophy

The AWPGA's dedication to protecting the dual-purpose Griffon is reflected in the traditions we uphold, including the Brandy Memorial Trophy, introduced in 2015 in memory of GCH Whiskeytown

Brandewyn ("Brandy"). Brandy finished 2014 as the #1 Griffon in Breed and All-Breed points, earned her Senior Hunter title, and excelled at both field and show. Her accomplishments, achieved before her untimely passing at four and a half years old, inspired an award that honors dogs who embody the true Griffon ideal.

The trophy is awarded annually to the highest-ranked AKC Breed dog who also holds an advanced hunting title—minimum Senior Hunter—and finishes the year within the Top 5 in Breed points. If no dog meets these criteria, the award is not presented.

Recent recipients include:
2014—Brandy (GCh. Whiskeytown Brandewyn, SH, NA III)

2015 & 2016—Brie (GCh.G Whiskeytown Dalwhinnie Brie CGC, SH, NA I UPT III UT III)

2017 & 2018—Kitt (GCh.G CKC Ch. Whiskeytown Genesee on Tap, MH, NA I UT II)

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Top: Rosie (GCh.S SooNipi Point Rosefinch, MH, TKI, UT2, NA2) Best in Show winner in conformation and recently earned her NAVHDA Utility Prize 2, “reflecting the natural cooperation, eagerness to please, and intensity expected of a Griffon bred for field work”; left, Buck (GCh.G Double Barrel’s Turkey Creek Jack Johnson, CGCA, MH, NA I) with an AKC Master Hunter title and NAVHDA NA I, “demonstrates the cooperation, steadiness, and eagerness to please that define the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.”

2021–2023—Buck
(GCh.G Double Barrel’s
Turkey Creek Jack Johnson,
CGCA, MH, NA I)

2025—TBD

This award reinforces the principle that excellence in our breed has always included both field and conformation

Spotlight on dual-purpose Griffons

To illustrate the dual-

purpose balance at the heart of the breed, here are two modern Griffons—Rosie and Buck—whose achievements reflect both functional ability and correct type. (These profiles are educational examples, not endorsements.)

Rosie—a functional hunter with correct breed type

GCh.S SooNipi Point Rosefinch, MH, TKI, UT2,

COURTESY OWNERS

BREED COLUMNS

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NA2, represents the breeding philosophy that links true field ability with correct structure. As a 2026 Westminster invitee, Rosie brings national visibility to the breed while remaining, first and foremost, a capable and accomplished working dog.

In 2025, Rosie earned her NAVHDA Utility Prize 2 in August—demonstrating competence in both upland and waterfowl work—and completed her AKC Master Hunter title in October, all while maintaining a place in the Top 5 All-Systems throughout the year. She works and hunts with purpose, reflecting the natural cooperation, eagerness to please, and intensity expected of a Griffon bred for field work.

Her movement, coat texture, and balanced outline reflect the standard as intended: moderate, functional, and able to withstand long days in thick cover. Rosie's accomplishments demonstrate the connection we must continue to protect—where success in the

ring is built on the same traits that allow a Griffon to work honestly and effectively in the field.

Buck—a versatile hunting dog with proven structure and temperament

GCh.G Double Barrel's Turkey Creek Jack Johnson, CGCA, MH, NA I ("Buck") is as solid and reliable a hunting partner as the breed produces. With an AKC Master Hunter title and a NAVHDA NA I, he demonstrates the cooperation, steadiness, and eagerness to please that define the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.

Buck's consistency in the field allows him to hunt confidently with partners of all experience levels, rarely making a mistake and always working with purpose. His movement—both in field and ring—shows drive paired with the steadiness that is characteristic of the breed.

In conformation, Buck is an AKC Grand Champion Gold, Best in Show winner, multiple specialty winner,

and the #1 Griffon in 2022 and 2023. He has also been awarded Best of Breed at Westminster twice, representing the breed honorably on its most prominent stage. His outline, coat, and movement are aligned with the standard's call for a moderate, capable sporting dog.

Buck embodies the traits that continue to attract people to the Griffon: a capable and honest hunting dog, a structurally correct show dog, and a deeply affectionate companion at home. His well-rounded temperament—gentle with children, friendly with dogs, and happy in all environments—demonstrates the stable disposition that supports true versatility.

A call for stewardship

Rosie and Buck demonstrate why the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon must remain a functional sporting breed first. Their achievements show that excellence in the ring is most meaningful when supported by the structure, coat, instinct, and

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temperament needed for real field work.

As we look ahead, our priority must remain on preserving the traits that allow the Griffon to thrive in both field and ring:

- moderate, functional structure
- harsh, weather-resistant coat
- natural pointing, tracking, and retrieving instincts
- a cooperative, stable temperament
- and the ability to work honestly in the field while presenting correctly in the ring

These are the interconnected traits that make the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon the supreme gundog. When we honor them, we ensure a future where our breed continues to perform with purpose in the field, remain sound and balanced in the ring, and carry forward its heritage with dignity—from autumn hunt seasons to the Westminster green carpet.

—Carol Erdie, AWPGA
[American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association](#)

WORKING GROUP

[Alaskan Malamutes](#)

COME WRITE WITH ME: THE BEST IS YET TO BE

These days, planning for the future is often on my mind. With that comes the thought of succession: to invite you to add your writing to our leading forum in dogs: the AKC Gazette and this Alaskan Malamute column.

With this month's issue, this honor will have been mine for almost seven years. I had to double-check the dates, as the time has flown by since that day in April 2019 when Arliss Paddock, our incredible Senior Editor, invited me to continue the Alaskan Malamute breed column upon the passing of AMCA Life Member Dian McComb, Alcan Alaskan Malamutes.

What a joy this column has been and continues to be! And because the GAZETTE deserves the best we can give as writers, I am inviting you, our Malamute people, to join with me and share your thoughts and knowledge as we go forward

in a wonderful transition for this column's future.

The concept of milestones as we embrace our lives in dogs is thrilling: our first home-bred champion. Our thirtieth. Our first ROM, and more in the generations to come. But now there is one milestone which I must face: This month, I will turn 80. And so, I have this precious chance to relate the journey of my writing career and the insight I hope it will inspire in you, and do so as a gift of continuity and sharing through the arc of creation as we mold this column, like a sculpture, into an image of beauty and power.

You may already be a familiar face within our breed. Or another breed may hold your heart, yet its message and challenges will be a hugely important discovery for Malamutes as well. And even further afield, your wisdom in another of life's endeavors can become an analogy with lessons for us all.

How three paths become one
Academic research, print

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journalism, and advertising copywriting: Three wildly different worlds formed the basis of my writing style. I use “wildly” because, for example, a revered academic might blanch at the sight of an advertising campaign like the Small World series which led Volkswagen to record sales in the 1960s and ’70s and a leading niche in automotive history. In time, I learned to blend these influences to evolve my writing style, and I owe them everything.

When you combine the rigor of statistics, the brevity of journalism, and the energy and inspiration of the “you viewpoint” in ad copy, you create a powerful message that leaps off the page—and today, off the screen—and grabs the minds and hearts of readers.

This is the mission I have in mind: So tell me about yourself and your experiences with Malamutes and other breeds. Your perspective and insights are valuable—send them

to me! In the months to come, we will work together to take this column in new directions our readers will appreciate and enjoy.

Together, we will conquer the dirge of passive voice! We will capture the yawning tedium of the research paper and find the kernel of discovery that could change lives. We will calm the hyperbole of overeager promotion and distill each message to one of power and transformation.

And please don’t fret about unfounded fears in expressing yourself! Yes, you *can* write, and write well. A suggestion here, a tweak there, and you’ll be soaring. Years from now, you’ll look back with joy and perhaps even astonishment at the good work you’ve done. By working together, we can create a lasting presence for our beloved breed, within the pages of this world-class forum, backed by the expertise of the GAZETTE’s incredible editing and production team.

You will enable me to

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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share the vantage of five decades of deeply sincere, sometimes quixotic, often ebullient, but always heart-felt thoughts and learnings. I deeply want us to join in this quest, so just e-mail or message me, and we'll begin!

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
Benchmark1946@gmail.com

com

Alaskan Malamute Club
of America

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

FUNCTIONAL, NOT FANCY

From the AKC breed standard for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog:

Coat: Short (one inch minimum, not tight) to Rough (approximately 4 inches in length) with neck hair slightly longer. Somewhat longer and thicker at the neck and mane. A thick undercoat is common to all. Feathering may occur on the ear fringes, legs, breeching, and tail.

Color: All color patterns and markings are equally acceptable.

I recall the Christmas



Anatolian Shepherd Dog

right before I turned 16. I was presented with a package from my Uncle Mike. I knew it was from him, not least because he was sitting there smirking at me like a middle-aged nerd in a polyester shirt complete with pocket protector, but because the gift was wrapped in a brown grocery bag and had TO JLY FROM UNCLE MIKE written on it in his precise, engineer's handwriting. He had written the "K" in Mike backwards.

I cringed inwardly. Probably outwardly as well,

since I have never had a poker face. The paper came off to reveal an oil filter box. What did I need with an oil filter? I didn't have a license or a car. My uncle smirked again and told me to open the box. I did as instructed. It contained a crisp \$100 bill. He laughed. Lesson learned. Appearances are often deceiving, as are uncles.

The Anatolian Shepherd is a large dog with a thick, double coat. It comes in two lengths—short coated and rough coated. As a judge,

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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you will generally see the short-coated dogs in your ring; however, rough coats are every bit as acceptable and should always be judged to the same standard.

The coat is thickest and heaviest over the neck, shoulders, and hips. Rough-coated dogs will have fringing on the ears, the backs of the legs, and the tail. The coat, whether short or rough, will *never* have a silky texture, but instead will be harsh and weather resisting. Undercoat will vary by geographic location and time of year, but even in the heat of a Texas summer, dogs will have sufficient undercoat that you will be able to see and feel it. This undercoat serves as the insulation that keeps dogs warm in winter, and cool in summer.

One memorable, cold morning in the low 20s here, I went out to check dogs and goats before leaving for work. The goats were bedded down together in the shed, but the dogs were

curled up in shallow pans that they had dug that put them level with the surrounding ground. There was a thin layer of ice that had formed on top of the dogs' bodies, and they were shivering. The ice that coated them was not melting, so their undercoats were functioning as required, and the dogs were not losing enough body heat to melt the ice. This is a functional coat.

Anatolians come in any color or pattern *except for merle*. The merle coat pattern does not exist in the gene pool. The most common colors you will see in the ring are fawn, with or without a black, blue, or liver mask, and white or shades of cream. Dilute exists in the breed, so you may have dogs with liver, dark slate, or flesh-colored noses and eye-rims. As long as eye and lip pigmentation is complete, it's all good.

Patterns include pinto, brindle, tan point, and Irish- or Dutch-marked with white feet, tail tip, and collar. Remember that

color does not matter to the predator looking to eat your livestock—all he wants is a free meal. He does not care what color the dog is that is telling him to go shopping elsewhere.

Grooming is practically nonexistent. Whiskers remain intact. No products are used to fluff up and sculpt a coat. A bath and air- or blow-dry and a nail-trim are all that are required to have a dog ring ready.

Always remember that coat *is* structure, while color is cosmetic. The coat of an Anatolian Shepherd Dog is weather resistant and protective—it is Carhartt, not London Fog—this is a *working* dog, not a wannabe. The Anatolian is functional, he is never, ever fancy.

Walk into your Anatolian ring like a teenaged girl on Christmas morning and you will be disappointed—all you will see are brown paper bags wrapping a box for an oil filter. Open the box anyway. I guarantee the contents will be far more than a \$100 bill.

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—Jo Lynne York,
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Anatolian Shepherd Dog
Club of America

Bernese Mountain Dogs COMMUNICATION AND BODY LANGUAGE

When people use the word “stubborn” to describe their dog, my “spidey senses” are alerted. *Stubborn* is defined as having or showing dogged determination not to change one’s attitude or position on something.

Most behaviorist agree that dogs aren’t capable of being stubborn and that humans interpreting that behavior is an example of anthropomorphism. Behaviors that are normal dog behaviors are not always in sync with human standards of acceptable behavior.

Stubborn denotes intent. Does a dog actually have intent to disobey or be non-compliant? Is it possible you haven’t taught your dog that behavior to fluency? Is it



possible you haven’t learned to motivate your dog? Is there more reward in “not listening”?

It is also possible that the dog had a better idea. What might the dog be saying to its human? Is it a misunderstanding? That brings us to a relationship and communication issue.

Communication starts with gazing into the eyes of the puppy. A number of studies have shown that when dogs and humans interact with each other through gaze and by touching, both partners exhibit a

surge in oxytocin. Oxytocin creates a powerful hormonal reaction which aids in creating emotional connections between humans and their canine companions. Those connections aid in communication.

Understanding the feel of a collar and communication through it is an early and necessary skill. Nature makes dogs want to pull against the pressure of the collar or harness. Think of the Siberians dogs joy in running with a sled.

Often the first thing someone does when they get a

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puppy is put a collar on. To a human, the collar denotes ownership and safety. It is also a main method of communication. But do you teach the pup what the collar means? Hopefully you teach the pup that touching the collar means good things are going to happen. The easiest way to start is to touch the dog's collar, and give a treat, then release the collar. (Thank you, Susan Garrett, for the "Collar Grab Game.")

Then you can advance to "giving to the pressure." This is a concept to help dogs learn what collar pressure means. The dog needs to know to move their body away from the pressure, to make the pressure less. The lessening of pressure is a reward for the dog. Have you taught your dog to "give to the pressure"? Sit with a bowl of treats. *Lightly* pull one direction on the collar while moving a treat in the same direction past the dog's nose. As soon as the dog moves toward the treat, click and reward. Rewarding

in response to the lightest pressure is the start to loose leash walking.

Teaching large dogs to respond to spatial pressure is fun. It is so useful in agility and herding. It's not about dominance; it's about communication. It can be useful in encouraging loose-leash walking. One way to use it is if a dog starts to forge ahead: Use your body to move into their space, forcing a left turn. Keep your body pressure moving into and forward to realign their attention and position to you.

Teaching them to yield to gentle pressure (like a light nudge or stepping into their space) helps avoid frustration and teach body mechanics. It's especially useful when your hands are full or you need access to a cabinet or fridge. I usually preface the cabinet-door nudge with the words "excuse me." Opening the door signals them to move. Using pressure is a nonverbal signal dogs can understand.

Sometimes words get in the way. As an old song said, "You say it best when you say nothing at all."

—Marjorie Geiger,
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Bernese Mountain Dog
Club of America

Boerboels

SERIOUSLY, COULD MY BOERBOEL BE GETTING SENILE?!

Topics for my articles often arise through discussions with friends who own and breed Boerboels. In this case, I was chatting with a friend who owns an elderly Boerboel, Bart, whom she was concerned about. She said he seemed to be generally healthy, aside from a bit of stiffness in getting up in the morning; and, initially, she had only noticed some gradual changes in his sleep patterns—he was sleeping longer during the day, then staying up late wandering about her house at night. However, by the time we talked, this had progressed to his getting stuck in

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corners and staring into space; and he had forgotten quite a number of well-established commands she had taught him years ago!

My friend asked me, “Is it possible he is getting senile? I can’t be the only Boerboel owner with this issue—could you write an article about it?”

Yes, it is indeed possible! Research since the 1990s has demonstrated that, while there are differences, the canine and human brain share striking similarities in both structure and function. Most recently, researchers, such as the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, have found that all dog breeds (including Boerboels) can be affected by cognitive decline—generally referred to as Canine Cognitive Dysfunction. It is a progressive, age-related condition (not part of “normal aging”).

Although specific genes causing Canine Cognitive Dysfunction (CCD) have not been identified, research suggests that there ARE genetic factors, in addition to



age and environment, that do contribute to the disorder.

Symptoms of CCD

(Note: These are general canine symptoms, which may or may not be true for the Boerboel or any specific breed.)

- Increased, excessive, or unusual vocalizations.
- Pacing and restlessness.
- Staring into space.
- Less interested in interacting with family (or with other pets).
- Increased irritability.
- Decreased interest in playing, going for walks, or socializing.

- Confusion or disorientation.
- Housebreaking accidents.
- Changes in the sleep-wake cycle—sleeping more during the day, awake more at night.
- Increased or persistent anxiety.
- Failure to respond to commands.
- Inability to recognize family members and other familiar people.
- Difficulty navigating around the home.
- Altered interactions with familiar people or pets.
- Restlessness and crying or whining during the night.

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- Loss of housetraining.
- Decreased purposeful activity; pacing or wandering aimlessly.

Note that as with human “sundowner” patients, dogs’ symptoms may worsen in the late afternoon and evening.

What else it could be (things to rule out)

As with other neurological conditions, a diagnosis of CCD is one of exclusion. There are several medical issues that are common amongst elderly dogs that should be seriously considered first by your vet:

Arthritic and/or gastrointestinal pain can result in loss of interest in play and food, restlessness, difficulty sleeping, and even aggressiveness.

Endocrine disorders (such as Cushing’s disease or hypothyroidism) can cause irritability, lethargy, and excessive thirst and urination.

Small seizures/mild epilepsy may be responsible for staring into space, walking into walls, failure to

recognize family members, and confusion.

Housebreaking problems involving urination may be due to urinary tract or bladder infections or kidney disease.

Hence, if you notice symptoms in your Boerboel that may indicate CCD, you should consult your vet for a thorough physical examination as a first step.

Care and treatment for dogs with CCD

The drug primarily used to treat CCD by improving brain function is selegiline (brand name Anipryl). A monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI), it is thought to improve brain chemistry by reducing the breakdown of dopamine and other neurotransmitters.

Studies of medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) such as coconut oil show they can significantly improve cognitive function in older dogs.

The antioxidant supplement SAME has proven effective in both preventing CCD and moderating

symptoms. Antioxidant nutritional supplements such as Denamarin, silybin, vitamin E, Cholodin, and omega-3 fatty acids can be added to any diet, as can Solliquin, an amino acid that can reduce CCD-related anxiety.

As with other neurological issues, one of the most important aspects of caring for a dog with CCD is to keep him or her as active as possible.

Helping your Boerboel with brain-stimulating activities

Note that Boerboels, with their acute sense of smell, benefit from games and activities that are scent-based!

- You can hide treats or kibble in a room. As the dog becomes more proficient, hide treats across larger areas of the house, as well as outdoors.

- You can place treats under one of a number of cups or boxes.

- Give your Boerboel time to sniff and smell interesting things on walks.

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Revisit old commands that they may have forgotten, and introduce new ones such as “target” (touching your hand or an object at the command).

Other aids for CCD Boerboels

- In the evening, play soft, calming music.
- Try not to change your dog’s environment (e.g., moving around or buying new furniture).

Finally, be patient!

References and further reading:

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—Karen L. Cornelius,
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[American Boerboel Club](#)

Boxers

THE BOXER BRAIN

I’m often asked by a prospective buyer how the Boxer does in obedience. After all, they are a working dog, and their utilitarian purpose was well documented in German history.

