



JULY 2025

gazette



**Juniors
Clubs
Eddy Awards**



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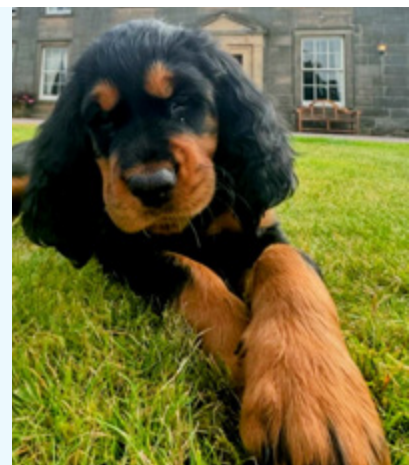
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A Sizzling Start to Summer

As summer unfolds, the AKC is moving full speed ahead with initiatives that reflect our dedication to dogs, their people, and the future of our sports. From nationally televised events that shine a spotlight on the power and fun of the human-canine bond, to a new titling program that recognizes and elevates Owner-Handled exhibitors, to scholarship opportunities that support the next generation of canine welfare professionals, there's meaningful momentum across every corner of our organization.

We ended the month of June with the [Master Amateur Retriever Invitational](#) taking place from June 22 to 29 in Waterville, Maine. This competition highlights the amateur handler and the future of Retriever hunt tests. The event was open to

all dogs, when handled by an amateur, that had passed four or more AKC Master hunt tests during the qualifying period. Over 160 dogs and their handlers competed, and it was a thrilling week watching dogs compete in their purpose.

Spend the holiday weekend with two of our action-packed events broadcasting on ESPN. The AKC Diving Dogs Challenge and the AKC Agility Premier Cup presented by Pet Perfect by Shaw Floors will premiere on July 4 at 7 P.M. ET and July 5 at 3:30 P.M. ET (check your local listings). The Diving Dogs Challenge, held May 4 at Hunter Army Airfield, featured competitors vying for top prizes in divisions aptly named Blackhawk, Chinook, and Apache. Just days earlier, the Agility Premier Cup took place at Fort Stewart,



Georgia, drawing nearly 100 elite teams from across the country competing across five height divisions for a total of \$10,000 in prizes. You do not want to miss the action and the beautiful stories that will be a part of this fun-filled broadcast.

I am excited to share that the National Owner-Handled Regional Shows pilot program has been enthusiastically received by NOHS exhibitors and the host clubs. We polled our exhibitors, and over 80 percent of them responded

AKC PHOTO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This month: AKC Agility Premier Cup on ESPN

favorably that the program should be continued. Given this success, the AKC Board of Directors has approved a continuation of the NOHS Regional program. If your club is interested in hosting one of the Regional events, please express your interest to our Club Development Department.

In more NOHS news, our Sports & Events team has received approval from the Board to launch the NOHS Levels of Achievement program. Beginning in October, participants who reach designated achievement thresholds will be

eligible to apply for NOHS Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum titles. This new titling program reaffirms AKC's commitment to supporting and retaining Owner-Handler exhibitors as they are important to the continued growth and future of conformation events. You can learn more about the requirements and levels at [akc.org](https://www.akc.org).

And lastly, if you know a student who's passionate about dogs and pursuing a career that supports their care and well-being, we encourage you to have them apply for the John D.

Spurling Scholarship. Each year, the AKC Humane Fund awards five scholarships—totaling \$10,000—to full-time students studying veterinary medicine, animal care, behavior, grooming, training, and related fields. It's a chance to recognize young people who demonstrate passion for making the world a better place for animals. The application can be found at akchumanefund.org under the Programs section.

There's a lot happening—and even more on the horizon. From enhancing our events to broadening recognition and supporting the next generation of canine health professionals, the AKC remains committed to meaningful progress. I look forward to sharing more as we continue advancing our mission.

Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club

AKC GAZETTE, the official journal of the sport of purebred dogs since 1889

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FREE
AKC GAZETTE
SUBSCRIPTION

**publications business
manager**
VENUS RODRIGUEZ
venus.rodriguez@akc.org
212-696-8260

Write to the editors
gazette@akc.org

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Gazette Keeps It All in the Family

We're happy this month to present the feature story "Take the Lead," originally published in the May/June issue of our sister publication, *AKC Family Dog*.

The story details how motivated junior handlers in Washington state and Arizona have organized their own AKC-style all-breed clubs with the help of Greater Clark County KC and Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association. The article is such a unique and positive representation of our sport that we're sure it will leave a smile on your face and hope for the future in your heart.

The story's author is Lindsey Dobruck, *Family Dog*'s senior consulting editor and the GAZETTE's Lancashire Heeler breed columnist. You might remember her also as our Breed Columns editor once upon a



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time, before she returned to her native California to start her family. Thanks to Lindsey and *Family Dog* Managing Editor Phil Dziky for the loan of a wonderful story.—**B.B.**



On Our Cover
Chinese Crested
courtesy Lynda Beam



"Healthy dogs come from conscientious breeders."

AKC Eddy Award for Parent Clubs

Breeder-education efforts to be honored

The AKC is accepting applications for the AKC Eddy Award through September 1.

The Eddy is designed to encourage and reward AKC parent clubs that demonstrate a breeder-education effort which provides information beyond the expected in an interesting and unique manner.

"We know that good and healthy dogs come from conscientious breeders, and breeder education is a key part of that," AKC

President/CEO Gina DiNardo says. "We are excited to recognize clubs making a concerted effort toward continuing education for responsible breeders who are passionate about preserving their breed."

Recipients will receive a certificate presented at the AKC National Championship in December, a digital badge for the club's website, and posting on AKC social media and/or Breeder Education page. Winners

will submit a write-up about their breeder education to share with the dog world.

Recipients will be selected by the committee of AKC Vice President Mari-Beth O'Neill, Director of Education Ashley Jacot, and Club Development Manager Guy Fisher.

A submission form will be provided to each parent club. The deadline for submitting the completed form is September 1.

A maximum of eight winners will be chosen annually.

Information

AKC Accepts CKC Titles

The Board voted to add Canadian Kennel Club titles earned in conformation, obedience, and rally to the AKC Title Recognition Program. AKC-registered dogs with CKC titles are eligible to have the title recognized by AKC. The inclusion is effective August 6.

POWERMAN PUPPY: KATRINA BROWN / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

UPDATES

Klee Kai Joins Miscellaneous Class

The Alaskan Klee Kai became eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous class at AKC conformation events on June 25. This addition was approved by the Board of Directors at its November 2024 meeting.

The Klee Kai has ancient roots descended from the native dogs that have popu-

lated Alaska for thousands of years. Today's Klee Kai, a small-sized companion dog, was developed in the early 1970s. The alert and curious Klee Kai stands no more than 17½ inches, with a medium-length double coat, a wedge-shaped head, and triangular ears.

Notification concerning



the addition of the Alaskan Klee Kai was sent on June 1 to all judges approved for the Miscellaneous Class.

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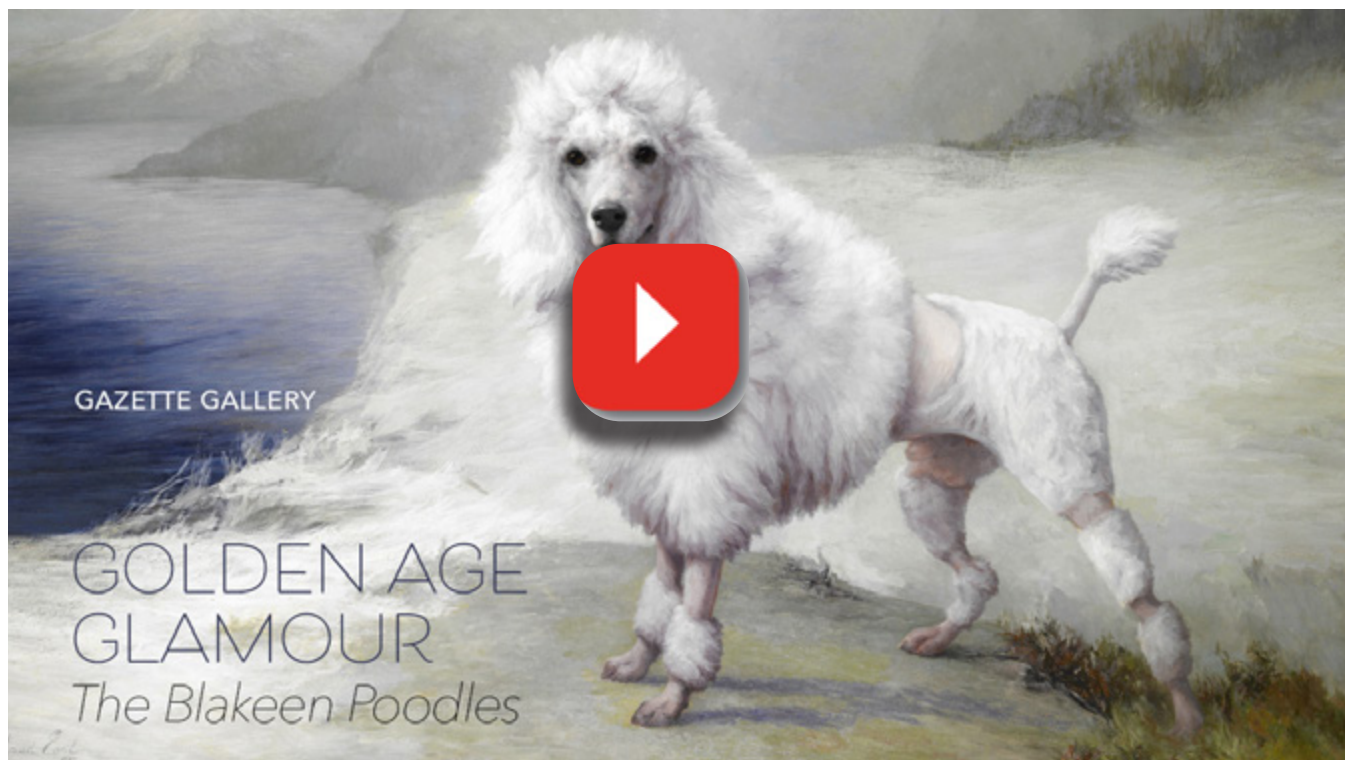
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In 1935, Charlotte Hayes Blake Hoyt (Mrs. Sherman Hoyt) acquired Standard Poodle Int. Ch. Nunsoe Duc de la Terrace as the cornerstone sire of her Blakeen Kennels in Katonah, New York—and dog shows were never the same.

It is hard to believe today, but in the early part of the last century Poodles were also-rans at dog shows, and AKC registrations for the breed had dwindled alarmingly. Hoyt's charismatic Swiss import,

known to his admirers as The Duke, changed all that with an electrifying victory at Westminster, 1935, becoming the Garden's first Poodle BIS. Soon after, Pillicoc, Salmagundi, and other top Poodle kennels of the Northeast vied with Blakeen for supremacy, producing magnificent lines that inform the breed to this day.

From Bo Bengtson's *Best in Show*: "The line of champions streaming from Blakeen would make this one

of America's most successful kennels. Many of the dogs were handled by Mrs. Hoyt herself, impeccably dressed, always in white gloves, and if none of his children quite equaled Duc in mystique and exotic aura, they did win even more than their sire. Ch. Blakeen Jung Frau won 15 Bests in 1938 and the Best American-Bred award; she and her brother Ch. Blakeen Eiger took turns winning scores of Bests for several years."



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Taking the Lead

At these local kennel clubs, kids run the show.

By Lindsey Dobruck

The evening before the November 2023 match, junior handler Emerson Jaquish was already feeling accomplished.

The newly formed [Arizona Sunset Juniors Club](#) collaborated for months on their first event as a club—a sanctioned B

COURTESY RINGSIDE HOUNDS

FEATURE



AKC Junior Club members share their vision boards, illustrating what they hope to achieve with their canine partners. Club leader McKenna's board is blank—Emily Fish says, "It was a funny moment of her saying she's done it all!"

match, with breed judging, Junior Showmanship, rally, obedience, and Canine Good Citizen testing.

The members, ranging in age from 5 to 21, helped in whatever ways they could. Jaquish's friend Kira found judges to volunteer for the match. Her little brother, Griffin, made signs to promote the event. Other

members solicited vendors for raffle items, learned to ring steward, filed the paperwork to host the match, and found a show secretary.

As the kids set up for the event the night before, Jaquish felt a sense of pride and a closer bond with her fellow club members.

"Everybody came

together to prepare this match that we had spent months trying to put together," Jaquish says. "And it just kind of gave me a feeling of, wow, we did this. We put this on and it felt great to know that we had accomplished something like that."

One of just two youth-led AKC clubs in the country,

COURTESY EMILY FISH

FEATURE



Left: Emily Fish and AKC Junior Club member Paige Kellis show off the ribbons they earned with Sunny, a Cardigan Welsh Corgi they co-own. Right: Oliver Skeen, 12, wanted to show dogs—but he had two cats and no canines. AKC judge Pamela Peat took Oliver under her wing and sold him his first show dog, an Affenpinscher, for \$10. “He’s our dog show grandchild,” she says.

the Arizona Sunset Juniors Club helps young handlers learn what it means to be part of the greater dog show community.

“It’s just like an all-breed club with AKC, except the members are younger,” says Pamela Peat, president of the [Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association](#) in Arizona. “They have written their

own constitution and bylaws. They have elected their own officers.”

But it’s not all work and no play—for club president Jaquish, 18, a main goal is camaraderie.

“We want to take out that competitiveness and just bring all these kids together, let them have friends,” she says. “I want these

kids to feel like they have an opportunity to have all these people who want to just help them. They have the opportunity to have these friends. I want them to all feel supported.”

PAVING THE WAY

The blueprint for a junior-focused club came from AKC judge and

FEATURE



Summer Fun: The Arizona Sunset Juniors Club beat the heat at an indoor slide park to bond outside the show ring.

4-H leader Emily Fish, of Camas, Washington.

Fish came to the dog world through 4-H as a child, and she's passionate about supporting youth in the sport. While 4-H excels in teaching handling and husbandry, Fish wanted a better way to involve kids in the greater dog community.

"I'm a big believer that we, as a dog community, need to replace ourselves," Fish says. "And if we don't

have a person to replace ourselves, how are we going to go forward?"

In 2021 she approached the [Greater Clark County Kennel Club \(GCCCKC\)](#) with an idea: an all-breed kennel club for juniors, run by juniors, to expose them to the many different roles that make up the dog fancy. With the GCCCKC's enthusiastic go-ahead, Fish worked with Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC's vice president of sport

services, to form the first AKC Junior Club.

The youth club operates under the GCCCKC's umbrella, but with their own officers and finances. They convene before the GCCCKC's meeting for club business and guest presentations. At one meeting, a vet tech walked the kids through a wellness exam. At another, the GCCCKC president demonstrated carting with his Leonbergers.

Fish encourages the kids to set goals for themselves and their dogs using what they've learned from the speakers and activities. One year, the club made vision boards using magazine photos to illustrate their aspirations.

"I had one girl who had a Goldendoodle ... and her vision board—this just tickled me—was of a Papillon," Fish says. "She had all this Papillon stuff and butterflies all over, and she's like, 'I just want a Papillon. I want to be able to compete with a Papillon.' Literally,

COURTESY EMERSON JAQUISH

FEATURE

that next year, she had her Papillon.” (The young handler has gone on to win Best Junior at all-breed shows and competes in agility.)

Twice a year, the club organizes a Junior Showcase for kids to try several AKC sports and programs—CGC, Farm Dog Certified, tricks, Fast CAT, Barn Hunt, junior handling, and more. The events draw kids from 4-H and the community into the world of AKC sports, and the young club members learn what it takes to put on a show or trial.

“They run their own showcase,” Fish says. “They plan the trophies, they go out to the community to help get stuff for the goodie bags. ... They help out with ring stewarding.”

Hosting and participating in their own showcase has given many young handlers the confidence to compete alongside adults, and also help run GCCKC’s events.

“They’re so much less intimidated by doing it on their own, with each other,

versus branching into the adult [club],” Fish says.

“But now I have kids that are like, ‘Oh, do you need help with hospitality? OK, let’s go!’”

GEN AZ

Today, Fish works with O’Neill to consult with local kennel clubs on ways to support their juniors.

They connected with Peat, president of the Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, about forming a club using Fish’s model. Instead of recruiting kids from 4-H, the Arizona Sunset Juniors Club started with a talented team of junior handlers coached by renowned trainer Jody Davidson.

The kids had well-established friendships through Davidson’s mentorship, but taking part in the juniors club has integrated them into the larger dog community.

“A lot of the kids who are in the club have made personal connections to people

within the Scottsdale club, and we hold our meeting right before theirs, at the same location,” Jaquish says. “More than half of the kids who go to our juniors meeting stay for the Scottsdale meeting, because they are also a part of that club.”

For 12-year-old Oliver Skeen, being a member of the Arizona Sunset Juniors Club has given him a greater appreciation for the work of an all-breed kennel club.

“In our club, they bring in people to talk to us about their certain breed,” Oliver says. “And I think it’s nice to know, behind the scenes, what it takes to put on a show, and learn other breeds as you’re going along.”

Since their initial match in 2023, the club has organized special programming at the Fiesta Dog Shows such as free luncheons, handling workshops, judge mentorship, and a Grand Best Junior competition. This

FEATURE



Friendly competition: The Arizona juniors support each other in and out of the ring.

year, the club arranged for a vet tech to give a seminar on first aid, and each attendee will receive a canine first aid kit pur-

chased with money from the club's raffles and garage sales.

"We don't have to do it. They do it. And when I say,

'They do it,' they do it," Peat emphasizes. "They organize it, they pick the menu, they figure out the activities, they raise the money to do it."

As club president, Jaquish hopes to plan more "extra-curricular" activities—like their recent get-together at an indoor slide park—to help the members bond outside of the ring.

"You make friends, and you establish connections that you didn't know you needed," she says. "I just love that this club brings these kids together." **GZ**

Lindsey Dobruck is the senior consulting editor of AKC Family Dog and the AKC GAZETTE Lancashire Heeler columnist. This story was originally published in [AKC Family Dog](#).

To start a juniors club in your area, contact AKC Vice President of Sport Services [Mari-Beth O'Neill](#).

COURTESY EMERSON JAQUISH



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Dogs, Friends, and Families

New research explores the role our “best friends” play in our social and family circles.

Strong human relationships correlated with stronger bonds with dogs.

CAVAN IMAGES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

FEATURE

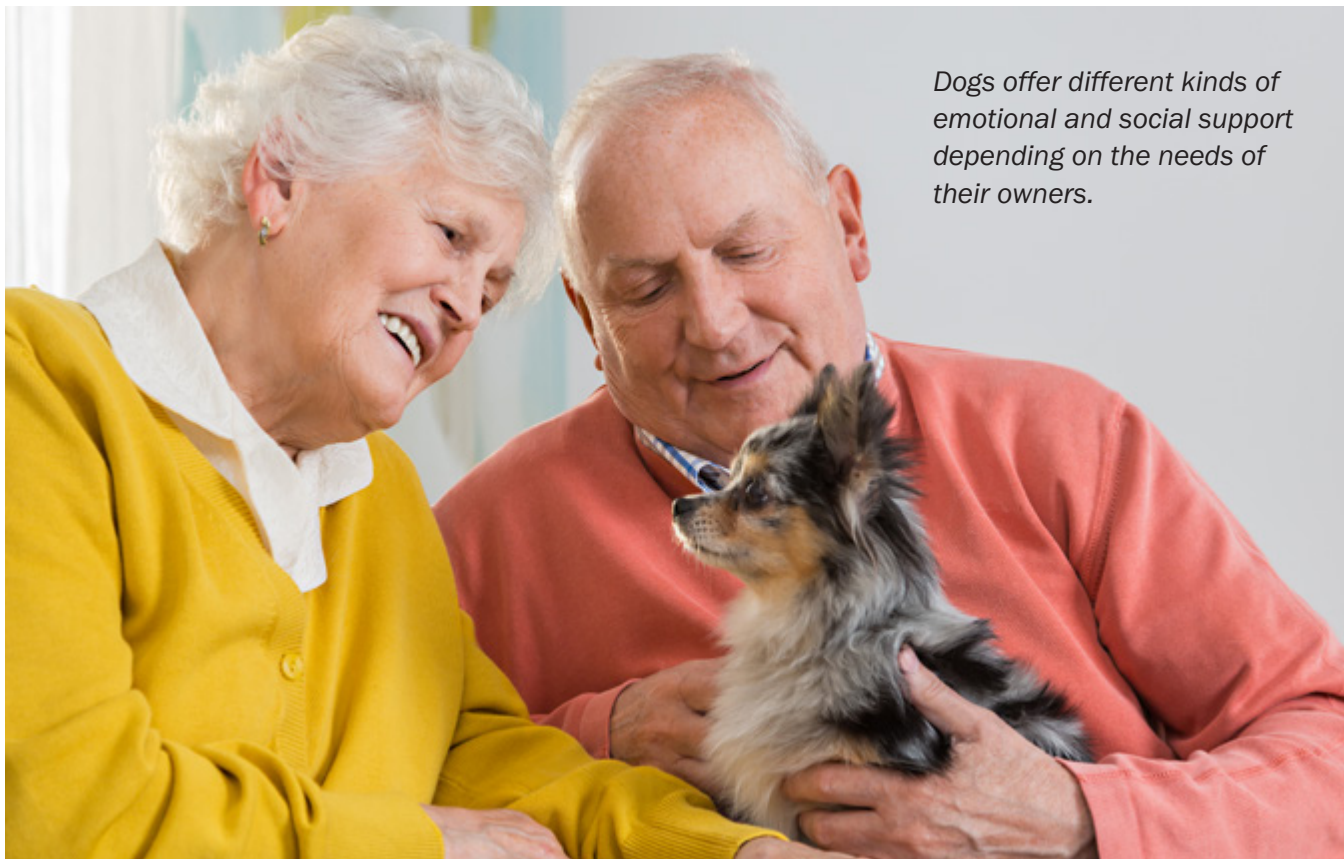
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY—Many people view their dog as a family member or friend—but does the relationship with them really resemble these human relationships? Researchers from ELTE Eötvös Loránd University set out to explore the precise role dogs play in human social networks by comparing human/dog relationships with human/human relationships using 13 relationship scales.

Their peer-reviewed study revealed that the owner-dog relationship can be interpreted as a mix of child and best-friend relationships, combining positive aspects of the child relationship with the lack of negative aspects of friendship, blended with a high level of control over the dog. While owners often rate their relationship with their dog as superior to any human bond, the study also found that more

support in human relationships correlates with more support in dog-and-owner bonds, suggesting that dogs complement human relationships rather than compensate for their deficiencies.

Our relationship with dogs has evolved dramatically since domestication. Once primarily working animals, dogs have become cherished companions in many Western societies.

Dogs offer different kinds of emotional and social support depending on the needs of their owners.



©FRED FROESE / GETTY IMAGES

FEATURE



Similar to children, dogs scored high in nurturing and relationship security.

Despite this shift, little is known about the specific social roles dogs fulfill in our network of relationships.

Human social networks consist of different partners who offer varying forms of support. For example, romantic partners provide intimacy and aid, children offer opportunities for nurturing and relationship

security, while best friends are sources of low-conflict companionship. The study, published in *Scientific Reports*, examined how dogs compare to these human relationships.

THE STUDY

Over 700 dog owners rated 13 relationship characteristics regarding their

dogs and four human partners: their child, romantic partner, closest relative, and best friend.

Results showed that owners rated their bond with their dog as the most satisfying and their dog as their best source of companionship. Owners also felt that their dog loved them the most among all

FEATURE

partners. Moreover, similar to children, dogs scored high in nurturing and relationship security and, like best friends, had low levels of antagonism and conflict with their owners. There is, however, also a greater power imbalance toward the owner in the relationship with dogs than with any human partner.

“Unlike in human relationships, dog owners maintain full control over their dogs as they make most of the decisions, contributing to the high satisfaction owners report,” says senior author Enikő Kubinyi, head of the Department of Ethology at the ELTE. “The relationship with dogs involves few conflicts and minimal negative interactions. The power asymmetry, having control over a living being, is a fundamental aspect of dog ownership for many. The results highlight that dogs occupy a unique place in our social world—offering the emotional

closeness of a child, the ease of a best friend, and the predictability of a relationship shaped by human control—revealing why our bonds with them are often so deeply fulfilling.”

The study also examined how dog and human relationship ratings relate to one another and found that strong human relationships correlated with stronger bonds with dogs.

THE TAKEAWAY

The study’s co-author Dorottya Ujfalussy says, “We expected that people with weak human relationships would rely more on their dogs for support, but our results contradict this. In our sample, people did not seem to use dogs to compensate for the insufficient support in their human relationships.”

The researchers note, however, that their sample consisted of volunteers who were likely more satisfied with their relationships than the average dog owner. The

study may therefore not fully capture the experiences of vulnerable individuals who rely more heavily on their dogs for emotional support.

“Dogs offer different kinds of emotional and social support depending on the needs of their owners,” says Borbála Turcsán, first author of the study. “Some people seek companionship and fun, others need trust and stability, and some simply enjoy having someone to care for.”

Instead of placing the dog/owner relationship into the predefined categories traditionally used in such studies—like “family member” or “pet”—the researchers introduced a new, multidimensional approach that better captures its complexity. This framework not only helps us understand how dogs fit into our social lives but may also reveal where people turn to dogs to fill emotional gaps, and why, for many, the bond runs so deep. **GZ**

Picture Perfect

Beauty and Utility in Canine Imagery

Scrolling through the Turner Classic Movies cable library, I stumbled upon MGM's production of *Lassie Come Home*. I hadn't seen it since I was kid, and I wondered if this all-time canine tearjerker could still tug at my increasingly sclerotic heartstrings. So, I cued up the 1943 classic and settled in with a bowl of Orville Redenbacher's finest. And then I was sidetracked before the movie even began.

The screen filled with MGM's famous logo: A roaring Leo the Lion beneath the legend *Ars gratia artis* (Art for art's sake). As a degenerate movie addict, I have seen that Latin motto thousands of times—but this time I was struck by it. Those three little words



"I Hear a Voice" by Maud Earl is "a definite idea of what a well-bred Saint should look like."

really pack a wallop, don't they? They free the artistic imagination, and they assure us that beauty can be its own reward. That a beautiful thing can be admired apart from any practical function is something of what it means to be civilized.

And, yes, a stunning full-coated Lassie framed by the garish greens and blues of a Technicolor dreamscape can be seen as the epitome of art for art's sake. A bit kitschy for some tastes perhaps, but undeniably compelling.

Serious dog people are just as susceptible as general audiences to the visceral pull of such imagery. But, for them, Lassie movies also have a practical use: They help fix the look of a good Collie at mid-20th century.

The AKC art collection contains dozens of similar dual-purpose icons—pictures and sculptures that are both lovely and illuminating. The collection is a visual history of the sport of dogs, preserving the likenesses of long-ago ring and field

TIMES PAST



Lassie is interviewed before a screening of Lassie Come Home at the 2016 Turner Classic Movies Film Festival.

champions rendered with painstaking accuracy. For many fanciers a painting by Muss-Arnolt or Megargee is a documentary look at their breed's past, and perhaps its future.

If not the best example, certainly the biggest, is Maud Earl's 1896 "I Hear a Voice." The mammoth 48-by-60-inch canvas depicts Frandley Stephanie, a champion Saint Bernard of distinguished pedigree. The British-bred Stephanie was hailed as a superior specimen of her breed in an era when Saints were too often lumbering behemoths.

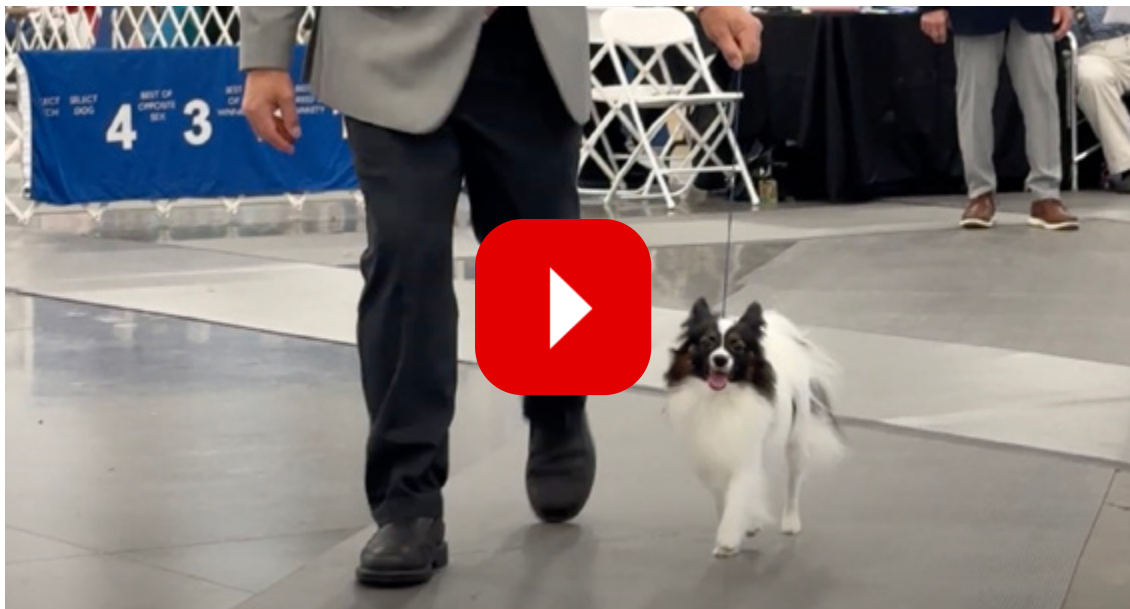
"If breeders keep before them, as illustrations of the type of what a Rough St. Bernard should be like, such exhibits of Frandley Stephanie," an 1890s show judge wrote, "they will soon bring St. Bernards back to the position they once held in public estimation."

Stephanie is portrayed as an Alpine rescue dog, proud and alert, listening for the distant cries of a traveler stranded on a treacherous mountain trail. This is a bit of role-playing. As an English show dog, it's doubtful Stephanie ever came within 700 miles of an Alp.

But Earl's portrait remains a valuable artifact—and not only for its majestic beauty. It sets a definite idea of what a well-bred Saint should look like, and it reminds us of the breed's original job description, forged in the snowy St. Bernard Pass of the mid-1600s.

To succeed in dogs one must have a mental snapshot of the ideal, and pup-culture iconography—whether a Lassie movie or a Maud Earl masterpiece—has helped to form these templates of perfection for generations of breeders and judges.—**B.B.**

TOM SCREEN CAPTURE



Small Wonders

DOSWELL, VIRGINIA—At [Gloucester KC](#), part of the First Colony Cluster, Timothy Robbins judges Papillons.14:23



Best in the Springs

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA—Newly posted by AKC.tv: [KC of Palm Springs](#) Best in Show, judged by Roberta Davies. 15:21

VIDEOS



Meet the Little Alaskan

New in Miscellaneous: Laura Reeves and Chelsea Watson discuss the Alaskan Klee Kai.

29:50



The Doctor Is In

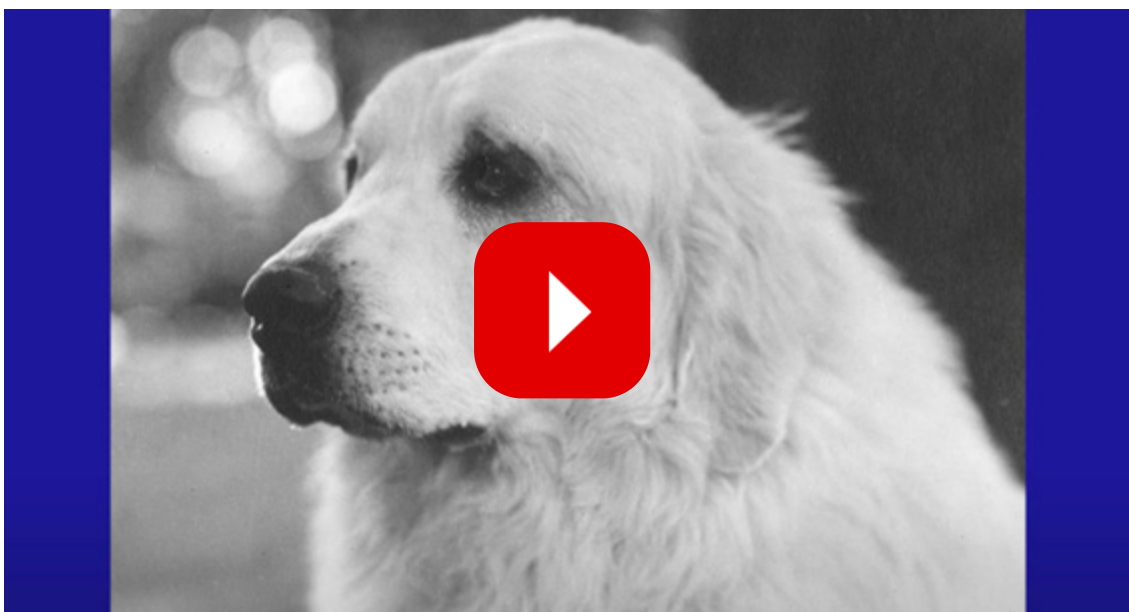
From Purina Pro Club: Treyton Diggs, veterinarian and lifelong Beagle trialer, tells us how his hounds have shaped his life, career, and values. 2:51

VIDEOS



Salute!

FORT STEWART, GEORGIA—The AKC and ESPN visit Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield to film the AKC Salutes the Troops event. 3:25



The Crane Scrapbooks

AKC Archives presents rare photos of the legendary Basquerie Great Pyrenees, from the personal collection of Mary Crane. 1:09

Frank Kane

“Compact, cobby, and merry”—the essentials for the Cocker Spaniel, says revered British judge Frank Kane, who began in Cocker Spaniels in 1960. “I was very fortunate. It was a Golden age for Cockers in England. All the great kennels were there. It was a marvelous time. Competition immensely hot. Today we have some good dogs, good breeders, but the 1960s and ’70s were the golden age of Cockers.”

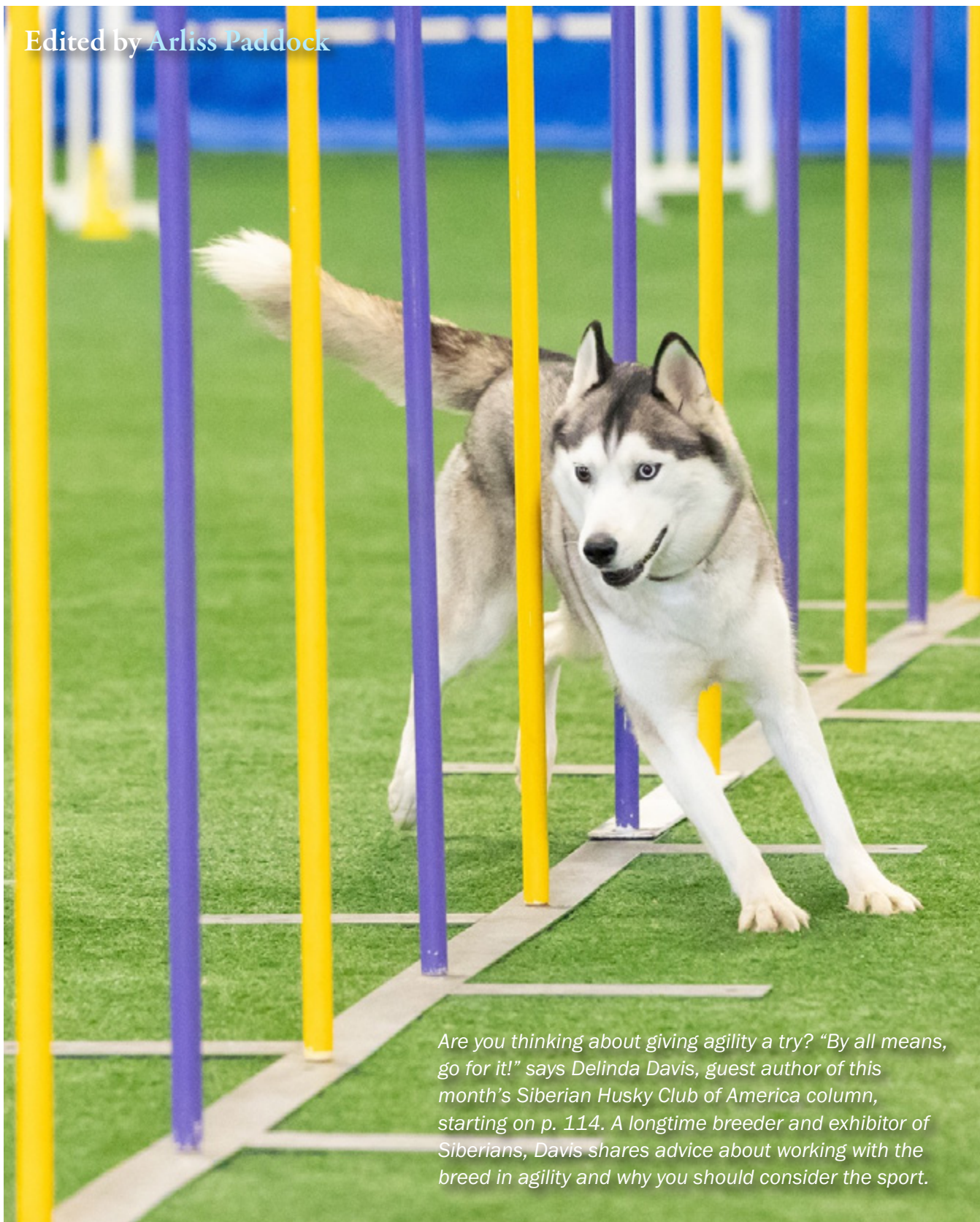


BUD BOCCONE ©2025

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by Arliss Paddock



Are you thinking about giving agility a try? "By all means, go for it!" says Delinda Davis, guest author of this month's Siberian Husky Club of America column, starting on p. 114. A longtime breeder and exhibitor of Siberians, Davis shares advice about working with the breed in agility and why you should consider the sport.

COURTESY OWNERS/GSCA

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 ArlissPaddock@akc.org

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Brittanys

IT IS ALL ABOUT THE BIRDS

Today was a very good day with an excellent outcome hunting birds, even though the weather was just 33 degrees Fahrenheit with about 8 to 10 inches of snow on the ground. There is just nothing like watching your Brittany turn as the dog gets the scent and absolutely slams on point.

Often an individual who wants to hunt birds in many of these Northeastern states of these United States just does not have the opportunity to hunt wild upland game birds, because the wild birds are just not available. This is the exactly the reason for a membership or the use of a bird-hunting preserve that has a good population of birds—chukars, quail, and pheasants. Another consideration for training purposes only is a domestic bird, the pigeon. Besides being an excellent place to train a dog, a bird-hunting preserve is a place to introduce a young person to the sport of bird

hunting. Many years ago, my grandson, at 12 years of age, took his first bird over a Brittany pointing a quail. Today, Ben is in his early thirties and is often able to enjoy the sport of bird hunting with a Brittany.

As mentioned at start of the article, just a few weeks ago on the preserve there was a party of three adults and two kids—8 and 10 years of age—hunting chukars over a Brittany and watching as our Brittany, Parker, scented and pointed as the birds were flushed and yielded to the gun. Those two young men, although not hunting, watched as their dads collected the birds and wanted to know when they could come back again. It was a great experience for them with the introduction to bird hunting.

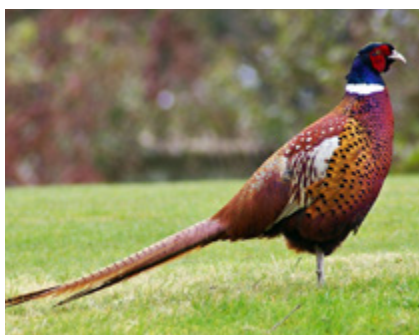
In addition, as mentioned a preserve is excellent for training the dogs. Before the year 2015, most of our Brittanys were initially trained at the preserve, then moving on to being handled by me in show and field

competition. Again, moving forward in time with professional handlers, one Brittany, Nuf Ced Herb Score, finished as a champion in the show ring and was also a great bird-hunting partner.

In addition, four other of our Brittanys have gone on to be field champions, with one, Glade Run Irish, claiming the Amateur and National All-Age Championships (2016 and 2017). These two Brittanys, Herbie and Irish, were both initially trained in the field using some quail and a fair number of pigeons on the preserve under controlled conditions.

Once again, “it is all about the birds.” Often there is a question as to when the dog or puppy should be first introduced to birds. Pointing dogs, of which the Brittany breed is one, in my experience, as well as that of several professional trainers and many amateur trainers as well, believe the introduction to birds—using only quail or pigeons—should be when the pups are quite young, 5

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Herb in the show ring; Irish on the hunt in the field; wild upland game birds chukar, pheasant, and quail. The pigeon, a domestic bird, is sometimes used for training only.

to 6 weeks of age. This timing for introduction of birds also should be adjusted depending on how the pups are walking and moving about.

Those early bird-scenting experiences are so very important for a young dog. Genetically pointing or flushing dogs react to the scent of a bird—they have been bred to do just that. There are occasions during the puppy stake at

a field trial when the brace of two will play together. It could be assumed that one or both pups have not had enough exposure to birds. They would rather play than attempt to find a bird.

In conclusion, when “having fun” with your new Brittany pup, if his future is to be a hunting or field trial dog, remember how important birds are for his development. This also includes pups that have

been bred to compete in the show ring, because it should always be remembered the Brittany is a dual dog—show and field.

—David Webb,
davidazwebb@aol.com
[American Brittany Club](#)

Pointers

WHAT IS THE “WORST FAULT”?

In evaluating quality, what is the worst fault your Pointer can have? Is it a

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB

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Pointer with:

- unsound movement;
- a lack of ground-covering;
- a muzzle that is not approximately the same length as the width of the back-skull;
- too little or too much stop;
- eyes too small, or too big or round, or too almond;
- too much height or not enough;
- too heavy or too light in weight;
- too long or too short a back;
- too much leg or too little;
- an undershot or wry bite;
- too much topline or too little;
- too much arch over the loin or too little;
- ears too long or too short, or too high or too low, or too thick, or too rounded;
- a head and neck carried too high, level, or too low;
- a tail curled, too short, too long, too high, too low, too stiff, or too active; or
- too generic so that he or she barely looks like a Pointer in silhouette, or too extreme so that he or she



"Two Pointers on Point in a Field," Maud Earl, 1905

becomes a caricature of the breed-specific details given in the standard ... ?

According to those in competition, the worst fault in Pointers is actually the same as in other breeds: It is the current fault your dog has.

Your competition will look for any weakness (and sing it from the rooftops that these faults of your dog are the worst for the breed), and your eyes (and others that your competition influences) will land right on the current "anchors" to your dog's success, causing you to breed or buy, as a pendulum swinging back in the

other direction, with fervor to get away from whatever faults currently hold back your dog's success.

This approach, however, is *wrong*; many a gem has had its beauty ruined by an unfair focus on a fault rather than the whole dog.

When you get a dog without the said "worst fault ever" but a different one, that will suddenly be the new worst fault from the mouths of your competition and from your ever success-driven eyes. After decades of watching dog competitions, I am still fascinated to watch this magic trick. I have seen dogs of the

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same size (typically in the middle of the standard) be called “miniatures” in one period, only to be called “giants” five years later as the size of their competition has changed. I have witnessed heads, tails, eyes, and such nuances of type declared the most important criteria, to then shift to movement, head carriage, and length of back declared as the new most important ones; these occurred when there was a change in what one had or in what one’s competition had.

Sometimes the change in view may be changing preferences between two equally correct builds (though this should not mean one should be chosen the better when both support function), but the most common declaration for “worst fault” is simply based on competition. The competitive mode of humans, not the needs of a well-built dog for function, are what typically drive these fault-finding missions and “worst fault” procla-

mations in a breed. These efforts are often about the short-term ego boost of the humans involved and do not have the future vigor of the breed in mind.

The Pointer, as any breed, should be evaluated as a whole against the breed standard, not against what is in the ring or what is declared from some time and place specific declaration of the “worst fault ever.”

Fault-finding is the most detrimental evaluation style for the well-being of a breed. It will cause a person to choose the overall inferior dog over the overall superior dog, and it will mean superior dogs are removed from the gene pool and inferior dogs advanced—both hurting the quality of what goes forward and limiting “outs” for breeding programs when good dogs (who could have offered additional lines to a limited gene pool) are needlessly eliminated.

An overall superior dog with a jarring fault is typically still the better dog for

the breed’s well-being than an overall inferior dog with no jarring faults. This is only the extreme; the overall superior dog may not even have a particularly profound fault, but its existence is amplified by the humans associated with the dog’s competition and the experience of losing in the human belonging to that dog.

Please do not get pressured (as an owner, breeder, buyer, or judge) by a loud “worst fault ever” declaration to detriment of your choice on the day, or for the future of the breed; please evaluate the overall merits of the Pointer against the breed standard.

The Pointer, as in any other breed, should be evaluated as a whole dog. Pointers should be evaluated against the standard, not weighing one element as most important, and not being influenced by the biased voice of today’s competition or the preferences between equally acceptable forms for function (like a Pointer with a head with

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parallel planes or a dish; scissors or even bite; not extremely long backed, not extremely short backed, or square; lemon, liver, orange, or black, in combination with white or solid-colored; at the top, at the bottom, or in the middle for acceptable sizes; and so on).

If you hear someone harping on a dog's fault(s) or declaring that they just cannot award a Pointer with XYZ specific fault, please take this with a grain of salt and realize it is likely the person's human flaw and not the dog's structural flaw that has been put on full display. Use your capacity to read and understand the standard and your knowledge of the breed's intended work, and not someone else's opinion, to evaluate whether a dog is fit for function.

More than anything, please care for, treat well, and respect your dogs. No Pointer, just like no dog, no human, and nothing is without fault. Even if your Pointer's structure is indeed

not aligned in one or more ways with the standard and the form is not suitable for function in a way that limits the plans for the dog in work, competition, or reproduction, do not overlook that dog's beauty or disregard the loving home the dog should have regardless. Every dog is majestic and continues to deserve love and admiration.

For evaluation, do not fault-find, as there is no one "worst fault" that warrants not seeing the forest for the trees. Rather, examine the dog as a whole in light of the breed's specific function and compare against the whole form laid out in the standard for that purpose.

For being a decent person toward your dog, and anyone else's dog, look at the beautiful elegance found in the Pointer's "compact power and agile grace" and the kind spirit that makes every Pointer a "true friend of man [or woman]."

—Hayley Thompson,
windlight@aol.com
American Pointer Club

German Shorthaired Pointers

SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN TALL

The parent club was formed in 1938, and its first standard was approved in 1946, revised in 1976, and revised again in 1992 (to the current version).

The following statement can be found in all three versions: *It gives the impression of medium size, but is like the proper hunter, "with a short back, but standing over plenty of ground."*

The 1992 revision added: *Proportion—measuring from the forechest to the rear-most projection of the rump and from the withers to the ground, the Shorthair is permissibly either square or slightly longer than he is tall.*

So how does one reconcile the reference to "short back" found in all three versions with the 1992 addition of "square or slightly longer than he is tall"?

I decided to look into this, and a few phone calls later it was explained some dogs and bitches had been measured in the early 1990s and

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were found to be slightly longer than they were tall. Which raised the question: How much longer than tall?

The answer and insight provided by the 1992 breed standard committee chair was five percent, but no more than 10 percent. This was derived after measuring several dogs and bitches and finding them to be slightly longer in body length than their height at the withers.

As an example, a Shorthair bitch in the middle of the bitch height standard would be square if she measured 22 inches at the withers and 22 inches in body length. Using the parameters of five percent but no more than 10 percent as given for the 1992 addition of “slightly longer than tall,” at five percent she would be 22 inches by 23.1 inches, and at 10 percent would be 22 inches by 24.2 inches.

It is important to remember that the measurement used to determine whether the dog is slightly longer than tall is an *overall body-length measurement*, from



the forechest to the rearmost projection of the rump—not the length of the back as measured from the first thoracic vertebrae to the base of the tail.

Considering the Shorthair breed was developed to go

at a steady pace—that is, trot all day—it stands to reason the early breeders wanted a short-backed dog because it was more efficient. “Standing over a lot of ground” meant in addition to the short back, the dog

JOHN RICARD ©AKC

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had well-laid-back shoulder blades and properly tilted pelvis, along with rear angles to complement those of the forequarters. This allowed adequate room for the legs to converge and foot placement under the dog without interference, and the short back allowed for less energy expended as the body weight was being transferred forward.

A dog who measures square has no room for error when it comes to foot placement under the body if the rest of his skeletal structure is not in perfect proportion and alignment. On the other hand, dogs who are slightly longer than tall will have more room underneath, but the energy expended to move the longer body can adversely affect endurance over time.

The question remains: Can a dog or bitch who is slightly longer than tall have a short back? The only way to find out is for GSP breeders and owners to measure their Shorthairs and find out.

—Patte Titus,
chexsix@mac.com
German Shorthaired
Pointer Club of America

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

SHOWING THE BITE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER

From the breed standard: *“Bite—Scissors is preferred, but a level bite is acceptable.” (Effective December 31, 1993.)*

Under Disqualifications, the following is listed as DQ number 2: *“Teeth, overshot or undershot.”*

The description of disqualification for bite in our standard has remained essentially the same since the first standard was written by the American Chesapeake Club and approved by the American Kennel Club in 1933. There have been several revisions throughout the years in other areas, but the bite disqualification remains the same.

When a judge in the ring examines the bite on Chesapeakes, he or she is

required to look at the “bite” and that is all. “Sides” are not required, nor is a full mouth exam. The AKC Judges Department has provided all judges with a chart listing every breed that is recognized *and* lists the type of oral exam that should be required for each breed.

Most judges carry the breed standard (electronically or on paper), which indicates the correct bite for each breed when they judge. In addition, superintendents are now listing in all judge’s books what type of exam is required for each breed they are judging. Symbols are used such as *F*, *S*, and *O*, standing for *Front*, *Sides*, or *Open Mouth* exam.

Why are we finding judges in our rings requesting or demanding to see the side teeth on a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, when it is not required in our breed standard?

In breed standards that state “full dentition,” the exhibitor is expected to show the front incisors and canines, then the side teeth,

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The Chesapeake Bay Retriever is known for “smiling” or “snickering”—often showing their teeth in play, embarrassment, or when caught in mischief.



from the canines and premolars back to the large molars in the rear of the mouth. In our breed we still have a good number of owner-handlers, especially in the classes. We encourage new owners to show their own dogs. They may not be trained or competent when it comes to showing the “sides.” Despite the stipulation that only front teeth are to be shown (six incisors and four canine teeth, upper and lower), there are judges who request and even demand to see all the teeth. The *Oral Exam Chart by Breed* that is published by the AKC says that

“Entries that are not used to this procedure and the lack of familiarity could lead to issues.”

In spite of what a breed standard states, there are judges who feel they are in charge of their ring and can do as they wish. As breeders, we certainly want full dentition in our breed. I suggest that in order to be prepared for any requests by judges, we should be mentoring new exhibitors and instructing them on how to show full dentition in our breed.

However, as a judge, I am trained to judge by the breed standard of each breed. It is not difficult to

remember that in the six retriever breeds, there are three that require full dentition: Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. The other three do not! How simple is that? Plus, it is listed right on the page for each breed you are judging in the judge’s book in the ring at the dog show: “Every judge should follow the breed standard which is owned by each parent club for each breed.” (*This article previously appeared in The Judges Blog by Tim Thomas of AKC Judging Operations, March 2025.*)

Showing the Bite—The “Smiling” Chesapeake

The pictures accompanying this column show Chesapeakes “showing the bite”! I am just adding this note to make you smile after reading my serious statements in the article above.

The Chesapeake is known for “smiling” or “snickering.” This usually occurs when your dog has done something wrong and is

COURTESY BETSY HORN HUMER

SPORTING GROUP

embarrassed. It could be that he got into the kitchen garbage or jumped up on the counter and stole a porkchop—or worse, the steak you were planning on having for dinner that night. All you have to do is ask your dog, “Did you do that?” while referring to the garbage strewn on the floor? The simple phrase “What did *you* do?” will cause your Chesapeake to grin away at you and sometimes add a little snorting in the process. Not all Chesaupes will show you their teeth, but most of them do. I did have a dog, Tiderunner, whom I trained to show his bite on command. I gave him the command “Show me your teeth,” and he would willingly follow my direction. When I was growing up, my family referred to it as “sniggering”—that description has been lost over time, while “smiling” and “snickering” have taken its place.

—Betsy Horn Humer,
tiderunr2@verizon.net
American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

LET'S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING

Back in 1979, there was no internet. Dog show people communicated by phone, and long-distance calls cost extra. In fact, the original communication regarding starting a national breed club for Curly-Coated Retrievers was initiated in a breed column article in the AKC GAZETTE written by Kathy Kail (Day) and through a mailing list maintained by Marillyn Caldwell. The difficulties of communication did not stop a determined group of people from pulling together the largest entry to date of Curly-Coated Retrievers or having a meeting to create a national breed club.

For two days, March 31 and April 1, 1979, the International Kennel Club of Chicago saw listed in the catalog an entry of over 30 Curlies, with 28 actually shown. Exhibitors came from nine states and Canada. No one had ever seen this

large of a Curly entry in the United States. It was truly historic.

Because back then the IKCC was a benched show, it was the perfect place to sit and discuss the formation of a national breed club. Benched shows are where dogs are required to be in an assigned space, unless in the ring, for a specified period during the day. We brought chairs and food with us because we could not leave the dogs unattended. If someone wanted to watch another breed in the ring, others would stay behind to keep an eye on the dogs. You could not leave until dismissal time (usually 5 P.M.). Today, only the Westminster show is still benched.

This show allowed plenty of time to sit and discuss what the club would be about, how we were going to make it happen, and who would lead the way. Marillyn Caldwell (Sevenravens) had the knowledge and the drive to lead the group to forming the club. She was also our first president.



Longtime Curly-Coated Retriever columnist Ann Shinkle, who retired as columnist last fall after 50 years in the role, with one of her dogs. Ellen Manes wrote in the April issue: “Ann has served the Curly-Coated Retriever community as almost no one else has. Her commitment to the column and its importance in communicating the numerous aspects of Curly life is unprecedented. ... Ann kept the many wonderful attributes of Curly-Coated Retrievers in front of the dog community all these years. In addition, she had many guest contributors add their voices and expertise. Our national breed club owes her a great debt of gratitude for her hard work.”

In the end, 43 people signed on as charter members. The Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America was chartered on June 1, 1979. Of those 43 people,

only four are still members of the club: Sheila Anderson, Kathy Kail, Ann Shinkle, and me. Several others were members in long standing until they passed away:

Ted Brenner, Marillyn Caldwell, Dale Detweiler, Yvonne Dormany, Mary Alice Hembree, and Doris Hodges, to name a few.

The unofficial and official national specialties were held in Chicago until 1982, when it was held in California. Since then, the specialty has been rotated around the country. It has allowed a large gathering of like-minded Curly enthusiasts to share their experiences with each other. These early shows became a foundation upon which we have built a network of camaraderie and information that has been so beneficial to the breed's progress, health, and status in the dog world.

So, this is a peek inside the beginning of our breed club which will, hopefully, continue to champion the Curly-Coated Retriever and be a beacon for the future of the breed.

—Ellen Manes,
jollycurl54@gmail.com
Curly-Coated Retriever
Club of America

COURTESY ANN SHINKLE

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Golden Retrievers

THE SEARCH FOR A GOOD BREEDER, AND A GOOD PEDIGREE

Finding a quality Golden Retriever puppy can be a daunting task. Experienced Golden owners will agree on the two most important elements in searching for a pup: a reputable breeder, and the pedigree.

Good breeders understand the importance of pedigree. They select their breeding stock using dogs with parents, grandparents, and other ancestors who possess good health, temperament, and ability who are most likely to pass on those same traits to their pups. In doing so, they have established a track record of producing quality pups. Thus the route to finding the puppy of your dreams lies with the right breeder *and* a good pedigree.

It's important not to confuse the pedigree with the puppy's registration papers. Registration papers simply identify the parents and other ancestors of the pup. They are not a guarantee of



Golden Retriever

the above-named qualities. Indeed, even titles in a pedigree do not reflect health or temperament. Only a good breeder can provide that information, often with the inclusion of supporting paperwork.

Careful breeder selection is as important for the companion Golden as for the working dog. Breeders in all of the working venues usually have pups who are “pet quality,” or they can refer you to another reputable breeder. However, finding *your* breeder depends on

your area(s) of interest for your Golden, such as obedience, conformation, agility, hunting, hunt tests, or field trials. Breeders who participate in your sport of choice will breed females with proven performance records (and the necessary health clearances) and have pedigrees with over-achieving parents, and breed their girls to accomplished males with titled ancestors. One outstanding female without working titles in her pedigree is not likely to produce consistently.