My reply: “The Boxer is very Intelligent and active ... but ... *you* must be smarter than the dog—and have a sense of humor.”

My first experience with an “obedience” Boxer was in 1971, when I met Charlie. I was starting my Vizsla puppy in obedience, and Charlie was the clown of the Novice class. However, Charlie’s owner was no fool; she convinced Charlie those “antics” could be channeled into the chores at hand with great enthusiasm (sometimes a bit too much). That was the breed for me.

Shortly afterward I got my first Boxer.

Over the years, I’ve watched as the Boxer breeders expanded their interests and are increasingly gaining recognition in performance, led by owners with perseverance and ... a good sense of humor.

Obedience was offered at the ABC national specialty beginning in 1947 (with an entry of seven) and continued with entries as high as 29—until 1971, when the national specialty was moved into NYC, held at the Statler Hilton on the day before Westminster KC. Obedience at the national was then discontinued due to lack of space.

Twenty-three years later, in 1995, obedience was reintroduced at the national specialty show held in Frederick, Maryland, with longtime ABC member Judson Streicher judging the entry of 54.

In the ensuing years, Boxers have proven to be very competitive in many areas of performance. The

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Boxer Ch. Salgray's Market Wise with Jane Forsyth, 1978 (Ashbey photo)

ABC introduced agility at the national in 1999 (averaging close to 200 entries per trial), and rally (averaging entries in the 30s per trial) in 2005—combined with an average obedience entry of 50 per trial. Now during national specialty week, all three venues—obedience, rally, and agility—offer two trials each. This year, two scent trials will be offered as well at the national, for the first time.

The Boxer performance

explosion is not limited to the above sports, however. Competent and creative owners have petitioned the AKC to recognize the breed in the ever-new emerging and recognized dog activities. Boxers are competitive and often in the ribbons in many dog sports, including tracking, Barn Hunt, dock diving, coursing and Fast CAT, herding, scent work, and flyball. And while often placing in the top awards, Boxers are still known to

frequently add a bit of entertainment to any sport they participate in.

The breed's athleticism is increasingly recognized, but until you have a personal relationship with the Boxer, their empathetic character isn't realized. Their intuitive nature makes them wonderful partners for physically, emotional, or mentally impaired individuals. Many retired Boxers have a second career visiting hospitals, schools, or elder communities. The zealous, ball-of-thunder canine quickly adjusts to the needs of his or her current person, be it in a nursery, hospital, or retirement center. Their gentle approach and kind expression is a tonic for all they visit.

An adaptable family pet, a Boxer can doze with Grandpa, help Mom clean up in the kitchen, watch sports with Dad, play ball with the kids ... and cuddle up with the baby for a nap. You just supply a little bit of discipline, a lot of love, and many, many laughs.

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Speaking of training, you would think after 50 years involved with dogs, I would have learned to check my pockets before doing my laundry.

—Virginia Shames,
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American Boxer Club

Bullmastiffs

Thanks so much to veterinarian and fellow Bullmastiff fancier Sandra Statter, DVM, for this timely column on a condition we all need to know more about. Sandy got her first Bullmastiff in 1994, after graduating from veterinary school. She notes that she was immediately hooked by their affectionate nature with people, but also by the sense of security they provided her. She writes that later she learned they can actually be true working dogs in a multitude of events. She bred her first litter after living with and learning the breed, breeding her third bitch, in 2006. At the time, she was also involved with German Wirehaired



Guest contributor Sandra Statter, DVM, Bullmastiff fancier and chair of the American Bullmastiff Association's Health & Research Committee

Pointers and felt her kennel name, Showdown, depicted both a GWP on point as well as a Bullmastiff standing its ground. Sandy serves as chair of the American Bullmastiff Association's Health & Research Committee.

DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY

Degenerative myelopathy (DM) is a progressive

neurological condition that ultimately leaves a dog in a state of paralysis. Historically it has been seen primarily in German Shepherd Dogs, but in recent years it has been documented in a multitude of other breeds. Although there is no current treatment, there is a DNA test that, in many breeds, may be the

COURTESY SANDRA STATTER, DVM

key to preventing breeding dogs that develop this affliction.

Disease description

Degenerative myelopathy in dogs is the equivalent to ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), or Lou Gehrig's disease, in humans. It is a disease within the spinal cord, involving degeneration of the fibers that transmit sensory information and movement direction between the brain and the limbs. It begins in the thoracic region of the spine and presents as a loss of coordination (ataxia) in the rear legs. At first this may be very subtle: scraping of the toes, loss of stability, or knuckling-over of the feet. One leg may be more pronounced than the other. As the disease progresses, the limbs become weaker, to the point of disuse (paraplegic). Following this, there may be urinary and fecal incontinence. Eventually the weakness will progress to the front legs and complete paralysis. The age of onset

is typically between 8–14 years of age; from time of onset to paraplegia can take anywhere from 6 months to a year.

Diagnosis

There is no current diagnostic test for DM in a live dog. It is considered a diagnosis of exclusion, meaning other similarly presenting diseases need to be ruled out through a multitude of tests: radiographs, contrast radiographs (myelogram), cerebrospinal fluid analysis, and advanced imaging (CT or MRI). Other diseases that can present similarly include intervertebral disc disease, tumors, cysts, infections, and injuries. A thorough neurologic exam will localize the lesion to between the third thoracic (T3) and the third lumbar (L3) vertebrae.

The symptoms are frequently asymmetrical, and there is no pain involved. Initially there are upper motor neuron signs, including the presence of increased pelvic limb reflexes (although patellar

reflexes may be decreased in some dogs) and normal to increased muscle tone.

There is a decrease or absence of pelvic limb proprioception (positional body awareness), but the panniculus reflex (twitching of the cutaneous trunci muscle with stimulation) is usually intact.

As the disease progresses, so does the muscle weakness, muscle atrophy, ataxia, and inability to ambulate. The neurologic assessment then shows lower motor neuron signs (decreased reflexes), and the flaccid paralysis advances to the front limbs.

The only way to confirm DM is through histopathology of the spinal cord.

Genetics and testing

The DNA testing for DM is not as straightforward as it would seem. Superoxide dismutase (SOD) is an enzyme present within all cells that helps break down potentially harmful, tissue-damaging molecules. A DNA test, via a cheek-swab,

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can determine the presence of a mutation in the superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1) gene. In some breeds, this has a high predictive value for the development of DM, although other genetic factors and possibly environmental conditions may have contributing factors. This is considered to have an autosomal recessive inheritance, possibly with incomplete penetrance. Dogs with two normal copies of the SOD1 gene (homozygous normal) are clear, dogs with one normal and one mutated gene (heterozygous) are carriers, and dogs with two mutated copies of SOD1 (homozygous mutated) are at a higher risk for developing the disease. There have been a few confirmed cases of DM in heterozygous dogs, and not all dogs that are homozygous for the mutation will develop DM.

A second type of mutation in the SOD1 gene has been discovered in the Bernese Mountain Dog. A genetic modifier has been identified

in Pembroke Welsh Corgis. This shows that different breeds may be genetically different as far as developing DM. There is also likely another, unidentified gene(s) involved in the disease.

The SOD1 mutation is the most common disease allele that has been studied in dogs. It has been detected in 206 breeds. In some breeds, the frequency of the mutation is very high, yet have no confirmed cases. To date, only 35 breeds have had histologic confirmation of DM.

As of March 2025, OFA has Bullmastiffs tested at 92% clear of the mutated gene. We cannot be certain, though, that this percentage is not skewed due to people not submitting “At Risk” results. In October of 2025, the first Bullmastiff was histologically confirmed to have Degenerative Myelopathy. His DNA testing showed both “At Risk” alleles. His neurologic signs showed up when he was 8 years old, and his progression spanned approximately 8 months, until his quality of

life deemed euthanasia the most humane option.

To my knowledge, this may be the only Bullmastiff that has had spinal histopathologic testing for DM. The average lifespan of our breed is only 8.5 years, and the clinical signs of DM can resemble other age-related orthopedic or arthritic conditions. Without a thorough neurologic exam, these signs could be dismissed as other diseases.

Now that we know DM does exist in our breed, it is imperative that breeders use DNA testing as a preventative and not risk producing dogs that will have this devastating fate. If your dog’s DNA test shows an “At Risk” allele, only breed him or her to a dog who DNA tests clear.

My advice to other breeds is: Don’t bury your head in the sand. If you don’t look, you won’t know. —Sandra Statter, DVM

For more information on the disease and a clinical trial, Joan R. Coates, DVM, MS, DACVIM, head of DM

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research at the University of Missouri, has done a very informative webinar for the AKC CHF. Summary of the webinar and link to video access can be found at: <https://www.akcchf.org/clinical-corner/summary-of-canine-health/>

Thank you, Sandra.

—Lindy Whyte,

Tryumphe@comcast.net

[American Bullmastiff Association](#)

Chinooks

CHINOOK COMES HOME: TAMWORTH UNVEILS LIFE-SIZE BRONZE OF ITS LEGENDARY SLED DOG

The town of Tamworth, New Hampshire—home ground to one of America's rarest and most historically rich breeds—celebrated a momentous day this fall as community members, Chinook fanciers, and several canine guests gathered for the unveiling of a striking, meticulously detailed, life-size bronze statue of Chinook, the breed's leg-

endary foundation sire.

The ceremony, hosted on the lawn of the Tamworth History Center (THC), marked the culmination of a remarkable local fundraising effort to honor the dog whose story helped shape both the town and the breed.

Longtime THC Board Co-Chair Betsy Loughran opened the event with words of gratitude, acknowledging the community whose enthusiasm brought one of the Center's fastest-funded projects to life. Selectman Richard Doucette followed with reflections on the collective spirit that powered the statue's creation.

Ben Semmes, great-great-nephew of Chinook's breeder and owner Arthur T. Walden, then retold the story so deeply woven into Chinook lore: Chinook's birth in 1917 at Walden's Wonalancet farm, his racing accomplishments throughout New England, and the shared adventure that carried dog and man to Antarctica with Admiral Richard Byrd's expedition.

It was there, in 1929, that Chinook wandered from camp and disappeared—his loss felt by a community that continues to commemorate him nearly a century later.

A century after his adventures, he is honored with a statue in his hometown. Fundraising efforts started in 2003, with an outpouring of support from residents, dog-sledders, breeders, and fans from near and far. THC commissioned Tamworth painter and animal sculptor, Andrea Kennett, to create the original small clay model of Chinook. Sculptor Peter Dransfield of Portland, Maine, made the full-size clay figure. Somerset Sculpture & Foundry in West Bath cast it in bronze. Tim Brown of Windy Ridge Corporation provided the granite base, and Morgan Rhodewalt prepared the site between the two tallest trees on the lawn, facing north.

THC board member Betsy Loughran reflected on the project's evolution, followed by remarks from

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[Top row] Life-size bronze of Chinook, the breed’s foundation sire, at the statue’s unveiling this past fall in Tamworth, New Hampshire—with Chief Chocorua, living Chinook ambassador; [second row] THC Executive Director Alice Posner; sculptor Andrea Kennett and Betsy Loughran; Ben Semmes, great-great-great nephew of Chinook’s breeder and owner, Arthur T. Walden; [third row] attentive young listeners; kids help with the unveiling; close-up of the bronze; [bottom row] crowd at the dedication; dogs and kids; event emcee Betsy Loughran, Tamworth History Center board co-chair; front view of Chinook bronze.

COURTESY NANCY SHERIDAN / BRENNIDA DEANNE

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the artists whose collaboration brought Chinook back into view. Sculptor Andrea Kennett shared how she shaped the original clay model, and bronze artist Peter Dransfield detailed the process of translating that vision into a life-sized, enduring sculpture.

The process took roughly 18 months. Kennett, visibly moved, said, “Ninety-six years later, we’re having the unique opportunity to bring Chinook home, if not in body, certainly in spirit.”

Before the unveiling, attendees joined in a group reading of “The First Chinook: The Adventures of Arthur T. Walden and His Legendary Sled Dog, Chinook,” David Pagel’s verse tribute to Chinook and Walden. Sled bells rang at key moments, cued by THC Executive Director Alice Posner, adding a touch of old New England magic to the retelling.

Then came the moment everyone awaited. Four local children ready to lift the blanket, revealing Chinook

in bronze—strong, poised, and unmistakably noble. The audience erupted in cheers, quickly followed by laughter as Chief Chocorua, a part-time Tamworth resident and living Chinook ambassador, approached the statue for a careful sniff to determine whether this new arrival was friend or foe.

Following the ceremony, attendees enjoyed refreshments and explored the Center’s current exhibit on Chinook history, now complemented by the permanent presence of the breed’s founding dog just outside the door.

For those who steward the Chinook breed today, the statue is more than a tribute—it is a homecoming. Nearly a century after Chinook’s disappearance in Antarctica, his likeness rests where his story began, inviting new generations to learn about and celebrate the uniquely American breed he inspired.

The statue now stands on the History Center lawn, a

powerful tribute not only to the dog himself but to the breed he founded—the official state dog of New Hampshire, and one of the most deeply rooted working breeds in American history.

Additional Notes

Who Was Chinook?

Born: 1917, Wonalancet, New Hampshire

Breeder/owner: Arthur T. Walden

Claim to fame: Foundation sire of the Chinook breed, New Hampshire’s official state dog

Chinook was a remarkable blend of strength, steadiness, and heart—qualities that became hallmarks of the breed that carries his name. Bred by famed musher, author, and adventurer Arthur T. Walden, Chinook led Walden’s powerhouse sled team through races across New England, earning a reputation for reliability and an unmatched work ethic.

In 1928, Chinook and Walden were selected to join Admiral Richard Byrd’s

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Antarctic expedition, a moment that catapulted Chinook into international acclaim. It was during this expedition, in 1929, that Chinook disappeared at the age of 12. Walden was heartbroken at the loss of his dog.

Despite his loss, Chinook's legacy lives on through his descendants and dedicated preservation breed stewards who continue working to preserve his lineage. Today the Chinook remains one of the rarest AKC-recognized breeds, cherished for its gentle temperament, versatility, and deep-rooted American heritage.

The Artists Behind the Bronze *Andrea Kennett, Sculptor*

Andrea Kennett brought Chinook to life through the initial clay model, which became the foundation for the final bronze. Known for her ability to capture both anatomical accuracy and emotional presence, Kennett approached the project with a deep sense of responsibility to the dog

that shaped an entire breed.

The process demanded extensive historical research—poring over photographs, studying Chinook-type structures, and consulting with historians and breed enthusiasts. Kennett noted that sculpting Chinook felt like “bringing home a spirit who had been wandering for nearly a century.” Her sensitivity to expression and movement gave the statue its unmistakable warmth and dignity.

Peter Dransfield, Bronze Artist

Transforming the model into a full-size bronze was the task of artist and metal craftsman Peter Dransfield. His role required balancing artistic precision with the technical demands of large-scale bronze casting.

Dransfield painstakingly recreated the details of Kennett's model in a durable medium that could withstand generations of New England weather. His expertise ensured that Chinook's musculature and

signature calm confidence translated flawlessly from clay to bronze. <https://dransfieldbronzeworks.com/>

Together, Kennett and Dransfield spent roughly 18 months on the project, aligning their skills to honor one extraordinary dog. The result is a statue that feels both rooted in history and vibrantly alive—an enduring tribute to Chinook and the legacy he left behind.

Resources

- For more information on the Chinook breed exhibit and the ongoing preservation of this uniquely American sled dog, contact the Tamworth History Center at admin@tamworth-historycenter.org or (603) 323-2911.

- *The First Chinook: The Adventures of Arthur T. Walden and His Legendary Sled Dog, Chinook*, by David Pagel (author) and Rick Allen (illustrator)

- Chinook Club of America, the breed's AKC parent club (<https://www.chinookclubofamerica.org/>)

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• Chinook (Working Group): “devoted ... smart ... patient”—American Kennel Club information page (<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/chinook/>)

—Kathleen Riley,
kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com

Chinook Club of America

Doberman Pinschers

THE PARTS THAT MAKE UP THE WHOLE

The Doberman is the only AKC breed purposely bred as a protector of humans, rather than of other animals. The exact recipe of dogs used to develop the breed in the late 1800s is not known. However, the breed’s evolution from the companion of Herr Dobermann, as he made his rounds as post-master and bill collector, to the Doberman of today is well documented.

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America celebrated the club’s 100th birthday in 2021. Incorporated in 1921, the DPCA “[relied on](#)



Doberman Pinscher

the 1920 modified German standard until it wrote its own standard in 1935.”

Every seminar I have attended on judging the breed emphasizes that one must compare the dog to the standard; do not fault judge. Does the Doberman in front of you align with the visual blueprint laid out in the standard? The first DPCA written standard, approved by the AKC 86 years ago, included a “Scale of Points,” with a note: “It is recommended that the

scale of points be confined to use in Match Shows and Judging Classes.”

I believe the point scale was created to help illustrate how one should weigh individual parts when applying the standard to the dog as a whole. We judge each dog in conformation competition by first looking at the entire dog, standing in profile. Then, the dogs move around the ring together, allowing the judge to determine soundness. Next, each dog is physically examined

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

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to evaluate the quarters, mouth, condition, bone, and so on. Individually moving each dog completes the puzzle: Does the dog closely conform to the breed's standard? Is the dog's gait free, balanced, and vigorous, with good reach and drive? Could the dog perform its function? Temperament is observed through each step.

Among judges, breeders, and exhibitors, some have seen troubling trends. Here are a few common complaints, followed by excerpts from the standard:

Lack of bone and substance: 1935–1948—faults: Fine greyhound build, bones ...too light;

Desired trait: Noticeable/sufficient/spring of rib;

1948–present, desired traits: round, heavy bone; well-defined spring of rib.

Not balanced, too much or not enough angulation:

1935–present:

Forequarters—1935—faults:

Steepness of shoulder,

too-short upper arm or

shoulder-blade; desired

traits; Length of shoulder

blade and upper arm are equal; shoulder meets the upper arm at an angle of 90 degrees.

Hindquarters—faults: Steepness due to insufficient angulation. Excessive angulation;

Desired traits: The angulation of the hindquarters balances that of the forequarter; upper and lower shanks are of equal length. While the dog is at rest, hock to heel is perpendicular to the ground.

Long and low: Desired traits, 1925 (Germany): Built short in body, ... should look square in shape; 1935–present: The appearance is that of a dog of medium size, with a body that is square; Compactly built; 1969—Height from elbow to withers approximately equals height from ground to elbow.

The biggest complaints relate to proportion, angulation, and balance. Our standard is clear on these points. However, there seems to be a shift toward dogs that are square, with-

out sufficient angulation; and square dogs with steep front angles and over-angulation in rear. Example one: The Doberman as a table—possessing a short, firm back, lack of well-defined forechest, and straight, open angles, front and rear. Balanced, but faulty in both quarters. Example two: Short-backed with ski-slope topline—steep shoulders and open shoulder-to-upper arm angle, paired with too much rear angulation, a long lower shank, and, often, long sickle-hocks—unbalanced.