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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Breeder participation in the sporting venue is key. A breeder may have a female with fancy titles and breed her to a popular stud dog, but if he or she does not personally compete in that venue, they may not understand dog work or know how to select pups with those special qualities. Pups bred from working parents should inherit the soundness, attitude, and trainability needed to reach the top of their game. However, while the field-bred dog could cross over and excel at obedience or agility, the same could not be expected if reversed, as the obedience and agility dog may not have the marking ability or water attitude necessary for solid performance in the field. Thus breeder participation is even more relevant to selecting a pup who suits your individual goals.

Finally, on your path to success with your new pup, do as your breeder does. It's important to socialize your pup and expose him

to a variety of situations to develop confidence and a good working attitude. That is as true of the companion pup as for the working dog. If your pup is to succeed at his job, ask your breeder what skills will be needed for the life ahead. Early exposure (at the appropriate age) to agility equipment, obedience routines, swimming, gunfire, and so on—all will build enthusiasm for the work ahead. Your breeder can lead you down that path.

Which leads us to one last note on the best breeders: They are always happy to help their clients succeed in their Golden journey.

—Nona Kilgore Bauer,
nona@nonabauer.com
[Golden Retriever Club of America](#)

Labrador Retrievers

DOES YOUR LABRADOR WANT TO DO “ALL THE THINGS”?

You have just acquired a new Labrador puppy (or an adult), and you are so excited to start doing “all

the things” with him or her. Where to begin?

The AKC has many dog events to choose from, and it can be a little overwhelming. Conformation, hunt tests, agility, tracking, obedience, scent work, and rally obedience, to name a few. Then there are the Family Dog Program certificates that are offered, such as Canine Good Citizen, Fetch Dog, Trick Dog, Therapy Dog, Fit Dog, and Temperament Test. There are also events in the Title Recognition program, which can be viewed on the AKC website.

So, what happens when you start with a venue that you have always wanted to try, and you find that your new friend just does not have the same opinion that you do? Not every dog is meant to do every event, so the idea of doing All the Things just may have to be adjusted a little.

In my mind, doing All the Things is based on doing more than one venue, to show that your buddy is a versatile representative of

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Labrador Retrievers excel in a wide range of tasks and activities—such as scent work, shown here. “Find what the dog likes to do and embrace it,” advises columnist Cynthia Freeman.

the breed. There is no right or wrong, just what works for your dog and you.

I have watched events where it is obvious that the dog is not enjoying what he or she is doing, which also makes the handler not enjoy working with the dog. I have experienced this myself firsthand, which is why I now find what the dog likes

to do and embrace it. I have had this conversation with trainers who disagree with this concept, saying that any dog can be trained to do anything the trainer wants with enough time and patience. But why force something that is not enjoyed by both handler and dog?

I have a couple of examples I would like to share.

A male Lab I bred and co-owned with a friend who is also a very good trainer. This dog was not thrilled with obedience and rally. His nose was glued to the ground. So, shift gears and find events where the dog could use his ability to use his nose. Enter Barn Hunt (part of the Title Recognition Program). Wow, the lightbulb went on! He ended up earning a Barn Hunt championship, in addition to his conformation grand championship (no, it did not require using his nose, but hey, it became part of his name!). He also achieved many titles in NASDA (North American Sport Dog Association), where using the nose is an integral part of each event. He was a perfect example of matching what the dog loved to do with the right sport. It was unfortunate that he lived in an area where there was little opportunity to do hunt tests, but he did achieve a Working Certificate at the Labrador Retriever

COURTESY CYNTHIA FREEMAN

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Club national specialty in California in 2019.

Another male Lab that I bred hated the show ring. Talk about a slug! I sold him as a pet, and his new owner found his calling in therapy work. He became a certified Therapy Dog and makes weekly visits to hospitals, schools, and anywhere his calming personality is needed. He has qualified to be an AKC Therapy Dog during this process. The staff at the hospital where he most frequents see him coming and the calls in the hallways of “Hey, it’s Abbott! Boy, do we need you today!” brings joy to my heart whenever I hear this from his “person.” He is another example of utilizing what the dog loves to do.

I end this with the advice to keep in mind that the dogs who love every sport or venue are out there but are rare. Most importantly, love your dog no matter what he or she wants to do, since your dog loves you for being part of the team.

—Cynthia (Cindy) Freeman,
QRLabs@yahoo.com
The Labrador Retriever Club

English Setters

THOUGHTS ON TAILS

“The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.” —

Anonymous

You don’t have to spend much time around dog people to start to learn some of their conformation pet peeves. With English Setters, I would bet that one of the biggest pet peeves among show breeders is a gay tail—or as I like to think of it, a “too happy” tail.

It’s not just English Setter breeders who dislike gay tails, either. I was showing a good dog to an all-around judge once at a show. The dog was sturdy with good bone, a decent mover, good type, with the most beautiful head you could imagine. He also had a perfectly level topline—not a dip or roll

of any kind. However, the judge took her time before giving him Winners Dog. When she handed me the ribbon, she told me how much she liked him but pointed to his tail and said, “I wanted to take a flyswatter to his tail the whole time he was in the ring!”

Now, I knew that the root of the dog’s tail came level off his back when he was standing still. His tail-set was level, but he was a very happy dog. He carried his tail like a plumed flag, waving it in the air when he trotted. I never considered it to be a structural fault. I was glad to have a dog who enjoyed being in the ring and felt so happy. He was a nice dog and finished quickly, in spite of his “happy” tail.

On the other hand, I know plenty of owners and breeders who despise this kind of tail. They wouldn’t even think of breeding a dog with a tail that waves around in the air.

Some field trial people who like a “12 o’clock tail”

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English Setters, Westminster, 1956

have a completely different take on the issue. I used to think they liked the 12 o'clock tails on setters so they could see their dogs in tall grass, but there may be another reason. According to professional bird dog trainer and Field Trial Hall of Fame member Delmar Smith, "When you breed dogs, you make sure you get a high tail. That way you get an inch to an inch and a half more muscle ... that muscle from the hipbone back down there to the thigh. That gives the dog more reaching power and pushing

power. He's not choppy." (Not all field people agree with Smith.)

I don't want to minimize the importance of the English Setter's tail-set. The slope of the dog's pelvis has everything to do with the dog's rear angulation. If the root of the tail is too high because of a short pelvis and short pelvic slope, it can affect the dog's gait, along with his appearance. He won't have the power to propel himself as he should. If the tail set is too low, you can get other problems.

According to Edward M.

Gilbert Jr. and Thelma R. Brown in *K-9 Structure & Terminology*, a low tail-set usually indicates a steep pelvis and restricted back reach (goose rump). The book has a good chapter on the hind-quarters with descriptions of the pelvis and its slope, along with discussion of a flat croup.

Here is what Laverack said about the tail in 1872:

"The tail should be set on high, in a line with the back; medium length, not curled or ropy, to be slightly curved or scimitar-shaped, but with no tendency to turn upwards; the flag or feather hanging in long pendant flakes." (*The Setter*, Edward Laverack, 1872, <https://is.gd/VzaSp9>)

The breed standard in the U.K., with The Royal Kennel Club, retains much of this description of the tail today. Personally, I don't know how you have a tail that is supposed to be slightly curved or scimitar-shaped without a tendency to curve upward. This is why breed standards

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and trying to describe dogs can be so frustrating.

Our AKC standard has this to say about the tail today:

“Tail—a smooth continuation of the topline. Tapering to a fine point with only sufficient length to reach the hock joint or slightly less. Carried straight and level with the back. Feathering straight and silky, hanging loosely in a fringe.” In the “Movement and Carriage” section of the standard, a “lively tail” is desired.

So, our current AKC standard certainly does describe a straight, level tail, as opposed to Laverack’s description and the description for dogs in the U.K., though it can be “lively.” The judge who wanted to bat my dog’s tail with a fly-swatter was likely within her rights.

Our old breed standard used to allot five points for the dog’s tail (length and carriage)—which seems about right.

I would suggest that most dogs being shown today don’t carry their tails level

with their back when they are moving around the ring. Not because they have a high tail-set or a gay tail, but because they do have a lively tail, and it’s perfectly natural for the breed. Yes, some dogs do carry their tails straight and level, even when they are moving, but I’m not sure they really look better or more natural. In fact, I suspect that for some dogs the tail may be carried a little high and waving for balance while they are moving. While a gay tail that comes from a high tail-set is undesirable, I have no problem with a level tail-set and a happy dog who carries his tail a little high. I know lots of English Setter people will disagree with me, but I think we need to realize that tail carriage and tail-set are not the same thing. Tail-set is structural, while tail carriage can be, at least partially, a reflection of the dog’s personality and attitude.

—Carlotta Cooper,
eshever@embarqmail.com
[English Setter Association of America](#)

Gordon Setters

MISCELLANY

Let’s catch up on a few odds and ends.

First, there is a new dual champion Gordon Setter. She is GCh. DC AFC Blackjack Double Down, JH, bred and owned by Sandra Wollschlager from Minnesota. “Dee Dee” has a great list of accomplishments, including being the GSCA Derby dog of the year in 2020. In 2023 she also had a fourth place in the Gordon Setter AKC National Walking Gun Dog Championship. She earned her conformation championship in October 2020, and her grand championship in April 2021. She earned her amateur field championship in December 2023, and her open field championship and dual championship in January 2024.

Congratulations to Dee Dee and Sandra. And for the cherry on top of the sundae, Dee Dee became a mother on March 15 of this year. May the six puppies grow up to emulate their mother!

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Gordon Setter puppy Dipple at Scotland's Gordon Castle, where the breed was developed in the late 1700s.

Those of you who have been reading these columns for the last several years will know that there has been a search underway for quite some time trying to establish who was the first Gordon in the U.S. to be recognized as a champion. There is finally an answer to that question, and the dog's name is Argus. He was shown in the champion class at a Chicago show in 1883 or 1884. He was owned by John S. Niven, and later

acquired by John E. Thayer of Lancaster, Massachusetts.

The first champion bitch was Madge, who became a champion at Westminster Kennel Club in 1886 by winning the bitch class. Argus was also entered at that show, but was absent, but Royal Duke became the second champion at that show. Madge was the third overall champion. Thank you to Nancy Thompson for finally tracking down the

information.

In February of this year, a special project came to fruition with the publication of a 102-page special edition of the *Gordon Setter News*. It's a look back at the first 100 years of the GSCA. There is a lot of early club history, a look at very important kennels and breed history, a look at important dogs and bitches, and much, much more that anyone interested in this breed needs to read. Many thanks to the committee, headed by Nancy Thompson, of California, for a lot of hard work and research putting this project together. And a special thanks to Sue Drum, of Texas, whose computer and editing skills put all the contributions into a highly readable and beautiful format. And thank you also to the rest of the committee: Dianne Avery, of Michigan; Laura Bedford, of Connecticut; Susan Desilver, of Connecticut; Nance Skoglund, of Minnesota; and Bea VanKampen, of Michigan.

COURTESY GORDON CASTLE

SPORTING GROUP

There are a few remaining copies of this publication available for \$15 plus shipping. Anyone interested may contact me at the email address below, and I will put you in touch with the proper people.

And speaking of history of this breed, it is of course named after Scotland's Duke of Gordon and was developed at Gordon Castle in the late 1700s. After many years, the castle has been restored and is now a working estate again where one may fish for Atlantic salmon, shoot a pheasant or two, or even get married (<https://www.gordoncastle.co.uk>). In the fall of 2024, Gordon Setters also returned to the castle when the residents purchased a puppy. All things are now right in the world as Gordon Setters are back at the castle. Her name is Dipple, and her picture accompanies this column.

—Jim Thacker,

Dunbar.Gordons@gmail.com

[Gordon Setter Club of America](#)

Irish Setters

THE NATIONAL SPECIALTY— MAGICAL MOMENTS IN THE MAKING

The memory of attending my first Irish Setter Club of America national specialty is seared in my mind. It was held in Escondido, California, in 2000. The show venue was the then Lawrence Welk Resort. It was a golf club with villas that surrounded the green grass which lay at the Southern California foothills like a green-velvet plush blanket. My husband and I were staying in our RV with three Irish Setters. I remember my mind racing with excitement as I watched more and more Irish Setters arrive at the show site. Their glistening red coats shining across the green blanket of grass as they stretched their legs from traveling.

As a child, my first view of an Irish Setter was running across the grass in someone's yard. I was fixated on the beauty of the magnificent animal. In my 20s,

my husband and I owned two Irish Setters and joined a breed club. My limited views increased from seeing two Irish Setters rollicking to seeing quite a few Irish Setters at club functions.

Nothing prepared me for seeing the champions enter the ring for the judge to check armband numbers on a Saturday morning in 2000. Dog after dog entered the ring. First I counted 50 dogs, then 100 dogs, then the count no longer mattered. The dogs formed line after line in the ring. Soon the ring was a sea of waving red hair. The wind was blowing softly, the dogs' tails wagging, their owners laughing and visiting among themselves. At one point a bagpiper started playing. My grandfather was Irish and loved anything and everything Irish. Tears rolled down my face. I could only imagine how the scene in front of me would have affected him. The scene in front of me created an emotion that was completely unexpected. Standing in the

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Irish Setter; a beautiful lineup at a specialty

presence of this ring full of Irish Setters was a magical moment.

Time flew by, and the 2016 Irish Setter national

specialty was at hand. I was honored with being named the show chair. Over those 16 years, I had attended almost every national

specialty. Having held the position of president, among other positions, for the Irish Setter Club of Southern California, I knew all too well the work that goes into putting on a dog show. I was prepared for the task at hand in 2016. Three years had been spent organizing and preparing for this show.

There are so many unsung heroes when a dog show is organized. It is important to recognize that club members volunteering are the ones who create shows for us whether it is a national specialty or an all-breed show. The people who assisted me in 2016 were amazing. The 2016 Irish Setter Club of America national specialty will always be my favorite. It taught me so much more about dog shows.

After 2016, I looked at shows differently. I was no longer just an exhibitor. I became someone who understood exactly what each person in that club or cluster had sacrificed for me, for all of us. Do we

BREED COLUMNS

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each do our part to assist any club that has put on a show? My husband and I do our part by picking up after a dog that was not ours, collecting some trash that appeared in a place it should not be, or simply removing our name tag from the floor that marked our grooming space. Every little bit helps and is appreciated.

We often read; the Irish Setter is considered the most beautiful breed of dog by artists. As an artist, I understand. Their shiny, long coat blowing outside in the gentle breeze captured on canvas makes my heart sing. Their rollicking personality makes everyone smile. Who does not enjoy happy? When showing my youngest Irish Setter, I laugh and tell the judges, *“She has enough happy for all of us.”*

What makes each of us love the breed that we love? It is a magical question, is it not? One thing for sure, we do fancy our favorite breeds, and each of our hearts is touched when we look upon the breed we dearly love.

I hope everyone has an opportunity to attend a national specialty for their breed. It is magical and an event like no other when it comes to the love of a specific breed.

When this article is published, our 2025 national specialty will be concluded. Thank you to our 2025 show chair, Karolynne McAteer, for your hard work and dedication to our breed. Thank you to all the volunteers who made another national specialty possible.

—Dawn Secord,
Westminster, Texas,
DawnSecordArtist@gmail.com

[Irish Setter Club of America](#)

Irish Red and White Setters

CAVEAT VENDITOR, CAVEAT EMPTOR

We all, dear readers, love dogs. We know we are their advocates and protectors. My question to you is how far does your responsibility extend? Do

you offer a suggestion to a neighbor? Call the city Animal Control Humane Officer? Shake your head and walk on to the relentless out of control barking? What can we do?

Buyer beware!—the common warning to purchasers. Shall we add “seller beware”? Puppy scams was a suggested column topic. Breeders were reluctant to talk about their experiences; I cannot blame them for not wanting to relive or expose weaknesses. What they did relay were concerns about safety, and legal issues—both protections and rights. There were concerns about damage to reputation, and concerns regarding the careful litter planning they do to confirm and conform to breed standards, and the lifetime work, love, and trust they put in—while unethical people are only looking to profit.

I learned that breeders may be competitive in the ring, but they are close knit when it comes to their breeding programs and

BREED COLUMNS



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Irish Red and White Setters in action: Gracie flying through an agility hoop; a “wheel” of puppies (so many spots!); Junior Hunter Angel on point; Ethan hunting in Wyoming; Santana in the field. (Note that the pointing style of the Irish Red and White Setter is standing or crouching—it is normal for the dog to crouch very low or lie flat. Please see the IRWSAA hunting style guide for more information.)

beloved dogs. As you may also know, they breed for the long term. What is best for the breed? Their focus is not to benefit their bank

account, but what mating will produce the intended results in the next generation of puppies. The breeders I know go to great lengths to

COURTESY JUDY BAUMGARTNER

SPORTING GROUP

produce great dogs.

All breeds have characteristics that make them unique and special. And why?

Speaking to IRWS breeders, they are very aware, often referring to their dogs as unique and special when describing them, and using words found in the breed standard: “*kindly, friendly attitude ... discernible determination, courage, and high spirit.*” Remember that IRWSs are bird dogs. They instinctively love to hunt. This can include traits a first-time owner will find challenging.

From a buyer’s perspective, finding a dog can be confusing. There are so many options, from the back of truck in a Walmart parking lot to friends or neighbors, a local shelter, or social media. How does one find a purebred dog?

Do we make it easy for the public? I found my first IRWS in the local paper on a Tuesday. There is nothing in the paper on Tuesdays. They no longer even print on Tuesday. Her question-

able family tree got us a letter notifying her registration was revoked. I researched the breed and breeders for a long time before finding Duchess.

The AKC is a reliable source for all things dogs. For finding puppies, AKC’s Breeder of Merit and Bred with H.E.A.R.T. are two recognition programs that celebrate prioritizing health, temperament, and well-being of their puppies while rewarding health, education, accountability, responsibility, and tradition. Earning these distinctions takes time and commitment. Look for these logos on the breeders’ listings.

Another place to find puppies is the national club. Many have breeders lists on the website. Those appearing are usually members in good standing. You can cross-reference club involvement and participation.

Meet your new friends. Find resources. Learn more about the breed. See what activities are popular. Is there a local club nearby? And of course, talk about puppies!

Our club supports Meet the Breeds events all over the country. These give prospective owners a chance to see many breeds in person and talk about specific challenges or endearing qualities. Interested people can earn more about responsible dog ownership from dedicated owners who really care about the breed and their dogs.

So, when prospective puppy buyers contact you, what is your plan? What can you do to educate? Are you a resource on their puppy-finding journey?

Getting a dog is a lifelong commitment. We need to make sure we educate the public about purebred dogs and our lovely breed.

—Cynthia Lancaster,
clclancaster@gmail.com
Irish Red and White Setter
Association of America

Clumber Spaniels

We continue with a final article—this one lighthearted—that was contributed in advance by the

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late Dr. Bryant Freeman, longtime GAZETTE columnist for the Clumber Spaniel Club of America.

33 TRUTHS ABOUT THE DOG WORLD

Just in case you did not already realize some of this about the dog world, here are some truths:

Your dog is overweight; mine is “robust.”

Your dog is lame and shouldn’t be shown; mine hurt his paw going into the ring.

Your dog fouled up the ring; mine had a little accident.

Your dog bit the judge; mine was trying to kiss the judge.

Your dog is stubborn; mine thinks for himself.

Your dog is deaf; mine has selective hearing.

Your dog is aggressive; mine is reserved with strangers.

Your dog’s out of control; mine’s full of energy.

Your dog is timid; mine’s a little shy.

Your dog barks a lot; mine’s full of life.

Your dog lost because she’s

a poor specimen of the breed; mine lost because the judge doesn’t know the standard.

Your dogs win because you spend big money on big handlers; mine win because they’re the best.

Your dog won because you’re friends with the judge; I lost because the judge doesn’t like me.

Your dog is ridiculously overgroomed; mine has been prepared to best exhibit the breed.

Your Clumber won because of the docked tail; I lost because the judge can’t stand the undocked tail.

You fly around the ring so the judge can’t really see your dog’s bad movement; I move fast so the judge can appreciate my dog’s spirit.

You strangle your dog going around the ring; I show proper gait.

You stack your dog to hide his faults; mine’s a natural self-stacker.

Your bitch is in season and shouldn’t be entered; my bitch isn’t due for several days yet.

If you talk about dogs a lot, you’re a show-off; if you

don’t, you’re trying to hide your ignorance.

If you’ve been breeding for less than 20 years, you’re a beginner; if you’ve been breeding for more than 20 years, you should quit and let newcomers have a chance.

If your dogs are at all the shows, you’re not letting others have a chance; if your dogs aren’t at all the shows, you’re afraid of the competition.

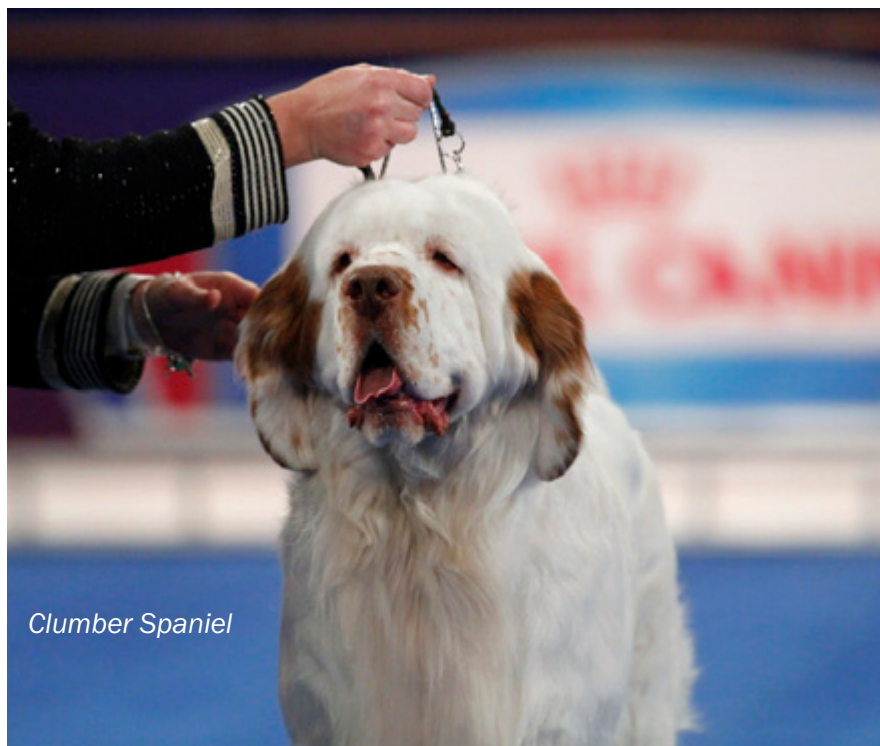
If you don’t talk to people at shows, you’re a snob; if you do, you’re just trying to show off.

If your dogs win, it’s because you know the judges; if they don’t win, it’s because you’re not only a lousy breeder but also a lousy handler.

If you win and thank the judge, you’re playing politics; if you win and don’t thank the judge, you’re rude.

If you lose and congratulate the winner, you’re a hypocrite; if you lose and don’t congratulate the winner, you’re a sore loser.

If there were five dogs in the ring and yours came in fifth, you’re just lucky yours didn’t



Clumber Spaniel

get kicked out.

If you use your own stud, you're kennel blind; if you use an outside stud, you don't think much of your own breeding.

If you sell your pups, they're not good enough to keep; if you don't sell your pups, it's because nobody wants 'em.

That guy won thanks to his coat and tie; I lost, but it should be only the dog that counts.

She is disgustingly overdressed; I am showing proper

respect for the judge and the dog show world.

Her neckline's too low; it's a hot day.

As show chair 100 things can go wrong; if one thing does go wrong, that's the only one you'll hear about.

Reminder: Whatever anyone else thinks, my Clumbers think I'm awesome.

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D.,
Founding/Life Member,
Breed Historian, Clumber
Spaniel Club of America,
Inc. The CSCA's Dr. Bryant
Freeman Digital Library

can be accessed at <https://clumbers.org/digital-library/>.

Clumber Spaniel Club of America

Cocker Spaniels

"ABOVE ALL": THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD TEMPERAMENT IN THE COCKER SPANIEL

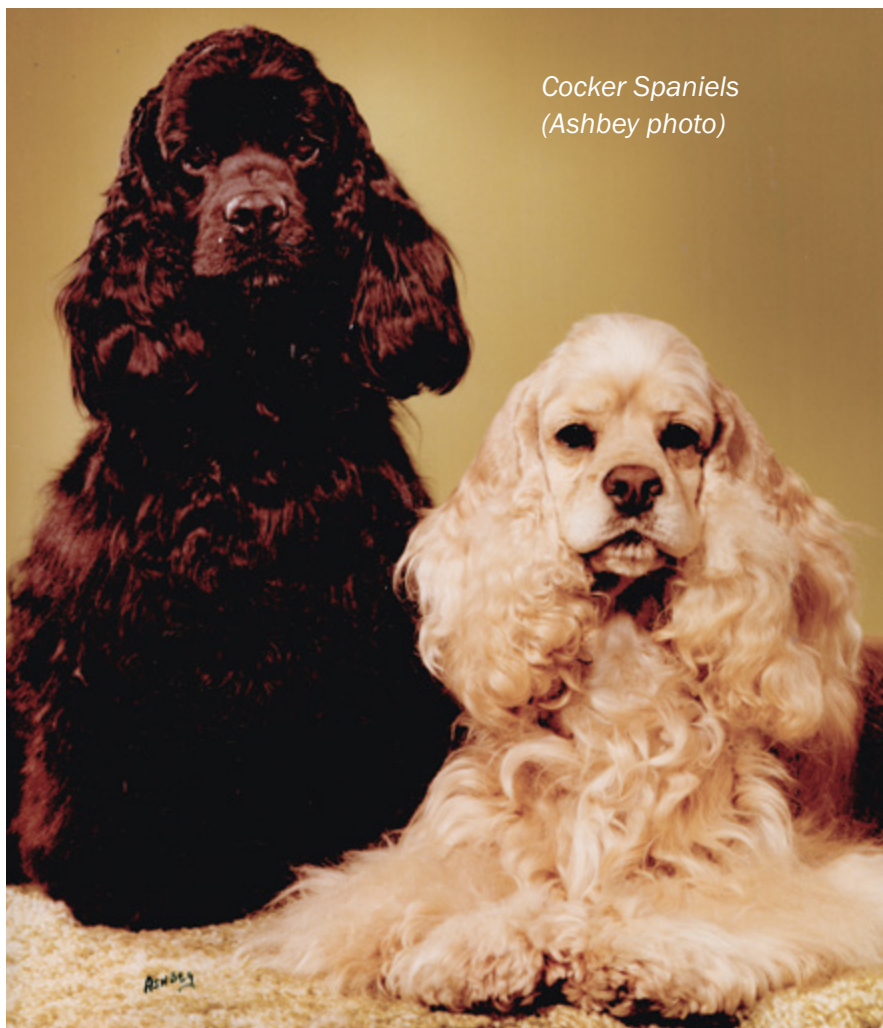
Whether you are searching for suitable canine companion or involved in showing and producing generations of good dogs for the future, keep in mind that temperament is a factor that potentially affects everything.

Given fundamental good temperament in a Cocker Spaniel, there is *so* much you can do with that dog. Poor temperament, on the other hand, can affect the dog's quality of life and even your quality of life. Think about a dog's amenability to training and trying new activities, and even whether the dog's state of temperament allows it to be approachable by people and other dogs, or not.

Recall the breed's origin

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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*Cocker Spaniels
(Ashbey photo)*

and development over time. The Cocker was developed as a small sporting spaniel to hunt and flush gamebirds. The breed thereafter gained immense popularity as a companion; he was people oriented, eager to please and trainable. Dogs are individuals, but in general Cockers were cheerful, good natured,

affectionate and loyal, not to mention appealing in appearance.

The official standard for the Cocker Spaniel established the framework for the structure and other important factors and requirements for the breed. Right away, in the General Appearance section, you find a key

descriptive sentence:

“Above all, he must be free and merry, sound, well balanced throughout and in action show a keen inclination to work.”

Further into the standard, you find a reference to the Cocker’s temperament as shown by the Cocker’s tail carriage—“never so low as to indicate timidity. When the dog is in motion the tail action is merry.”

A short sentence in the Temperament section of the standard says so much. “Temperament: Equable in temperament with no suggestions of timidity.”