While I think the standard should be read often, perhaps we could—occasionally—review the scale of points when doing so. It may help us gain a deeper understanding of how those who were instrumental in developing this amazing breed through the decades saw the parts that make up the whole.

—Leslie Hall,

pajant@aol.com

Doberman Pinscher Club
of America

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German Pinschers

BE CURIOUS

Apparently Walt Whitman never said, “Be curious, not judgmental,” as has sometimes been attributed—but it’s still a phrase that I’ve found very much worth keeping in mind when I train dogs.

German Pinschers can be brilliant at sports that ask them to use the skills they were bred for, particularly tracking things down, following an interesting scent, and independent thinking. They can be determined to solve a scent work puzzle, find a rat in Barn Hunt or follow a track across a college campus. I used to say of my first German Pinscher that he was absolutely brilliant at any sport where he didn’t have to listen to me.

German Pinschers have also been successful at sports where you and your dog are part of a team and where both members—dog and human—are critical to the team’s success, sports like agility or obedience. Still, for many German



Pinschers and their owners it can be more difficult to train a dog to a title in obedience, rally, or agility than Barn Hunt or scent work. Asking a German Pinscher to be part of a team, to ignore compelling distractions (squirrels!) and to take direction from the human member of the team, can be a struggle. And it can take longer to make progress than for breeds more typically seen in the obedience and agility rings.

German Pinschers don’t

particularly like repetition. They want things to be clear, and they’ve been bred to keep track of their environment, to respond to certain distractions immediately and not to wait for someone to tell them what to do. All these traits are part of the charm of the German Pinscher breed. They are smart, active dogs who like to figure things out.

And yet, it can be frustrating to work hard learning and training a new sport with your dog and still be

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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sitting on the sidelines while other teams are out there competing.

I live with German Pinschers because they have so many traits I like in a dog. They're companionable, smart, and athletic. I train and compete in sports with them because I want to do things with my dogs. When I'm focused on a goal that may be months or years down the road, I can get frustrated if a training session doesn't move us toward that goal. When I'm curious instead, when I ask why my dog laid down instead of sitting or left the training area to go sniff a bush, I can concentrate on the puzzle directly in front of me and, by answering that question or figuring out the next step toward answering that question, accomplish something that leaves both of us happy and eager to play the training game tomorrow.

Maybe we'll compete in the next level of agility or obedience someday, or maybe we won't, but we'll have fun, we'll do things,

we'll solve some puzzles, and both of us will learn a few things.

—Deb Coates,
charmingbillie@gmail.com
German Pinscher Club of America

Giant Schnauzers

GIANT SCHNAUZER HISTORY: PRE-STANDARD

The oldest known references to Giant Schnauzer-type dogs are in books from 1830. They were called *saubeller*, *saufinder*, and *saurüden* in these books. The prefix *sau* signifies a relationship with boars and pigs. This is consistent with the German Bavarian region being known for pork, in addition to beef.

Next came an influx of people to the southern part of Germany. The Bavarian farm dogs are now referred as oberlanders, and the city of Munich became the dogs' second home. The Munich dogs are also referred to as *Münchener schnauzer* (Munich schnauzer) and *Russen schnauzer*, due to

the Russian tribal descent of the people, in addition to *bierschnauzer* (beer schnauzer). References using these names are from 1890–1920.

In 1909 *grosser Münchener schnauzers* (big Munich schnauzers) were officially recognized at a show in Munich. A report from the 1909 show of 23 Münchener schnauzers said, "It was a medley of types, colors, coat varieties, and sizes!" The 1910 edition of the pinscher studbook listed the first registered litter of Münchener schnauzers.

As dog shows are assessments of appearance, it is during this time that the breeding shifted towards a unified physical appearance, as opposed to breeding that focuses on working ability, and the desired physical features needed and preferred by the breeder. In addition to dog fanciers now breeding these dogs, the Pincher-Klub wanted the Munich schnauzer to look as similar as possible to the *rauhhaariger pinscher* (now called Standard Schnauzer).

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Giant Schnauzer Ch. Terry v Krayenrain, 1966 (Alexander photo)

Two breeding tendencies developed: (1) breeding oberlanders (also referred to as Munich type); and (2) crossing oversized Standard Schnauzers with the oberlanders (referred to as the central German type) to try and unify type as quickly as possible. World War I put most things on hold until 1918.

The major kennels after the war were v. Kinzigtal (Dr. Calaminus), v. d. Pfungstweide (Dr. Priemel), v. Stichelsdorf (Mr. Baron), v. Wetterstein

(Mr. Kluftinger), v. Alt-Worms (Mr. Oberle), and v. Schönau.

Although the stud books only include oberlanders and Standard Schnauzers, Dr. Calaminus admitted at the end of his life to three crosses to dogs of other breeds, having in mind three goals: dominant black color, a well-crested neck, and overall correct coat. He never mentioned what these breeds were, and there is no documentation. People speculate that primarily black Great Danes and Bouviers des

Flandres were used.

Although possible that one of the outcrosses was to a Bouvier des Flandres, it is more likely the cross would have been to a Bouvier de Roulers, as this Bouvier was heavier in bone, stronger than the des Flandres, black, of a size of 25½ to 27½ inches at the withers, and had a wiry coat with long eyebrows and beard. Additionally, the Bouvier de Roulers was closer in proximity to Germany. It is also interesting to note that during this turn-of-the-century prewar period the bouvier, which had several types, was struggling on a similar path as the Giant Schnauzer, from farm to show ring.

No matter what the three crosses were, the foundation of the Giant Schnauzer was the local farm dogs (oberlanders) crossed with other dogs, mainly the Standard Schnauzer, to help establish a consistent schnauzer look as quickly as possible once people started to breed for dog shows.

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From 1918–1921, 567 Giant Schnauzers were registered. In 1922 unregistered dogs were banned from shows. In 1923 the Pincher-Schnauzer Klub (formally Pincher-Klub, name changed in 1921) Riesenschnauzer (Giant Schnauzer) breed standard was established. (*Resources include The World of Schnauzers, by Johan Gallant.*) —Bridgette Tuerler, 2015

[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Great Danes

FINDING A GREAT DANE

After doing appropriate due diligence, many people decide they would like to own a Great Dane. I would strongly advise a prospective owner not to rely on ads seen in the local newspapers. It is not uncommon, in any breed, to see ads for AKC registered dogs, with a low price given. To avoid such obvious situations, I strongly advise you to find a local breeder who is

a member of an area Great Dane club. Those who show dogs treat them in a manner with which they would treat their children. A prospective buyer must prove to a breeder that they will provide a safe and caring home for one of their puppies.

Whether you are interested in showing or simply want a pet, the breeder has divided the litter into “pet” and “show” quality. Usually a breeder is more particular in selecting homes for the pet-quality puppies. In most cases the prospective “show homes” are already known to the breeder and there is no need to qualify them in the same manner as to how the puppy will be raised.

Another good source for finding a puppy is to utilize the information on the website of the Great Dane Club of America (GDCA), <https://gdca.org>. The home page will have a listing for all the affiliate Great Dane clubs by state. There is likely one near you. You can identify area breeders of Great Danes, as well as research any dogs



Great Danes, February 1975

which may be up for adoption. Homeless dogs are a problem across the country. The affiliate clubs for specific breeds usually have an internal rescue branch that works to place these dogs into good homes. Rescued animals can range from puppies to adults. Many of them are in need of a loving environment.

One final comment about breeders. These people have often spent decades trying to improve the Great Dane, and they are an invaluable source of information for the new Dane owner. They can give you good advice on

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concerns such as which dog food to feed or which local vet has a good reputation for treating Great Danes, and they can answer questions and give sound advice for situations which are bound to arise. Learn about the breed from an expert.

After your first several weeks with your new Great Dane, you will probably echo the comments of other new Dane owners: “The breeder didn’t charge enough for our dog.”

—Bill Stebbins,

cherdane2@comcast.net

Great Dane Club of America

Great Pyrenees

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

A Great Pyrenees, especially in glorious winter coat and groomed, is a jaw-dropping, astoundingly beautiful dog. Walking downtown with one or two Pyrs on lead will draw a crowd, everyone anxious to touch or pet them.

Of course, my dogs know and expect to be petted.



Great Pyrenees Ch. Urdos de Soum (Morgan Dennis art)

They’ll move in front of people to stop them and seem surprised when someone doesn’t pause and pet, hug, or kiss them.

While the dogs are being admired, I expect the same set of questions.

“What kind of dog is this?”

“How much do they eat?”

“What is their personality like?”

The last question allows me to share the nature of the beast. A Great Pyrenees is like a fussy little old lady with a lot of doilies. (Please note, I’m not disparaging little old

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ladies. I am one. Well, maybe not the “little” part ...)

What do I mean by this? A Pyr needs to have order. A place for everything and everything in its place. Sheep in the field? *Check*. Children in the yard? *Check*. Coyotes at a distance? *Check*. As long as everything is in the right place, it's time for a nap. When things get out of order, it's time to bark. They are the least aggressive of all the guarding breeds, using their voice, not their teeth, to announce something is wrong, different, or in need of being challenged. And they are great tattletales. Someone gets loose from their kennel or out of the yard, they'll let the world know of the escape.

We once placed an adult dog on a small dairy farm. The dog was in charge of keeping the calves in the field and general patrol duties. Over time, the fencing around that pasture developed great gaps. Not one cow or calf was allowed to leave. Cows in the pasture? *Check*.

People would arrive daily

to pick up their gallon of milk from the farm. That was fine with the Pyr, because that was the order they expected. Ah, but what if someone came after their milk and the owners weren't around? The strangers could get out of their car and wander around the farm at will. Not a problem. Nothing is out of order. But what if the stranger picked up his milk? Without the owners approving this change, the Pyr would stand in the door and bark. *Put. The. Milk. Back.* As soon as the gallon of milk was returned to the refrigeration unit, the barking would stop and they could leave.

Pyr were developed to be independent thinkers. They figure out their role in the family, farm, or ranch and will protect their humans and the critters in their care. Performing in obedience, rally, or agility isn't really most Pyrs' cup of tea. What's the point? Nothing's out of order. They may show just how pointless these silly games are by doing them as slowly as

possible. Think molasses on a cold day.

The 1935 Standard of Perfection best summed up the breed like this:

“... He is as serious in play as he is in work, adapting and molding himself to the moods, desires, and even the very life of his human companions, through fair weather and foul, through leisure hours fraught with danger, responsibility, and extreme exertion; he is the exemplification of gentleness and docility of those he knows, of faithfulness and devotion for his master even to the point of self-sacrifice; and of courage in the protection of flock placed in his care and of the ones he loves.” —Carrie Stuart Parks, 2017

[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

HONORING PURPOSE IN A MODERN WORLD: A LASTING MESSAGE FROM DAVID FREY

Every year, as the holiday season arrives,

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the National Dog Show reminds millions that every breed circling the ring represents far more than a potential ribbon. Each carries a history.

During a pre-show press call with John O’Hurley and David Frei, I asked what message would best serve the future of dog shows and the dog-owning public. David’s answer was simple and resonant: *“Carry on the understanding of the heritage of these breeds—the purpose each dog was bred for.”*

As Swissy people, we know this well, but it bears repeating. Understanding purpose is essential to appreciating a dog as an individual and to honoring the breeders who protect that purpose generation after generation.

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog wasn’t shaped by chance. Its defining traits—size and substance for draft work, steadiness around livestock, alertness for guarding, and a calm, reliable temperament—all came from the



The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog’s defining traits—“size and substance for draft work, steadiness around livestock, alertness for guarding, and a calm, reliable temperament”—all came from the demands of daily farm life.

demands of daily farm life. These weren’t aesthetic choices; they were functional necessities.

Today, few Swissys pull carts on mountain farms, but that doesn’t make their purpose less relevant. In a modern world, preserving the traits that make a Swissy a Swissy is more important than ever.

Purpose in a modern home

Modern Swissys still express their working heritage in quiet ways: a watchful presence in the yard, the satisfaction they show when given a task, the grounded temperament that has always defined the breed.

Most won’t haul milk cans or drive cattle, but

COURTESY TRACEY BRANT

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responsible breeders still select for structure, stamina, and stable temperaments—not because the work is the same, but because the breed’s identity depends on it.

A Swissy thrives in a home that understands the breed’s history—its strength, sensitivity, and need for clarity and companionship. When that heritage is misunderstood, challenges follow.

This is never a failing of the dog. It is a mismatch of expectations. Swissys were not developed to be generic “big family dogs.” Their instincts, shaped over centuries, remain part of who they are, even if their daily lives look nothing like those of their ancestors.

The quiet work of rescue

This is where our rescue community becomes indispensable. Rescue volunteers are the safety net for dogs who land in the wrong homes through no fault of their own. They understand Swissy temperament deeply and place dogs with those

who appreciate the breed’s history and qualities.

Rescue work reinforces the same message David Frei emphasized: when people understand what a breed was created to do, they are far more likely to succeed with—and truly value—the dog they bring home.

Celebrating the breeders who do it right

Responsible breeders work tirelessly to get it right from the start. They study pedigrees, prioritize temperament, and match puppies to homes with care and intention. They breed dogs who could still do the work, even if that work now looks different.

These breeders deserve recognition. They are not merely producing beautiful dogs who succeed in conformation and working events; they are protecting the Swissy’s identity.

A modern Swissy, rooted in history

Today’s Swissys enjoy modern comforts—couches

instead of hay bales, suburban yards instead of alpine pastures. Yet when a Swissy positions themselves between a child and a stranger, leans confidently into a harness, or offers that steady, loyal presence at your side, you are witnessing history at work.

As long we continue to honor the purpose that shaped the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, that history—and the breed itself—will remain strong.

—Tracey Brant,

[Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America](#)

Komondorok

WHAT CAN WE SEE IN A PICTURE?

The Komondor Club of America recently received a gift from the estate of Bo Bengston. They were pictures of various Komondors from the archives of *Kennel Review* and *Dogs In Review*. Bo offered them for our club archives and to be shared.

In our judge’s education

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Photo of a long-ago Komondor, named Baka, from the archives of Kennel Review and Dogs In Review magazines and provided to the Komondor Club of America by the estate of Bo Bengtson.

events (especially when we have few live examples) we will show pictures of Komondors and ask the judge candidates: *What can you see?* This would be a silly question to ask of a judge about a picture of a Doberman or Boxer, since everything is there to see. About a Komondor this exercise highlights what can be seen and what is hidden.

This picture is of a

Komondor, who I don't know, with no easy reference for size. I don't know for certain if it is a dog or a bitch, but the head size (which the standard says should be "large") seems to fit the standard's description of length from occiput to tip of nose being two-fifths (40 percent) of height at the withers. Since some bitch heads may be smaller, I'd say this is a male. The

name of the dog is Baka, which means "foot soldier" in Hungarian, so that might confirm the sex.

How old is he? The coat is fully corded and maybe five inches long. The ends of the cords on the body are pointed and rough, suggesting that they include the puppy coat, so the length has not been changed by trimming. That makes him 18 to 24 months old. The quality of the coat is good, with enough density to be protective.

Three of our DQs are obviously satisfied: He is corded, he does not have short, smooth coat on face and legs (the "not a Kuvasz" DQ), and he is white. Some disorganized or thinly corded coat on the head is normal. The hair up there is sometimes a little straighter, so it is hard to cord and if damaged, hard to re-cord.

The overall proportion shown in this picture is very good. Our standard asks for the body to be slightly longer than the height at the withers. In many

COURTESY KOMONDOR CLUB OF AMERICA

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standards that means maybe 10 percent longer, but the Hungarian Komondor Club standard (which has a numerical proportion chart which the AKC and FCI standards do not) says the ideal is 104 percent, with a range from 100 to 108 percent. This dog appears to be in the 104 to 108-percent range. Not being too long suggests a solid short loin; we like about two-thirds rib cage and one-third loin. That means the back will be “level and strong.”

Over the years a common fault in Komondors has been a relatively flat croup. This dog has a nice rounding over the croup. Our standard calls for a slight slope toward the root of the tail. While we can't see the depth of chest, it looks like this dog is about 50 percent depth of chest, as is desired.

Even covered by cords, we can see that this dog has good angles. There is a visible bend of stifle in the rear. Even better, we can see that the front legs are set well under the chest and that

the dog has a strong neck of good length (moderate is asked for in our standard) and good arch of neck.

Where does this picture leave us guessing? We can't see eye color, pigment, bite, or the number of teeth. I like the head to show a big black nose, with the size suggesting good bone in the large head. We can't see that here. The dog appears to be posed unevenly in the rear. Are his hocks not parallel or is he just standing casually? Even with the good set-under of his front, we still must feel for shoulder angulation, length and breadth of ribcage, and check for sturdy and strong bone.

When a judge enters the ring and looks over the entry, the features we can see through the coat are important but somewhat unconfirmed.

Of huge importance is how they move. Our standard calls for the gait to be “Light, leisurely and balanced. The Komondor takes long strides, is very agile and light on his feet.” Without an athletic and

agile gait, the Komondor cannot do his job.

Thanks again to Bo Bengston and his longtime partner Paul Lepaine for the gift of this and the other pictures. Bo continues to educate us, even though he is no longer with us.

—Eric Liebes,
ericliebes@earthlink.net
Komondor Club of America

Kuvaszok

WHY BITE WORK AND THE KUVASZ DO NOT MIX

In the ever-expanding world of canine sports, “bite work” continues to hold a prominent place. Whether in IGP, French Ring, or the Protection Sports Association (PSA), these disciplines showcase the courage, athleticism, and trainability of breeds developed for protection and police work. The sight of a confident German Shepherd Dog or Belgian Malinois gripping a sleeve on command is undeniably impressive. However, when it

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comes to livestock guardian breeds such as the Kuvasz, this type of training runs contrary to everything the breed was designed to be.

Understanding why requires us to revisit the very roots of the Kuvasz's purpose and temperament.

Purpose-bred instincts: defense, not prey drive

The Kuvasz was never intended to be a “protection sport” breed. For centuries, these dogs were entrusted with the safety of livestock and rural households.

Their inherent gift lies in their ability to think independently and make sound decisions without human direction. They were bred to assess threats calmly, to deter rather than attack, and to stand their ground as thoughtful guardians and not impulsive predators.

Protection sports, by contrast, are built upon the prey drive sequence: chase, capture, and grip. It is this instinct that makes many Herding excel in bite sports. These breeds were refined

for close human cooperation and for channeling prey drive into controlled aggression on command.

The Kuvasz, on the other hand, was cultivated for judgment and restraint. The dog's job was to determine whether a situation warranted escalation and to act only if the threat became immediate. The Kuvasz is bred to defend, not to pursue. Teaching a Kuvasz to bite on command fundamentally conflicts with the very instincts that make the breed unique.