The American Spaniel Club publication “A Study of the Cocker Spaniel” amplifies the standard provisions with additional thoughts on judging the Cocker Spaniel in view of the standard’s Temperament section, saying in part “... above all the Cocker is merry and affectionate. A good time to judge temperament is while the dog is gaitting or standing free. The tail should be held confidently and preferably be

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wagging. The Cocker should be approachable by other dogs and people with no sign of aggression or shyness.”

It is evident that a Cocker with an outstanding, willing temperament will enjoy its life and accept challenges that arise and will make its person’s life so much easier in working with the dog’s conduct and in training. A confident, happy, outgoing attitude just makes life easier! A dog willing to please is a joy. Friendly, sociable Cockers facilitate successful public interactions and training success. They are great representatives of the breed for future owners!

Genetics play a big part in temperament. Breeders know, or should know this, from their experience. So, along with care taken in early socialization and managing the experiences of puppies, breeders must take great care in the selection of individual Cockers to be incorporated into a breeding program.

Good temperament is fundamental. Much

thought and study should be put into selection with the knowledge that temperament is a factor which will affect a Cocker Spaniel puppy and its person for almost any purpose and endeavor that comes up in their lives together.

—Kristi L. Tukua,
columnist

[American Spaniel Club](#)

English Cocker Spaniels

SEX AND THE ENGLISH COCKER

I have owned and bred a few different breeds in my lifetime, and English Cocker Spaniels certainly have their own quirks when it comes to reproduction. One might think it’s just a simple matter to put two dogs together, but no! This usually only works when one does *not* want a breeding to take place.

Allow me to provide some memorable examples. Keep in mind that most dogs have an extraordinary ability to remember patterns, for good or bad. Puppies, if trained to

potty on a particular surface, will have a strong preference to “go” on the same type of surface over and over. This applies to early breeding experiences as well. Years ago, I had a stud dog, Ch Déjà Vu Blockbuster, who was initially very difficult to breed. He was interested, but he didn’t quite know what to do and absolutely shut down if anyone tried to help. I used to joke that he must have gone to Catholic school and so had an enormous amount of guilt over anything related to reproduction.

It wasn’t until I sent him to California for a good friend to use him at stud that the code was cracked, and a new pattern was made. She had him stand on a rug for traction, and success! From that point on, he would breed the lady dogs with great enthusiasm, as long as he could stand on a rug.

Fortunately, I had a beat-up old rug in the family room, and I would turn the TV channel to something interesting, as Blockbuster

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English Cocker Spaniel

usually had long ties of an hour to an hour and a half, then I'd settle in on the couch with the bitch on a lead on the rug, and Blockbuster would get the job done. The only downside was that if the lady friend wandered off the rug, Blockbuster would stand

on the edge of the rug and whine at her, hence the need to keep her on a lead, firmly in place. I really should have named a puppy "Magic Carpet Ride."

There was another boy, Fred, who was not a big dog, who needed to stand on something in order to hit his

target. Whether a thick book or someone's feet, it didn't matter. He was always grateful to get a smaller bitch.

Then there were the two boys who were best friends. Not only did they not become jealous of each other when a bitch was in season, on one occasion I looked out the window and saw them both trying to breed a girl who I didn't even think was in season. She was standing very patiently while Jimmy humped her side and Jack had a go at her ear. Both boys had their eyes squeezed tightly shut. I guess their theory was, if they couldn't see each other, then they couldn't get mad at each other. It did not help their aim. No puppies resulted, to no one's surprise.

And it's not just the boys who can be quirky. Some EC bitches have been known to stand and pitch a fit when mounted, and then roll like an alligator with fresh-caught prey. And scream—lots of screamers in this breed!

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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So, if you are fortunate to have a stud dog who breeds naturally and a bitch who accepts breeding naturally *and* free-whelps—you are lucky indeed!

—Beth Hendrick,
bhendrick@verizon.net
English Cocker Spaniel
Club of America

English Springer Spaniels

BABY STEPS FOR BABY DOGS

Dr. Benjamin Spock's guidance that children who "are appreciated for what they are" will "grow up with confidence in themselves and happy" and will "have a spirit that will make the best of all the capacities that they do have and of all the opportunities that come their way" makes excellent puppy-raising advice.

As dog breeders and puppy-raisers, we do well to let little puppies grasp the mysteries of their world at their own speed.

Every pup has her own timeline for what is fun versus what is scary. How many

little pups have been tortured when owners follow bad advice given with good intentions? Sometimes we can be too driven to ensure that our pup receives every opportunity for optimal mental and physical development before the pup is mentally and emotionally mature enough for the activities or surroundings.

Often we need to stop, take a calming breath, and remember that a good experience from the pup's viewpoint depends on the pup's very individual temperament, prior experience or lack thereof, and the genes that made the pup who she is.

Baby steps are best for baby dogs. "Socialize, socialize, socialize!" can become good advice gone bad. Enroll in a puppy kindergarten class where all the dogs are very young, the class is small, and the breeds are evenly matched in size and play drive. Do the class instructors have keen eyes for signs of pup intimidation, overexuberance, or

frightened pup responses? Build a foundation for your pup to love to leave home and to delight in other dogs.

Not all classes are managed well for puppy behaviors, nor are all pups screened carefully enough to set the stage for happy learning experiences. Before you take your pup to a class, ask if you may come and watch a class. Most instructors will be happy to have you. Leave your pup at home until you have seen the size of the class and the size of the pups in the class, as well as surfaces, noise levels, and type of instruction.

Watch class interactions closely, and note the stress levels of dogs and owners.

Learning to read your pup's reactions to the expanding world around her is a constant focus of bonding with each new dog. Each pup is different.

If a pup goes toward a situation with a wagging tail and soft eye expression, she probably feels the new experience is safe. If a pup plants her little feet and

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Young English Springer Spaniels benefit from having fun while learning. If a pup will be wearing costumes, praise and reward with delicious treats; Mandy is worn out completely at a baby puppy party; Bodie learns to stand and look his most handsome.

refuses to take a step toward any new person or object, respect her reluctance. Let the pup take a step back. Let the pup watch from the sidelines while she works to understand her new world. Pushing a pup into an experience that frightens her may have the opposite effect than teaching her to be outgoing and accepting of new situations. Keep play sessions in new places brief. Always leave a new experience with the pup happy to have been there.

Your puppy is not a tool for older dogs to use to reinforce their experience that the world is safe. Have you witnessed an adolescent dog, on leash,

dragging their owner full-speed-ahead toward a tiny pup? Usually, this out-of-control owner is shouting, “He’s okay! He *loves* puppies!” This is the time to happily pat your leg, sweetly say your pup’s name, and scamper to another spot. You can be friendly, and say, “My pup needs a little space!” or a similar message that you hope will make the clueless dog owner reel in his untrained dog. The one thing you must *not* do is offer your inexperienced pup up to be overwhelmed by a dog whose behavior, temperament, and play techniques are unknown to you.

Puppyhood is not the

time to make a bucket list of every life experience you want your pup to enjoy and force her into myriad confusing, perhaps noisy, often frightening situations. Have you ever seen a little pup quivering, with eyes rolled back to show the whites, at a loud gathering like a music concert or a fireworks event? Thrusting a young dog into an overstimulating atmosphere will harm the pup, not build the pup’s confidence that the world outside her house is safe.

Many stores allow pups to shop with their owners. Rather than taking your pup to a pet store where many dogs may go, and where you

COURTESY SARAH FERRELL

SPORTING GROUP

have no way of knowing the health, vaccination history, or temperament of unknown dogs, take your pup to places where few dogs go, but where the pup is allowed to sit in your shopping cart and see the world roll by. National chain hardware stores, many craft stores, garden centers, restaurants with outdoor seating, and many other businesses welcome well-behaved pups. If your pup is small enough to tuck inside your jacket and both you and your pup are quiet and polite, chances are high no one will object to your pup's presence.

When you look into your pup's trusting eyes, realize that to the pup you are the entire world. Tell yourself, "Easy does it." Go slowly, with joy for your pup and an eagle eye on the world around him. Show him a world that is safe and calm.

—Sarah Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia; author of *Devoted to Dogs: How to be Your Dog's Best Owner* <https://www.facebook.com/profile>.

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[English Springer Spaniel](#)
[Field Trial Association](#)

Field Spaniels

WHY FIELD SPANIELS?

I have frequently and recently been asked why made me choose our beloved breed. It is a fair question, to ask why someone fancies a particular kind of dog amidst the vast array of types out there. What attracts us to a certain style, size, appearance, ability, coat, and behavior of a breed might well deter another based on preferences. Purebred fanciers and mixed-breed aficionados alike are drawn to looks and manner of their chosen dogs. Many first-time or inexperienced owners go for a breed based on "cute factor" in puppies or how they present in appearance. Little consideration is given to a breed's purpose, health issues, grooming and exercise requirements, or how a puppy will be as an adolescent or adult.

Back to the fancy and

those experienced in dogs, perhaps we are drawn to what we've known—maybe a relative had them, or we grew up in a breed. Sometimes we have admired them from afar or learned about them through life.

I personally was drawn to several sporting breeds through kennel experience. I had been around highly trained service dogs and watched obedience in my younger years. I knew I wanted to be able to train in multiple disciplines and enjoy living with a personal companion. As much as I enjoyed retrievers, I was looking for a "big dog in a medium body" that would work well for my young adult life; something active and biddable, but suited to suburban life and the activities I wanted to participate in. I'd known some spaniels who were not small but were sweet in nature and bright in learning.

I find dogs of all breeds pleasing by their very essence. The Field appeals in health, grooming requirements, exercise need, size,

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Field Spaniel

and habit. I adore the breed's temperament and problem-solving capabilities. These are thinking dogs, often with a sense of humor and tenacity that rivals animals in the wild that are often thought of as "determined." They really love their people and are willing to play our games.

I of course find them beautiful—not always flashy, but possessing an elegant and noble beauty. Head and body are distinct among spaniels, and the coat and expression fulfill a rich aesthetic. That said, their attitudes and personalities complete the picture.

I appreciate some pizzazz in a dog, a character that

shows you demonstratively how they think and feel. Fields are communicative by nature—somewhat more through body language and behavior, and always through the eyes and manner. Movements are sometimes accompanied by a smorgasbord of vocalizations, and their enthusiasm in life is unmatched. That enthusiasm may be directed at you, desired objects or location, and sometimes even their own emotions.

I adore their little quirks and behaviors. Fields tend to live life large and love their people. The snores and sighs become a soundtrack in daily life. They nest in blankets and display great affinity for beloved toys.

We joke that our Field Spaniels are "Food Spaniels," with robust appetites as easy keepers. Mine have all done well food-wise and love their treats. Creature comforts include favorite spots and snuggles. I've seen them bask in the sun and savor cool spots. They have proven to

be affectionate with their favorite people, and I've been proud to share them as ambassadors for the breed.

In training, the breed proves to be one that problem-solves, and many have noted them to be wicked smart, quick studies who will figure out how to accomplish the task at hand. Gentle, positive methods yield good results with these bright learners. Our breed is happiest at home and hearth, wanting our love and companionship above all else ... well, in addition to their cookies!

Some have noted them as a lesser-known spaniel breed, even saying they are one of dogdom's best-kept secrets. They are handsome and handy, with some of the sweetest personalities and most robust humors I've seen in canines. They are viewed as friends and family, but one of the best we can choose. And share cookies with.

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

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

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Irish Water Spaniels

THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL:

A JOY TO TRAIN

I was warming up my dog for her ring entrance when a well-known local obedience instructor walked past me and said, “Oh, an Irish Water Spaniel! They are hard to train, aren’t they?” I was preoccupied enough at the moment to not respond to her beyond a shrug, but I thought a lot about it later.

Hard to train? Irish Water Spaniels? While my experience in training the IWS is limited, I’ve trained a number of other spaniels and setters. How does the IWS compare?

Yes, they really are as smart as many IWS owners and breeders claim.

And maybe smarter, like Border Collie smart. Numerous times my dog Journey demonstrated the “fast mapping” learning ability documented in studies of Border Collies. Fast mapping means the dog can learn a rudimentary version



Irish Water Spaniel

of a behavior in one lesson and replicate it the next day. I’ve experienced more than one Water Spaniel who does one better, by not just replicating the behavior, but improving on it.

Retention of learning is another attribute. For reasons I won’t go into here, Journey and I took a two-year break from her Utility work. When we went back to it, she remembered everything about the most complex exercises—and I mean *everything*, right down to the itty-bitty precision details. I wouldn’t have remembered those behaviors as well if you’d given me

a two-year break!

Their pack drive is as high as their prey drive.

You’ll hear lots of field, agility, and obedience trainers talk about “drive.” Usually they’re talking about prey drive, the powerful instinct to find prey that can be utilized to retrieve a duck or pick up a dumbbell. But the social or “pack” drive is essential in obedience, to enjoy being with the trainer and fully invest in the crazy obedience games we play.

And I don’t think Journey is an exception; I see this same “team player” attitude in a young male Water

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

SPORTING GROUP

Spaniel I'm currently training, and I see it at every IWS specialty trial, where the vast majority of the dogs are attempting to fulfill their owners' wishes, sometimes despite miscommunication and handler nerves.

They really are "alert and inquisitive," as the standard says.

Always. Alert. Sometimes that alertness can be trying, like this morning when I was trying to cuddle with Journey on the bed with morning coffee, and she just couldn't stop squiggling. And this is a 9-year-old IWS, not a puppy. But that "on" switch means that when I say, "Let's go train!" her answer is always a "Yes!"

These are just some of the many significant attributes that make the IWS a joy to train and certainly not difficult. They might be a well-kept secret in the obedience world, but the secret might be getting out, with multiple competitive IWS showing in the advanced obedience classes in recent

years. —*Laura Burns, 2017*

Coming next month: Look for a selection of photos and a brief report on the 2025 IWSCA national specialty in the August issue of the GAZETTE.

[Irish Water Spaniel Club of America](#)

Sussex Spaniels

SUSSEX NUMBERS ARE STILL WORRYING

While here in the U.S. litters of Sussex puppies were pretty good in 2024—approximately 55 live puppies—in England, where the breed originated, the total registered live puppies totaled only 24. Even more worrying, in the last half of 2024 only one puppy there survived to be registered.

Sussex are still in the lowest tier of AKC registrations. In England they are listed in the "Vulnerable Breeds" category.

More Sussex are being seen in the show ring, due to preservation breeders' perseverance—and thank

goodness for that. We are encouraging puppy buyers to get involved in showing, and this seems to be working. However, most of these newer people have grave doubts about trying to put in the time and effort (can you say blood, sweat, and tears?) to breed even one litter. Thankfully the advent of fresh-chilled semen and frozen sperm have been a godsend in recent years.

The Sussex doing performance sports and therapy work are wonderful, of course, but their owners seem less inclined to do a breeding. It is wonderful when a dog has produced a litter or two and then goes on to do the above.

Anyway, don't let anyone tell you that it is easier now to get a Sussex, because there are still far fewer available than there are people who want them, especially as pets. Patience is still a virtue.

The Sussex Spaniel Club of America will hold its 2025 national specialty in September, with events beginning on September

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Sussex Spaniel

18. These shows will take place at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri, a wonderful site! We have had two previous nationals there some years ago. We are all looking forward to seeing all the additions and improvements. We used to show in tents there, and the only motel was miles away. Now there are air-conditioned buildings and RV hookups and several motels close by. (Damage from the tornados should all be repaired by September.)

There will be a judges' seminar, a parade of rescues, and perhaps one or more health clinics available.

For those looking to meet multiple Sussex Spaniels of all ages, this is a great opportunity, as we are expecting a very good turnout! For more information, visit <https://sscanational>.

Hope to see you all there!

—Marcia Deugan,

ZiyadahReg@aol.com

[Sussex Spaniel Club of America](#)

Welsh Springer Spaniels

THE VERSATILE WELSH

An area of great focus for the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America is the idea of the “versatile Welsh.” We work hard to breed a dog who can “do it all,” whether that means being a contented family dog and companion or an active participant in the panoply of performance activities. It is an article of faith to us that there is no “split” in our breed between show lines and hunting lines.

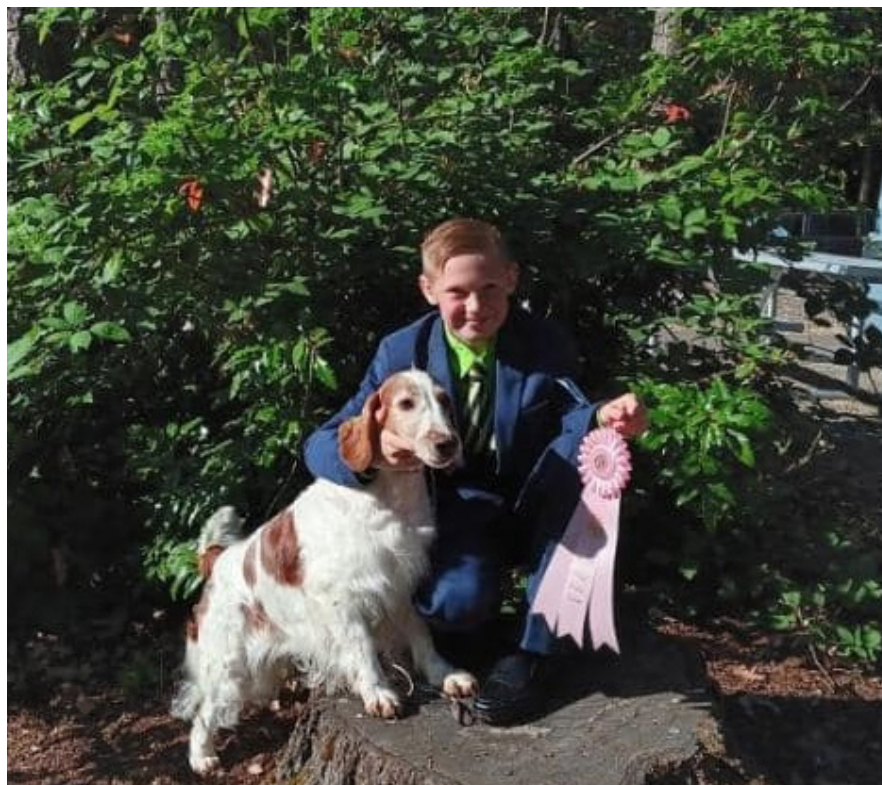
As the breed standard states, “Being a hunting dog, he should be shown in hard muscled working condition.

His coat should not be so excessive as to hinder his work as an active flushing spaniel, but should be thick enough to protect him from heavy cover and weather.”

When our national specialty includes a field event, our dogs participate in a water retrieve on one day and gait around the ring the next. It is satisfying to a responsible breeder to see your puppy exhibit “birdy” instincts. The puppy in the exercise pen who follows the butterfly who happens by, the puppy alerting to a robin on the fence line—these are all puppies who catch the eye of a breeder looking to place a puppy in a hunting home.

Club members who participate in AKC events had a busy year. Welsh Springers and their owners received a total of 341 new titles in 2024. By far the most frequent title was that of AKC Champion, with 50 new titles. Second was a tie (19 titles) between the Grand Champion title and the basic Canine Good Citizen

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Caiden Thompson, this year's winner of the WSSCA's Junior Handler Showmanship Award, with Welsh Springer Spaniel Lola, Redsage Sun Shines Through the Rain at BriarRose.

(CGC). Rally Novice and Trick Dog Novice each garnered 13 new titles for Welsh Springers.

Field titles slowed down in 2024, with just one new Senior Hunter title, compared to three new Senior Hunters in 2023. But hunt test enthusiasm remains, and our Welsh continue to show themselves well in the field.

Our Deckard and

Founders Cups, annual WSSCA awards for top-winning WSS and the WSS to beat the greatest number of Welsh Springers in the calendar year respectively, were both won by GCh.G Juniper's Daylight Special, TKN.

The Olympian Cup for the top-winning bitch of the year went to GCh.S Hartsage Supernova.

The Statesman Award goes to the top-winning WSS who also holds an AKC hunting title, and this year that was GCh. Stonecroft Stay Magical, JH.

The Wildfire Award goes to the top-winning WSS not shown by a professional handler. In 2024, that honor went to GCh. Rolyart's Mischief Managed.

And in a nod to the next generation of Welsh Springer conformation competitors, our Junior Handler Showmanship Award goes to the junior handler of a WSS who earns the most points in AKC Junior Showmanship. This year's winner is Caiden Thompson!

Our 2025 national specialty in Wisconsin has just been completed, and results are online at www.welshspringerspanielclubofamerica.org under "2025 Completed Events." Our ultimate winner was GCh.S Rocksprings the Bare Necessities, who went on to win Best in Show and Best Owner-Handled in Show,

COURTESY BROOKE, RICHARD, AND CAIDEN THOMPSON

BREED COLUMNS

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which is quite an accomplishment!

As Holly House breeder Anne Legare always said in her toast before a nice meal, “To the Welshies!”

—Wendy J. Jordan,
wendy.jordan@capstrategroup.com

Welsh Springer Spaniel
Club of America

Vizslas

PHENOTYPE—FORM TO FUNCTION OF THE AGILITY SPORTING DOG

Puppy season has arrived, and I’m happy to announce that I’m currently waiting for a promising litter this year, and two of my good friends are looking to bring a new teammate home. Puppy fever is in full effect.

What will I look for in my next agility champion? The best-built dog with the very best temperament. Unlike the dogs in many sports, agility competitors often peak after age two, and some maintain top performance well into their later years, successfully

extending their careers to include prestigious events like the Invitational. These dogs must endure rigorous year-round training and trials, making it critical to choose a candidate with an optimal phenotype (physical characteristics) for agility, complemented by a resilient temperament and unwavering drive.

I grew up immersed in the horse world and transitioned to dogs in my twenties. My mom has always been a student of whatever interests us. She and my sister study horse conformation, and now she’s studying dog conformation with me. The biggest difference between dogs and horses is the dog’s ability to bend its back. You won’t be seeing horses attempt backsides of jumps anytime soon.

Having studied Vizsla form to function for the past 20 years has sharpened my eye for spotting a potential champion. I’ve always wanted to finish an owner-handled dog in the conformation ring and be

able to play at specialties later; but my focus is the dog sports—namely, agility.

Breeding dogs is a balancing act involving our breed standard, maximum reach, and drive that makes a pocket-rocket agility dog who jumps cleanly. Agility dogs need short bursts of speed with the ability to collect and turn (like a quarter horse). We need strong hindquarters with the balance of a long, arching neck. This dynamic supports the demands of an agility course, requiring both straight-line speed and the ability to rapidly change direction.

The ultimate agility dog comprises four main attributes: strength, athleticism, soundness, and heart. Following are notes on structural and anatomical aspects of each of these.

Strength/engine

Inside shoulder-humerus/inside pelvis-femur angles, 90 to 105 degrees (green lines): The forequarter and hind-quarter inside angles should

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

be the same for perfect balance.

Humerus slope, 40 to 50 degrees: 40 degrees supports lower posture, beneficial for faster weaves; 50 degrees aids in high leg lifting, essential for clearing jumps.

This is the balance needed for different agility maneuvers.

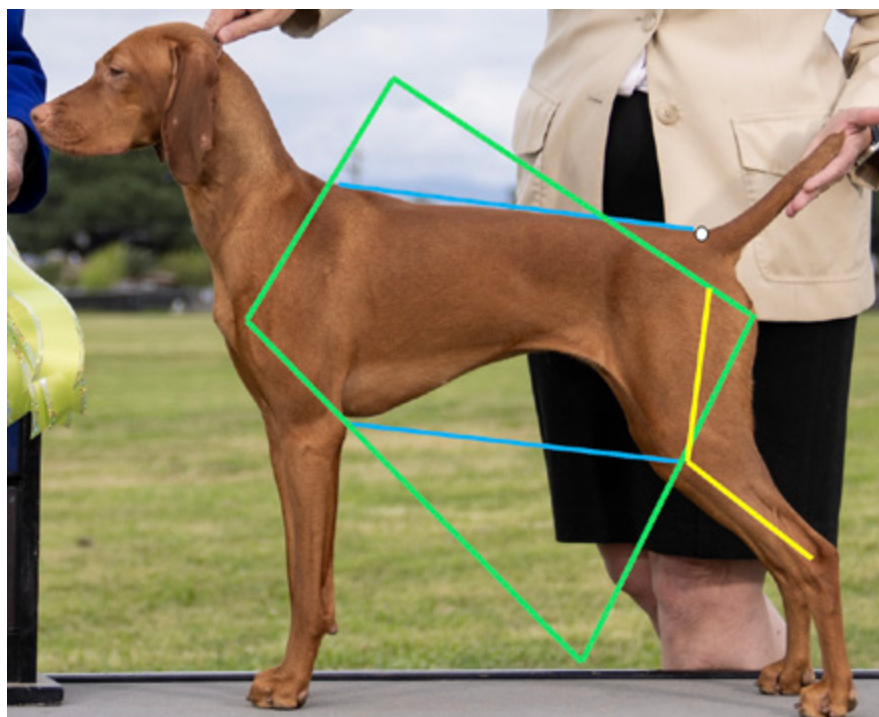
(Interesting note: Antelope most often scoot under fences rather than jump. The antelope humerus is short and low, and it requires less energy to crouch than to jump when threatened.)

Slight dip before the tail (slight pelvic tilt): Provides greater hind leg reach, drive, and speed.

Neck arch: Enables the dog to significantly lower its head, which lifts the back, and engages the hindquarters. This is vital for speed and jumping efficiency.

Athleticism

Shoulder slope of about 55 to 60 degrees: This angle is pivotal for maximizing trot reach, efficient movement, and extension.



"What will I look for in my next agility champion? The best-built dog with the very best temperament." Balance and structural angles play important roles in top performance.

COURTESY JAMIE WALTON / MIKE LIFER / ALL BREEDS PHOTO BY TYLER

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Longer femur than tibia (yellow lines): This proportion enhances hind reach, providing ample space for muscle attachment, enhancing power and elasticity of the hindquarters.

Front leg length slightly longer than chest depth: This proportion allows freedom of movement in the forequarters, a more extended trot, and several inches added to the dog's natural jumping effort over fences.

Slightly longer than tall (breed standard): This overall body proportion often results in a more agile and balanced frame for many breeds, including Vizslas.

Soundness

Pastern angles close to 73 degrees: These optimal angles are crucial for shock absorption and overall limb integrity. Angles lower than 70 degrees can lead to increased stress and injury risks, affecting long-term health.

Low hocks: Low hocks and short cannon bones in the rear contribute to effective

propulsion and reduced strain on the lower legs and back.

Parallel lines from elbow to stifle and withers to tail base (blue lines): This alignment indicates perfect structural balance, promoting efficient weight distribution and minimizing stress on joints.

Heart

A big heart and desire to do the job can make all of this studying child's play. Heart is often the deciding factor that separates good athletes from true champions. It's the intangible quality that supercharges performance.

As a baker, I've embarrassingly learned that if you forget the baking soda, the cake doesn't rise. It's still delicious, but not the same quality. At summer's end, when it comes time to pick the next future champion, I'm confident we can select the very best phenotype for the intended job. It's just that last ingredient, the heart, that will determine a good athlete from a true champion.

Finding the right agility dog involves a blend of knowledge, passion, patience, and, above all, a commitment to nurturing that unique bond essential for success in this sport.

In the words of Floyd Mayweather Jr., "A true champion can adapt to anything."

—Jamie Walton,
jamie@professionaldesign.org
Vizsla Club of America

Weimaraners

GOOD GRIEF

He was the best dog I ever had.

It was so sudden when he got sick and died. He was always by my side, and then suddenly he was gone forever. The stillness of my house echoed the ache in my heart.

There is great truth in the famous quote from Roger Caras, "Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole." When we lose a dog, something wonderful and fulfilling is taken from us.

Compared to so many

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animals, dogs live such a relatively short time. Every time that I've lost a dog, the unfairness of their brief stay with us crosses my mind. How unfair it is that such wonderful creatures are gone so quickly.

We all know that losing them is an eventuality that we will face. Knowing it doesn't make it any easier; it's just the realization of the human-canine situation.

A couple of years ago, I was sitting in the spectator bleachers at an agility trial and overheard a conversation between a husband and wife who were sitting nearby. It was a very serious, on-the-verge-of-tears conversation. She was talking about getting another dog. After a prolonged period of eavesdropping, I realized that she had lost her old dog and was finally ready to get another. Her husband was not so convinced that it was a good idea. After making a logical, fact-filled discussion of their loss, the exasperated husband finally said, "Why do you want to put yourself

through it again?"

Without missing a beat she said, "I have grieved, there will never be another like him, but having a dog completes our lives."

Being a "dog person" and not having a dog does make you feel incomplete. Most of us have been in that situation at some time in our lives due

to circumstances beyond our control. Whether the reason is school, work, family situations, or having your dog die, there's a hollowness and deep desire to make things better by sharing your life with a dog.

When we experience the death of our dog, allowing a period of grief gives closure



Weimaraners, February 1994 (Chet Jezierski illustration)

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and helps us prepare for what is to come. Grieving can take many forms. Some people have to rush out and quickly get a new dog. The new life helps to heal hearts and minds. The joy of a new puppy eases the loss. For other people, there's a need for a longer period of grieving. How long you grieve and have a dogless household is a very personal choice. There's no right or wrong way to do it. When it's time to bring that new bundle of canine energy into your life, you will know.

Good grief allows us to honor the memory of those who we have lost. Once the shock of the loss is behind us and we accept the reality, we can move on. Moving on does not mean forgetting. Rather, it means putting special memories in our hearts and minds so we can call them up at will and for a moment once again remember and honor our lost friend. —*Carole Lee Richards (2016)*

[Weimaraner Club of America](#)

Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

AWPGA AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM: HONORING THE WPG'S DUAL EXCELLENCE

The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon is a breed of remarkable versatility, excelling as a rugged hunting dog, a stylish conformation competitor, and a skilled performer in agility, rally, and obedience, among other disciplines. The American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association (AWPGA) celebrates these qualities through its prestigious Awards and Recognition Program, established in 2004 and revised most recently in 2023.

Unique among breed clubs, the AWPGA also requires Griffons to demonstrate high achievement and titles in both conformation and field events to be eligible for some of its most prestigious awards, including the Korthals Vision Award, the Capitaine Fracasse Challenge Trophy

Award, Show Dog of the Year, and Show Dog Hall of Fame. This emphasizes the club's philosophy that the goal for any Griffon should be to excel at its job while also conforming to the AKC breed standard. Winners are announced each year at the AWPGA national specialty awards banquet.

A program built on versatility

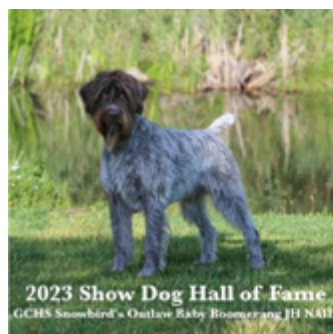
The AWPGA Awards and Recognition Program recognizes Wirehaired Pointing Griffons for achievements in field, conformation, agility, obedience, and versatility. Open to Griffons owned by AWPGA members in good standing, the program encourages participation across diverse events to strengthen the bond between dog and owner while promoting the breed's natural abilities. Applications, due by May 1 for achievements earned by December 31 of the previous year, are rigorously evaluated by the Awards and Recognition Committee. Winners are

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AWPGA 2023 Awards Banquet



The AWPGA Awards and Recognition Program showcases the breed's versatility and fosters camaraderie among owners, breeders, and enthusiasts who gather to celebrate the year's top performers.

celebrated at the AWPGA national specialty, an annual fall event that brings together Griffon enthusiasts to honor the breed's finest.

What sets the AWPGA apart is its mandate that conformation awards require a field title, such as an AKC Hunting Test title (Junior, Senior, or Master), AKC Field Championship, AKC Amateur Field Championship, AKC Retriever Hunting Test title, or a North American Versatile Hunting Dog

Association (NAVHDA) prize at any level. This requirement ensures that Griffons excel in the show ring and demonstrate their functional hunting skills, a standard not typically required by other breed clubs.

Field titles: a distinctive requirement

Unlike many breed clubs that award conformation achievements independently, the AWPGA ties conformation success to field

performance. For example, the Show Dog of the Year award goes to the Griffon defeating the most breed competitors in Best of Breed at AKC conformation shows, but only if the dog holds a field title and is owned by an AWPGA member. The award is withheld if these criteria are unmet, reflecting the club's commitment to the breed's dual-purpose legacy. Similarly, the Show Dog Hall of Fame requires 20 points from the Show

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Dog Point Schedule, an AKC championship, and a field title, honoring lifetime achievements in both arenas.

The Korthals Vision Award further embodies this philosophy, recognizing Griffons with an AKC Grand Championship and one or more elite field titles: AKC Master Hunter, NAVHDA Versatile Champion, AKC Field Champion, or AKC Amateur Field Champion. Named after Eduard Korthals, the breed's founder, this award celebrates Griffons who fulfill his vision of a versatile hunting dog. The Capitaine Fracasse Challenge Trophy, requiring an AKC bench championship and six or more field points in a calendar year, also highlights this dual excellence.

In contrast, breeds like the Labrador Retriever or German Shorthaired Pointer often separate field and conformation awards without requiring crossover achievements. The AWPGA's approach

ensures that Wirehaired Pointing Griffons remain true to their hunting roots while shining in the show ring, challenging owners to develop their dogs' full potential.

A broad spectrum of awards

The AWPGA Awards and Recognition Program spans multiple disciplines, with categories including field awards (Field Dog, Field Dog Hall of Fame, Field Dog of the Year, Capitaine Fracasse Challenge Trophy, and Korthals Vision Award), versatility awards (Versatile Griffon and Versatile Griffon Excellent), agility awards (Agility Dog Hall of Fame and Agility Dog of the Year), and obedience awards (Novice, Open, Utility, and overall Obedience Dog of the Year). Each award requires detailed documentation, such as AKC title certificates and NAVHDA test records, ensuring fairness and transparency.

The announcement of these awards at the

AWPGA national specialty each fall is a highlight of the Griffon community's calendar. This event showcases the breed's versatility and fosters camaraderie among owners, breeders, and enthusiasts who gather to celebrate the year's top performers.

Celebrating a legacy

Join the AWPGA community at the 2025 national specialty in Lebanon, Tennessee, to witness the best of the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon in action and celebrate those Griffons who have earned these incredible honors!

For more information on the AWPGA Awards and Recognition Program, the upcoming 2025 AWPGA national specialty, or to join the AWPGA, contact the Awards and Recognition Committee at awpgaaward-sprogram@gmail.com, or visit www.awpga.com.

—Carol Erdie, AWPGA member

[American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association](#)

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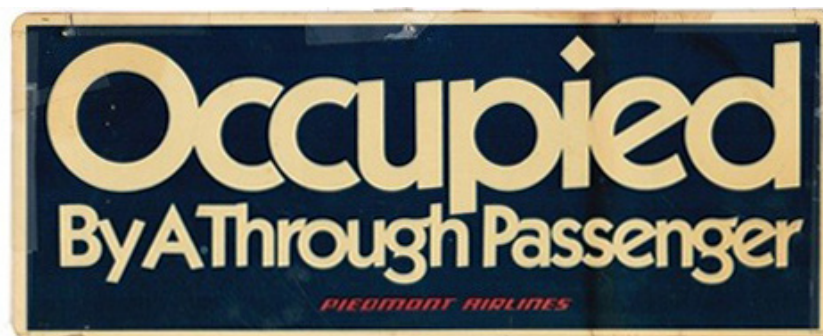
Alaskan Malamutes

YOUR PARENT CLUB: A GIFT FOR LIFE

Latently, I've been reflecting on the significance of my parent club, the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, and recalling my first years of membership and how profoundly the years have enabled me to grow in the understanding and knowledge of my beloved breed. It is a story of sharing and of appreciation for our membership, and of supporting each other as our lives have unfolded over the decades. For me, it is a story of my evolution as a breeder, and of learning to deeply appreciate the presence of so many wonderful club members in my life. It is a story of personal growth as an exhibitor and breeder.

As next year will mark 40 years with the club, I've been thinking back to my first years of membership and the friendships that still endure today.

I will always remember my first Harrisburg cluster in 1986, showing my won-



A card found on an airplane seat nearly 50 years ago carried an unexpectedly profound and memorable message.

derful foundation girl, Ch. Champaign's Montak Blue Magic, bred by AMCA members Pat and Paul Kostock of Colorado, and being overwhelmed by the sheer numbers and quality of the dogs I met, and the expertise of my fellow exhibitors. They were welcoming and curious to meet Kodi, and study her bloodlines and breed type, just as I learned about their own bloodlines and preferences as we embarked upon showing together. Most of all, they were patient with this rather overconfident newcomer, for which I will always be grateful.

So here's my message to the newcomer in every breed: Join your parent

club! Your fellow members will become a resource and strength over the years in ways you may never predict, and in time, a true family, larger and often stronger and wiser than your own.

The first years

One singular friend and mentor from those first years, Barbara Lichota (Northpaw), deserves special credit, as her Juneau, Ch. Northpaw's Ghostbuster, ROM, brought his type, soundness, and solid temperament to my initial breedings, first with Kodi, and then with Savvy, Ch. Champaign Benchmark Big Shot, ROM—both proving to be outstanding nicks and creating a foundation

COURTESY PHYLLIS I. HAMILTON

WORKING GROUP

of Benchmark champions whose type and movement became the blessing of a lifetime.

So my first message to the newcomer: Don't wait! Join your parent club, and begin a lifetime of learning and achievement in your breed. Meet those whose devotion to your breed has created a priceless legacy that in time will bequeath a world of knowledge and support. And if you're undecided about all of this "fancy show ring stuff," you'll love the fellowship of so many fellow working enthusiasts in our breed, where our dogs' inherent strengths in sledding, weight pull, packing, and the whole range of performance events offer rewards, challenges, and pure fun!

Before you know it, your world will expand into a new circle of friends and mentors, and you'll become a true team with your dogs, mastering new abilities and beginning to achieve goals and yes, your first titles in these events, because win

or lose, you've never really lost—just look at what you've learned, and your next goal is beckoning you ahead. Be patient with yourself, and of course, most of all with your dogs, and be a good sport—the most important quality of all!

Becoming a family

Soon—sometimes almost without realizing it—your commitment to the sport has grown into a circle of friends, and as you begin to show at our regional and national specialties, you'll begin to see your parent club not as a remote collection of far-flung members, but as a true family. In time, deep friendships develop, and respect for others will deepen your understanding in the essential ways that only a strong family represents.

Because with maturity in our sport and in our clubs, in time we realize the most poignant realization of all: that as the years fly by, some of those familiar and beloved faces at ringside,

at the committee meeting, at the banquet, are here no longer. Their energy, their voices, their presence you always counted on, have become treasured memories. The support and insight they offered you for so many years is now the mantle you must raise; their devotion is now your inspiration and your duty to carry on.

For me and for our fellow members, the past several years have seen such loss. For some of our friends, we have had time to prepare. But for others, the suddenness of life's realities has made it all the more important to support each other, to be sensitive to their losses and to reach more deeply than ever into our hearts and souls to find the empathy and yes, the purity of love to help them on life's journey.

And so, for me, life has meant lessons of introspection, awareness, and respect for so many, many dear friends in my parent club. Forty years ago, you took this newbie in and shared your

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life's lessons with her. You overlooked her ego and her foolish years and found the strength to remain her friend today. The respect and love I have for all of you is my eternal blessing.

In these recent days, your words have lifted me from the depths of despair. And more than you may know, in your presence and forbearance, your words have saved me.

And so I come to the best way I can support you today, with my own words and the gratitude that stands behind them, with a card that was left at my seat on a business flight almost 50 years ago, which read: "Occupied by a Through Passenger."

I kept the card, as it first seemed quirky. But as time went on, its simple message grew, year after year, into a statement of life.

Almost 50 years later, it enfolds more meaning than ever. In life, if we are a "through passenger," it means we are flying for the long haul. And our seats are reserved for us! In your

life and in mine, our seats are "Occupied." We are still on this flight; our seats are reserved, and we are flying on! We are Through Passengers, flying till the very end, whenever that may be, and our seats are saved for us.

Please hold onto your seats too, my dear friends, as we ride this flight into the sky and to a destination unbounded!

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
Benchmark1946@gmail.com

[Alaskan Malamute Club of America](#)

[Note from the editors: The wrong photo was temporarily published with the April Gazette's Alaskan Malamute column on the topic of faults that can occur in Alaskan Malamute feet. The dog whose photo briefly appeared has correct feet, and we apologize for the error.]

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

SOMETIMES LESS IS MORE

The breed's AKC standard says the following:

"Temperament: Alert and intelligent, calm and observant. Instinctively protective, he is courageous and highly adaptable. He is very loyal and responsive. Highly territorial, he is a natural guard. *Reserve around strangers and off its territory is acceptable. Responsiveness with animation is not characteristic of the breed. Overhandling would be discouraged.*"

The Anatolian Shepherd is a livestock guardian dog (LGD) breed originating from Turkish landrace dogs that have been utilized for millennia for the singular purpose of keeping livestock (a broad term) safe from predators (both four-legged and two-legged). This is important to note, because this singular purpose of the breed determines just about everything about the dog. Size, coat, structure, temperament, and demeanor around stock are all the result of thousands of years of selection for a large, rugged, powerful dog with an inherent suspicion of novelty; the intelligence to work

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alongside humans, yet able to make independent decisions when it comes to the safety of its charges; and the courage to stand his ground in the face of a threat and meet force with equal force.

What does this mean for the judges who may be reading this column? That's a very good question, and that's why we are here. Judges, when you have an Anatolian in your ring, remember that less on your part during the exam is often more.

Watch the dog as he or she moves around the ring, and use that time to look for fluid, efficient movement, because movement is often the truest test of structural soundness. Be aware that fluid, efficient movement does not translate to racing around the ring at high speed, with wide open "TRAD" side gait. This is a breed that moves at the speed of the herd that it is guarding, and herds don't move fast unless they are running away from a threat or running toward a feed trough.



Once the dog has been stacked, make the exam brief and targeted to the areas that your eye picked up as potential problems while the dog was moving. Unless you have a heavily coated rough dog, there isn't much to hide on an Anatolian, and there is no need to linger or give a free massage with every entry.

The last point is one I want to stress, as in recent trips around the ring judges have spent way too much time lingering over the minutiae of the dog. A brief, impersonal exam is all that is required.

Some judges seem to want to cradle the dog's head

in their hands and gaze deeply into the dog's eyes with the intensity of a lover. That may be all fine and good with a breed whose default setting is not based on being suspicious of every person they meet, but with an Anatolian the best-case scenario is a dog who gives you the canine equivalent of a look that says, "Bro, don't make this weird," and worst case is a dog who tells you to back off, which doesn't end well for anyone.

Bite is front only—no need to examine sides for any reason, just a quick look for a scissors or level bite. Missing incisors or broken canines are not an issue, and there is

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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no requirement for complete dentition, so no need to show the sides or open the mouth as I have seen both judges and handlers recently doing.

A judge at a show this spring shared with me an assignment where he excused two dogs for growling at him when he approached them for the exam. Now, you absolutely should be able to make it through a class without being growled at, but as he recounted his story, he was towering over me and talking into my face to the point that I was beginning to feel uncomfortable. When I glanced at my dog, he was starting to give me physical signs that he was not comfortable with the judge's incursion into our bubble of personal space. I took a deep breath, backed up to give us all some room, yawned a bit, and hoped my dog was reading my body language. The last thing I wanted was for his behavior to give him another chance to excuse a dog.

Despite an increasing (and unfortunate) split between working and show lines in this breed, where some breeders are softening the temperaments of the dogs and breeding away from pronounced suspicion, you should always assume that you are being presented dogs who can still do the job they were bred for. Make your exams brief and businesslike. Don't linger or stare.

Most Anatolians are fine with people they know, and once you've made it into the "friend zone" the reception you get is very different, but the two minutes you are allotted to judge is not sufficient time for the average Anatolian to decide it wants to be friends with you. Puppies may be the exception to this rule, because most puppies have not yet developed the level of suspicion that will mark their adult years, but adults are serious dogs and should be approached and treated in that manner. Approach an Anatolian never with fear,

but always with respect.

Just like a meal that ends with crème brûlée rather than a fancy chocolate cake with raspberry layers and a heavy frosting, sometimes less really is more.

—Jo Lynne York,

Eboracumk9@yahoo.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dog
Club of America

Bernese Mountain Dogs

THERAPY COMES NATURALLY TO A BERNER

As a Berner owner, you are probably aware of how soothing your dog can be. That innate gift can be used to help others. A number of Berner folk have found their calling providing therapy visits. Several years ago a committee was formed in the BMDCA to provide assistance, knowledge, and guidance to those in therapy work and those interested in achieving certification for this program. Beth Brookhouse is the committee chair. She and Janet Nash are the administrators on the Facebook

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page BMDCA Therapy Dog (ThD) Resources.

On Facebook the committee's mission is described as follows:

“To assist BMDCA members with information and resources to identify Therapy Dog organizations in their region that would meet the interests and needs of the members, their dogs, and their communities. Furthermore, to recognize and celebrate the contributions being made by BMDCA members participating with their animals in the field of therapy dog community interactions.”

A therapy dog is not a service dog. Therapy dogs provide short-term emotional support for many people. Opportunities include visiting nursing homes, hospitals, mental health centers, hospices, and schools. Berners can be a good breed for this work because of their innate gentleness. The striking colors of their coat and friendly expression are eye catching and invite attention.



It can be helpful for therapy-dog teams to wear identifying tags and insignia like these when visiting facilities.

An important point is that “therapy dog” is a description of work being done. In therapy work, you are sharing your dog with strangers, and this puts your relationship with your dog in the public eye. Are you and your dog ready for that? Safe patient interactions require self-control and teamwork

that can only be obtained through obedience training. As with most dog-related activities, obedience training is the foundation.

After the rudiments are achieved, becoming certified by an organization is needed. Certification with either TDI or Delta Dog is obtained by passing a

COURTESY BMDCA AND BRENDA SANDERS

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test given by an evaluator. The tests are similar to the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. It is also necessary for the dog to be comfortable around medical equipment. For Delta Dog certification, the handler must also pass a written test based on the information in the Delta handbook. There are other organizations like Love on a Leash and Pet Partners which have similar yet unique criteria. In addition, each facility has their own standards and requirements.

A slightly different form of therapy work is goal-oriented therapy, or animal-assisted therapy (AAT). This is therapy work directed by a healthcare professional, such as a physical or occupational therapist, who utilizes the therapy animal as a tool to meet the rehabilitation goals of an individual patient.

I had the privilege of being part of this experience working with patients in physical rehabilitation. My Berner girl Ellie had a curly coat, and although this

is not desirable according to our standard, it was tactically pleasing. It could be petted any direction, and a physical therapist used that trait in rehab. Ellie would stand sideways in front of a seated patient. The patient's exercise was to pet Ellie from head to tail. The patient would use both hands moving from left to right and right to left. This gentle exercise achieved the purpose of "crossing the midline" of the patient. Petting Ellie's silken curls made the task very pleasant, and Ellie became in high demand as a rehab partner.

If your dog is empathetic, there is a place to share their heart. There are therapy dogs in libraries, schools, and airports. If this is the calling you have found, thank you for your service. For me it was one of the most touching moments I've had working with my dogs. It is an endeavor of the heart.

Background information for this column was provided by Brenda Sanders,

Certified Evaluator on BMDinfo.org, and the BMDCA Info Series on BMDCA.org. Thank you for providing such well-rounded information.

—Marjorie Geiger,
marggeiger@yahoo.com
Bernese Mountain Dog
Club of America

Black Russian Terriers

GETTING TO KNOW THE BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER

Black Russian Terriers are often referred to as BRTs, Russian Terriers, and Blackies. They are often misunderstood and misjudged. To really get to know the BRT, we must first understand what they were originally bred to do: to become the ultimate utility and protection dog.

The Red Star Kennel of Russia aimed to develop a large, brave, strong, and manageable working dog with pronounced guarding instincts. It was also bred to be naturally aloof to strangers. At AKC events, some people deem the breed



Black Russian Terrier

unapproachable and go out of their way to avoid them. As a proud owner of several BRTs, I want to introduce you to the softer, gentler side of this breed—the side many of us, privileged enough to be “owned” by these wonderful dogs, get to see.

In public, the BRTs maintain a regal, dignified demeanor, but once home with their people, they have a silly, most comical side to their personality.

Shenanigans like joyful bounding and leaping, and “zoomies” are often a backyard pastime that’s a delight to watch. Mine have even, patiently and in good spirits, participated in the occasional dress-up tea party!

The Black Russian Terrier is one of the most empathetic breeds I’ve ever met. They show great gentleness and kindness to those they love. They instinctually know when you’re sad and

will come to console you. When you are sick, they’ll jump into bed and stay by your side until you’re feeling better. These wonderful and sensitive traits are the reason you will often see the Black Russian donning a service-dog vest. There are many reasons why so many of us share our homes with these endearing dogs. Their desire and need to be with you is why most owners lovingly consider them to be extensions of their own shadow. Wherever you are, there they’ll be.

—Emily Fagan,

leighfost@gmail.com

[Black Russian Terrier Club of America](#)

Boerboels

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT WHEN ADDING A BOERBOEL PUPPY TO YOUR FAMILY? (PERHAPS NOT WHAT YOU THINK!)

To “set the stage” for this column, I want to remind readers about the origin of the Boerboel. As I have mentioned in previous



articles, the Boerboel—whose name translates to “farm dog”—was originally developed by South African farmers as a working dog to protect their families, livestock, and farms in remote regions of South Africa from the predations of large wild carnivores. Consequently, the breed became a robust, athletic, agile, and courageous dog who was loving and gentle with and protective of his family, but fiercely aggressive towards threats. Descriptions of these desired physical and temperament traits have been detailed in our breed standard, and preserved in practice by our knowl-

edgeable and committed breeders.

For this column, I had initially planned to expand upon my last (January) article, “Boerboels Won’t Eat Your Children.” To that end, I invited American Boerboel Club members to share their views as to what they believed was most important when acquiring a Boerboel puppy and integrating one into your family.

As I was expecting helpful tips and techniques such as how to introduce the new puppy to humans and household pets, early training and other related recommendations, I was quite surprised that the

resounding message could be summarized as: “Whatever else they do, they should only buy from a *reputable* breeder!” One member unequivocally advised, “Find an ethical, responsible breeder who breeds for physical and mental soundness, and let them choose the puppy for you!”

In thinking about it, I quickly realized that the club members’ advice was overwhelmingly important—not only to guide a new puppy buyer to a good experience with the breed, but also to support ethical and knowledgeable breeders whose vision is to produce Boerboels with the correct temperament and conformation as set forth in our breed standard.

So why is finding a reputable breeder so critically important?

The Boerboel is still a relatively rare breed, only recognized in this country by the AKC in 2015. It is vulnerable to bad breeding decisions that can create

COURTESY KAREN CORNELIUS

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changes in both temperament and physical structure (imagine an excessively aggressive or fearful, oversized 200-pound Boerboel with a wrinkly face and drooping jowls). Secondly, it has a comparatively small gene pool, which can be adversely affected by excessive inbreeding or “popular sire syndrome.” The latter occurs when one dog becomes such a prolific champion in the show ring or in performance competitions that he is in high demand and used extensively for breeding. This results in this sire’s genes (good and bad, dominant and recessive) becoming increasingly prevalent in the breed’s gene pool. Both excessive inbreeding and popular sire syndrome can lead to an overall reduction in genetic diversity and substantial increases in serious structural and temperament faults, as well as generally fatal genetic issues such as cardiomyopathy.

Many of these issues are created by profit-oriented

breeders (AKA “greeders”) who hope to create or appeal to trends that become popular with the buying public, often charging premium prices for non-standard puppies, or by well-intentioned breeders who may love the breed but failed to study it or research these issues and many other knowledge areas prior to plunging in.

What are key areas in which a reputable breeder should have knowledge and experience?

This is actually an extensive list. However, here are areas frequently mentioned by puppy buyers and breeders with whom I have spoken:

- Extensive knowledge of the breed’s history, purpose, and breed standard
- Ability to assess a Boerboel’s conformation (structure), balance and movement, and temperament in terms of the standard
- Knowledge of pedigrees and individual Boerboels’ contributions to the breed

- Experience and success in conformation showing and/or competitions/events

- Knowledge of and conformance to American Boerboel Club testing

- Knowledge of basic genetics, and an understanding of the Boerboel’s particular traits and challenges (i.e., genetic or familial traits related to conformation, temperament, or key issues)

- Knowledge and experience with all aspects of maternal care, breeding, whelping, and socialization of puppies

- An ethical breeder should also provide a contract that includes the breeder’s and buyer’s responsibilities for the puppy. Generally, reputable breeders will be available to offer advice on a myriad of issues a new owner may encounter. Many breeders will include the offer to take the puppy back at any time during its lifetime in the event the owner can no longer care for it. *Always* take the time to read the contract carefully.

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Finally, as I wouldn't expect a potential buyer to be accosting breeders "on the street" to determine the extent of their knowledge in various critical areas; the American Boerboel Club (ABC, <https://americanboerboelclub.org/>) maintains a listing of reputable breeders who have signed a Code of Ethics.

References:

American Boerboel Club (ABC) <https://americanboerboelclub.org/>

"Pedigree Based Biodiversity in the South African Boerboel Dog Breed" <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38540072/>

—Karen L. Cornelius,
klc@klcassociates
American Boerboel Club

Boxers

BOXER HISTORY: BACK TO OUR ROOTS

The American Boxer Club was organized in 1935. Fifty years later, in 1985, the club's then-president, John T. Connolly

(along with the officers and directors of the national club), wrote: "We have tried to pay some small tribute to the people and Boxers that have been so important to the ABC ..." And thus the Board of Directors authorized publication of the *50th Anniversary Album*, with a limited edition of 650 copies.

The resulting album compiled by Suzie Campbell, General Editor, and Carole Connolly, Advertising Chairman, became a not only an ardent collector's item but also a comprehensive history of the growth and development of the American Boxer.

The *Album* begins with a collection of historical writings and perspective comments as well entertaining prose depicting the Boxer from the early years.

The following chapters include the development of the Boxer in the U.S., starting with the importation of the breed. This includes many of the names and photos of the kennels and owners who became

the backbone of today's American Boxer.

Listed are winners of the ABC national specialties for each year, as well as the entry numbers and pictures—not only photos of the dogs, but also many photos of the ABC officers and members.

It's fascinating to see the changes and the growth of the breed. There is great information and photos detailing the growth of obedience over the years, with many images of the ancestors of today's active obedience participants. The Top ABC Obedience Winners from 1947 through 1971 are listed, with photos of many of them.

Also listed are the ABC Sires and Dams of Merit—so many of these names appear in the later generations in today's pedigrees.

Also included are records and pictures of the Top Producing Sires and Dams over the years. There are so many valuable photos available—an opportunity to see the breed's beautiful heritage.

BREED COLUMNS



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Cover and pages from the "50th Anniversary Album," published by the American Boxer Club in 1985.

Following the information on the canines behind today's Boxers, the *Album* then lists information on all the ABC Member Clubs

that sprouted throughout the U.S. Member clubs were the backbone for sharing information long before computers, email, and so

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on, and were responsible for bringing breed specialties to areas across the U.S.

Next is “The Handlers”—a section with photos and information on the handlers and their dogs who won Best of Breed at the national or regional. One interesting note: After seeing this list, I find it gratifying to see that many of today’s major wins are also now won by owner-handlers.

So many wonderful people are recognized in the pages as being instrumental in the growth of the breed. Pictures and information bring back the memories of those who did so much for our breed.

There are close to 500 pages of photos of kennels and individual Boxers who have participated in American Boxer competition over the years—it’s a trip down Memory Lane, and an opportunity to see the *beautiful* foundation of today’s Boxers.

Every now and then one of these volumes appear for sale. If you see one, *grab it!*

—Virginia Shames,
Arribatali@aol.com
American Boxer Club

Bullmastiffs

We are grateful to Kathy Gladen for this thought-provoking read. Kathy has bred, owned, handled, and judged Bullmastiffs for over 30 years. Kathy led several parent-club health and research projects and is passionate about looking ahead to help improve our beloved Bullmastiffs and all dogs.

THE NEW FUTURE FOR OUR SHOW DOGS

We all agree the world of purebred show dogs is full of passion, precision, and competition. Breeders and owners spend years ensuring our dogs meet the highest standards of appearance and behavior. As science continues to advance, new tools like gene editing and epigenetics are helping shape the future of show dogs. These technologies could make our dogs

healthier, improve their traits, and affect ring performance, all while living longer lives.

What is gene editing?

Gene editing is a way to make changes to an animal’s DNA. One of the most famous gene-editing tools is called CRISPR-CAS9. It works like molecular scissors, allowing scientists to cut out or change specific parts of DNA. In the world of show dogs, this technology could help remove inherited health problems or even improve certain traits like coat color, structure, or temperament. For example, gene editing could help reduce the risk of hip dysplasia or improve the health of dogs prone to genetic disorders.

What is epigenetics?