A true Kuvasz knows when not to bite

Many years ago, I sold a Kuvasz puppy to a German Shepherd breeder who wanted to “try her hand” at Schutzhund work. During a training exercise, her Kuvasz was directed to charge downfield and bite the sleeve of an agitator waving a stick. Instead, the young Kuvasz barked furiously, planted herself about ten feet in front of her owner, and refused to move for-

ward. To the Schutzhund evaluators, this Kuvasz had “failed” the exercise. But in truth, she had passed the test of being a proper Kuvasz. Her instinct was to stand guard between her owner and the threat, not to leave her charge and pursue the agitator. A good livestock guardian would never abandon the flock to chase a predator down the hillside, knowing that other pack animals could strike while she was gone. Her judgment, not her bite, was her greatest strength.

That moment illustrated precisely why the Kuvasz is not suited for bite sports: the qualities that make a dog excel on a trial field—reactivity, drive, and the thrill of the chase—are the very qualities that would disqualify a Kuvasz as an effective guardian.

The risk to temperament and stability

The proper Kuvasz mind is as beautiful and noble as its exterior. Across all countries where the breed

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is recognized, the Kuvasz is described as possessing courage, dignity, and steadiness of temperament. These are not mere words. They define the core of the breed's utility and character. Bite training introduces a dangerous conflict by rewarding aggression as a game. The dog learns that biting is not a last resort, but a desired and pleasurable response. This undermines the Kuvasz's natural ability to assess situations calmly and act with measured restraint.

Instead of evaluating threats with sober judgment, a bite-trained Kuvasz may begin to see opportunities for aggression where none exist. The result is not a sharper guardian but a less predictable, more reactive dog, which presents a serious liability in a family, farm, or community setting.

Preservation and Responsibility

At a time when dedicated breeders and clubs are working tirelessly to

preserve the true essence of the Kuvasz, introducing bite work is more than a personal choice. It is a step away from breed preservation. Every time we select or train for traits foreign to the Kuvasz's purpose, we erode the centuries of careful selection that produced this noble and discerning dog. Our obligation as preservation breeders and stewards of the breed is to protect its temperament, instincts, and dignity. The Kuvasz does not need to prove its courage through artificial confrontation. Its valor lies in quiet confidence, in the unwavering gaze that warns predators to stay back without a sound.

This is not to say the Kuvasz should be idle. Quite the contrary, they thrive when given structure, purpose, and opportunities to use their intelligence. Activities such as obedience, rally, scent work, therapy work, and farm-dog certification all offer meaningful engagement while reinforcing the breed's calm self-control.

Many Kuvaszok also excel as family companions and therapy dogs, their steady nature providing comfort and assurance to those they visit. And, of course, their greatest fulfillment still comes in doing what they were bred to do: guarding and standing watch over those they love.

Our breed's greatness lies not in its willingness to bite, but in its wisdom to know when not to.

—Maria Arechaederra,
Kuvasz Club of America
Board of Directors;
ederrakuv@aol.com
[Kuvasz Club of America](#)

Leonbergers

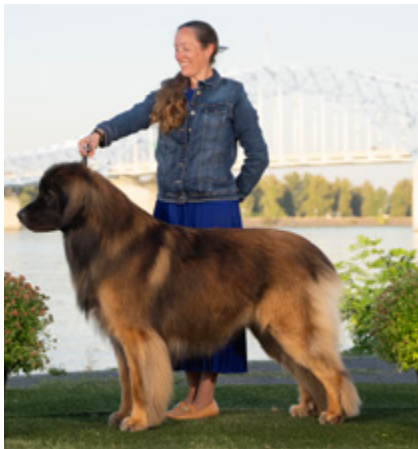
A HANDLER'S JOURNEY

The journey from being a newbie owner of a breed to becoming a successful handler in the show ring for the first time can vary with quite a learning curve. I had the opportunity to do a little Q&A with just such a newbie-to-professional-handler, Tiffanie Coe.

Coe's journey began with

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Tiffanie Coe with Leonberger Leo Roar [top left, center]; Tiffanie with Leo Roar's grandson Kristof [top right, left]

taking lessons in Michigan from fellow Leonberger owner Jan Bragoli describing ring patterns on napkins, followed by Coe practicing those patterns in the park-

ing lot. When Coe moved to Ohio, she then started driving an hour each way to take classes with Joe Caton and his daughter Kathy. Her next move took her out west to Washington, where she took classes from Kathy Lang.

In addition to all the formal lessons and classes, Coe also spent countless hours at dog shows, watching and learning from other handlers. In the process she learned a lot about how to groom her dogs according to our breed's written standard, and all the other work outside the show ring to help keep her dogs fit.

When Coe's daughter,

Mara, was born, she went to every dog show that whole first year of her life, and Coe appreciated the support network she had from her friends and other handlers. Coe was showing Leo Roar (Multi BISS GCh.P UKC Ch. RBIS Int. Ch. BluDrift's Bold Lion's Roar, RI, FDC, NDD, CGCA, CGCU, TKA, ATT, AOM) at the time.

Coe is now presenting Leo Roar's grandson Kristof (GCh.G Skyewood American Palisade by Adlihtam, CGCA, CGCU, ATT), who is still young but has already had successes, including a Best in Specialty

LEO ROAR: COURTESY TYLER CRADY-ROCHE, BOB KOHLER; KRISTOF: COURTESY TYLER CRADY-ROCHE, DIANA HAN/NORCAL BULLDOGGER

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under esteemed Leonberger breeder Alida Greendyke, and multiple group wins under very well-respected judges. And though Kristof’s personality in the ring is quite different from Leo Roar (Coe fondly describes Kristof as a complete clown), he doesn’t take it as seriously as Leo Roar but is showing a lot of promise already, including becoming the #1 Leonberger in September of 2025.

Coe feels very strongly about ethics and grooms her dogs to the breed standard. “The Leonberger breed should be shown in the natural state—no dyeing, no trimming, no sculpting. I wholeheartedly adhere to these guidelines because this breed is near and dear to my heart. I condition my dog daily, I line-comb daily, and at a minimum bathe weekly. It takes me about six months of daily wet-downs and blow-outs to train the coat. This is no small task and goes along with what you put in, you will get out. ... I always tell myself that I may not win every time I set foot in the ring, but I will

have the best-groomed dog in the ring.”

Coe also expressed her appreciation for Cheryl Cannon, the great Leonberger handler that truly paved the way for those that came after her, stating that she was truly an amazing mentor. “Cheryl and I ran the rings together for years, and at the end of the day, we could always visit, discuss grooming techniques, handling techniques, and life in general.” Cannon became so important to the Leonberger Club of America that a special club award was established in her name to be given out every year in her memory. Coe has become a mentor in her own right.

—Shannon White,
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Leonberger Club of America

Mastiffs

WHEN JUDGING THE MASTIFF

Whether a person is showing their first

Mastiff or is a seasoned professional or a provisional or experienced judge, it’s important to realize that each breed has its own personality, likes, and dislikes. The MCOA offers the following insights regarding how to judge a Mastiff and what the exhibitor should expect when being judged.

The approach

Always approach the Mastiff from the side, and not directly from the front. Mastiffs are notorious for being nearsighted, and they prefer to have you appear than watch you approach.

Speak to the exhibitor with a calm and friendly voice. After examining the bite and head, avoid speaking during the rest of the examination, as speaking over a Mastiff can unnerve them.

The hands-on examination

Examination of the bite should also include checking the bite’s occlusion.

During your examination of the front, feel for the prominent prosternum. Feel

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"Playing Mastiff Puppies," by Johannes Cornelis "Jan" van Essen (1854–1936)

that the chest extends to at least the elbow; "skirting," or excessive skin of the chest and flanks, can give a false illusion of depth.

Type, soundness, and balance

Dogs are usually larger than bitches but should not be given preference.

Proper proportion is preferred, rather than overall size. Overall height comes from depth of body, rather than length of leg.

The Mastiff is rectangular, with overall length coming from forechest to rump being greater than height at the withers.

Movement

Avoid excessive speed in the show ring. Speed doesn't always equate to correct movement, which "denotes power and strength" and has "good reach with the front and drive in the rear."

Mastiffs should never be "strung up" on a tight lead. They should be moved with their head slightly above level of the back, which allows for the greatest amount of front reach.

Presentation

Mastiffs are not "born show dogs," so do not put a premium on showiness nor

penalize a Mastiff for being less than "thrilled" during his ring presentation.

Mastiffs are a natural breed, so require little grooming. Watch for excessive trimming of the coat or any efforts to enhance mask or ear pigment. —Written by Diane Collings in 2013 [Mastiff Club of America](#)

Neapolitan Mastiffs

THE MARCH OF TECHNOLOGY IN JUDGES' EDUCATION

We did our first judges' ed seminar for a Chicago-area judges' study group in 1995. While the essence of the breed has not changed, and the breed standard has changed only a little, the technology we use in giving these seminars has changed quite a bit over the last 30 years.

The first presentation was with an overhead projector and transparencies. After a couple of seminars, I bought my own overhead because both we and many of the smaller judges' study groups worried about the cost and

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inconvenience of renting. And boy, I guarded my box of transparencies like gold.

In those days handouts were paper. We used to print two booklets, each about 50 pages. The first booklet had the presentation, one image per page, so people could make notes. The second had the history of the breed, the club, and several commentaries written by breed experts over the years. We would bind and then put these booklets in a neat plastic envelope along with a trifold of the standard, two copies of our club's newsletter, and some other "stuff" like a magnet, keychain, and probably most successful of all, a couple of pieces of hard candy.

This all was by design as the Neapolitan Mastiff, especially in the pre-recognition days, was approached with much caution by AKC traditionalists. In order to teach anyone, you have to "connect" with them—and in order to connect, they must be receptive to your message, which means

thinking in a positive way. So when we handed out this big, shiny envelope and it was thick with "stuff," it was really good to hear the "oohs and ahhs" as they opened and discovered the contents. "Look at all this!" they would say. The pieces of candy were always well received, and believe me, that worked to start seminars on a happy note. We were hot stuff and we knew it!

Each handout cost me about five dollars, and creating 20 for a seminar took about eight hours. The only

downside was lugging the heavy boxes of handouts (and the clunky overhead) but I never begrudged the time or the money because the positive nature of the reception was so very important to our breed!

Technology advanced, and it didn't take long until everyone started using PowerPoint and projectors attached to a computer. I bought my own projector again, so we never had to worry about renting one. PowerPoint was a breeze to use. There was an added



United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

- Scan the QR Code above to go directly to our Breed Information page.
- Visit our website at www.neapolitan.org
- Click the Breed Info tab to explore the breed history. Be sure to visit each information below the history to learn more about the majestic Neapolitan Mastiff.

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advantage that judges' study groups began to have their own equipment and we could send the PowerPoint presentation ahead, so there was no delay at the beginning of the seminar.

Handouts progressed to computer discs, and then to CDs. At first we still included all the paper handouts but added the disc or CD to the envelope, because for a long time only a minority of judges accepted the technology; the rest still strongly preferred paper.

But acceptance of technology grew steadily, especially when people realized it was lots easier to stash a CD in a briefcase pocket than to stuff that (impressive but large) envelope on top of everything else in your suitcase. A CD costs just over a dollar apiece if you buy in bulk; the cost might go up to \$1.50–\$2 if you invest in custom labels or print your own. Time to create a bunch might be an hour or two. Lots of savings for the club and the presenter, both in money and time too.

Presentations are still largely PowerPoint right now. It is portable across platforms, easy to share, easy to learn. I am sure other software or other development products are coming though.

Handouts continue to evolve, however. We switched to Thumb drives several years ago. These are easy to carry around and hold an impressive amount of information. Many judges bring their own iPad or laptop and make notes on their own computer copies and paper handouts began to seem redundant, and quite honestly, expensive. A thumb drive can cost about \$1.35. And since several years ago I had bought a bunch of club-logo-keychains, we just attach a thumb drive to a custom keychain, and *bingo-ban-go-bongo*, you have a cute, effective handout. You can carry 20 in one little pocket.

Our last JE seminar was given by our JE Committee Chair, Alaina Pierret, and Alaina has little patience

with “old” stuff and great enthusiasm for appropriate progress. Alaina created a QR code for judges ed. The handout is one piece of paper (or one text message) with the QR code. Most judges are now adept at using it to be instantly transferred to the location on our website with all current JE materials. Alaina reported that the reception of this neat tool was enthusiastic and immediate. Cost of the handouts with the QR code: \$0. Wow!

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,

Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com

United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

Our guest author for this issue is Jen Costello.

GROOMING TRUTHS I LEARNED THE HARD WAY

When I brought home my first Newfoundland, I was prepared—or so I thought.

I was armed with all the

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things that I was told I needed to raise a Newfie puppy, plus an arsenal of dog brushes and a full commitment to daily grooming. I was determined to do everything right and exactly how it was explained to me in the Newfoundland books.

On his first day home, I introduced a handful of grooming tools and got him up on the grooming table. He did great! We kept this routine going for just a few minutes every day.

Once I got him accustomed to the grooming process and familiar with the grooming table, everything went fairly smoothly, and I was pretty proud of myself and my puppy.

It wasn't until a year or so later that my grooming process began to crumble. His coat looked great on the surface. It was shiny and fluffy and beautiful. Then the mats started showing up. Not just little tangles behind the ears, but full-blown, thick mats that seemed to be popping up overnight in his undercoat.

I was confused—and hon-

estly, a little offended. With the amount of brushing that I was doing, there was no possible way that the coat should look that way.

I started digging and asking around in the Newfoundland community, and that's when I learned one of the biggest lessons of my Newfoundland owning life: Brushing the top layer isn't enough. What I thought was good grooming was actually just surface-brushing. I was only brushing the top layer of the coat, and I wasn't getting through to the second layer.

If that wasn't a big enough blow to my ego, I also learned that I was missing brushing the most important areas of the Newf, the areas where mats and tangles grow the most. These are considered high-friction areas, and they hide behind the ears, the neck (where all the drool goes), the groin, the armpits, and the hind end.

My Newfoundland looked well kept on the outside, but underneath, he was a mess.

My mistake led me down a

rabbit-hole of line-combing videos that I watched and studied. Once I discovered this miracle called line-combing, I went and got the grooming tools I needed. With my long-toothed comb and a slicker brush in my hand, a new grooming process for us was born, and everything started to get better.

I set the pin brush aside, started slowing down, groomed in small sections, and worked from the skin out. And guess what? Not only did the mats stop forming, but I was also grooming more efficiently and less.

I shifted to shorter grooming sessions a few times a week, focusing more on mat-prone areas rather than just the top of the coat, and his coat started looking good on the inside and outside. And the bonus, grooming became a great way for me to connect with my Newfie, and a pastime that we both enjoy.

Grooming shifted from being a chore to being a type of therapy for both of us. Now, it's not just about

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Top: Newfoundland ready to assist with grooming; below, nicely groomed results.



avoiding mats, it's about trust, comfort, and a special bonding routine we look forward to. Grooming a Newfoundland doesn't have to be complicated or a daily task, but it does require the right technique and mindset.

Now, years later, I can look back at some of my rookie grooming mistakes and chuckle a little, but I'll always share those mistakes with new owners in hopes they can avoid the same. After all, every Newfoundland deserves to be as comfortable as they are beautiful, and every Newfie owner deserves to have the knowledge to make that possible.

Happy combing! —Jen Costello, mybrownnewfies@aol.com

Thank you, Jen.
—Katie Dolan,
katie@katedolan.net
Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs PWDS AND SCENT WORK

Are you looking for a fun sport to share with your puppy or older dog? You may want to consider scent work.

The AKC has worded it perfectly:

“The sport of Scent Work celebrates the joy of sniffing and asks a dog to sniff to their heart's content, turning your dog's favorite activity into a rewarding game. It is a terrific sport for all kinds of dogs and is a great way to build confidence in a shy dog.” (www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work/)

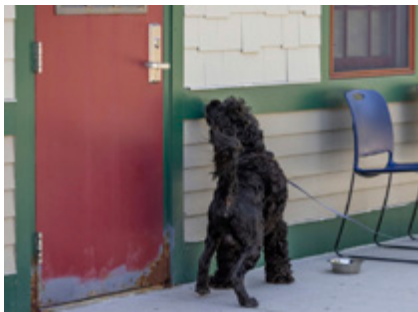
In so many dog sports the handler is in control but not in Scent Work. It is a working relationship. Neither the dog nor handler knows where the target odor is hidden. The handler must rely on the dog and follow the dog's nose to success. In scent work, it is the canine who is the star of the show.

If you are interested in competing in a scent work trial, there are two divisions and four levels of difficulty:

COURTESY JENNIFER COSTELLO

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Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Master. The two divisions are Odor

Search (the dog searches for the odor of one or more specific essential oils: birch,

PWDCA member Kathan Kennedy and her Portuguese Water dog, Steel, have competed and earned many titles in scent work. She attributes the team's success to "having fun with her dog, watching other dogs, and sharing her knowledge—but most of all, loving the journey she is on with Steel."

anise, clove, and cyprus) and Handler Discrimination, where the dog searches for the scent of his handler”.

Do you know that dogs have up to 300 million olfactory receptors, compared to a human's five million?

PHOTO CREDIT HERE

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“Another special feature of the dog’s nose is that both nostrils function separately, so dogs can smell two different odors at the same time while humans can only smell one odor. This form of three-dimensional smelling enables the dog’s super noses to distinguish whether a smell is coming from the left or the right, depending on which nostril the scent reaches first. This is also possible over great distances.” (<https://www.iron-dogs.org/en/>)

The part of a dog’s brain responsible for analyzing scents is approximately 40X larger than humans. Scent is used extensively in canine communication. Sniffing is an essential part of their social behavior, helping them learn about people and other dogs. It also provides mental stimulation for the dog.

PWDCA member Kathan Kennedy and her Portuguese Water dog, Steel, have competed and earned many titles in scent work. Steel earned his AKC Masters Container title,

qualifying in each of the 10 trials he entered. A perfect score! Kathan and Steel also have a NACSW Elite Champion title. Steel has collected many titles over his eight-year career. Steel is GCh. Downeast Tough as Valyrian Steel, RN, BCAT, SWD, SWM, SCME, CGCA, FTN, WWD.

I spoke with Kathan the other day and asked her to share the reason behind her success with Steel (and her other PWDs) She said something very profound that is true in training any dog, not just PWDs: “Have fun, don’t go crazy, enjoy having a good time with your dog and make sure he knows it. Don’t stress that Q!”

Kathan starts her dogs as puppies, developing their drive. At home, she works with her dogs developing a “search” for cookies or a stuffed Kong, hiding it all over the house. She uses “search” as her command, but you can use any command to start the game, such as “seek” or “find it.”

She was taught not to

begin with the essential oils, so that if your dog runs into trouble or has a bad experience, they don’t relate that situation to the odor.

Once they learn hunting is the best game in town, then they begin to pair odor with food, and before you know it, they understand that odor pays.

Steel was a natural at scent work. He took to it very quickly. (If you watch your dog during walks, playtime, or when you have your friends over, you can easily see which dogs love to track scents.) Kathan was also astute enough to realize which trainer she could work best with.