Epigenetics is the study of how our environment can affect the way our genes work. Unlike gene editing, which changes the DNA itself, epigenetics looks at



Dogs using computers? No, we're not quite at that point—but scientific and technological advances are helping to ensure the future health of dog breeds and preserve their important traits.

how things like diet, stress, and experiences can “turn on” or “turn off” certain genes. This is important because how a dog is raised can impact its behavior, health, and performance in the ring. For instance, a dog raised in a calm, stress-free environment may develop better health and temperament compared to one

that is exposed to improper nutrition or poor living conditions.

How these technologies could help our dogs

By combining gene editing and epigenetics, breeders and owners can take a more precise approach to raising show dogs. With gene editing, breeders could focus on

improving genetic health, eliminating harmful traits, and enhancing qualities that are important for the show ring. Meanwhile, epigenetics could help owners create the best environment for their dogs to thrive in, from training to nutrition to minimizing stress.

For example, a breeder might use gene editing to help a dog avoid certain inherited health problems, while an owner might use epigenetic knowledge to provide the dog with the best care possible. Together, these tools could create dogs that are not only healthier but excel in the show ring.

Ethical considerations

Of course, using gene editing and epigenetics to improve show dogs raises some ethical questions. For example, some people worry that gene editing could be used to “design” dogs with perfect traits, which may lead to unintended consequences or health issues in the long run. Others may be concerned about the impact

COURTESY KATHY GLADEN

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of changing a dog's environment too much in the name of performance.

It's important that breeders and owners use these technologies responsibly, always prioritizing the well-being of our beloved dogs. These advances should help improve the health and happiness of show dogs, not just create a perfect champion.

Looking ahead

The future of show dogs may be shaped by these new scientific discoveries. Gene editing and epigenetics have the potential to create healthier, more competitive dogs while also allowing breeders and owners to provide them with better care. As technology continues to evolve, it will be exciting to see how these tools will change the world of dog shows for the better. —
Kathy Gladen

Thanks, Kathy.

—Lindy Whyte,

Tryumphe@comcast.net

American Bullmastiff
Association

Chinooks

THE WYETH FAMILY AND THEIR MAINE CONNECTION: A LIFELONG LOVE OF CHINOOK DOGS

Siblings Carolyn and Andrew Wyeth, both acclaimed painters and children of the legendary N.C. Wyeth, were known not only for their artistic contributions but also for their enduring love of dogs—especially the rare and noble Chinook. Both Carolyn and her brother Andrew always had at least one dog from Maine by their side, and the Chinook's deep roots in their family's history trace back nearly a century.

In December 1987, Carolyn owned two Chinook dogs, while her brother, Andrew Wyeth—also an iconic figure in American art—had one, a Chinook named Nome. However, the Wyeths' bond with the breed began much earlier, stemming from a friendship forged through adventure and art.

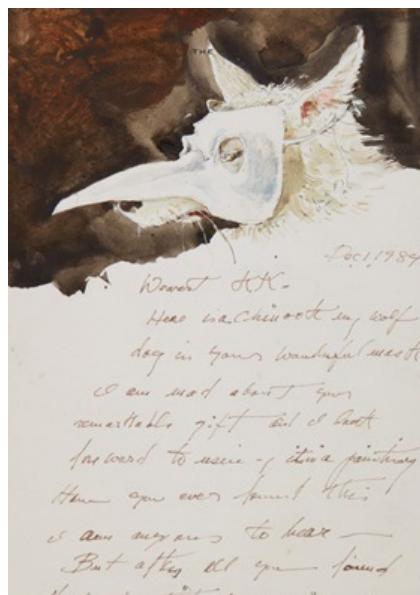
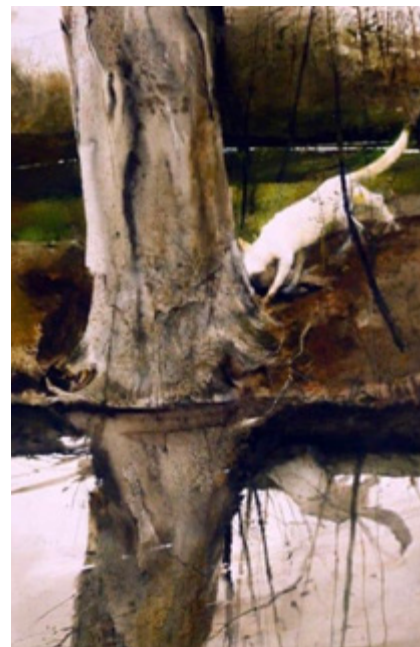
The story begins with N.C. Wyeth's friendship

with Admiral Richard E. Byrd, the famed polar explorer. N.C. Wyeth painted a series of murals of Admiral Byrd, commissioned by the National Geographic Society for the Hubbard Memorial Building. Byrd often spoke of the Chinook dogs he so admired. He praised them as “tremendous pullers,” lauding their power and spirit. The admiration was mutual; N.C. Wyeth was captivated by both Byrd's heroic tales and the noble Chinook breed.

Carolyn and Andrew Wyeth's first direct encounter with Chinooks occurred in 1930, when Byrd's ship, the *City of New York*, returned from his inaugural Antarctic expedition. Docked in Wilmington, Delaware, the vessel carried not only the intrepid crew but also eight or nine Chinooks. Carolyn and Andrew were enthralled by the dogs' strength and gentle nature—a spark that would ignite a lifelong fascination.

Decades later, when

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Painter Andrew Wyeth was a staunch aficionado of the Chinook breed, and his Chinooks are featured in a number of his works. “The Intruder” (tempera on panel, 30.5” x 50.2”, 1971) depicts Wyeth’s dog Nell Gwyn on the Goose River in Maine (sold at auction in November 2007 for \$5,753,000); “Egg Hunt,” by Wyeth, featuring Wyeth’s dog Nome; a watercolor sketch of Nome in a Venetian mask at the top of a letter by Wyeth. Lower right: information on the 2025 Chinook national specialty, to be held August 16 in Enumclaw, Washington.

Harry Gray reopened the Chinooks’ longtime breeding base in Waldoboro, Maine, Carolyn knew she had to bring one of these exceptional dogs home. She initially planned to purchase a single Chinook puppy, but when she learned that the brother of her chosen female was also available, she couldn’t resist and adopted both.

Even in the late 1980s, debates over the breed’s distinctive ears—whether they should flop down or stand up—were as lively as ever. Carolyn’s pair of Chinooks

PUBLIC DOMAIN / COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY / CHINOOK CLUB OF AMERICA

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captured both sides of the debate, with one dog's ears up and the other's down. She fondly would relate that Admiral Byrd preferred the down ears, a preference she happily shared.

Carolyn Wyeth's connection to the Chinook dogs of Maine reflects her deep appreciation for the breed's history and working spirit. In the Wyeth household, these dogs weren't just companions—they were living testaments to adventure, artistry, and enduring friendship.

—Kathleen Riley,
[kathleenrileyphotography@
gmail.com](mailto:kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com)
[Chinook Club of America](#)

Doberman Pinschers

MARKINGS—AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF BREED TYPE

Graceful, beautiful, powerful, elegant, confident—these are among the adjectives that can describe the Doberman. In a dog park or a multibreed canine event, the breed is recognizable. Their physical demeanor

and keen awareness of their surroundings are also part of what makes a Doberman a Doberman. In addition to their cropped ears and docked tail—part of their history and described in the AKC standard, their coat color—smooth-haired and short—with rust markings distinguish them from other medium-sized breeds.

The Doberman Pinscher comes in four allowed colors: black, red (brown in other countries), blue (like slate), and fawn (Isabella, a pale cream-brown or parchment). The standard describes markings as:

“Rust, sharply defined, appearing above each eye and on muzzle, throat and forechest, on all legs and feet, and below tail.” The thumbprint on their cheeks, the eyebrows, the leg markings, and the rust beneath their tail create an animal that is easily identified—from any angle in a 360-degree view.

Muddy markings where there is no clearly defined demarcation on the muz-

zle, small chest markings, and straw- or tan-colored markings have been present for the decades I have been involved in this breed. Recently, however, these seem to be more prevalent. Muddy muzzle markings on black dogs “run” into the coat color from the cheek to the nose, creating an ombré effect from rust to black. Large, “splashy” markings are also a deviation, as are cheek thumbprints not completely surrounded by coat color—where the muzzle markings are connected to the thumbprint.

Melanism, or a Doberman displaying the melanistic trait, is uncommon but has been seen on occasion. Caused by an increase in dark-pigmented melanin, it is believed to be genetic, caused by “a recessive allele at a single locus.” (<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0006435>) It often presents itself in Dobermans as an all-black dog; there may be a hint of rust in bright light, but there are no

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Doberman puppies: Coat color and markings are integral to what makes the breed unique.

noticeable markings. The breed also displays, although it is not mentioned in the standard, small flecks of coat color above each nail, as if painted using a nail-polish brush. Something that has become more common are large markings on the toes, wider than the nail, and “brushed” up each digit to the top of the (well arched, compact and catlike) foot. Puppies can display what looks like a wooden-spoon shaped extension of their coat color—with the spoon

handle on the leg—going down the front of their forelegs and ending with the “spoon” on top of their foot. Usually these markings fade as the puppy grows, but on occasion they remain into adulthood.

Markings are generally not at the top of most breeders’ lists of attributes when selecting a breeding pair, but they should not be ignored. While there are many traits to be considered—temperament, full mouth, health test results, pedigree—coat color

and markings are integral to what makes a Doberman unique. Imagine looking at a Doberman head without the eyebrows, and rust muzzle, or the chest without the two triangular rust markings, or their two-toned legs. Each description of the parts in our standard combine to create the Doberman, and each is important to the whole.

The next time you are at a show, check out the color, shape, and placement of the Dobermans’ markings. It might be an eye-opening experience!

— Leslie Hall,
pajant@aol.com
Doberman Pinscher Club
of America

Dogues de Bordeaux

THE HEAD

The head is a very important characteristic of the Dogue de Bordeaux. When the head features are correct, the breed’s distinctive appearance is readily apparent. The head is large, angular,

COURTESY LESLIE HALL

WORKING GROUP

broad, and rather short. It is trapezoid-shaped when viewed from above and in front. The wider flat part of the trapezoid represents the skull when viewed from above, tapering down to the narrower, flat part that represents the muzzle. In the male, the back skull's perimeter measured at the point of the greatest width corresponds roughly to the height at the withers; in bitches, it may be slightly less.

The volume and shape of the skull is the result of the spacing of the lower jawbones, the very well-developed temporal area, the upper orbital area, and the zygomatic arches. The prominent cheeks are due to the very strong development of the muscles. The skull is slightly rounded from one side to the other, and the frontal groove is deep. The forehead is characterized by well-developed eyebrows and dominates the face. However, the skull is still wider than it is high. The head is furrowed with symmetrical wrinkles ("deep

ropes of wrinkle") on each side of the median groove. The deep ropes of wrinkle are mobile, depending on whether the dog is attentive or not.

The eyes are oval-shaped and set wide apart. The space between the eyes is equal to about twice the length of the eye (the eye opening). Eye color is hazel to dark brown for a dog with a black mask; lighter color is tolerated but not sought after in dogs with either a brown mask or without a mask.

Masks consist of:

Black Mask—Often only slightly spread out, and should not invade the cranial region. There may be slight black shading on the skull, ears, neck, and back. The pigmentation of the nose will be black.

Brown Mask—The pigmentation of the nose and eye-rims will also be brown.

No Mask—The coat is fawn; the skin appears red (also formerly called "red mask"). The nose is then reddish or pink.

The muzzle is powerful, broad, thick, and rather short. It should not be fleshy below the eyes. When viewed in profile, the forehead is very slightly concave, with moderately obvious folds. Its width decreases only slightly from the root of the muzzle to the tip. When viewed from above, it has the general shape of a square. When viewed from the side, the top lines of the skull and muzzle form an angle converging at or near the end of the muzzle. Its perimeter is almost two-thirds of that of the head. Its length varies between one-third and one-quarter of the total length of the head as measured from the nose to the occipital crest. The ideal muzzle length is between these two extremes.

The ear is small in proportion to the skull and slightly darker in color than the coat. The front of the ear's base is slightly raised, and the ears should fall back but not hang limply. The front edge of the ear is close to the cheek when the dog is attentive.

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The nose is broad, with well-opened nostrils, and is colored according to color of the mask.

The stop is very pronounced, almost forming a right angle with the muzzle (95 to 100 degrees).

The upper lip is thick and pendulous, yet retractile. When viewed in profile, it shows a rounded lower line and covers the lower jaw on the sides. Viewed from the front, edge of the upper lip is in contact with the lower lip and drops on either side forming an inverse, wide “V.”

The lower jaw is very powerful and broad, and it is undershot, so there is no contact between the lower and upper incisors.

The lower jaw curves upward, and the chin is very pronounced and should neither overlap the upper lip exaggeratedly nor be covered by it. The pronounced chin gives the Dogue de Bordeaux his distinctive appearance.

—Victor C. Smith

[Dogue de Bordeaux](#)
[Society of America](#)

German Pinschers

A SENSE OF MISSION

German Pinschers are working dogs. Working dogs, in general, have a sense of mission—though what that mission is varies by breed and often harkens back to their original purpose. The breed’s original purpose was to serve as general farm dogs, to catch vermin, and to raise an alert when necessary. That sense of mission is important when considering German Pinschers both as family

companions and as dogs that we want to work with us as part of a team in obedience or agility or other sports and tasks.

German Pinschers can, and do, enjoy life as family pets and everyday companions—going for walks, sleeping in the sun, and hanging out with their people. They can also excel in conformation and in performance and companion sports like agility, scent work, and obedience. And, as with many breeds, it pays



JOHN RICARD ©AKC

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to keep in mind what they were bred for and what they instinctively believe their mission in life to be.

The breed standard says, among other things, that the German Pinscher “... has highly developed senses, intelligence, aptitude for training, fearlessness, and endurance. He is alert, vigilant, deliberate and watchful of strangers. He has fearless courage and tenacity if threatened.”

What this means is that for German Pinschers, their sense of mission, at least in part, consists of dedication to a job that may or may not, at any given moment, involve working with you as a team—something we want in sports like obedience and agility. German Pinschers are always alert to their environment and to the people and animals around them.

A German Pinscher’s mission is still very much what they were originally bred to do. Their tasks as farm dogs required independence, speed, and a certain kind of watchful waiting.

When we ask them to focus on us—for example, when heeling in obedience or following a path in agility—we’re asking for something that’s not instinctively easy for them. We’re asking them to give us their attention instead of giving it to the environment, asking them to trust that whatever goes on outside the ring is not, for the moment, their responsibility.

German Pinschers are capable of intense focus. You can see it most easily in instinctive sports like scent work, Barn Hunt, and tracking, where you’re building on skills that are already inherent; they can and, increasingly, do bring that focus to obedience and agility, but it can take more training or, at least, more time, than training breeds where working as part of a team is more closely tied to their basic nature.

I love the sense of mission that German Pinschers have, their ability to track their environment and to know what’s there and

what’s coming. I like watching them make decisions without waiting for input from me or anyone else. And I also love the teamwork that comes from figuring out how to work with them in activities that ask them to turn away from that for a few moments and work as part of a team.

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

Giant Schnauzers

INTRODUCING THE GSCA

PART TWO

My column in the April issue discussed the purpose of the Giant Schnauzer Club of America and its importance in educating the public about Giants. But suppose you already made the leap? Maybe you explored the GSCA website <http://www.giantschnauzerclubofamerica.com/> and obtained a puppy from a reputable breeder, or found your Giant through one of the listed rescue

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Giant Schnauzer Ch. Carlo v. Saldern, 1929

organizations. Now what?

As a new Giant owner, don't be surprised if you develop a voracious appetite to learn more about the breed. One way to satisfy that is to join the GSCA. Membership offers multiple benefits to both you and your dog, including education in many forms.

If you've owned a Giant for even a month, you already realize that this breed turns heads when you walk down the street. How many total strangers have approached you to ask about the magnificent dog on the end of

your leash? You become an ambassador of this breed every time you go out in public. The more you know about Giant Schnauzers, the more helpful you can be to curious inquirers!

Upon joining GSCA, you will find ready mentors in your fellow members. Experienced Giant fanciers can advise you on behavior, health, grooming, training, and—if you have interest—getting involved in dog sports or conformation shows. Seriously, ask any GSCA member about Giants, and you had better prepare to pull up a chair for a long, detailed, and fascinating conversation!

All members receive two information-packed periodicals: *Giant Steps*, a glossy print magazine mailed twice a year, and “Giant Tales,” a monthly email newsletter. Readers enjoy in-depth educational articles, beautiful photographs, club news, listings of new titles, and a calendar of coming events. These publications also celebrate winners of national

and regional specialties, and Giants that qualify for annual club awards.

By far the most exciting educational resource GSCA offers is a recently established online forum called Giant Schnauzer University™. GSU brings a robust remote learning program to Giant lovers everywhere. GSCA taps expert members to teach mini “courses” in a Zoom-type format. One can register to attend the initial live webinar, or access the recorded session at a later date. Currently available courses in the “Grooming Department” cover grooming tools and techniques; “Giant Studies” focuses on the breed standard and breed history; “Breeder Education” courses detail practical considerations for responsible breeding; and the “Activities Department” introduces members to various dog sports and training techniques. New content is being continually developed and added.

Beyond education, GSCA

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serves our breed by encouraging members to train their Giants. This highly intelligent breed has a built-in desire to work. New owners quickly realize that Giants demand to partner with you in activities that use their brains and innate athletic ability. An owner might initially join a training class sheerly out of self-defense, to control the boisterous bull-in-a-china-shop they brought home. But a Giant often graduates at the top of the class, inspiring their formerly overwhelmed owner to continue training.

To reward members who actually work these working dogs, GSCA recognizes a tremendous range of accomplishments. Members receive a congratulatory card and pin for every AKC title earned, including those from Trick Dog, Fast CAT, Fit Dog, and Canine Good Citizen programs, which are a great starting goal for novice owner-trainers. GSCA presents awards each year to the Top Ten dogs

in conformation, obedience, agility, rally, herding, tracking, and scent work. There are Versatility awards for Giants who compete in multiple activities, and *much* more! For a comprehensive list, visit the website home page and click on “Club Information” in the header, then select “GSCA Annual Awards” in the dropdown.

Last, but not the least benefit of membership—being a part of the GSCA gives you a special level of camaraderie with other Giant owners. Anyone who has a Giant knows that these loyal dogs give you their whole heart without reservation; we, in turn, are smitten with the breed. Supporting the club by becoming a member gives you an avenue to deeper appreciation and a lifetime of learning about our wonderful Giants.

To investigate GSCA membership, go to the website home page and click on “Members Area” in the header, then select “Become

a Club Member.”

—Bonnie Postovit,

obgiants@aol.com

[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Great Danes

INTERESTING HISTORY OF THE BREED

Once an individual or family becomes smitten with the Great Dane, it often becomes a lifelong attachment. My wife and I have been in Danes since the late 1960s, and it has been a wonderful part of our lives.

I would like to mention a few facts about Danes that may be of interest to those who already own the breed or are considering doing so.

Germany is given the primary credit for developing the Great Dane. The AKC registered the breed as the Great *Dane* due to political tensions at the time with Germany. In Germany, the breed is known as the *Deutsche Dogge* (German Mastiff).

The Dane was officially

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recognized in the states in 1887, just three years after the AKC was founded. During the breed's long development period, the Dane was used for two primary purposes. First, it was used to hunt wild boar. The species of choice was usually the Russian black boar, which can reach a size of 200-plus kilos (around 250 pounds). Irrespective of their size, feral pigs are nasty creatures. Therefore, a large and powerful breed of dog was needed for hunting purposes.

The origin of the Dane was the crossing of the English Mastiff with a sighthound. There is a popular theory that the sighthound used was the Irish Wolfhound. However, there is not enough information available to substantiate that theory.

Their second primary function was to be a butcher's dog. They would be hooked up to the butcher's cart and pull it through the streets. There are a couple of other breeds which also



Great Dane

did this work, such as the Rottweiler.

During the late 19th century and early 20th centuries, many Danes found their way to the shores of the U.S. Due to the work for which they had been trained, many of those early Danes did not have the “gentle giant” demeanor to which we are now accustomed. In fact, the AKC would only allow Danes to be shown at specialties for the breed; they were not allowed to compete at all-breed shows.

During WWII, the Dane was one of three breeds evaluated to be the official military dog. The other two breeds were the German Shepherd and the Doberman. The government decided upon the German Shepherd, since that breed's heavier coat allowed it to better withstand the winters in Europe.

A great breed with a great history.

—Bill Stebbins,
cherdane2@comcast.net
Great Dane Club of
America

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

BRUISER'S LAW: WHAT ELLE WOODS CAN TEACH US ABOUT DOG CUSTODY IN DIVORCE

When you think of *Legally Blonde*, you probably picture lead character Elle Woods—pink outfit, law book in hand, with her Chihuahua, Bruiser, popping out of her bag. But beyond the glam and wit, there's a memorable moment where Elle helps her friend Paulette get *her* dog, Rufus, back from an ex. Elle steps in as “Miss Bonafonté’s attorney,” to secure Rufus’s return.

While most of us don’t have Elle’s legal expertise (or her wardrobe), that scene offers a lesson on how to handle dog custody during a divorce. Whether you’re going through a divorce, anticipating one, or know someone who is, here are three key takeaways to avoid your dog becoming the centerpiece of a courtroom drama.

Who’s the primary caregiver?

In the *Legally Blonde* scene, Elle knows exactly



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, October 2023

why Rufus should go back to Paulette: Paulette’s the one who’s been feeding, walking, and loving him. In real life, this is crucial for dog custody. Courts increasingly look at who has been the primary caregiver, rather than just who bought the dog the cutest sweater or gave them the most treats.

In the movie, Paulette had the emotional bond with Rufus. Courts will often consider who’s been doing the day-to-day care—training the dog, taking them to the vet, handling grooming, and making sure they’re fed. If

you’ve been the one doing all the routine care, that could work in your favor.

Preplan tip: Track who does what for your dog—who’s in charge of feeding, training, vet visits, and daily routines. This could be key if a custody issue arises.

Know the law

While we can’t all be Elle Woods, understanding the laws about pet custody is essential. Some states still treat pets as property, while others now consider pets family members, taking their emotional well-being into account.

Knowing how your state views pets—whether as property or as family—can influence how you shape your strategy and approach a custody situation.

Preplan tip: Research your state’s pet custody laws. Are pets considered property, or do the courts look at their emotional needs?

Plan ahead

While Elle’s dramatic retrieval of Rufus was

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entertaining, the drama could have been avoided altogether. The key takeaway: Dog custody is much easier when you address it before things get complicated. Whether it's joint custody, visitation arrangements, or who pays the vet bills, discussing your dog's future ahead of time can save everyone a lot of heartache.

You don't want to be scrambling to get your dog back or fighting in court. Plan ahead, have open conversations, and agree on terms before things get heated.

Preplan tip: If divorce seems likely, talk to your spouse/partner about your dog's future. Decide on custody arrangements, who's responsible for what, and put it in writing to avoid future disputes.

Conclusion: Take a cue from Elle Woods (or just plan ahead)

Elle Woods might have saved the day in a hilarious way, but in the real world, dog custody is no joke. So

plan ahead, understand the law, and make sure you're the one in control of your dog's future. Whether you're aiming for primary custody or working out a joint arrangement, preplanning can keep your dog safe, happy, and out of a legal mess.

Whether it's Bruiser, Rufus, or your own dog, with even a little preparation, you can be the legal hero in your dog's story!

—Tracey Brant

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

Komondorok

WHY SHOULD WE SHOW OUR DOGS?

Some of us always show our Komondors; some of us never show. Perhaps the more rational approach is to decide whether your young Komondor is a show dog.

Being a “show dog” can mean different things. The first level is a dog who can and should be a champion. The next level is a dog who

should represent our amazing breed in the group or (maybe) the Best in Show ring. Certainly, there is nothing more impressive than a majestic and confident Komondor in the ring.

What characteristics contribute to that impressive vision? Our coat is unique, and our mature coat is a striking sight, but this is not the reason for being a show dog. Every Komondor has this coat, and any experienced owner/groomer can groom and guide the corded coat.

Instead, we should look to our breed standard: “While large size is important, type, character, symmetry, movement and ruggedness are of the greatest importance” says it all.

“Type” for Komondors is the large head, good pigment, and the flowing outline from the head, down a muscular neck and smoothly into a level and strong topline and then a slightly sloping rump. The “character” of the breed is its dignity and courageous

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Komondor show dog with type and character

demeanor. “Symmetry” is good proportion, just slightly rectangular and with good length of leg. “Movement and ruggedness” speak to our light, leisurely and balanced gait, achieved on a dog with well-boned structure and with soundness.

If your young Komondor has sound legs with good bone and size, proper proportion, a level topline and leisurely and balanced gait, it can be a champion. If in finishing your dog’s championship it learns to enjoy being shown and in doing

that displays its attitude and dignity, it can represent the breed at the next level as a special. Hopefully you can have great success.

Along the way, it is up to the owner to care for the fuzzy, curly puppy coat and guide it into our spectacular corded coat. Cords are guided and split to come out of an area about the diameter of a quarter. Length comes with age, growing three or four inches a year. Presenting a clean, attractive coat is a matter of patience and a lot of washing.

The other consideration in entering your dog is why you may want to go to shows. Traditionally, the reason for entering your dog is to be evaluated as breeding stock by the judge, a qualified canine expert. But this activity, as valuable as it is, is just the bare beginning. When we go to shows with other Komondors entered, we meet and hopefully join a community of like-minded Komondor lovers. The future of our very rare breed depends on the

cooperation of that community. This is why we have dinners and hospitality rooms at our national specialty and supported entry weekends, and this may be the most valuable part.

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

Leonbergers

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

A breed club’s national specialty is much more than a dog show. Dog shows alone take a great deal of work to organize, from the selection of the location, host hotel, judges, and so on, to other details including organizing the sweepstakes, nonregular classes, and other events not offered at regular shows. There are also various club meetings, health clinics, and special events such as veteran parades, rescue parades, memorials, and lighthearted events and activities. There are award banquets, educational seminars, and of

LISA CROFT-ELLIOTT



course the Top Twenty. If you've never served on a national show committee, whether in the planning or the actual execution of all the various aspects of the show, then you may not realize how much the following analogy applies.

Picture, if you will, one of those circus acts wherein a person sets spinning plates on top of narrow upright poles and has to continually keep those plates spinning to prevent them from crashing to the ground. Yes, physics will assist that person in their ambitious goal,

but it still requires more effort than may be apparent from the point of view of the audience. The person is often also riding a unicycle and perhaps juggling items throughout the process. That is very much how it feels to put on a breed club national specialty.

The selection of the site and host hotel involve a great deal of details to begin with. Our big, hairy breed also includes the inevitable and not inconsequential amount of dog hair, combined with the possibility of weather creating an environ-

ment that also creates wet and/or muddy paw-prints throughout both the hotel grounds and the show site. Having served on the show committee for a few specialties, I know very well how much work goes into it.

The Leonberger Club of America's national specialty this year in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, had a few moments where those spinning plates started to wobble. Through nobody's fault other than an unexpected glitch in the power matrix due to some unpreventable stormy weather, the show site lost power for several hours on one of the show days. During the outage the crating/grooming area was in darkness and without electricity, and while the actual show ring area still had some natural light, thanks to high windows, the darkness of the crating area posed a very real safety hazard. Although the expansive outdoor parking area allowed enough space to hold the show events outdoors, the AKC cannot

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allow a club to change their contracted venue details from an indoor facility to holding the show in the parking lot on the spur of the moment; there are simply too many liability issues involved to allow that. So, the scramble to keep those plates spinning became an almost acrobatic process.

Nonetheless, the show committee and their wonderful volunteers made adjustment after adjustment until the power could be restored to the building where the show rings and the grooming areas were situated. It meant delaying the start time for both the conformation and performance sport rings, and the possibility of having to run two days' worth of events in one day, making for quite the marathon! Fortunately the power was restored by midday, in time to keep those plates spinning and to prevent having to double up, or worse, to cancel one of the events.

The show crew worked tirelessly and kept those

plates spinning. The exhibitors and spectators kept their sense of humor and their positive energy rolling as well, and the whole thing did get done. It was the perfect example of how many things can go wrong despite all the best planning. It was also the perfect example of the flexibility and creativity at work in the moment.

The show did go on, thanks to so many people (and thanks to the electrical crew). And once again the wonderful nature of the Leonberger community shone through. The results for all the events are posted on the LCA's website at <https://www.lca-specialty.com/38th-gettysburg-pa>. Congratulations to all those who won, and to those who took their first step into the ring! Thank you to all who organized, ran, and volunteered at this event! Great dogs, great people!