We all learn differently; some people learn via videos or reading. Kathan is more of a visual, “in-person” learner. This is a sport that can be self-taught, or you can attend a club that teaches nose or scent work. Kathan sought out a trainer who was involved with and taught SAR and had a wonderful experience that helped get her and Steel on

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the right track. She attended many different seminars in different locations and trained with many different people. When she was ready for Masters, she started competing in Novice and flew through all levels to Masters and Detective.

Kathan attributes her success to having fun with her dog, watching other dogs, and sharing her knowledge—but most of all, loving the journey that she is on with Steel.

—Angela Kalmanash
Portuguese Water Dog
Club of America

Saint Bernards

This month we share a poem that captures a look at dog shows.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

*Every dog has its day,
its time in the light—
or perhaps time in the
show ring would be
closer to right.*

*Thousands will enter,
a select few will win.*

*The next state, the next show,
most will enter again.*

*Like their parents before
them,
each one gets a turn;
groomed to the max,
they show what they learn.*

*With their heads held up
high,
through the show ring they
prance,
each placement of paws
a choreographed dance.*

Championship bloodlines

*flow through their veins
as they compete for the glory
of their own famous names.*

*From East Coast to West
Coast
bitches strive to be queens
and well-bred young stud
dogs
strive to be the best of their
breed.*

*In the end there's one dog
that reaches its goal—
among hundreds of ribbons,
there is only one Best in
Show.*



Saint Bernard

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

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(Author unknown)

—Anna May Fleischli
Brown,
stedekweis@aol.com
Saint Bernard Club of
America

Siberian Huskies

WHO'LL CARE FOR YOUR DOGS IF YOU CAN'T?

There comes a point in every breeder's life when they look at their latest litter of future stars and along with thoughts of angles, balance, tail-set, and ear-set, a simple math problem crops up:

"I'll be [this age] when these pups are 14 or 15."

And at some point, that age variable is going to be late 60s, mid 70s, or even 80s. At some point, the solution to the equation will be: "My dog will possibly [probably/likely] outlive me."

Those of us "of a certain age" know well that as the years pass, health problems crop up with increasing regularity, energy levels decrease, balance becomes more difficult, and muscle

strength fades. And especially if you own a kennel or house full of athletic dogs such as Siberians, as difficult as the thought is to contemplate, at some point you won't physically be able to care for them as you should. At a certain age, we must accept the reality of aging and consider what will become of our dogs when we can no longer care for them.

And, of course, accidents happen, and life can throw some amazing curveballs—meaning to say that even in young adulthood, the issue of providing for our dogs in case we're no longer a part of their lives deserves some thought.

We prepare ourselves to lose our dogs at some point, but we also need to consider the reverse situation.

First step? Talk to friends and family. Will your adult children be able to take on your dogs in case you become incapacitated? Do you have breeder friends whom you can rely on to house or place some of your dogs? Will they be able to

take multiple dogs? Can they keep together those dogs who are attached to each other? Decide on who you'd like to take care of your dogs if you're unable to—and it's always a good idea to have backups listed.

Decide what you'd like your dogs' lives to be like should they need to live elsewhere. Are you fine with putting your dogs with another breeder who has a large kennel, where they'll be housed in runs? Especially if your dogs live in your home as "pets," you may decide you want them to be with someone who'll keep them in their home.

Once you have a firm vision of what you'd like your dogs' lives to be like should you no longer be a part of it, inform family members, who'll most likely be the ones actually arranging for the transition. And don't forget to put your wishes in writing for emergency personnel if they're called upon. (And include crating/confining instructions so the dogs can be

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Siberian Husky

safely placed out of the way if first responders are in the home.)

If you're advanced in age and suffering health problems, or simply want to be prepared for all eventualities, place written feeding, medication and care instructions in a prominent place. It's not a bad idea to have that info printed on a card to be placed in your wallet or purse. Keep a copy in a folder in your file cabinet with your dog records and related papers.

If you have a will, or are

considering making one, have your attorney include your wishes for your dogs. Having it in writing in legalese will not only ease your mind, it will also ease the burden on your loved ones. Estate law, of course, varies widely from state to state, so consult a local attorney, and so much the better if he or she has a knowledge of dog issues.

Paperwork such as transfer of AKC records and ownership and veterinary authorization should also be considered.

But you don't necessarily need an attorney. You can create a handwritten agreement/contract with those you trust to care for your dogs. The Grey Muzzle Organization has a form, the Pet Protection Agreement, you can simply fill out. Include the info mentioned above: feeding, medication, veterinarian contact info, and general care.

There are some programs that help you care for your pets in case you can't. Check humane societies, veterinary schools, and with your own vet. While certainly a last-resort type of solution, it's preferable to having your dogs in a shelter or placed with a less-than-ideal rescue society. These programs can cost some money, which leads me to my next point.

While it's hard to imagine in today's economic climate, you may be in a financial position to leave enough money behind to ensure your dogs continue to be cared for as you care for them now. Setting up a trust will be the best way to

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

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ensure that money is used as you intend it to be. Your attorney can easily set it up for you and help you designate how funds are to be dispersed and utilized. You'll designate a trustee, who can access and disperse the funds as needed.

But a trust is best suited for those who can leave quite a bit of money behind for their dogs' care. Not a millionaire? Check with your financial advisor about setting funds aside for your dogs, or simply include a clause in your will providing funding.

Like most dog-related problems, the issue of what will happen in case you can't care for your dogs is best resolved by talking to your friends and family, planning (far) ahead, and making sure information gets to the people who need it.

And it should be settled well before you reach those advanced numbers in the equation.

—Karla Wall,

walls@suddenlink.net

Siberian Husky Club of America

Standard Schnauzers

TIPS ON GROOMING

Often newcomers can't grasp how to groom Standard Schnauzers. Breeders must teach their puppy people the correct way to groom the breed, whether owners intend showing in conformation or not. Some of my puppy people have wanted to clipper their dogs, but after I've explained how hand-striping helps SS stay warm in winter, cool in summer, and resist precipitation and dirt (and thus help keep the house cleaner), most preferred learning how to hand-strip the coat. The problem, they say, is getting that "Schnauzerish" look.

The SSCA has excellent grooming resources available on the club website (<http://www.standardschnauzer.org/newSSCA/publications.html>):

- the illustrated breed standard,
- the grooming video,
- the grooming guide.

The late Susan Mong, breeder of Florida's

Das Tropen Standard Schnauzers, wrote the last document and gave me a mimeographed (really!) copy in 1968; she later donated her guide to SSCA.

You need two other resources for grooming:

- the printed SS breed standard (http://www.standardschnauzer.org/newSSCA/breed_standard.html) describes exactly the appearance and structure of the ideal Standard Schnauzer; and
- the *AKC Complete Dog Book* (akc.org/shop/) contains a superb glossary of those terms one encounters reading breed standards, many which came to dogdom from the horse fancy.

Be aware that each SS is really *three* dogs:

- the *phenotype*—his overall appearance;
- the *genotype*—the genetic sum of his ancestors' positive features and negative flaws or faults, including health issues;
- the perfect dog—that clown you live with and love.

As the old song goes,

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“accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative” of your dog’s appearance according to the breed standard’s description. For example:

- Strip at least down to his nipples to stress his clean, working-dog lines.
- Show his long, elegant neck—groom the “side seam” cowlick in an arc emphasizing his neck curvature.
- Show his dark eyes—comb eyebrows to each side; trim in a straight line from outer eye corner to nose tip.
- Trim ear edges; pull the long hairs out of his ear canal with hemostats.
- Accent his square outline; groom his underline at an angle ascending from elbow to loin.
- Don’t leave a long “skirt” on his underline or under his chest—both visually shorten his legs.
- Keep chest hair short to show his brisket descending to the elbow.
- Groom his forequarters so his legs visually descend in a straight line from



Standard Schnauzer

shoulder to foot; avoid both looking out-at-elbow and a “violin” front; show his prominent breastbone and deep chest.

- Groom hindquarters to show a curved (not straight) stifle, short hocks, and when viewed from the rear, show inner leg curve as a Gothic (cathedral) arch descending smoothly to the foot—no bowlegs or cow-hocks, please; closely strip the curve of his buttocks; carefully groom his tail so you don’t inadvertently

give him a “squirrel tail” or low tail-set.

- Keep hair trimmed on feet-bottoms and up between his pads; use thinning shears to create the round, compact cat foot the standard describes. As one fancier advises, it’s better to let the judge know you’ve been remiss about nail-trims than for him to think your dog has huge feet!

—Suzanne T. Smith

[Standard Schnauzer Club of America](#)

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SECRETARY'S PAGES

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

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

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

Martha H. Goings, Huntington, IN,
Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club

Gregory Hastings, Hillsdale, WY,
Cheyenne Kennel Club

Crystal Messersmith, Columbia, SC,
Columbia Kennel Club

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

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
January 2026 issue!

NOTICE REPRIMANDS AND FINES

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individuals stand 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. Michelle Beatty (Middletown, MD)
Ms. Valerie Metcalf (Chandler, AZ)

NOTICE

Mr. Mark Bettis (Milaca, MN). Action was taken by the Granite City Kennel Club for conduct at its October 3, 2025 event. Mr. Bettis was charged with disorderly conduct. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Mr. John Bitner (Mechanicsburg, PA). Action was taken by the American Brittany Club for conduct at its August 16, 2025 event. Mr. Bitner was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally to a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective

October 8, 2025. (Golden Retrievers)

NOTICE

Ms. Norris Gillian (Santa Clara, CA). Action was taken by the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California for conduct at its September 20, 2025 event. Ms. Gillian 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. (Weimaraners)

NOTICE

Mr. Matt Reed (Burbank, CA). Action was taken by the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California for conduct at its September 20, 2025 event. Mr. Reed 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 three-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective November 4, 2025.

NOTICE

Ms. Carla Showalter (Hutchinson, KS). Action was taken by the Arkansas Kennel Club for conduct at its August 8, 2025 event. Ms. Showalter was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the pen-

alty as a one-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective November 1, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Mr. Sid Showalter (Hutchinson, KS). Action was taken by the Arkansas Kennel Club for conduct at its August 8, 2025 event. Mr. Showalter 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 one-year event suspension and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective November 1, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Dr. John Strassner (Gilroy, CA). Action was taken by the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California for conduct at its September 20, 2025 event. Dr. Strassner was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language and disruptive behavior. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the combined penalty as a three-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective November 6, 2025. (Collies, Shetland Sheepdogs)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for

six months and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested:

Effective September 23, 2025:

Mr. Jose Estrada (Houston, TX)
Poodles

Ms. Juana Gonzalez (Houston, TX)
Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. Jesus Muniz (Houston, TX)
Yorkshire Terriers

Effective November 25, 2025:

Ms. Jeffenye Coleman (Dallas, TX)
Bulldogs, French Bulldogs

Mr. Cesar Guillermo Ulloa Estrada
(Milwaukee, WI) Bulldogs, French
Bulldogs

Mr. Gonzalo Sanchez (Kauffman,
TX) Cane Corsos, French Bulldogs

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Danielle Jmel (New London, WI) for five (5) years from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$2,000 fine, for violating AKC's Personal Conduct Policy, effective September 23, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for one (1) year from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's Care and Conditions Policy (unacceptable condi-

tions, dogs, and/or facility) and AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements:

Effective September 23, 2025:

Ms. Kendra Richard (Fountain, CO) Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers

Effective November 25, 2025:

Mr. JR Harrison (Douglas, WY) Bloodhounds, Rottweilers
Ms. Tracy Harrison (Douglas, WY) Bloodhounds, Rottweilers

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for ten (10) years of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$2,000 fine, for violating AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment policy:

Effective August 19, 2025:

Ms. Julie Petro (Catawissa, PA) Multiple Breeds

Effective September 23, 2025:

Ms. Rachel Kornstein (Manchester, CT) Great Pyrenees

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for life of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$10,000 fine, for violating AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate

Treatment policy:

Effective September 23, 2025:

Mr. Timothy Zech (Belton, SC) Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has reprimanded Ms. Jane Lasher-Sobus (Fairfield, PA) and imposed a \$100 fine for signing a letter on behalf of a co-owner without written permission or a Power of Attorney form. (American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers)

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 judge's record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified *but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.*

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Ryan Blanker (99063) MA

(413) 372-3399

ryanblanker1210@gmail.com

Siberian Huskies

Tracy Gensler (118234) IA

(319) 936-0429

kyrieshelties@hotmail.com

Shetland Sheepdogs

Mr. Colton Johnson (115886) CO

(719) 268-0789

dogtrn@msn.com

Bullmastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Samoyeds, Bouviers des Flandres, Old English Sheepdogs

Mr. Kurt Kroemer (118275) AZ

kkroemer0308@gmail.com

Maltese

Mrs. Lani Kroemer (118274) AZ

(602) 471-1903

lani.kroemer@gmail.com

Maltese, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers, Lhasa Apsos

Samuel McGeachy (118269) NC

(909) 236-0987

sjm.marquis@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, Bouviers des Flandres

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Susan Abraham (81989) NY

(716) 731-4974

kristercollies@roadrunner.com

Australian Shepherds

Mrs. Donna Bennett (99281) OK

(918) 671-7133

donna@libertyakitas.com

Basenjis, Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Boxers

Mrs. Vicky Cook (103755) OR

(541) 601-5355

vickycook@mac.com

Dachshunds, Whippets, Papillons

Wendy A. Corr (104103) CA

(925) 381-1023

onakalmal@aol.com

Akitas, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Kuvaszok, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers

Marcie Dobkin (6442) CA

(858) 212-1346

msdobkin@cox.net

Bracci Italiani, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels,

Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mr. Mustaph El Khorchi (110865) FL

(561) 460-0461

musta@leongolden.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Cocker Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Weimaraners, Chihuahuas

Marie Ann Falconer (51642) TN

(413) 433-6474

mylaone10@aol.com

Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Brenda Fontanos (111809) OR

(541) 405-6896

cuddleums@gmail.com

Chinese Shar-Pei-Pei, JS-Limited

Mrs. Honey Anne Glendinning (6773)

CN

(604) 943-4313

honeyanne@icloud.com

Balance of Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, English Foxhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Salukis, Sloughi)

Mr. Rick Gschwender (6740) ID

(208) 477-3934

rggschwender@yahoo.com

Balance of Toy Group (Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Toy Fox Terriers)

Michelle LaFlamme Haag (69404) AZ

(801) 560-8091

saluki76@me.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds

Ms. Krista Hansen (95865) NY

(585) 993-1351

camlochcollies@aol.com

Cirnechi dell' Etna, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Ms. Kristen Henry (116735) CO

(303) 883-0144

kristen@bonchien.com

American Eskimo Dogs, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli, JS

Karen Justin (64864) NY

(845) 282-4758

impryal@aol.com

Boxers, Great Danes, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Komondorok, Leonbergers

Mr. Gregg G. Kantak (94772) MD

(202) 492-1876

greggkantak@yahoo.com

Azawakh, Basset Hounds, Beagles, Bloodhounds, English Foxhounds, Rhodesian Ridgeback

Sylvie McGee (95341) WA

(360) 704-8473

sylvie@sylviemcgee.net

Sussex Spaniels, Black Russian Terriers, Bullmastiffs

Ms. Mary C. Murphy-East (36967) MN

(763) 291-2263

marmcmurph@aol.com

Basset Hounds, Beagles, Borzois, Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Salukis

Mr. Adrian Quesada (96331) CA

(951) 751-4109

aqrexpert@aol.com

Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Beagles, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Mr. Gary C. Sackett (96555) NV

(702) 351-5566

gcsackett@yahoo.com

Smooth Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Russell Terriers

Mrs. Gina Schag (108997) IL

(630) 669-1131

chulachis@yahoo.com

Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Pugs, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Rhonda Silveira (100061) OR

(503) 428-2021

rsilveira.akcjudge@outlook.com

Akitas, Boxers, Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers

Ms. Amy Sorbie (36968) CO

(720) 245-5781

amy.sorbie@vca.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Miniature American Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs

Darlene Steele (109821) VA

(815) 325-2429

927rossans@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers, English Springer Spaniels, Vizslas

Sherri Swabb (111865) OH

(937) 620-0281

sllswabb@gmail.com

Great Pyrenees, Samoyeds

ADJUNCT APPLICANTS

The following applicants have been accepted for the breed(s) specified under the Adjunct System **but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments**

Mrs. Edy Dykstra-Blum (20342) FL

(352) 465-7142

bizzeebootsoes@gmail.com

Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas

Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA

(571) 318-2768

outlawgwp@aol.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANT

Rebecca Lloyd (118251) FL

bec1lloy@gmail.com

JS

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

Ms. Valerie Black (118119) WI

(262) 424-2240
valblack4@gmail.com
Berger Picards

Mr. Richard Bumstead (117921) NM

(505) 508-2108
glencClark6517@yahoo.com
Scottish Terriers

Mr. Gregory Griner (117577) OH

(330) 268-6814
ggriner33@yahoo.com
Great Danes, JS-Limited

Mr. Peter Holson (118002) NM

(415) 290-0910
peterhinsf@comcast.net
Border Terriers

Mrs. Eileen Indorato (113155) NC

(336) 417-1204
eileenindorato@yahoo.com
Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois,
Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens,
JS

Mr. Steve Patton (118081) TX

(318) 655-6392
stevepatton.judge@gmail.com
Italian Greyhounds, Boston Terriers,
JS-Limited

Mrs. Kim Russell (101351) CA

(510) 612-6935
bispoodle@gmail.com
Poodles, JS

Kimberlie Thomsen (118058) NV

(775) 720-4120
whitepeaksibes@yahoo.com
Siberian Huskies

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Larry C. Abbott (20217) TX

(972) 740-4881
larry@abbottusa.com
American Foxhounds, Beagles, Dachshunds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otterhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Whip-pets

Ms. Nancy Amburgey (42492) OH

(614) 264-7524
lopat@aol.com
Chinese Shar-Pei, Finnish Spitz, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers

Ms. JoAnne Buehler (22770) FL

(301) 590-9056
joanneb@his.com
Balance of Herding Group (Finnish Lapphunds, Lancashire Heelers, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs)

Ms. Janet Cherne (7256) CO

(303) 980-1970
cloud9k9s@comcast.net

Alaskan Malamutes, Siberian Huskies,
Miniature American Shepherds

Mrs. Linda Clark (94461) OK

(918) 625-8124
laclarkaht@aol.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Mastiffs, Rottweilers

Mr. Todd Clyde (52861) DE

(302) 542-3416
tclyde002@msn.com

Affenpinschers, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Russian Toys, Yorkshire Terriers

Mrs. Cathy H. Daugherty (6219) AR

(203) 565-5496
bisgringo1@yahoo.com

Barbets, Brittanys, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Weimaraners

Mr. Edmund Dziuk (26469) MO

(573) 424-2809
eddiedziuk@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, English Toy Spaniels, Japanese Chins, Manchester Terriers, Russian Toys, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers)

Mr. Jerome A. Elliott (112895) PA

(717) 884-2297
hautek9@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Chihuahuas, Pomeranians, Russian Toys, Toy Fox Terriers

Ms. Mary Lynne Elliott (100062) CO
(720) 289-2517

ml@vedauwoorr.com

Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Poodles, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Emily Fish (92354) WA

(360) 904-5765
emilypawcific@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Chinese Cresteds, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Poodles, Pugs, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas, Yorkshire Terriers), Basset Hounds, Boxers

Mr. Edward Fojtik (104757) IL

(847) 254-6166
efojtik@aol.com

Wire Fox Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Dr. Joseph E. Hug (91150) CO

(303) 717-1701
josephhug@gmail.com

Great Pyrenees

Mr. Douglas A. Johnson (17190) IN

(812) 322-0322
clussexx@aol.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Teddy Roosevelt Terriers), Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Briards

Mr. David L. Kittredge (7016) NY

(585) 279-9718
orangie@rochester.rr.com

Border Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terri-

ers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Ms. Dianne Kroll (44743) OR

(971) 221-7623

dianne.kroll@frontier.com

Shih Tzu, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Ter-
vurens, Berger Picards, Border Collies,
Old English Sheepdogs

Jessica Lewellen (106151) WA

(360) 390-8141

jessicalwellen@me.com

Saint Bernards, Lhasa Apsos

Mr. Kevin E. Lind (112598) MD

(202) 440-2225

kevin.e.lind@gmail.com

Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Ber-
nese Mountain Dogs, Boxers, Dogo
Argentinos, German Pinschers, Giant
Schnauzers, Great Pyrenees, Greater
Swiss Mountain Dogs, Leonbergers,
Rottweilers, Samoyeds

Ms. Patrice Loves (102871) PA

(717) 343-8619

lovesgold@comcast.net

Flat Coated Retrievers

Mr. Dale Meyer (6655) WI

(715) 654-5330

meyerd@tds.net

Dachshunds, Harriers, Otterhounds,
Scottish Deerhounds, Wire Fox Terriers,
Glen of Imaal Terriers

Ms. Kimberly Moshlak (114681) KY

(301) 802-4145

cubruncwc@gmail.com

Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Old En-
glish Sheepdogs, Pumik

Mrs. Kimberly Norton (110967) FL

(352) 606-3328

phasionwpt@aol.com

Dachshunds

Dr. Tracy Powell (101481) CT

(203) 631-7110

dulcedanes@yahoo.com

Basset Hounds, English Foxhounds,
Harriers, Norwegian Elkhounds, Rhode-
sian Ridgebacks, Whippets

Carol Pyrkosz (96273) TN

(352) 300-2711

cpyrkosz@yahoo.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Norwegian
Elkhounds, Plott Hounds

Ms. Pamela Schroeder (108285) WA

(778) 834-0059

pamelaschroederakc@gmail.com

Akitas, Saint Bernards

Mrs. Janet M. Schwalbe (48619) GA

(404) 295-4414

jmschwalbe@yahoo.com

Australian Terriers, Border Terriers,
Cairn Terriers, West Highland White Ter-
riers, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mr. Robert E. Schwalbe (55062) GA

(404) 403-1564

reschwalbe@yahoo.com

Australian Terriers, Pembroke Welsh
Corgis



SECRETARY'S PAGES

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Bruce Glen Barnes (40891) TX

(817) 235-4274

barnesbarnes465@gmail.com

JS-Limited

Miss Suzanne Garcia (107216) IA

(319) 429-1961

suzannegarcai42@yahoo.com

JS

Lydia Joiner (107669) TX

lydiajoiner@yahoo.com

JS

Mrs. Allison Corn Sunderman (112099)

MI

(517) 688-3059

sunoakn1@hotmail.com

JS

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Linda Churchill

Mrs. Marcia Galiga

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGE

Mrs. Marilyn Dromgoole

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.

Martha Campbell (96355) MA

978-660-4242

kcans@comcast.net

Regular Tracking VST

Jennifer Evans (116517) NJ

732-616-8265

willryan@optonline.net

Regular Novice

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.*

Teresa Czaplinski (112933) IN

317-509-8473

gantski@gmail.com

Provisional Open

Ken Kozak (106156) OK

405-602-0219

kennethkozak106156@gmail.com

Provisional Utility

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:

COPPERTHORNE – German

Shorthaired Pointers – Otis C. Batchelor
& Christine A. Kasmaul

RANTHORN – Border Terriers –
Elizabeth Crisp Blake

ROCKY TITAN – Cane Corso – Carter
W. Holmes

STINA – English Springer Spaniels –
Christina Thomas & Andrea Marsh

SHOWSTOPPER'S – Poodles –
Chamellia Lewis

SVF-Border Collies – Thomas D. Koch

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

ADELINE MEADOW – Saint Bernards
– Brenda L. Blackburn & Wendy A.
Rushing

CHAPPELLE – Whippets – Heather N.
Felty

HOUSE SAUVAGE – French Bulldogs
– Andrea M. Chavez-Busch & Ryan T.
Busch

LEGACY'S – Chihuahuas – Belinda D.
McCormick & Craig S. McCormick

OH BOY – German Shorthaired Pointers
– Russell J. Brown

PETTIBONE – Old English Sheepdogs –
Lauri Youngquist

PLACE2B – Belgian Malinois – Kate E.
Leary

RIVERSIDE – Nova Scotia Duck Tolling
Retrievers – Carla M. Spikberg

SHIREWAY – Nova Scotia Duck Tolling
Retrievers – Clara N. Bearshears



**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE
DELEGATES
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DECEMBER 12, 2025**

Gina M. DiNardo, President

PRESENT 294

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—
Ms. Constance Butherus

Akita Club of America—*Ms. Nancy S.
Amburgey*

Alaskan Malamute Club of America,
Inc.—*Kate McCallum*

American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—
Teresa Nash

American Boerboel Club—*Kerri S. Dale*

American Bouvier des Flandres Club,
Inc.—*Patte Klecan*

American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terry
Hilliard*

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
Club, Inc.—*Richard Alexander*

American Chesapeake Club—*Heidi Hen-
ningson*

American Fox Terrier Club—*Connie Clark*

American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harry
Miller*

American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Ms.
Sandy Bingham-Porter*

American Pomeranian Club, Inc.—*Dr.
Geno Sisneros*

American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G.
Piusz*

American Sealyham Terrier Club—*Barba-
ra Shapiro*

American Shetland Sheepdog Associa-
tion—*Marjorie Tuff*

American Sloughi Association—*Erika N.
Wyatt*

American Toy Fox Terrier Club—*Laura
Johnson*

American Water Spaniel Club—*Linda
McGrath*

American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Karen B.
Lee*

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of Ameri-
ca—*Edward Collins*

Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*

Anderson Obedience Training Club,
Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*

Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anne R.
Palmer*

Asheville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corie Haylett*

Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*

Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A. LaBerge*

Austin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Pam Whitley*

Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*

Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*William I. Christensen*

Barbet Club of America—*Stacy Able*

Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*

Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Robert M. Lamm*

Beaver County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Phyllis Belcastro*

Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Howard Solomon*

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Lisa Leffingwell*

Bell Vernon Kennel Association, Inc.—*Mike Kriegel*

Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mayno Blanding*

Birmingham Kennel Club, Inc.—*Martha Griffin*

Boca Raton Dog Club Inc—*James Conroy*

Border Collie Society of America—*Lisa M. Pruka*

Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Barbara S. Dalane*

Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*

Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Sandie Friend*

Bracco Italiano Club of America—*Allison Schultz, M.D.*

Bulldog Club of America—*Link Newcomb*

Bulldog Club of Philadelphia—*Elizabeth Milam*

Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*

Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Wayne Gilpin*

Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club—*Theresa Goiffon*

Canaan Dog Club of America—*Pamela S. Rosman*

Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—*Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki*

Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*

Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*

Carolina Working Group Association—*Matthew Townsend*

Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*

Catoctin Kennel Club—*Joseph Fitzgerald*

Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*

Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Rebecca Campbell*

Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Jason Hoke*

- Champlain Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*John E. Cornell*
- Charlottesville-Albemarle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. John J. Lyons*
- Chattanooga Kennel Club—*Mr. David Gilstrap*
- Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.—*Tracy J. Potts*
- Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*
- Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*
- Clackamas Kennel Club—*Tami Worley*
- Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*
- Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Underwood*
- Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Kelly E. Lease*
- Colorado Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*
- Conroe Kennel Club—*Jane Bates*
- Contra Costa County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leslie E. Savoye*
- Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Dr. Yves Belmont*
- Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America—*Leslie Puppo-Rogers*
- Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John Brading*
- Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Charles Garvin*
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Yoho*
- Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leah H. Schiller*
- Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Mark J. Walsh*
- Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore—*Mrs. Sandra McCue*
- Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*
- Detroit Kennel Club—*Lawrence A. Letsche, D.V.M.*
- Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland, Inc.—*Karen L. Keagle*
- Durango Kennel Club—*Donald E. Schwartz, V.M.D*
- Eastern Dog Club—*Frederick R. Vogel*
- Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*
- Elm City Kennel Club—*Dr. Gregory J. Paveza*
- English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Beth Hendrick*
- English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Cristy K. Joy*
- Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*
- Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Teresa M. Vila*
- Field Spaniel Society of America—*Lori Carver*

Finnish Spitz Club of America—*Kim Raleigh*

First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—*Neal Goodwin*

Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—*June Guido*

Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—*Alejandro Lima*

Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*

French Bulldog Club of America—*Robin Stansell*

Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Richard L. Reynolds*

Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins*

Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Virginia Denninger*

German Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—*June Johnston*

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—*Joan Payton*

Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—*Steven A. Sansone*

Gig Harbor Kennel Club—*Tom Lewellen*

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America—*Jo Lynn*

Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Bonnie Lapham*

Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia—*Debbie Hockaday*

Golden Retriever Club of America—*Mrs. Ellen Hardin*

Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Nance O. Skoglund*

Grand Rapids Kennel Club—*Mrs. Carol L. Johnson*

Grand River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Cindy Stansell*

Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Ellen C. Shanahan*

Great Dane Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Dale Suzanne Tarbox*

Great Western Terrier Association of Southern California—*Karen Smith*

Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—*Ms. Karen J. Burgess*

Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Shaw*

Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club—*Helen Norton*

Greater Lowell Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Patterson*

Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Askins*

Greater Naples Dog Club—*Ms. Arlene A. Czech*

Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—*Rhonda Shifferd*

- Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association—*Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz*
- Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*
- Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandra L. Rolenaitis*
- Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*
- Havanese Club of America—*Vicki Gray*
- Hawaiian Kennel Club—*Bruce Van Deman*
- Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia M. Cruz*
- Hendersonville Kennel Club—*Elizabeth Ann Brown*
- Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*
- Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Nancy Nelson*
- Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat*
- Intermountain Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michael L. Van Tassell*
- International Kennel Club of Chicago, Inc.—*Mr. D S. Pfeil*
- Irish Red and White Setter Association of America—*Christopher M. Orcutt*
- Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer*
- Irish Terrier Club of America—*Thea F. Lahti*
- Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—*Dan Sayers*
- Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Eugenia Hunter*
- Italian Greyhound Club of America, Inc.—*Jennifer Graves*
- Jacksonville Dog Fanciers' Association—*Victoria A. Marks*
- Japanese Chin Club of America—*Ms. Cecilia Resnick*
- Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri—*Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield*
- Kalamazoo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Angela Boeske*
- Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Christine Cone*
- Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Su*
- Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Mr. Thomas S. Powers*
- Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret Doster*
- Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A. Thomas*
- Kennesaw Kennel Club—*Dominic Koon*
- Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rob Barkhaus*
- Kuvasz Club of America—*Agi Hejja*
- Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—*Ms. Krista Beal*
- Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—*Steve Ostrander*
- Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Arna B. Margolies*

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America,
Inc.—*James Talbert*

Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—
Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.

Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan
Croft*

Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert
N. LaBerge*

Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*

Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sue
Goldberg*

Louisiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia
Sosa*

Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H.
Owen*

Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—
Jessica Ricker

Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*

Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn
Garvin*

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa,
Inc.—*Mr. Marc Crews*

Mid-Del-Tinker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr.
Billy J. Price*

Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*

Miniature American Shepherd Club of the
USA, Inc.—*Cynthia Weight-Carter*

Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—
Dr. Marci Cook

Miniature Pinscher Club of America,
Inc.—*Joanne Wilds*

Misphillion Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Todd
Clyde*

Mississippi State Kennel Club—*Roxanne
Hilsman*

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen
Bernardi*

Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—
Barry A. Hoovis

Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—*El-
leanor Campbell*

Mount Vernon Dog Training Club
(MVDTC)—*Christopher Marston*

Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary
Yoders*

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F.
Ruthford*

Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Erin M. Keen*

National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr.
Alfred J. Ferruggiaro*

National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi
Strouse*

New England Beagle Club, Inc.—*Blaine
Grove*

Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—
Julie Poulin Siefert

Nisqually Kennel Club—*Sylvie McGee*

North Shore Kennel Club—*Holly E. John-
son*

Norwegian Elkhound Association of
America, Inc.—*Mrs. Lisa Peterson*

- Norwich Terrier Club of America—*Marilyn Jacobs*
- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—*Brenda W. Dorman*
- Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—*Beverly H. Conroy*
- Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Bradford Yamada*
- Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*
- Ozarks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Frank Lavoie*
- Pacific Coast Bulldog Club, Inc.—*Kathy Delgrande*
- Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—*Frank Meister*
- Papillon Club of America, Inc.—*Sandra L. Schumacher*
- Park Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Olsen*
- Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—*Janine Rose*
- Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—*Mrs. Betty M. Winthers*
- Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Renee L. Popkey*
- Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—*Kevin E. Lord*
- Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Wayne Bond*
- Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association—*Sandy-Sue McClure*
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America—*Helen Ingher*
- Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*
- Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*
- Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Linda Gagnon*
- Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*Marlene Groves*
- Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Patti Jason*
- Portland Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Joan Savage*
- Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America—*Diane Conyers*
- Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Janet L. Boyd*
- Pug Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Michelle Anderson*
- Putnam Kennel Club, Inc.—*Berna H. Welch*
- Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America—*Mrs. Jean Pero*
- Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—*Mary L. Elliott*
- Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Debra Ferguson-Jones*
- Riverhead Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michael Capozzi*

- Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—
Barbara L. Burns
- Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*
- Sagehen's Retriever Club—*Josephine K.
Ottman*
- Sammamish Kennel Club—*Cyndi Skinner*
- Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Gary
Griffin*
- San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy J.
Shaw*
- San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M.
Wooding*
- Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita
R. O'Berg*
- Santa Maria Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita
Forde*
- Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mimi
Winkler*
- Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Geor-
gia—*Lynn Tyler*
- Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—*Lee A.
Stusnick*
- Scottish Deerhound Club of America,
Inc.—*Dr. Robert S. Dove, D.V.M.*
- Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen
A. Prince*
- Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeff Ryman*
- Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of
Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*
- Silky Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Lee-
ann Podruch, D.D.S.*
- Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tere-
sa R. Marley*
- Skye Terrier Club of America—*Brice Won-
ders*
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of
America—*Sally Sotirovich*
- Somerset Hills Kennel Club—*Lois Tubbs*
- South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C.
Flynn*
- South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie
Maulucci*
- Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—*Dr. Troy
C. Dargin*
- Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—
John V. Ioia
- Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—
Mrs. Glenda Stephenson
- Spartanburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sheila T.
Allen*
- Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*
- Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas
M. Davies*
- St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—*Isabel Ososki*
- St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—
Chris Murphy
- Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan
M. Napady*
- Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr.
Robert Eisele*
- Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura
Trainor*

Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*

Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*

Talbot Kennel Club—*Ann S. Wallace*

Tampa Bay Kennel Club—*Cheryl Secondo*

Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Richella M. Veatch*

Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*

Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—*Mallo-ry C. Driskill*

Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*

Topeka Kennel Club, Inc.—*Diana J. Komarek*

Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*

Tri-City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dawn Sealy*

Tucson Kennel Club—*Dr. Kenneth H. Levison*

Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T. Fujiwara*

Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jennifer V. Modica*

United States Australian Shepherd Association—*Judy A. Harrington*

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*

Utah Valley Kennel Club—*Kelly D. Reimschiessel*

Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol Fisher*

Vancouver Kennel Club—*Jolyne Lea*

Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy A. Rust*

Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Virginia T. Rowland*

Wallkill Kennel Club, Inc.—*Elisabeth Szymanski*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan R. Gladstone*

Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marthina L. Greer*

Weimaraner Club of America—*Jennifer A. Martin*

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*

Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Bruce R. Schwartz*

West Highland White Terrier Club of America—*Rebecca Koester*

Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—*Peter J. Festa*

Westminster Kennel Club—*Michael Faulkner*



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Laura Myles*

Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bonnie Bieber*

Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nanette Prideaux*

Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Jane Fitzin*

Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Dewey*

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Pamela A. Langstein*



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
DELEGATES MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2025**

Gina M. DiNardo, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. ET.

(National Anthem played.)

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. When Staff prints the blue-colored badge, the Delegate is automatically marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais: Chairman, Dr. Thomas M. Davies; Vice Chairman, Dr. Michael Knight; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary; Danielle Fernandez, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of members of the Delegate Body:

- Fred Hughes on January 30, 2025. He was the Delegate for the Pocatello Kennel Club since March 2006.
- Rita Mather on April 22, 2025. She was the Delegate for the Sahu-

ro State Kennel Club since April 2007.

The Executive Secretary read the report on the Nominating Committee and the report on additional nominations.

Ms. Goffe: Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, the **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- Gail LaBerge, Chair – Atlanta Obedience Club
- Gretchen Bernardi – Mississippi Valley Kennel Club
- Ellen Hardin – Golden Retriever Club of America
- Barbara Shaw – Greater Collin Kennel Club
- Matthew Townsend – Carolina Working Group Association

Alternates:

- Robert (Bob) Rynkiewicz – Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club
- Monica Stoner – Saluki Club of America

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2025 meeting have nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as to be filled at the next Annual Meeting of the Club on March 10, 2026. There

are three vacancies for the Class of 2030.

CLASS OF 2030

- Dominic Palleschi Carota – Pharaoh Hound Club of America
- Jason Hoke – Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club
- Thomas S. Powers – Kennel Club of Beverly Hills

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, the following Delegates has been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2030, to be filled at the next Annual Meeting of the Club on March 10, 2026:

- Carl C. Ashby III – United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.
- Karen J. Burgess – Greater Clark County Kennel Club, Inc.
- Patricia M. Cruz – Heart of the Plains Kennel Club
- Sue Goldberg – Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.
- Laurie Maulucci – South Windsor Kennel Club
- Lisa Peterson – Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.

Ms. DiNardo: The Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2025.

In accordance with the Delegate Standing Rule, each candidate is allowed three minutes to address the Delegate Body. Keith Frazier will indicate to the candidates when three minutes have expired. The Chair will introduce the candidates who will speak in alphabetical order and no questions from the floor will be entertained.

The first candidate for the Class of 2030 is Carl C. Ashby, III representing the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.