—Shannon White,
oceanleonbergers@gmail.com

[Leonberger Club of America](#)

Mastiffs

THE FIRST TIME

Do you remember the first time you ever showed a dog? Maybe you came out of juniors and have a lifetime of experience. Maybe you're new to dog shows and this is your first dog. Maybe, like me, you have to think back a fairly significant number of years to remember the first time you ever walked a dog into the ring.

For the newcomer to dog shows, that first time is critical. That first time can make or break a new puppy and/or a new exhibitor.

Do you remember the first time you judged a class? Do you remember the first time you ever had to sit down with an AKC field rep and discuss your choices? I remember all my firsts.

I knew I wanted a Mastiff, but no one in Mastiffs wanted to sell a newcomer a really good puppy. The breeders are skeptical because the average length of involvement in the sport for a newcomer is less than

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Mastiff Ch. Deer Run Noah Massalane with D.V. Gibbs

five years. Showing, handling, breeding, and just simple daily routine care are not easy, and many newcomers don't have what it takes to make the grade.

For me, that meant that no one would sell me a true show-quality dog. Finally, a longtime breeder "took pity on me" and referred me to a friend who had a litter and would sell me a good male puppy. What the breeder really meant was she could get me a dog that would work his ring, be fodder to build majors, and help her finish her dogs more rapidly.

I remember that morning

well. I showed up bright and early, dressed to go into the ring in a professional manner. I had taken some handling classes, and I had my puppy with me. Oh, how I loved that puppy. I had read the standard, and he didn't exactly meet all of the things in the standard, but my friend told me that there is no perfect dog and I should persevere.

I got to the ring with my 6-to-9-Months puppy and was the only entry. I went into the ring as nervous as a cat. My puppy didn't know what was wrong with me, but obviously, since I was scared, he was apprehensive.

I won't name the judge, but I will say she was a very fine lady, and a very fine judge. She took one look at me and said, "Honey, is this your first time in the ring?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And this is your puppy's first time in the ring?"

"Yes, ma'am."

She didn't try to go over my dog. She said, "I want you to take him around the ring at a trot and come back

to me and stop." I did. She tried to examine the dog, but he was too afraid to stand still.

Then she said, "Before I go any further, let's give you both some experience. I want you to take your dog straight across the ring and then come back to me." I did.

"Now," she said, "I want you to take your dog to the corner straight in front of you, make a left turn, go to the next corner, and then come back to me on that diagonal mat." She pointed to the path she wanted me to take. I took the dog down the mat and came back.

Then she asked me to bring the dog over and stack him. I did a terrible job, but I did my best. By this time, I realized this was a nice lady and I wasn't afraid any longer. Since I wasn't afraid, the puppy was now having fun. He stood for exam.

She very gently and patiently went over the dog, had me take him around the ring one more time and come back and stop. Then she said the thing to me that

COURTESY ERICA TORTORELLA

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set my career in my native breed. She said, “I can see you really love your dog, and he really loves you.” The puppy was wagging for all he was worth. “I don’t think he is going to be a show dog, because he doesn’t meet the standard. But he loves you and you love him. That is a very important part of showing dogs. This is a wonderful companion. I think you should take him home and love him.”

“While you are here, watch the dogs in the ring and get to know some of their owners. I am sure that once they get to know you and see how much you love your puppy, they will help you.” Then she handed me the most beautiful red ribbon.

I didn’t know anything about withholding ribbons, but I knew that this person, this judge, was special. She was gentle with me. She was gentle with my puppy. She gave me encouragement and sent me on the right path. In that moment, I knew I wanted to show dogs and one day I wanted to be able

to do for someone else what she had just done for me. I wanted to become a judge.

It has been about 40 years since that happened, and I did exactly what she told me to do. Within a few months, I had gotten to know a number of breeders, had found a mentor, and had gotten what became my first champion bitch.

I was able to breed that bitch to the number-one dog in the country, and out of eight puppies in that first litter, five of them finished, putting her in the Hall of Fame.

It seems like such a simple thing looking back, but it wasn’t. It was the moment that set me on a path that has become a life filled with love and lasting relationships and wonderful dogs.

A few weeks ago, I received my 25-year judge’s pin from AKC. I thought about all the years I’ve spent, the places I’ve been, and the dogs I’ve known. I realized how different things could’ve been without the benefit of that one very kind,

very gentle, very experienced judge.

I have a lot to be grateful for. As a lifetime member of my parent club, I have had opportunities to judge in multiple countries, serve on committees, deepen my experience in the breed, and develop a host of contacts and friends. Without all of them, and without all of this experience, my life would be much less rich.

The moral of the story is simply this: You never know when it might be someone’s first time. Take the time. Be kind. You may, in less than three minutes in the ring, set someone’s future in motion in ways that neither you nor they can imagine. You might create a dedication to showing dogs, breeding great dogs that meet the standard, educate, and even spark someone’s desire to judge.

I don’t know where I would be today without the riches that have come to my life through my role as an owner/breeder/mentor/judge. I can tell you that because of that experience,

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every time I step in the ring,
I am cognizant that for
someone, it could be:

The First Time.

—Catherine Angus

(Zavoras)

mastyff@gmail.com

[Mastiff Club of America](#)

Neapolitan Mastiffs

This is Part Two of a commentary by the late, great Mario Perricone, an FCI judge, author of many books and a well-regarded Mastino expert. This was originally published in the handbook of the ATIMANA, the international organization for lovers of the Neapolitan Mastiff.



Neapolitan Mastiff

THE HEAD

The head is unique. There is none like it among all other canines. It is difficult however, to describe it and just as difficult to acquire the correct concept of it. It is massive and brachycephalic. This means that the bone structure is very heavy and that the width of the cranium as measured between the cheekbones (zygomatic

arches) is greater than half the total length of the head.

It is covered by loose skin which forms well-delineated wrinkles and folds. If these wrinkles and folds should be missing, the head would not be that of a Mastino. If on the other hand the skin were too copious, to the point of excess, then the wrinkles and folds would be improperly formed and confused

in their design and therefore would not make a correct head type. In addition, this overly excessive loose skin is an indication that the bone structure of the entire head and the muscles which cover it are not strong, as they should be in a dog which is bred to be able to use its jaws for biting. Also, this excessively loose skin is often a sign of a lymphatic

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problem that is associated with a generalized constitutional weakness.

Viewed from the side, the head must show perfect parallelism of the cranio-facial axes. Convergence of these axes (the top plans of the cranium and the muzzle) is a serious fault. Divergence of these planes is worse yet.

The cranium is broad, flat between the ears, slightly convex in the anterior part, and should never tend towards the spherical. Any rounding, which extends toward the posterior part of the cranium should be penalized, as this would make the head too much like that of the Bulldog.

The stop is well defined. The muzzle measures half the length of the cranium, and as viewed from the front, is wide, deep and more or less square. The head is adorned with abundant, thick lips, which should never be flaccid. The upper lips, seen from the front, join in an upside-down “V” shape, with the chin very pronounced

between the two halves. Seen from the side, the upper lips form the lower profile of the muzzle.

The mandible is large and powerful, with well-developed incisors that close in either scissors or level bite. The teeth should be present in their entirety. The closure of the incisors, as specified by the breed standard, has caused some perplexity. In fact, cases do occur in which the maxilla (lower jaw) is shorter than the mandible (upper jaw), with the result that the lower incisors protrude beyond the upper ones, forming a prognathism or undershot jaw. This prognathic complex is further characterized by converging cranio-facial axes and an unusually short muzzle. In such a case, the Neapolitan Mastiff would lose its typical expression to the point that it would seem “Boxerish” and bear too close a resemblance to the Dogue de Bordeaux.

Prognathism in the breed has become rarer, and when it is present, certainly

less pronounced. This is not, therefore, a thing that should worry anybody too greatly. Unfortunately, some breeders who do not understand the true spirit of the breed standard have been worried that a dog with an undershot jaw might be eliminated from shows as a result of this defect. This is a very remote possibility. It may occur if the prognathism is so pronounced that it deforms the muzzle. If it is not so prominent, it should be considered one of the many possible deviations from the standard, and indeed it does not disqualify a well-built and exemplary dog from gaining the highest honors available.

Certain words taken from the Neapolitan dialect exist which are useful for the description of various serious defects of the head (*a capa*). It is *tonna* if the cranium is rounded and the muzzle too short; *camusa* if the muzzle is arched downward and the nose droops; *cinocogna* (donkey-like) if it has no stop, with a long

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and even divergent muzzle;
e pecora if the chin is too
weak.

—Margaret R. (Peggy)
Wolfe,

[Margaret.peggy.wolfe@
gmail.com](mailto:Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com)

United States Neapolitan
Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

Our guest columnist for
this issue is Mary Lou
Zimmerman ([marylouz@
mac.com](mailto:marylouz@mac.com)).

DO NEWFOUNDLANDS MAKE GOOD SERVICE DOGS?

Popular culture depicts the
Newfoundland Dog as the
instinctive Nana, guardian
of children, or the lifeguard
of the high seas. However,
we do not do our gentle
giants any favors by endow-
ing them with supernatural
benevolence and empathy.
These depictions lead many
to think Newfoundlands
make ideal service dog can-
didates, when, in fact, they
are very seldom the best
choice.

When seeking a service



Newfoundland

dog prospect, the han-
dler and trainer look at the
specific tasks that require
mitigation—medical alert,
retrieval, mobility assistance,
and so on—and then narrow
the search to breeds with
demonstrated skill and suc-
cess working in those tasks.

There are several
breed-specific features
that make it difficult for a
Newfoundland to function
well as a full-time service
dog:

1. Newfoundlands are a
long-haired, giant dog that
drools. They are not the best

choice for a dog needed
to fit under a table, or not
be underfoot in a store.
They limit accessibility for
travel using Ubers or taxi
cabs, and air travel can be
uncomfortable for the dog
and handler due to the dog's
large size.

2. Newfoundlands are
slow to mature, both phys-
ically and mentally, and are
not ready for “work” until
close to age 3. Until they
mature, Newfoundlands go
through several predictable
stages—land shark, bull-in-a-
china-shop, and brain-dead

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teenager, to name a few. During these times they are often a challenge for an able-bodied owner to handle and manage.

Shauna Bryant, a long-time owner and breeder of Newfoundlands with experience raising and training guide dogs, notes instances in the development of a young Newf where panosteitis or other lameness may require strict rest for several weeks. In the training of a service dog, missing out on crucial training time would mean “washing out” of a regular Guide Dog program.

3. Newfoundlands, due to their size, have a relatively short life span, and a shorter effective working life. Other breeds can start working younger and work for a longer span. The National Institutes for Health, in “Paving the Path Toward Retirement for Assistance Animals: Transitioning Lives,” estimates dermatologic conditions caused by atopic dermatitis reduce the working life of guide dogs by

an average of five years. In the most recent OFA/NCA Health Survey, 21 percent of Newfoundlands were reported to have dermatological issues.

4. Service dogs must be structurally sound. Even the best Newfoundland breeder may produce a dog with orthopedic issues. Julianna Larsen, Director of Training at Can Do Canines Assistance Dog Center, notes possible downsides of asking dogs to do certain kinds of trained behaviors:

“While dogs can be trained to do many things and will push themselves past what is healthy to please us, that doesn’t mean we should ask them to. Yes, you might be able to find a giant-breed dog that is large enough to brace you, but a cane, walker, or wheelchair might be the better option. No matter how large a dog is, putting pressure on their body in a way like bracing can seriously shorten their working life and lead to health problems down

the line.”

5. Newfoundlands are not readily available. If purchasing a pup from a reputable source, wait times of upwards of two years are commonplace. Combined with the needs for training and maturity, the service dog prospect you are looking for today may be four or five years down the road.

6. Newfoundlands require extensive grooming, including regular combing and brushing as well as regular baths to keep them presentable. Many breeds require no professional grooming at all; grooming for a Newfoundland can cost \$150 or more every four weeks.

7. Many specific service dog tasks (such as diabetes detection, seizure alert, or hearing assistance) can be more easily handled by smaller, shorthaired breeds. Looking at jobs that require a specific weight ratio that only a Newf can handle, one should ask what the daily work requirements of hundreds of pounds of load is going to do to the joints and

BREED COLUMNS

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Expense	Average Cost	Newfoundland Cost
Acquisition	\$500–\$1,500	\$4,000
Basic vet care	\$435 (Rover.com)	\$985
Spay	\$525 (Forbes Advisor)	\$1,285
Food	\$345 (Rover.com)	\$748

back of the dog, and how will that impact useful working life.

8. Newfoundlands attract a lot of attention. They are big, impressive-looking animals. If utilizing a service dog to function seamlessly in a professional or education environment is important, a giant dog who will attract crowds wherever he or she goes is generally not the best choice.

9. Newfoundlands are expensive. They are expensive to acquire, feed, groom, receive veterinary care, and transport in a large car. Above is a short table highlighting the expenses of owning a Newfoundland compared to a more average-sized dog (Newfoundland costs from

average reports in Facebook Forum of 73K owners of Newfs and Newf-mixes):

Have there been Newfoundlands effectively used as service dogs? Sure. But they tend to be the exception and not the rule. The “Fab Four” service-dog breeds—Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Poodles, and German Shepherds—have been shown to be the best choices for service dog prospects and have breeders who specialize in the trainability and temperament needed for this specific work. —M.L.Z.

Thank you, Mary Lou.
—Katie Dolan,
katie@katiedolan.net
[Newfoundland Club of America](#)

Portuguese Water Dogs

PORTUGUESE WATER DOG HEROES

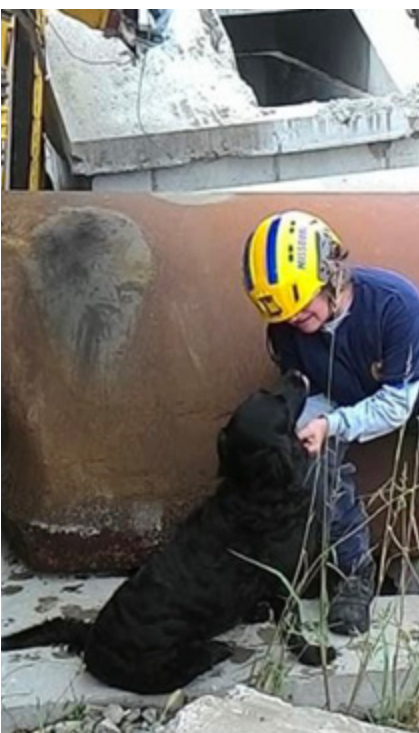
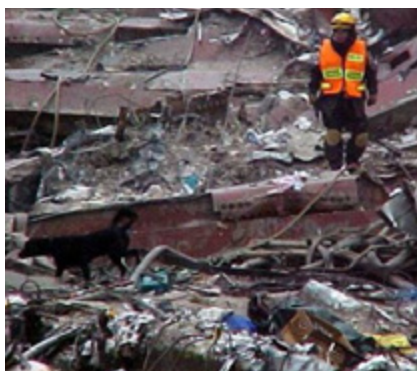
Most people are aware that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) responds to domestic disasters caused by building collapses and/or severe weather events that cause extensive damage to communities. Under FEMA, the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System has 28 Type 1 tasks forces, each composed of 70 members specializing in rescue, handling of hazardous materials, structural engineering, and medical assistance. Typically these task forces also employ at least four canine live find search teams, and four human remains search teams. The canine units specialize in two areas: the detection of live humans (buried under rubble or exposed) and the detection of human remains; some dogs are certified for both areas.

Dogs must be at least 18 months old to attempt the

BREED COLUMNS



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Connie Millard's FEMA-certified Portuguese Water Dogs, from top left: Dutch at the Ground Zero/World Trade Center site; Dutch searching at the WTC; Spider training for SAR; Rock indicating a victim; Westfield in training; Ninja alerting on human remains; Ninja being rewarded. Bottom center: Several generations of Connie's dogs (L-R): Rock, Spider (faded brown dog), Juno, Pebble (dam of Westfield and Ninja), and Dutch (sire of Rock and Pebble). Bottom right: Connie with Ninja.

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rigorous search-and-rescue test and are trained to work with a handler in any environment under highly distracting noises and visual stimuli. These dogs are tested on their agility skills to navigate slippery surfaces that may move underneath their feet, to climb ladders and planks, to be persistent and independent in their search, to ignore animal and food distractions, and to go into dark places and be able to crawl.

The dogs must bark when locating human scent and stay on that scent so that the location can be marked by the response team. Their handlers are tested on search strategies and tactics, mapping skills, briefing and debriefing skills, and canine handling skills. Dogs and handlers must be recertified every three years.

Many people have seen search-and-rescue dogs working disaster sites such as 9/11 in NYC or, more recently, in flooded areas caused by Hurricane Helene in 2024, and may

have noted that the most common breeds working these sites are Dutch and German Shepherds, Golden and Labrador Retrievers, Belgian Malinois, and Border Collies. Few people know that Portuguese Water Dogs have also been deployed as FEMA search-and-rescue dogs.

All of the FEMA certified PWDs worked in the MO-TF1 Type 1 US&R task force and were trained by Connie Millard of Eight Pond Farm in Hermann, Missouri. Connie certified five different PWDs (Dutch, Spider, Rock, Ninja, and Westfield) and one Labrador Retriever (Jimmy) for this work.

Dutch (Presidio Dutch of Alto Mare), an improperly coated PWD (lacking in furnishings on head, muzzle, and legs), was the first PWD to earn a Search & Rescue Certification, Human Remains Certification, FEMA US&R Certification, and SAR Wilderness Live Find. He also earned AKC Tracking Dog and

Tracking Dog Excellent titles, the Courier Water Dog Excellent title, and won the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America's Superdog event at the club's national specialty in 1999 by taking the highest combined scores in tracking, agility, and water trials. Dutch was deployed at the 9/11 World Trade Center in 2001 and was awarded the SAR-U1 title by the AKC.

Spider (Redwoods Sea Racer), Connie's second FEMA dog, was cross-trained for both live and deceased humans; at 7 months of age he earned an AKC TD title, and he went on to earn his Apprentice and Working Water Dog titles shortly thereafter. He was used in multiple lost person searches and was deployed at Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Dennis in 2005. In the deployment to Hurricane Katrina, Spider searched partially submerged buildings and worked off boats to find humans in distress. He was also deployed at a

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Missouri tornado in 2007 and at the Republican National Convention in 2008 and was awarded the AKC title of SAR-U2.

For her subsequent FEMA dogs, Connie bred Dutch to a Portuguese champion bitch named Boleta da Casa do Macau and kept Rock and his sister, Pebble. Two other pups from that litter were placed and both became therapy dogs at children's cancer centers.

Connie was immensely proud of Rock because he was one of her fastest FEMA-certified dogs, completing his training in 18 sessions before passing his certification test. Rock was deployed at Superstorm Sandy in 2012. She then bred Pebble to Rascal (Questar's Thunder and Lightning) and kept four of Dutch's grand-get, two of which trained for FEMA: Ninja, another improperly coated PWD, and Westfield. Westfield was deployed in North Carolina and Georgia for Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Ninja was never

deployed because, as Connie lamented, sheep-shearing got in the way the one time she could have been called up to serve.

In their retirements, all of Connie's dogs were beloved pets but, ultimately, working dogs doing various chores (herding, vermin hunting) around her active farm with Icelandic sheep, guardian llamas, Highland cattle, Morgan horses and wild mustangs, and chickens.

Sadly the world lost Connie unexpectedly in September 2024, and the Portuguese Water Dog world lost a great trainer who showed off the incredible diversity and working ethic of the PWD. She and her PWDs served our country for 20-plus years and will be sorely missed.

This breed truly can do it all! —Kari L. Lavalli, Ph.D

References:

Canine Units: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/urban-search-rescue/canines>

Canine testing documentation: <https://www.responsesystem.org/caninetestingschedule>

Urban Search & Rescue Task forces: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/urban-search-rescue/task-force-locations>

Previous interviews with Connie about her FEMA activities with PWDs can be found in the Portuguese Water Dog columns in the October 2020, January 2021, and April 2021 issues of the AKC GAZETTE.

[Portuguese Water Dog Club of America](#)

Rottweilers

CHEWING

Why do people get so fervent and upset about a puppy's chewing? Yes, they're going to chew inappropriate items (usually whatever is in front of them); yes, they want whatever you wore last (shoes, under garments); yes, they're teething.

Teething usually starts

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a few weeks before the 16-week age mark, whereupon the baby teeth start falling out. Long before that,

the adult teeth are underneath, moving up to bud in the jaw. Not unlike babies, puppies explore

their environment via their mouths. This is normal.

By 6 months of age, the adult teeth are in, and the intensive chewing usually starts to slow down. Albeit there are some dogs who are heavy chewers for years to come, but normally by adulthood they are discretionary to their toys and chews.

I have two pairs of old slippers. My puppy loves them—grabs them, gums them, tosses them about. And it dawned on me: Who cares? They are not precious collectible items (in which case they would be put up and away), they are not Gucci shoes or a Louis Vuitton handbag (because who gets to have those items *and* dogs?). The puppy chews what is available to him—toys, chews, more toys, and my slippers. They smell like me, they're soft and fuzzy, and when he's done teething or they're destroyed—whichever comes first—they'll go into the trash, and I'll get new ones. He has fun, I get new

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slippers down the line; it's a win-win.

Isn't it easier and kinder to have a long vision of the relationship with a dog? Instead of yelling, berating, or physically correcting a puppy, just let it go? This too shall pass. Slippers wear out, we get new ones. Sneakers and socks too. Is it worth possibly ruining a dog's trust as their caretaker?

I hope this puppy will be my next competition dog. I want him to feel I'm fair, even tempered, and trustworthy. Only by managing his environment and training him with consistency and positive reinforcement will I make that happen. It's up to me. If it costs a pair of slippers, it's worth it.

—Jill Kessler Miller,
jilymillygsr@gmail.com
American Rottweiler Club

Saint Bernards

TRUE COMPANIONS

While recently sitting on a park bench with my beloved Saint Bernard

beside me, my mind began to wander. In my lifetime I have had many dogs. Some were purebred, and some were just dogs. I have had champions, group and Best in Show winners, and just companions. In all of the dogs of the past, my most cherished memories are of the ones who were the most loving and understanding. Not the big winners, but the true companions.

The true companions were the ones who loved the children and adults alike. They protected the family, some at the cost of their own safety. Some paid the ultimate price. These are the true Saints.

Having said the above, I feel that the best homes for our beloved Saints are the ones that will provide love and support for the dogs in every way. Yes, we want show homes for our most promising animals; however, the loving home is the hoped-for end result.

I have had the pleasure of being in the company of a "support dog." This animal was not trained to do any



Saint Bernard April 1976, Sally Ann Thompson photo

specific task. He just did what was necessary to help his human. This animal alerted the son of a dear friend to the possibility of a problem in the man's back. He bumped the man in the back several times in a row with his nose—enough to get the attention of not only the man, but his son. This man (several days later) was diagnosed with lung cancer and passed away. *That dog knew.* Some of you reading this might have had occasion to witness such an experience.

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A well-known dog breeder, no longer with us, had a dog (and again not trained) that did alert, but no one knew what the dog was trying to tell the human owner. They finally figured it out after the man was admitted to the hospital and tested. It turned out that the man had a heart problem. *Pay attention to your dogs.* They will help you if you just listen to them. And you might, just might, live longer and healthier.

The Saint Bernard, being a large animal, does not live as long as some smaller dogs. We the breeders and owners are working very hard to make sure we do all the right things for our furry friends to help them live longer and healthier, productive lives.

The Saint Bernard Charitable Health Foundation is one of the best avenues to help support these endeavors. If you would like to donate to the Saint Bernard Charitable Health Foundation, you can do so by contacting Vick Dingus or Bill Henchman.

Vick can be reached via e-mail at vdingus@gmail.com, and Bill can be reached via e-mail also, at nightsky-saints@gmail.com.

The funds must be noted to be for the Charitable Health Foundation. Your donation to the Foundation is tax deductible.

Wishing you a happy summer! I am now on the patio with my feet up and my dog at my side.

—Anna May Fleischli Brown, www.edelkweisskennel.com; stedelkweis@aol.com

[Saint Bernard Club of America](#)

Siberian Huskies

This month's guest columnist is Delinda Davis, a longtime Siberian Husky exhibitor and breeder who serves as treasurer of the Siberian Husky Club of America. Delinda and her husband, Jim, have put many conformation titles on her dogs, and even more rally, obedience, and agility titles. We've asked her to talk about Siberians in agility

and why you should consider the sport.

SIBERIANS IN AGILITY

So, have you been thinking about getting into agility with your Siberian Husky? By all means, go for it!

Jim and I started showing Siberian Huskies in conformation in 1992. We've had 10 litters, put conformation championships on almost a dozen dogs, and have bred and then co-owned at least that many more.

One of the few things I regret in our years with Siberians is not getting into the companion sports, particularly agility, much sooner. Jim and I both practiced medicine full-time, but despite the busy schedules managed to attend conformation shows four to six weekends a year. We always taught our puppies to sit, down, walk on lead, stand for exam, and gait in the show ring. I always believed my Siberians were smart, athletic, wonderful companions and that I had a great relationship with them.

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Agility is “all about the journey and your relationship with your dog. What’s important is that you both have fun.”

But I also believed Siberians should never be let off leash and therefore couldn’t really compete in AKC Companion Dog events.

In 2012, when we became empty nesters, I took a rally class at the local AKC obedience club with my 18-month-old Siberian, Narcissa. She earned her Rally Novice title quickly, but it took me another year to get up the nerve to take the leash off for Rally Advanced and Excellent.

After earning those titles and taking some time off for

a litter of puppies, we were ready for an even bigger challenge. I started agility classes in the summer of 2015, when Narcissa was 4½ years old. We attended outdoor classes once a week when weather permitted and did a little practice in our very small backyard. Cissa and I both loved agility!

By the next summer, we entered our first agility trials. She qualified in 50 percent of her runs in her first two weekends of trialing. We had high hopes of earning her Novice Standard and Novice Jumps with Weaves

titles at her third trial weekend, but she died of an acute respiratory infection days before the trial.

I continued to attend agility classes with Cissa’s 18-month-old daughter, Samantha, and soon I was also training my 9-month-old, Elle.

I have now competed in agility with six Siberians. I am always eager to share what I have learned and encourage others to join the fun.

The first thing you should know is that you don’t have to have a lot of room or a lot of equipment at home

COURTESY DELINDA DAVIS

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to train your dog in agility. I put agility titles on three Siberians in 2019, when I had nothing but a few homemade jumps and weaves in my small backyard. In 2020, we moved to a farm with plenty of room to set up a 60-foot-by-80-foot agility yard. I made more jumps, a pause table, a dog walk, a tire, and a set of 12 weave poles from PVC pipe and plywood.

I have slowly acquired some regulation equipment. With the exception of tunnels, all was purchased secondhand from fellow competitors or agility clubs.

I feel lucky to have that training space, but it's not necessary. If there are no in-person classes in your area, take a look at some of the excellent online courses you can participate in. These classes can seem pretty pricey, but they allow you to train on your own schedule with the help of truly superior instructors. There are also wonderful free podcasts discussing everything from general dog training to very

specific agility skills.

Be sure to teach your dog the basics before jumping into the “sexy” agility stuff like teeters and weaves. It all begins with having a great relationship with your dog, and that's accomplished by teaching simple tricks and recalls—before you get into agility. Rally is a great stepping-stone to agility, as it uses and reinforces those basic skills.

Reinforcement is key. Find out what your dog loves—food, toys, and so on—and use it as a motivator and reward. Tug toys are used as motivation quite a bit in agility. Although most Siberians are not natural tuggers, they can be taught to tug and fetch. If taught correctly, tugging is a very effective reinforcer for agility. Don't be afraid to use it.

Where you train is important. Train your dog in a non-stressful environment. You wouldn't take a 15-year-old boy or girl to a busy interstate to learn how to drive; you would start out in an empty parking lot. Work

with your dogs at home with no distractions before expecting them to perform at a training class or trial.

Split the skills you want to teach into very small segments, and reward as often as possible. Have short training sessions, and make sure you and your dog are always having fun. If your dog doesn't perform well at a training class or trial, you've probably moved too fast. Go back and work in a less stressful environment.

Take your time and enjoy the journey — have fun with the training. Trialing, ribbons, and titles are secondary. Don't get frustrated when you find out your instructor's 2-year-old Border Collie is competing for a spot on the U.S. international team; that doesn't mean you should be at that level.