Mr. Ashby: Good morning. Let's consider the important role that club members play in everything that the AKC does. As a club of clubs, the AKC cannot move forward without mutual respect and trust between AKC and the clubs that sustain it. Too often, clubs feel that AKC is more focused on regulations, policy, and fees than on building relationships. That perception undermines the foundation of our shared mission. I strongly believe that clubs are the backbone of the American Kennel Club. AKC cannot survive without a strong and vibrant club network. For me, it's more than a talking point, it's something I believe in my core and will

guide me as a director. For AKC, clubs are not optional. Powered by the unpaid volunteers, clubs host events, training classes, showcase purebred dogs, provide political influence, and generate significant income to AKC. AKC must value its 5,000 clubs and listen to them. When was the last time your club was asked what their concerns were or how they might be helped? Understanding those concerns is extraordinarily important to build the type of relationship that we need. A partnership must exist between the clubs and the American Kennel Club. Clubs must also view AKC as an enabler and asset where neither can survive without the other. Finally rigid policies do not fit today's reality. Clubs need and expect common sense solutions to help meet the challenges that they face. I know that the AKC Board can take the lead in that. In 2016, like today, many clubs were struggling. I asked the Board to form the All-Breed Show Advisory Team. The mission of that team was to allow clubs to work with experienced people in the fancy to strengthen the financial performance of their clubs. Many clubs took advantage of this and benefited from it. The Club Development Department is a direct result of that effort and continues to provide assistance to clubs, mentor them and share expertise. That is the type of relationship that we must have with our clubs. I am committed to creating a stronger AKC-

club bond, one that's built on trust, respect, and collaboration so that both the AKC and clubs can succeed more than they ever have before. In March, I do ask for your vote, not just to elect me, but to create a vision where all of our clubs and AKC work closely together, and that'll be carried through with everything that we do. Thank you.

The second candidate for the Class of 2030 is Karen J. Burgess representing Greater Clark County Kennel Club, Inc.

Ms. Burgess: Good morning, everyone. Like you, I have an extensive background in the sport of purebred dogs. I've been a Delegate for the Greater Clark County Kennel Club for 26 years. A club officer, board member, show chair, show secretary for multiple All-Breed group and Parent Club events. I sit on the Board of Directors and have twice served as a Secretary to the show committee for Morris and Essex. You have elected me to our Delegate Parent Clubs Committee for multiple terms.

We have challenges across the country and in various events, the facts are clear – overall traditional sports entries are down and expenses are up. Club membership is not valued in the same way it once was. We have new participants, new sports, and new special events, which must be considered in our planning. Many of the

new participants want events that result in personal achievement between them and their dog, but don't require extensive timing or training. What I hear from those clubs involved is that we are tired. Tired of the bureaucracy made to feel that what clubs do is never enough. Tired of being made less than while attempting to work with certain AKC resources. I think most of you have had personal experiences along these lines.

So how can I work to help the AKC Board help our clubs? My professional experience as an accountant involved problem solving, strategic planning, finance, budget, tax preparation, personal management, purchasing, and contract negotiations. I know how to read a balance sheet and what questions to ask about the numbers. I have worked with the past AKC Board and Staff to develop new events and to adjust some processes. If elected, I plan to do more. We need strong, inclusive, encompassing strategy to support our core events, our newer activities, and develop new ways to serve our clubs and the dog-loving community. I believe my experience and advocacy for clubs and support of purebred dogs, along with your support, will help us move forward to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. I look forward to speaking with you individually about your ideas and I appreciate your vote. Thank you.

The third candidate for the Class of 2030 is Dominic Palleschi Carota, representing the Pharaoh Hound Club of America.

Mr. Carota: Good morning, everyone. My name is Dominic Palleschi Carota. I'm a 14-year Delegate for the Pharaoh Hound Club of America. I served on the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club for eight years. Four years of that was as Vice Chairman. What got me to that point? We all got our first dog from a breeder. Those individuals mentored us and were our entrance into Confirmation, Companion, or Performance events. What that taught me was cooperation, it taught me how to work with people, how to love people, how to develop lifelong friendships and relationships. I have a 27-year relationship with my handler. We were both young when we started. I walked her down the aisle. This is the group that we are. What does that mean? How does that translate to today? We have to work together to get through the challenges that are out there.

As I touched on earlier, the challenges facing the American Kennel Club are technology, artificial intelligence, animal rights organizations, the advent of lower cost, and more efficient cloning. They are not the American Kennel Club's doing, they are challenges we will face in the world for decades to come. I want to be that voice in the boardroom for you. I

want to be able to work with you.

As I started out, I had a great relationship with my breeder. I developed a breeding program. I took that level of cooperation, that level of engagement, and I brought it to the Delegate Body, and I served on the HEC Committee. During that time on the HEC Committee, we came up with a little event called Fast CAT[®], which we thought was a good idea. Under the leadership of Bob LaBerge, who was our Chairman, and in cooperation with staff, we put through some protocols that the Board ultimately passed. Now we have a sport that, in many cases, has been the lifeblood of many clubs in our organization. In some cases, it's kept the lights on. I took that experience from the committee and brought it to the Board.

Now, you've heard me say, 'I', a lot. Well, let's forget about that. Let's talk about 'We'.

To get things done in that boardroom, you have to be able to reach across the aisle to make an agreement and sometimes it does not go the way you think. What you do next is respect that person and move on. That is the core of our sport. Without respect, without civility, without cooperation, without leadership, we are sunk. When I first joined the Board, I reviewed what the statute says about not-for-profits in the state of

New York. It's three words, folks, duty of care. You have to care for this organization and protect it. We have to protect it moving forward. Please support me in March. I want to be that voice for you in the boardroom and protect this organization for the next 140 years. Thank you so much.

The fourth candidate for the Class of 2030 is Patricia M. Cruz representing Heart of the Plains Kennel Club.

Ms. Cruz: Good morning. For those of you who don't know me, allow me to introduce myself. I'm Pat Cruz, Delegate for the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club in Lubbock, Texas. As a seated Delegate for ten years before running for the Board, I know that a Board seat is not an entry-level position. After 50 years in the sport, let me assure you that this is not my first rodeo. A brief resume of my dog experience – I'm a breeder, owner, handler, exhibitor, ring steward, member of Dog Writers Association of America. Currently, an approved AKC Judge since 1972. I've been privileged to judge on six continents and recently was involved with the FCM paperwork securing the show in November 2026 in Mexico City. I'll be on that panel. I'm a member of the Afghan Hound Club of America since 1978. I'm not a new kid on the block. I recently helped restore the Knickerbocker Bull Terrier Club, I'm active in local kennel

clubs and have served as an officer in many kennel clubs and in my Homeowners Association.

I'm proud of the motions and the votes on behalf of the clubs and the judges while I was on the Board. For example, our Delegate e-List is more secure after working with AKC's IT Staff taking it from Yahoo to Google when people were besieged. Your exhibitors and your judges are safer because I pushed that AEDs be mandatory at shows. NOHS is now an opt-in for clubs when it was originally supposed to be a requirement. Concurrent and FSS specialties are now part of an All-Breed event. The two-shows-in-a-day format was passed in 2013 and first held at my local shows proving to be helpful for struggling clubs in building treasuries. Several years ago, after more than one Board vote, I was successful in unmasking the names of judges on applications and fought for the denial of the Judging Approval Process at that time. Clubs now have Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy classes, a motion that I made in 2017 which has helped give dogs that don't mature as quickly as others the ability to get the coveted Bred-by-Exhibitor medallion.

What about now? Many questions about eliminating Limited Registrations. Too many dog shows, not enough dogs. Judges advancing without seeing enough dogs to find indigenous breed type. Disquali-

fying unacceptable colors in the breeds. Companion and Performance events being a fun for spectators, while Conformation totals fall. Seventy-five new Delegates in 2025, this high turnover should be reversed. The loudest cry has been the increase in fees, and I really believe that they should not land on the backs of the kennel clubs. They didn't incur these increases in fees. They're only trying to make up for the shortfall.

I've been your voice in the boardroom for eight years, and I loved it. I will continue to speak for you. I would appreciate your vote in March. Thank you very much.

The fifth candidate for the Class of 2030 is Sue Goldberg representing Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club.

Ms. Goldberg: Good morning. AKC Reunite, the Humane Fund, the Canine Health Foundation, Government Relations, the Dog Museum, these are just some of the initiatives I've witnessed in my 34 years as a Delegate of which AKC can be justifiably proud. During that same time, however, I've also borne witness to some disastrous business decisions. Decisions that were disclosed to this Delegate Body after the fact, that have cost the AKC millions in losses and have strayed far from its mission.

As an Executive Recruiter for the last 41 years, I ask questions for a living. I've

observed the leadership styles and decision-making skills of senior management at small, privately held companies to the Fortune 100. Decisions that help companies thrive, others to merely survive, and in some cases, the unfortunate choices that doom companies to failure.

I commit to you that if elected, I will not vote on any action until we have satisfactory answers to these three questions:

One, what are the unintended consequences of this decision?

Any idea needs to be thoroughly vetted before proceeding. What's the worst that can happen? I believe in hoping for the best but planning for the worst. What's our exit strategy if things don't go as planned? Asking tough questions has been the cornerstone of my business career.

Two, how does this align with AKC's mission?

I recognize the need to introduce mixed breeds into our sport, but our focus must remain on the reason AKC was founded in the first place, to preserve and protect the purebred dog. Preservation breeders devoted to creating sound, healthy animals should be valued and promoted. Any action the board takes should support them.

And, last, but definitely not least, how

will this action affect our clubs?

I understand a Board member's first fiduciary responsibility is to the organization, but that should not be to the exclusion of the interests of the clubs. If anything, we should try to minimize their burden. Why was the event fee raised despite the resounding objection of this Delegate Body? We are all in this together. The boardroom door should not be shut, keeping the Delegates out, awaiting the results of a Board action in which they had no say. We have many smart, talented Delegates in our midst. Why not reach out and tap those talents before anything is cast in stone? Hearing a variety of opinions, disagreeing without being disagreeable, learning from the expertise of others, these are part of crafting a strong business plan.

My goal, as a Board member, is to help the AKC regain its footing making sound business choices to move the organization forward while staying true to its mission and keeping the interests of our clubs at the forefront. If you agree that the Delegate Body deserves a stronger voice at the boardroom table, I would like to be that voice and I'm asking for your vote. Thank you.

The sixth candidate for the Class of 2030 is Jason Hoke, representing the Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club.

Mr. Hoke: Good morning, everyone. I

am Jason Hoke representing the Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club. I have to say, standing before you, this is a humbling experience because when I look out into the room, I see all of the people that mentored me and brought me to this point in my career. What that does, that speaks to the tradition of the American Kennel Club. It shows that we build a community and a family throughout the years, and that's how we can maintain the sport forever. It's really in that tradition that I form my core values that I bring to the world of purebred dogs. Many of you gave me this opportunity to learn, and now I ask for the privilege of giving back to you.

We talk about tradition and tradition matters, but so does progress. What I hope to bring to the AKC board is a steady respect for our history paired with a clear, forward-looking vision. We're standing at a pivotal moment in the time of AKC, one that calls for innovation, creativity, and the courage to evolve. Change is hard. I still have an AOL email address, it's really hard to not move past that. I did get a Gmail address now, so I'm moving ahead. The AKC was founded in 1884 and it remains the gold standard of registries. But as registries decline, I don't see a failure, I see a way to progress and move forward. I see opportunity. The AKC paper must once again feel valuable. In today's world,

value comes through enriched, modern offerings. When someone registers a dog, they shouldn't feel they just have a piece of paper. They should immediately feel they have joined a community. We offer all of these introductory courses, and these courses through the Canine College or the AKC website now must lead directly to platforms to give new people instruction. We have to understand the world has changed. We don't necessarily sit in front of a computer anymore. Everything is on your phone. I see a few of you on your phone right now. We have to embrace this technology. The youth of today wants things instantaneously. They cannot be held to go to a web browser on a computer. They have to be able to click, point, get information quickly, and move on, that's how society is becoming.

The next thing, which we didn't talk about during the forum, is we must invest deeply in our Juniors. That's where I started. I started as a Junior Handler. Juniors are our future breeders, judges, club members, and maybe AKC Board members at some point in their career. We have to create a post-Junior pathway for the Juniors to move through, from Juniors to working for clubs. There has to be programs that bridge this gap. Retention is not a must, it's a necessity. We have to engage them and keep them involved, it's so important.

Just as important as that are the Performance and Companion events. I hosted the Great Dane Club of America National as a Show Chair two years ago. We had more entries in Performance and Companion events than we did in regular entries. We have to educate the clubs on the value of this. Perhaps the most urgent message we need to send is supporting anti-dog legislation. If you ask me the one thing I will not bargain with as a member of the Delegate Body is my undying legislative support. I offer over 50 years in this sport; I'm a member of three All-Breed Clubs and serve on the Board of two Parent Clubs. This is what I can give back to the AKC Delegate Body, and I hope that you'll support me in moving this club forward. Thank you.

The seventh candidate for the Class of 2030 is Laurie Maulucci representing the South Windsor Kennel Club.

Ms. Maulucci: Good morning. Those of you who know me, know that I am deeply immersed in the business of AKC clubs and AKC events 52 weeks a year. I'm an active member of nine All-Breed specialty and group clubs holding a variety of leadership positions. As an All-Breed and specialty Show Chair, I'm committed to my support for Companion and Performance events. Three years ago, I brought together two clubs to jointly hold four Fast CAT® events annually. In 2024,

our Thanksgiving Classic Cluster lost its Obedience and Rally Chair and had no one within the cluster clubs willing to fill that void. I reached out and brought together a team that has now created a three-day Obedience and Rally Extravaganza that we are happy to say grew exponentially for 2025. I also recently chaired my first Agility trial.

We are all able to gather together here because of breeders. Our breeders deserve to be celebrated, not denigrated. Protecting their ability to produce dogs with which we share our lives, as well as participate in AKC Sports, should be of utmost importance. In 2014, I was elected President of the Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs, working with AKC Government Relations to monitor proposed legislation that would affect not only breeders, but also all dog owners in our state. In 2024, we were awarded the Walter Bebout Memorial Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation.

I'm proud to be one of the core members of the AKC-Tufts Canine Whelping Program course, which is entering its eighth semester at Tufts Veterinary School. We partner first and second year vet students with AKC breeders planning a litter so they may learn firsthand the dedication to exceptional breeding practices necessary for producing a successful litter. These students have been able to gain an under-

standing of what a responsible breeder looks like, as well as experience a natural whelp, both things the vet school curriculum is unwilling or unable to provide.

I've been working to help clubs succeed in a multitude of areas for over 30 years. This experience has given me a breadth of knowledge that will enable me to be a strong voice on the Board for the clubs that you and I are here to represent. There have been moments during 2025, when voices from the Delegate Body expressed a desire to be more informed about the business of the Board, particularly when business decisions are being made that directly affect our clubs. I know that I have the skills to make significant contributions while working collaboratively with fellow members of the Board, Staff, and the Delegate Body. I envision my service on the AKC Board to be a continuation of the contributions to AKC that I have made during my adult life. Representing you and all of our clubs as a member of the Board would be my honor. Thank you for your consideration.

The eighth candidate for the Class of 2030 is Lisa Peterson representing the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.

Ms. Peterson: Good morning. When I first became a Delegate in 2001 for the Norwegian Elkhound Association of

America, I had little interaction with AKC beyond dog shows and registration. But when I walked into the ballroom for my first meeting, met the staff, and listened to the leadership on the dais, my eyes lit up, and I began to dream. During this time, I was an owner, breeder, handler, competed in Obedience, and had enjoyed a career as a journalist covering the criminal justice system. Three years later, I was hired by the AKC to join the Communications department, filling a vacancy left by Gina DiNardo, who had been promoted. A few months later, I finished a nice bred-by bitch, reflecting six generations of responsible breeding. When I was awarded the winner's bitch ribbon, I started crying. Not because I had won, but because I knew that I would not get to special this lovely bitch because my new role at AKC didn't allow us to show champions. I was given the rare opportunity to put aside my future individual wins to serve as an AKC spokesperson and eventually as Director of Communications for a decade. I would get to promote AKC's commitment to purebred dogs to millions of people. I chose the greater good over the personal best.

As a former staffer, two of my proudest moments are being part of the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief team and my small role in defeating a proposed mandatory spay-and-neuter law in California,

AB 1634. It became a national issue. I appeared on Fox News and went head-to-head with the bill's co-sponsor. I convinced USA Today to write an editorial in our favor, and I wrote an op-ed read by lawmakers about the misguided legislation. In the end, AKC, its federations, clubs, breeders, and more all working together defeated the bill.

After AKC, I founded my own PR consulting company and worked with Westminster as a PR Manager for six years. I helped hundreds of journalists tell the story of responsible breeders. More recently, I worked at Embark Veterinary, a dog DNA company, overseeing breeder content marketing and sponsorship events. When asked to return as my Parent Club Delegate earlier this year, I gladly accepted. I am ready to get back to work. I'll bring my journalist's objective fact-finding skills to make decisions on the Board, and I won't be afraid to speak my mind. We are on a journey together. As a returning Delegate and a former staffer, I bring a fresh perspective to an institution I know intimately. Despite current challenges, I believe AKC will thrive if we embrace change further. I'd like to be the agent of change on the Board. I'd be humbled if you'd let my passion, talents, and experience help lead the way. Thank you.

The ninth and final candidate for the Class of 2030 is Thomas S. Powers repre-

senting Kennel Club of Beverly Hills.

Mr. Powers: Good morning. I'm honored to be re-nominated by the Nominating Committee for this position. I've been on the AKC Board for 12 out of the last 14 years. I've served on the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Board Appeals Committee, and the Pension Committee. Prior to that I served on the Board appointed Constitution and Bylaws Committee, known as the Menaker Committee. We met once a month for three years and did a complete review of AKC's Constitution and Bylaws. For a number of years before being in the Delegate Body, I was the Chair of the Southwest Trial Board. I have a deep appreciation of our traditions as I was raised in a family of breeders where my parents were breeders, exhibitors, dog club presidents, and show chairs. Both of my parents were Delegates. I have it on good authority that only Mari-Beth O'Neill and I can make that claim of having two parents in this Delegate Body. In the early 1960s, when our family got our first Irish Wolfhound, that was when my interest in purebred dogs really took off. After the death of my father, my mother gave the kennel name to my wife and myself, and we continue to breed and show Irish Wolfhounds under the prefix of Powerscourt. Lani and I have also bred and shown finished Mastiffs, Beagles,

Dachshunds, Glen of Imaal Terriers, and Harriers. We're now down to four dogs, but we're still breeding. I've always been interested in the business side of dog shows – that began about age 14 when I was selling catalogs at the Plainfield Kennel Club dog show in New Jersey. I have been a member of the Plainfield Kennel Club and the Irish Wolfhound Club of America for 56 years. Almost 40 years ago, Lani and I joined the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills, and I was appointed show chair. As a member of that team, I've been privileged to produce a number of truly spectacular dog shows, including one on USA Network and two on the NBC Network.

My professional career has been long and varied. I practiced law for almost 50 years in California. I represented everything from common street criminals to Fortune 500 companies. About half of my practice is transactional and the other half was in litigation. I can't tell you how many co-ownership disputes I've handled over the years and that turns out to be my pro bono work for the fancy. I know how to ask questions. I know how to make decisions and bring to you what I hope is reasoned, mature judgment. I know how to form consensus. I've been in a number of businesses, a veterinary clinic, retail pet supply, dry cleaning business, and I look at AKC as a customer service busi-

ness like all of those were. I know how to make a payroll. I know how to make sure that the bills are paid, and I know that the employees and the constituents are counting on the company to do those things. I want to represent you. I want to represent your clubs, your members, and all the constituents of the AKC, so let me ask you directly, please vote for Tom. Thank you.

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

Donald M. Bright, Elberon, VA to represent Tidewater Kennel Club of Virginia

Frank E. Lavoie, Bois D'Arc, MO, to represent Ozarks Kennel Club

Professor Tom K. Lewellen, PhD, Port Ludlow, WA, to represent Gig Harbor Kennel Club

Pamela B. Peat, Scottsdale, AZ, to represent Affenpinscher Club of America

Cheryl L. Secondo, Brooksville, FL, to represent Tampa Bay Kennel Club

Dawn Sealy, St. Augustine, FL, to represent Tri-City Kennel Club

Patricia A. Sosa, Madisonville, LA, to represent Louisiana Kennel Club

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

Frank E. Lavoie, to represent Ozarks Kennel Club

Professor Tom K. Lewellen, PhD, to represent Gig Harbor Kennel Club

Alejandro Lima, to represent Fort Lauderdale Dog Club

Linda McGrath, to represent American Water Spaniel Club

Cheryl L. Secondo, to represent Tampa Bay Kennel Club

Dawn Sealy, to represent Tri-City Kennel Club

Rhonda Shifferd, to represent Greater Ocala Dog Club

Patricia A. Sosa, to represent Louisiana Kennel Club

The minutes of the September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting were published in the online October 2025 *AKC Gazette*, and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as published. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Morning, everybody. It's great to be together again as we close out another year in the life of our organization. Our

December meeting always gives us a moment to pause, reflect, and celebrate. It's time to reflect on our progress, share meaningful dialogue, and look forward to the year ahead. The year has been a meaningful one for AKC, a period marked by transition, renewed focus, and continued evolution in our programs and relationships. We're closing a chapter that reminds us how far this organization has come, particularly with the 25th anniversary of the AKC National Championship, that has grown into an international canine event. As we consider what this anniversary represents, I'm reminded of Peter Drucker's words: "*The best way to predict the future is to create it.*" Our championship show is a clear example of that idea – the show began as Ron's vision and, through years of hard work, has become the premier stage for our sport.

What began as an ambitious concept has evolved into a showcase of the collective passion of breeders, exhibitors, handlers, judges, volunteers, staff, and partners. As we honor this anniversary, we're celebrating an embodiment of everything purebred dogs represent: tradition, heritage, commitment, and excellence. Even as we celebrate the strength of our traditions, we must look ahead. The future of our mission to protect and preserve the purebred dog increasingly demands a global perspective. We continue to strengthen

our relationship across the global purebred community through meaningful international collaborations. Our work with the FCM – Federación Canófila Mexicana, including the historic upcoming show we are licensing and sanctioning, demonstrates the value and strength of working collectively. Alongside our relationships with the Royal Kennel Club, the Canadian Kennel Club, and many others around the globe, these efforts reflect AKC's growing leadership in canine stewardship. These alliances are essential as responsible dog ownership and ethical breeding face increasing pressure worldwide. Looking towards 2026, we also have exciting developments here at home. Next year, we launch the Regional National Owner-Handler Series events, an important expansion that brings higher-level competition closer to owner-handlers across the country. We're also preparing to introduce the Regional Junior NOHS competitions, offering young handlers more pathways to grow, learn, and thrive in our sport. These initiatives reflect our long-term vision – a sport that is accessible, welcoming, and positioned for healthy growth.

Engaging new exhibitors, supporting young people, and reinforcing opportunities for owner-handlers are investments in our future. But no program, no event, no initiative can secure the future of our

sport on its own. People do that. We do that. As we look toward that future, I think of Winston Churchill's reminder: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." Perseverance is woven into every corner of our community – from the breeder working toward the next generation, to the Junior mastering their craft, to the clubs that keep the sport thriving week after week.

For 2026, the challenge before us as a community and as stewards is to strengthen the culture of our sport by fostering kindness, mentorship, and a genuinely welcoming environment. Though running shows can be stressful, the tone set for newcomers and seasoned exhibitors determines who feels supported, respected, and connected within our community. Good sportsmanship, family-friendly shows, and a spirit of helping one another must remain our standard.

As leaders at the club level, we must also be strong advocates for the American Kennel Club and for the importance of registration, ensuring that exhibitors and the public understand the value that it brings to preservation breeding and the future of our sport. These behaviors will influence the future of our organization every bit as much as the rules we adopt and the programs we create. During this holiday season, I want to offer my warm-

est wishes to you, your families, and of course your dogs. I hope the weeks ahead bring rest, joy, and meaningful time with the people and traditions that matter most. Thank you for your leadership, your partnership, and your unwavering commitment to our American Kennel Club. Happy holidays.

Ms. DiNardo delivered the President's Report as follows:

As we close out the year together, I want to begin with simply – thank you. This has been a year of transition, of growth, of continued evolution for our organization and our sport. Throughout every change, every challenge, and every opportunity, the AKC community has demonstrated that we are dedicated, resilient, and deeply committed to the future of our dogs. We have so much to be grateful for.

This year has reminded us that progress doesn't happen all at once, it happens step by step, decision by decision, with the support of people who care. I'm proud of the direction in which we are moving and the work we are doing to strengthen our programs, modernize our operations, expand our outreach, while still protecting the traditions that make our sport meaningful. As we gather here at year's end, our thoughts naturally turn to this wonderful weekend in Orlando,

the flagship event that has come to define our celebration of dogs – the AKC National Championship.

Many of you remember its beginnings, the journey to get to this 25th anniversary was a long one. In 2001, the show launched as the American Dog Classic, a new idea derived by Ron Menaker, an invitational event that marked the early days of what would become our crown jewel. Over the past 25 years, we've transformed this event into a true showcase of excellence, passion, and community. In that time, we've crowned 24 National Champions across 22 different breeds, each representing the very best of our sport. As the event has grown, so has our commitment to elevating the experience for exhibitors, breeders, handlers, and spectators alike. In 2003, we introduced the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor competition. In 2013, we added National Owner-Handled Series Finals. In 2017, we debuted the AKC/Royal Canin All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes, a competition that highlights the next generation of show dogs. This year, on our 25th anniversary, we celebrate an extraordinary milestone with more than 9,160 total entries and 5,557 dogs competing for the title of America's National Champion.

These numbers represent more than participation. They represent commitment, your commitment. They reflect breeders,

exhibitors, handlers, volunteers, and staff who believe in this sport and will work tirelessly to preserve it. They represent our future. And they represent something even deeper – connection. We are fortunate to be part of a sport that continues to bring people together at a time when so many institutions see declining engagement and participation. As more of our daily lives shift online, the real in-person spaces where people can gather and build relationships and find belonging have grown fewer. Yet here we are together in Orlando, surrounded by dogs, friends, competitors, and the place that brings us joy, purpose, companionship, and a reason to show up. This week is about more than spirited competition, it's about belonging, friendship, the joy that comes from sharing our passion. It is a reminder of why our mission matters and why this community endures. As we celebrate this week, I encourage each of you to take a moment to reflect on the gift we share, the privilege of stewarding a sport rooted in purpose, passion, and tradition. While we're together this week, practice one random act of kindness. Smile at someone you don't know, offer help, share a moment of grace. You never know whose day you might change. Thank you for your leadership, for your commitment to the American Kennel Club, for your partnerships, and I look forward to what we will continue to build together. I wish

you a healthy, happy holiday season.

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:

Good morning, Delegates. We appreciate your attendance here today, and we also appreciate your support. Let's continue the conversation we had back in September and look at the nine-month results for AKC as a standalone entity. These results are indicative of our financial forecast for the remainder of this year.

As of September 30, 2025, the result from operations is a loss of \$3.97 million, primarily due to lower registration revenues. The prudent use of the annualized spend of the investment portfolio and current interest and dividends reduced the loss from operations to \$1.6 million. The net loss from operations on total revenues of \$66.4 million is 4.6 percent, rounded up on the slide to 5, below the same nine-month period in 2024. Expenses total \$70.3 million and are 1 percent lower than the same period in 2024. An important note is that this expense variance is less than the relative inflation rates impacting our largest expenses, which are staff and professional fees. In summary and based on the forecast that we prepared as we did our annual budget in September, we expect total revenue to be lower for the remainder of 2025, and we forecast a net loss

from operations at year-end.

On this slide, we have the three primary sources of operating revenue. These major areas total the amount of \$66.4 million that I mentioned on the previous slide. Registration and event fees total \$45.2 million and represent 68 percent of total operating revenues, which are 5 percent lower than the nine-month period in 2024. The largest component of this revenue line is registration and related revenues, which total \$31.5 million and represent 47 percent of our total revenues. When you compare this to that segment of this total against the 2024 period, that number is 7 percent lower than the 2024 period. We're just isolating it down to be specific about that area. Revenues from events total \$13.7 million represent 20 percent of total revenues and are comparable with the same period in 2024. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalty revenues comprise 19 percent of total revenues and are 11 percent or \$1.5 million lower than the same period in 2024, which is principally due to lower advertising revenue as that revenue follows our registration activity. E-commerce products and service revenue total \$8.5 million and are 13 percent of revenue. This line increased by \$700,000 or 9 percent over 2024.

Now, let's go deeper. This slide is a further breakdown of registration revenue.

Dog registration revenue totals \$15.5 million and was \$2.2 million or 12 percent below the same prior year period. Litter registration revenue totals \$8.7 million and was \$1 million or 13 percent higher than the same period in 2024. Appended to this presentation that will be posted on the Delegate Portal will be the non-financial statistics of both dog and litter registration, so I encourage you to review that. To round out the revenue related to registration on this slide, there are two significant areas, Pedigree sales totaling \$3.62 million, which is 22 percent lower than the same period in 2024, and the remaining registration-related revenue totaling \$3.6 million, principally earned from certificate transfers, AKC Canine Partners, purebred alternative listings, litter certificates, and AKC Puppy Folders.

Let's take a look at the breakdown of revenues from major sport categories. Combining a couple of those columns, Conformation and Companion revenue, totals \$9.2 million and are comparable with the prior year period. Performance events total \$3 million and are 7 percent higher due to increased event application and service fees. The Family Dog program revenues total \$2.87 million and are 3 percent lower than 2024. Our sponsorship, advertising, and revenue area has three breakouts here for you. This slide further delineates the lower revenue I mentioned earlier of \$1.6

million. While each of these categories do report lower revenue, the largest decrease is in advertising revenue. Year-to-date advertising revenue totaled \$3.2 million and is \$1.3 million or 28 percent lower than the same period in 2024.

Let's move on to expenses. As mentioned earlier, total operating expenses are \$70.3 million. Staff and travel expenses total \$36.8 million or 52 percent of total operating expenses. We roll up the number on professional fees and product fulfillment into two columns and those have positive variances versus the prior year period.

It's important to know that in the professional fees area, there's a decision made to hire folks with specific skills that staff does not have and that allows us to have cost control and flexibility of expenses.

This slide represents our nonoperating expenses of insurance, rent depreciation, and donations. Our insurance, rent, and depreciation are increasing principally due to the depreciation of internally developed software tools and products that have been put together by the organization. Donations are lower than prior years as the allocation of in-kind contributions to affiliates is lower than 2024. Total donations to affiliates was \$3.6 million or 5 percent of our total expenses. As a reminder, our financial reports include expenses authorized by the Board of Directors in the annual operating budget.

Finally, we have our balance sheet. This is a standalone statement of financial position for AKC as of September 30, 2025. Assets total \$268 million with the largest asset on the balance sheet of investments of \$191 million. Investment performance for the ten months ended October 31, 2025 was positive at 14.5 percent. The benchmark set up based on the asset allocation policy was exceeded by 1.3 percent. The liability section of the balance sheet is comprised principally of retirement plan obligations; they total \$73 million. The net assets are restricted by the Board back in 2009 for the protection of retirement plan obligations, support of the affiliates, and to sustain future business operations. Thank you for your time. I appreciate your attention. We will have this posted to the Delegate Portal, and I'm here if you have any questions.

There was a vote on the proposed amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 2** of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers. It explains that a disqualification by a judge in hunting tests or field trials will count as a disqualification across both sports.

Upon approval, corresponding revisions will be made to the following rulebooks:

- *Beagle Field Trial Rules for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option – Chapter 5, Section 4*

- *Beagle Field Trial Rules for Large Pack Field Trials – Chapter 5, Section 4*
- *Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules – Chapter 14, Section 4B*
- *Spaniel Field Trial Rules – Chapter 5, Section 4*

This amendment was initiated by Staff, proposed by the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

Ashley Jacot, Vice President of Education, presented the Eddy Awards:

Good morning. We all recognize that exceptional dogs begin with dedicated, knowledgeable breeders. Education drives our sport forward and that commitment to learning and sharing expertise is what strengthens the future of purebred dogs. This year's AKC Eddy Award honorees represent the highest standard of breeder education, creating innovative programs, resources, and mentorship that uplift and empower the breeding community. Before presenting the awards, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our committee members, Mari-Beth O'Neill and Guy Fisher, for their thoughtful re-

view of the nominations and their careful selection of this year's recipients.

It is my honor to announce the 2025 AKC Eddy Award recipients:

- American Pomeranian Club – Delegate, Dr. Geno Sisneros
- American Rottweiler Club – Delegate, Peter G. Piusz
- American Whippet Club – Delegate, Karen Lee
- Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America – Delegate, Patricia Putman
- Irish Setter Club of America – Delegate, Karolynne M. McAteer
- Newfoundland Club of America – Delegate, Julie Poulin Siefert

Congratulations to these exceptional clubs for their dedication to advancing breeder education. Your efforts inspire all of us to pursue excellence and continue enriching our shared mission. If you'd please come up if you're here and get your certificate. Thank you very much.

Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club, presented an update on the AKC PAC:

Another year getting to come up and talk to you guys. Happy holidays. It's nice to see all your faces this morning.

We're going to do something different. First, the AKC PAC Board wants you to know that for us, PAC stands for Preserve, Advocate, and Care. Several people have talked about protection. That's our goal – to help Sheila Goffe's Government Relations Department protect our interest as it appears with laws, ordinances, etc. I want to thank Sheila. She put this information together for me to present to you. Since the beginning of the year, bills to regulate hobby breeders have been introduced in 20 states. AKC GR is working hard with a lot of success to push back on these bills, but we need your help. The AKC PAC is crucial because its funds give responsible breeders and advocates direct access to lawmakers who impact the future of dog breeding and help keep supportive lawmakers in office, that is so crucial when there are so many that are opposed to what we do. But we are being significantly outspent by groups seeking to shut down or regulate hobby breeders out of existence. Listen carefully – in 2024, we contributed \$67,800 to key election campaigns and we were very successful. We had over a 90 percent success rate, which is very unusual, but we are very picky about who we support, and they have to understand the AKC position on laws and ordinances. By comparison, Animal Wellness Action, which is a new group created by Wayne Pacelle, who used to be HSUS's head, spent more than

\$1.35 million, so to say that they outspent us enormously is putting it mildly.

As an added bonus, this year, you have an opportunity with our sweepstakes. It is a getaway to New York City for the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. It includes four-night hotel stay, tickets to the dog show, plus other major social events, including the Museum of the Dog party and the Take the Lead Westminster party. . Individuals who donate \$100 will receive five tickets; those who donate \$25 will receive one. No purchase is necessary. Please visit the GR/PAC table outside to make a donation. Tickets will also be available across the street at the GR/PAC booth. We will be drawing the winner on Sunday afternoon, so you need to get your tickets now. In addition, one of the things that we've talked about on the PAC Board is recurring donations, and Ted Phillips, our Treasurer, has encouraged us. You go online and set up how much you want your donation to be every month, you can put it on a credit card or have it come out of your bank account. As Chair of the PAC Board, I am always thinking of what we can do to encourage you guys to acknowledge how important this is. I challenge each of you in this room to do a minimum of a \$15 recurring donation. I challenge you to go back to your clubs and ask your membership to do the same. Spending \$15 isn't even half

of what a dog show entry costs us today. Donating \$15 a month has to be worth your love for this sport and what Government Relations does to protect it.

Since we're all kind of competitive, at the March meeting during the PAC update, the Delegate with the most club members signed up for recurring donations will receive a great gift – I'm not telling you what it is. I want to hear from Katie, who handles the PAC administration for GR that she is getting a lot of people signed up for recurring donations. Thank you for listening and recognizing how important the PAC is to Government Relations. Remember, if you've got a lawmaker that you've worked with that's really good in your area on our issues, make a recommendation. The whole idea of raising this money is to give it away to protect us. Again, happy holidays. Safe travels. If you're entered across the street, I wish you luck. Thank you.

Eduardo Fugiwara, Delegate from the Two Cities Kennel Club spoke from the floor:

A lot of you that know me and know how much this cause is dear to me, the PAC is one of the best things we have. As was said, bringing in new lobbyists without giving them firepower makes their job much harder. In the spirit of helping raising funds to the PAC, the Irish Terrier

Club of America agreed to do a fundraiser within our membership. And one of my favorite expressions in the American vernacular is put your money where your mouth is. To prove how much I really care about this, here's a donation for you.

Ms. LaBerge: Thank you very much, Eduardo. Now, this is a real challenge for you guys because he just made Diamond Level in giving.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Double-Tree Newark Airport Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. The March meeting will be the election of the Class of 2030. More detailed meeting information will be emailed to the Delegates as soon as it becomes available.

Lunch was served in Grand Ballroom C.

Delegates were not required to turn in badges. New badges will be printed at each meeting. Delegates were given an option to recycle the badge holders and lanyards.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Patricia Cruz, Delegate for the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club, requested a one-year stay by the AKC Board on the increase in fees set to start January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027. She asked the Dele-

gates in favor of the proposed moratorium to stand in support.

Don James, Delegate from the Leonberger Club of America, who spoke as a member of the Parent Club Committee, announced the four recipients of the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Award for the quarter. The honorees were Chris Levy, Chris Sweetwood, Karolynne McAteer and Tom Sharp.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(Proceedings concluded at 11:57 a.m. ET.)

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

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



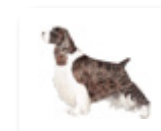
Curly-Coated Retriever



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



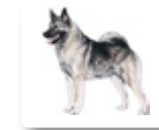
Harrier



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



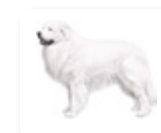
German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



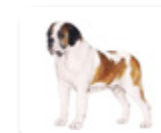
Newfoundland



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



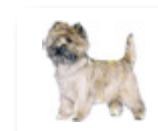
Bedlington Terrier



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

<https://www.snortrescue.org>



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



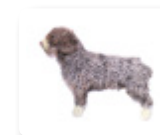
Pumi



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/>