It may take a while for you to even get your first title. Again, it's all about the journey and your relationship with your dog. What's important is that you both have fun.

One last thing: You do not

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have to be young and athletic to participate in agility. I was 58 when I started my first agility class. I am now pushing 70 and still competing. I have never been particularly athletic. Participating in agility has given me the incentive I need to try to keep myself and my dogs in good physical condition. It is great, fun exercise for dog and handler. I would love to see more Siberians in agility. Give it a try! —D.D.

Thank you, Delinda!

—Karla Wall,

wallks@suddenlink.net

Siberian Husky Club of America

Standard Schnauzers

With the 2025 SSCA national specialty around the corner in October at the Charlottesville- Albemarle KC in Doswell, Virginia, for this issue I've asked Leslie Shriner to share her thoughts about what she calls "grooming triage." Leslie's article is perfect to help you get your Standard

Schnauzer ready to win that ribbon at the national! Even if you aren't going to the national, Leslie has tips you can use to make your SS beautiful. Leslie is a 30-year career dog professional: groomer, trainer, former veterinary nurse, and AKC Silver Breeder of Merit. She bred the 2024 national specialty winner and Westminster BOS, GCh.S Straw Hat Here to Love (Roger).

So without further ado, here's Leslie!

GROOMING "TRIAGE" FOR YOUR STANDARD SCHNAUZER

Have you ever "gotten behind" on grooming your Standard Schnauzers—and then gotten more behind because the job ahead of you overwhelmed you even more? Maybe you didn't know where to start, or you didn't set aside enough time, or you didn't have enough time to set aside to do the whole job. Whatever the reason, your SS is getting shaggier and dirtier by the day. You're at your wit's end

and ready to throw in the towel.

Don't lose heart, and don't give up! It may take a few weeks, or even a few months, but you can get caught up and move toward your goals again. Break the job into smaller tasks; establish priorities and set reasonable, achievable goals. Write a schedule for yourself (with appointments written on your calendar) instead of hoping you'll "get around to it"—you'll make significant progress fast.

After I had a big litter of puppies, maintenance grooming of my adult dogs came to a screeching halt. Worse, because the puppies came sooner than expected, I hadn't gotten my dogs groomed ahead of time, as I usually do. That summer was hot, humid, and stormy, and the burrs were growing riotously. I found myself way behind before I knew it—and falling further behind quickly.

Most of my SS are hand-stripped, though one is clipped and another raked

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Left: “Grooming triage”—before grooming and after grooming. Right: Leslie Shriner with Frodo.



out instead of stripped tight. Intending to show two in late summer/fall, I was maintaining the others in a “holding pattern” in case I decided to show them later.

With coats and toenails getting long, faces and rear ends getting shaggy, and their “bedroom slipper” feet bringing the outside inside, it was hard to know where to start!

As a professional groomer since the mid 1990s, I’ve seen and helped numerous dogs in rough shape and learned which priorities should come first. I’ve also learned some shortcuts that save time but still look good, even when a dog needs a “reset.” As a competitive breeder-owner-handler for all those years, I know timing is critical to get your Standard Schnauzer’s coat in shape if you want to win in conformation competition.

So what did I do? I call it “grooming triage.” I looked over all my dogs with the

COURTESY LESLIE SHRINER

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following priorities in mind:

- health and comfort
- easy tasks to accomplish
- getting ahead
- remediation
- resetting, starting over

I started with heat management and maintenance clipperwork on face, throat, and ears on the shaggiest dogs to make sure everyone stayed cool. Next I focused on toenails and trimming feet and pads. After that, clipping the longest rear ends, bellies, and inner thighs—both for coolness and to reduce the hair volume in places that mat first and worst, such as the “tenders,” under-chest, and armpits.

Once all dogs had basic maintenance done, I divided them into two categories: easy to restore to maintained status, and still needing lots of work.

Because I could take their furnishings short, I finished cleaning up the “easier” dogs, which were the ones I didn’t have plans to show. The SS that needed the most work, at the end, was the one I had planned to show.

The result of three to four weeks of getting everyone else back into a maintainable “holding pattern” condition was that I had overshot the time window required to have a show coat when I wanted it. Oh, well ... I knew that it usually takes about three months to put a show coat on a Standard Schnauzer, so I accepted reality and simply set a new show goal. (OK, I might have shed some disappointed tears first.)

Once my other dogs were “caught up” and could go a while before needing more grooming, I could focus on the show dog. De-matting the furnishings removed some volume and made them sparse, but the good news is that a new, hard coat will grow back in, which will give the legs more texture and color when we *do* get back in the ring.

Remember, even if you have only one dog, sometimes you need to do “grooming triage” so you and your dog aren’t miserable during grooming times.

Committing to regular, short sessions to accomplish limited goals gets you a lot farther (and keeps your grooming relationship still positive) than thinking you have to (or even can) do it all at once. —Leslie Shriner

Many thanks to Leslie for sharing her excellent and timely article on grooming triage. You can see more of Leslie on her YouTube channel, Dogs and Dharma, where she teaches grooming, competitive planning, and mindset coaching to Schnauzer lovers everywhere. Contact her at StrawHatStandards@gmail.com, or enroll in one of her video courses (<https://linktr.ee/strawhatstandards>).

My October column will continue where my April column on creating dog-safe gardens left off: readying your garden for winter with dog-safe mulches.

—Suzanne T. Smith (Los Alamos, New Mexico), WustefuchsSS@aol.com <https://GoodFoodGreatDogs.com>

Standard Schnauzer Club of America

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TIM CARWILE, ESQ., CHAIR
JOHN RUSSELL

ALTERNATES

FRANK BARTON
REX GIBSON
ROBERT W. MONTLER

ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**. For the sole purpose of conducting the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees, the meeting will be called to order at 9:30 a.m. After those present at that time have voted, the Delegate Meeting will recess to begin the Forum (approximately 1 hour in duration). The Delegate Meeting will reconvene following the conclusion of the Forum at which time anyone who had not yet voted will have the opportunity to do so, then the polls will be closed.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

James Conroy, Marietta, GA,
Boca Raton Dog Club

Michael Faulkner, Center Cross, VA,
Westminster Kennel Club

Jacquelyn Fogel, Gardnerville, NV,
Reno Kennel Club

Sandie Friend, Glen Allen, VA, Boston
Terrier Club of America

Lisa Giannone, West Milford, NJ,
Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey

Mark Francis Jaeger, Mason, MI,
English Toy Spaniel Club of America



gazette

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Erin Melissa Keen, Murrells Inlet, SC,
Myrtle Beach Kennel Club

Lisa Leffingwell, Dallas, TX,
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

Alejandro Lima, Miami, FL,
Fort Lauderdale Dog Club

Jennifer Martin, North East, MD,
Weimaraner Club of America

Susan Patterson, Salem, MA,
Greater Lowell Kennel Club

Rhonda Peralta, Morganton, NC,
American Brussels Griffon Association

Tracy Potts, San Antonio, TX,
Chihuahua Club of America

Janine Rose, Bennington, VT,
Parson Russell Terrier Association of
America

Rhonda Shifferd, Ocklawaha, FL,
Greater Ocala Kennel Club

Bruce Van Deman, Newport Beach,
CA, Hawaiian Kennel Club

NOTICE

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

Ms. Beatrice Bartley (Chester, NH)

Ms. Katie Hager (Willis, TX)

Mr. Michael Moore (Elkton, OR)

Ms. Jan Paulk (Santa Fe, NM)

Mr. Richard Valentini (Midland, GA)

Ms. Michelle Worthington
(Blue Springs, MO)

NOTICE

Dr. Ann Marie Fortuna (Yukon, OK). Action was taken by the Oklahoma City Training Club for conduct at its March 29, 2025 event. Dr. Fortuna was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$50 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Mr. Michael Guerrero (Roanoke, VA). Action was taken by the Dog Owners Training Club of Lynchburg for conduct at its March 2, 2025 event. Mr. Guerrero was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective May 18, 2025. (Doberman Pinschers)

NOTICE

Ms. Renee Hoover (Charlottesville, VA). Action was taken by the Colonial

Rottweiler Club for conduct at its May 8, 2025 event. Ms. Hoover 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 penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$200 fine. (Rottweilers)

NOTICE

Mr. Roger "Dale" Howard (Simpsonville, SC). Action was taken by the Myrtle Beach Kennel Club for conduct at its April 26, 2025 event. Mr. Howard was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Bulldogs)

NOTICE

Ms. Jean Lucas (Mount Vernon, VA). Action was taken by the Chuckanut Dog Training Association for conduct at its April 25, 2025 event. Ms. Lucas was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Brandee Massey (Republic, MO). Action was taken by the Brevard Kennel Club for conduct at its December 11, 2024 event. Ms. Massey was charged with

physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Wendy Kelly (Tyrone, PA) from all AKC privileges for six months and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make her dogs and records available for inspection when requested, effective June 17, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Andre McNeal (Sugarland, TX) from AKC event privileges for one-year and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Personal Conduct Policy*, effective June 17, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Article IV, Section 5** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Bylaws Committee. This will be voted on at the September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP SECTION 5.

The name of each candidate and the fact that it has applied for membership must be published in the first issue of the *AKC GAZETTE* which shall be published after the receipt by the Executive Secretary of the AKC of such application, ~~and again in the next succeeding issue of said AKC GAZETTE~~ and Such application then shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the AKC for its approval or disapproval.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Article VI, Section 4** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Bylaws Committee. This will be voted on at the September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE VI: DELEGATES SECTION 4.

The name and address of each candidate for the position of Delegate, and the fact that application has been made for his or her appointment, shall be published in the first issue of the *AKC GAZETTE* which shall be published after receipt by the Executive Secretary of the AKC of the Delegate's credentials; ~~and again in the next succeeding issue of said AKC GAZETTE.~~

The Delegate's credentials then shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the AKC for its approval or disapproval.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1

The AKC Board does not endorse the following amendment to **Article VII, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and pursuant to **Article XX, Section 3** of the **AKC Bylaws**, demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates. This will be voted on at the September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION, MEETINGS AND QUORUM SECTION 1.

The AKC shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of thirteen (13) voting members, all of whom must be Delegates, except as provided for in Section 3 of this Article. The Board shall be elected as follows:

At each annual meeting the Delegates shall elect Directors from the list of candidates nominated as provided in Article VIII of these Bylaws. The thirteen voting Directors shall be divided into four classes of three (3), three (3), three (3), and four (4) members. Such Directors to hold office for four

(4) years or until their successors are elected. At each annual meeting the Delegates shall elect such other Director or Directors as shall be required to fill the place of any Director who has died or resigned before the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected.

No person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Board. A Board member who has served more than half a term on the Board is considered to have served a full term. This section does not preclude the reelection of any delegate to the Board of Directors after a ~~one-year~~ four-year (or greater) hiatus from Directorship.

Excluding the President, who serves as a non-voting member, no members of the Board of Directors may be employed by the AKC nor may they receive remuneration from the AKC on a consulting or contract basis.

Excluding the President, no members of the Board of Directors are eligible for employment by the AKC or any AKC division or subsidiary for a period of twelve months from the date when they last served on the Board, nor may they receive remuneration from the AKC on a contract or consulting basis for a period of twelve months from the date when they last served on the Board. The President shall serve on the Board as an ex officio non-voting member during his/her tenure as President.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1

The AKC Board does not endorse the following amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Bylaws Committee and pursuant to **Article XX, Section 3** of the **AKC Bylaws**, demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates. This will be voted on at the September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE XIV: EVENT COMMITTEES SECTION 1.

The Event Committee of a club or association shall have the right and responsibility to suspend any person from AKC privileges for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC, alleged to have occurred in connection with or during the progress of its event, after the alleged offender has been given the opportunity to be heard.

When the penalty for the offense as set forth in the guidelines authorized by the Board of Directors provides for a reprimand in certain instances, the Event Committee shall have the authority to stay the suspension pending a final determination by the AKC.

The complaint shall be verified by the complainant stating that the complainant has read the complaint, has knowledge of the facts stated in the complaint, and affirms and verifies under penalty of perjury that the complaint is true and correct. The complainant shall furnish a deposit, the amount to be established annually by the AKC Board of Directors. The deposit shall become the property of the club.

If the Event Committee finds merit in the complaint and exercises jurisdiction in the matter, the deposit shall be returned to the complainant. If the Event Committee finds no merit in the complaint, the deposit shall be kept by the event giving club.

Notice in writing must be sent promptly by certified and by first class mail by the Event Committee to the person suspended and a duplicate notice giving the name and address of the person suspended and full details as to the reasons for the suspension and if applicable, the reasons for the stay of suspension must be forwarded to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within five days.

An appeal may be taken from a decision of an Event Committee and any subsequent disciplinary action applied by the AKC. Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, at an amount established by the AKC

Board of Directors, must be sent to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the date of the suspension. The appeal shall be determined by a Trial Board whose decision is final. The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the decision is upheld in whole or in part or shall be returned to the appellant if the decision is not upheld in whole or in part.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 2

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Article XVIII, Section 2** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Bylaws Committee. This will be voted on at the September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting

ARTICLE XVIII: MEETINGS AND QUORUM SECTION 2.

Notice of the date, time and location of the annual meeting and each regular meeting shall be printed in that issue of the AKC GAZETTE which shall be published next before the date fixed for each said meeting. ~~Mail notice~~ Notice of each such meeting will be sent to all Delegates at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 6, SECTION 2

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2** of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 6 PREMIUM LISTS AND CLOSING OF ENTRIES SECTION 2.

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

- the name and address of the superintendent and/or show secretary who has been approved by The American Kennel Club
- the entry fee(s)
- whether the show is benched or unbenched
- the exact location of the show
- the date or dates on which it is to be held
- the times of opening and closing of the show

Notification must be printed in the Premium List only if the a breed specialty club is not offering the three-point major to the Reserve Winners at the National Specialty its specialty show. Notification must be printed in the Premium List for independent specialties and/or all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond

Best of Breed only if neutered dogs and spayed bitches are allowed to compete in Veterans and/or any other single entry non-regular classes.

All-Breed Conformation events whose entries are limited must have a defined date and time for the opening of entries that is to be prominently displayed in the premium list. For these events, the premium list is required to be published at least 72 hours prior to the acceptance of entries.

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your

judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified ***but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.***

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Adrian Agard (7581) HI

(920) 698-9583

adriankagard@gmail.com

Dachshunds, Chihuahuas, Pekingese, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers, Bichons Frises, Lhasa Apsos

Ms. Sonja Donaldson (117613) CA

sonjacdonaldson@gmail.com

Border Collies

Mr. Gregory Griner (117577) OH

(330) 268-6814

ggriner33@yahoo.com

Great Danes

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dr. Azalea Alvarez (97321) FL

(954) 600-5480

minsmere954@yahoo.com

Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Parson Rus-

sell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Mr. John D. Arvin (57337) NJ

(609) 290-2056

ridgebacks@mysticrrs.com

Balance of Hound Group (Black and Tan Coonhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Sloughi, Treeing Walker Coonhounds)

Mrs. Kathleen J. Brock (47792) WA

(253) 884-2920

toccatacockers@aol.com

Cirnechi dell'Etna, Harriers, Pharaoh Hounds

Mrs. Regina (Regi) Lee Bryant (105299) CA

(209) 327-8778

catoriaussies@gmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd Dogs, Pumik

Ms. Melanee Clark (107776) OK

(605) 670-1889

stellarkennels@gmail.com

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

Mrs. Lucretia Coonrod (111397) OK

(785) 217-5192

kanpoint@yahoo.com

Brittanys, Golden Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Dachshunds

Mr. William deVilleneuve (4244) NY
(631) 586-3376
duffdescots@aol.com
Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Borzois, Salukis

Ms. Marcie S. Dokkin (6442) CA
(858) 212-1346
msdobkin@cox.net
Barbets, Flat Coated Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, English Cocker Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

Karrie Dollar (111131) WI
(715) 213-0017
karriedollar@gmail.com
Flat Coated Retrievers, Gordon Setters, English Cocker Spaniels

Mr. Mustapha El Khorchi (110865) FL
(561) 460-0461
musta@leongolden.com
Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, English Setters, Irish Setters, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

Mrs. Mary Faeth (101477) CA
(530) 210-7791
spinfandel@yahoo.com
Basset Hounds, Beagles

Marie Ann Falconer (51642) TN
(413) 433-6474
mylaone10@aol.com
Balance of Hound Group (American Foxhounds, Azawakhs, English Foxhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vend-

eens, Harriers, Irish Wolfhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Sloughi)

Mrs. Brenda Fontanos (111809) OR
(541) 405-6896
cuddleums@gmail.com
Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden

Mr. Nicholas Frost (6726) NC
(828) 691-3175
dehra@aol.com
Bedlington Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers

Mrs. Geri A. Gerstner Hart (6085) WI
(920) 251-6322
forharts@hotmail.com
Brittanys, Irish Setters

Mrs. Honey Anne Glendinning (6773) CN
(604) 943-4313
honeyanne@icloud.com
Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Harriers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, Whippets

Miss Evalyn Gregory (6130) KY
(502) 777-1969
evjudge@aol.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci Italiani, German Shorthaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons), Doberman Pinschers, Rottweilers

Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA

(540) 247-1121

junko@guichonchi.com

English Toy Spaniels

Mr. David W. Haddock (18846) TN

(615) 430-4773

globalfone@aol.com

Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Entle-
bucher Mountain Dogs, Polish Lowland
Sheepdogs

Jody (Jo Ann) Hill (112835) FL

(407) 353-6275

findjody2@gmail.com

Giant Schnauzers

Mrs. Robette Johns (7134) IL

(704) 219-9277

robette1991@gmail.com

Icelandic Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland
Sheepdogs, Pumik, Swedish Vallhunds

Stephanie Kaul (110173) CA

(408) 242-7990

stephanie@kauls.com

Bracci Italiani, Brittanys, Lagotti Romag-
noli, Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia
Duck Tolling Retrievers, Gordon Setters,
English Springer Spaniels, Field Span-
iels, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

**Mrs. Marianne C. Klinkowski (7135)
CA**

(408) 446-0604

naharin@comcast.net

Schipperkes

Mr. Dominic Koon (115351) GA

(865) 582-1044

dominic.koon@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Dalmatians,
French Bulldogs, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Jodi Koon (115353) GA

(865) 582-1023

jodi.l.koon@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises,
Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Xoloitzcu-
intli

Mrs. Nancy Lovelady (97313) NV

(510) 502-3708

jwnsl@sbcglobal.com

Balance of Hound Group (American
English Coonhounds, American Fox-
hounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, English
Foxhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons
Vendeens, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian
Elkhounds, Otterhounds, Petits Bassets
Griffons Vendeens)

Ms. Shelley Miller (102995) NC

(919) 525-5001

sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com

Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooiker-
hondjes, Wirehaired Vizslas, English Toy
Spaniels

Mr. James A. Moses (93094) GA

(770) 329-4768

jmoses0924@aol.com

Basenjis, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coon-
hounds, English Foxhounds, Grey-
hounds, Otterhounds, Plott Hounds,
Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Scottish

Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coon-
hounds, Whippets

Mrs. Jean Pero (30743) CO

(303) 475-7302

jmpero3@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Havanese, Italian Grey-
hounds, Miniature Pinschers, Silky Terriers

Ms. Deirdre Petrie (63937) PA

(610) 763-8976

deirdrepetrie@yahoo.com

Boxers, Border Terriers, Russell Terriers

Mr. Joseph Reno (6407) NJ

(908) 561-7098

hicrest121@aol.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bi-
chons Frises, Bulldogs, French Bulldogs,
Keeshonden, Poodles, Tibetan Spaniels)

Cmdr. Pamela J. Rhyner Hirko (93132)

TX

(361) 331-0030

dediciwhippets@yahoo.com

Azawakhs, Norwegian Elkhounds

Ms. Dani Rosenberry (104224) PA

(814) 943-3511

edanhill@aol.com

Gordon Setters, Brussels Griffons, Papillons

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693

yogi@mtaonline.net

Balance of Working Group (Anato-
lian Shepherd Dogs, Boerboels, Dan-
ish-Swedish Farmdogs, Dogues de
Bordeaux, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Nea-
politan Mastiffs), Shetland Sheepdogs

Ms. Joyce Siddall (98695) CO

(303) 548-1125

catalinakennels@yahoo.com

Bearded Collies, Belgian Laekenois, Bel-
gian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Bel-
gian Tervurens, Bouviers des Flandres,
Canaan Dogs, German Shepherd Dogs,
Lancashire Heelers, Shetland Sheepdogs,
Swedish Vallhunds

Rhonda Silveira (100061) OR

(503) 428-2021

rsilveira.akcjudge@outlook.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Black Russian
Terriers, Doberman Pinschers, Great
Pyrenees, Chihuahuas

Angela Stevanus (112189) CA

(951) 640-6819

angeldotz@yahoo.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Danish-Swedish
Farmdogs, Australian Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mrs. Sherry C. Webster (6863) TN

(901) 289-6239

swakc3@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Miniature Pin-
schers, Silky Terriers)

Ms. Susan Willumsen (52119) NH

(603) 475-1588

willcare@comcast.net

English Cocker Spaniels, Vizslas

Pamela Wilson (64914) TX

(512) 280-3103

wilscot@sbcglobal.net

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers,
Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lowchen

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Andrea Albin (117545) MO

(314) 606-4356

blazenecs@yahoo.com

Courtney Hynes-Robinson (117576) NY

(203) 945-9654

courtneymh317@gmail.com

Mrs. Julianne Lopes (117540) FL

(352) 888-2856

juleslopes01@gmail.com

Ms. Ashley Miller (117572) TX

(903) 243-8736

aemillergsd@gmail.com

Nicole Ryan (117620) WI

(262) 620-1859

Nikki.mad@hotmail.com

Mrs. Kimberlie Steele-Lopez (116736) CA

(951) 505-1324

ksteele1201@gmail.com

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a Permit basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. ***They may now accept assignments*** and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Kurtis Anthony Brown (117371) TX

(208) 590-2895

thedeliciousbully@gmail.com

Bull Terriers, JS

Mr. Manuel Itriago (117309) TX

(361) 676-2835

manitschnauzers@gmail.com

Smooth Fox Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Patricia Nehr (117143) MI

(248) 767-2866

pnehr33@gmail.com

Great Danes, JS - Limited

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Rick Blanchard (90228) RI

(401) 623-1475

nixbmf@aol.com

Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Mrs. Janet Bodin (101381) WI

(414) 614-7822

jbodin@wi.rr.com

Newfoundlands, Lancashire Heelers

Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX

(281) 989-3130

touchstone0525@att.net

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Great Pyrenees, Leonbergers

Ms. Anna May Fleischi Brown (6300) IL

(217) 415-2176

stedelweis@aol.com

Pekingese, Pomeranians

Mrs. Judith A. Brown (0253) TX

(713) 249-3364

judithabrown@sbcglobal.net

American Hairless Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Rat Terriers, Scottish Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Mr. Pat Cunningham (56262) MN

(218) 513-9695

sugarbaushdogs2@gmail.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bichons Frises, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs

Mrs. Cathy H. Daugherty (6219) AR

(203) 565-5496

bisgringo1@yahoo.com

Pointers

Mrs. Debra Davis (25320) MI

(248) 515-2290

emislsdavis@gmail.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Siberian Huskies

Dr. James R. Davis (11469) MA

(774) 219-1530

epiccockerspaniels@gmail.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, Irish Red and White Setters, Spinoni Italiani

Ms. Elaine Demopoulos (108485) FL

(321) 948-2285

elainedemop@comcast.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Grand Bas-
sets Griffons Vendeens, Treeing Walker
Coonhounds

Mr. James Dickson (97563) NJ

(973) 229-8242

tajback4z@gmail.com

Airedale Terriers, Bedlington Terriers,
Cairn Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers,
Lakeland Terriers, Sealyham Terriers,
Poodles

Mr. Jerome A. Elliott (112895) PA

(717) 884-2297

hautek9@gmail.com

Biewer Terriers, Chinese Cresteds, Ha-
vanese, Italian Greyhounds, Manchester
Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Julie Felten (17972) IL

(847) 452-6902

jacfelten@aol.com

Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, Peking-
ese, Pugs, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers

Bonita Fichtenbaum (105541) OH

(937) 620-6480

bmfichtenbaum@gmail.com

Chinese Cresteds, Manchester Terriers,
Papillons, Schipperkes

Mr. Rick Gschwender (6740) ID

(208) 477-3934

rggschwender@yahoo.com

Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Cav-
alier King Charles Spaniels, Papillons,
Pekingese, Pomeranians, Pugs, Russian
Toys, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire
Terriers

Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (99451) UT

(435) 770-0334

pmj16@msn.com

Affenpinschers, Pomeranians

Mrs. Linn Klingel Brown (23263) AZ

(651) 226-9080

linnkling@aol.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Cesky Terriers, Irish Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Teddy Roosevelt Terriers)

Ms. Janina K. Laurin (15650) CT

(203) 545-4837

janinalaurin1@gmail.com

Balance of Working Group (Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Cane Corsos, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Dogo Argentinos, Komondorok, Mastiffs)

Ms. Sylvie McGee (95341) WA

(360) 704-8473

sylvie@sylviemcgee.net

Akitas, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Great Pyrenees, Kuvaszok, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Norfolk Terriers

Mrs. Chris Ann Moore (108927) AR

(479) 221-0555

bisacd@aol.com

Chinooks, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs

Mrs. Betsey Orman (99925) WI

(847) 778-7661

brambliepup@gmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Bergamasco Sheep-

dogs, Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds

Mrs. Kelly D. Reimschiessel (66207) UT

(801) 361-8619

kileipoms@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Chow Chows, Finnish Spitz

Mr. Cameron Riegel (105331) NM

(505) 362-8781

cameron@cameronriegel.com

Border Collies, German Shepherd Dogs, Old English Sheepdogs

Dr. Vicki Sandage (98425) KY

(606) 922-9552

sandfoxdvm@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Scottish Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, Whippets

Dr. Stephen J. Schellenberg (42891) MN

(651) 338-9311

paradockerries@gmail.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American Staffordshire Terriers, Border Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Teddy Roosevelt Terriers), American Water Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels

Mr. Channing Sheets (99781) CA

(415) 254-2582

cashe90@hotmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Canaan Dogs, En-

tlebucher Mountain Dogs, Lancashire
Heelers, Pyrenean Shepherds

Mr. Daniel J. Smyth (6347) CA

(609) 351-3647

danieljsmythesq@aol.com

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers,
Gordon Setters, Great Danes, Rottweil-
ers, Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Janet Warner (103607) NM

(253) 255-6796

janagram@aol.com

Pointers, Irish Red and White Setters

REINSTATED JUDGES

The Judging eligibility of the following
persons have been reinstated.

Rachel Sager (53911) VA

(804) 357-1875

rmsdogjudge@gmail.com

Brittanys, Curly-Coated Retrievers,
Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers,
American Water Spaniels, Boykin Span-
iels, Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels,
English Springer Spaniels, Field Span-
iels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Span-
iels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni
Italani, Papillons, Pomeranians, Junior
Showmanship

Cheryl Tice (61137) NJ

(973) 927-2857

ctice777@gmail.com

Akitas, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Great
Danes, Siberian Huskies

**CONFORMATION JUDGE: RESIGNED
BREED OR JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP**

The judge below has notified AKC to
resign her privileges for the following:

Ms. Shelia Paske – Junior Showmanship

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGE

Mrs. Eleanor (Lee) Brown

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Roy L. Ayers, Jr.

Mrs. Linda Ayers-Turner-Knorr

Mrs. Sharon M. Jacobsen

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Alan Hargrave

Gail Shearer

Mrs. Jacqueline L. Stacy

**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 indi-
cated.

Lora Seale (3934) NM

(210) 219-5851

loraseale@aol.com

Rally – All

**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.

Annette Flippen (117005) NJ

(609) 577-9686

annette.pierce@gmail.com

Obedience – Novice

Lynn Hamilton (112053) AZ

(520) 904-2925

lynnham2001@yahoo.com

Obedience – Novice

Amy Stephens (22799) MA

(508) 341-4681

dalcollie@comcast.net

Obedience – Open

Cathy Converse (117253) WI

(920) 268-5542

jumps4agility@yahoo.com

Rally – All

Paul Brink (117113) CA

(916) 838-9989

pdbrink@att.net

Tracking – TD/TDU

Katrine Voie (117295) TX

(225) 226-0026

katrinevoie@gmail.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

Thomas Richard Harding (111457) MD

(410) 714-0343

singus@goeaston.net

Tracking – TDX

Kayelene Hawthorne (108326) CA

(949) 246-3114

tutu619@yahoo.com

Tracking – TDX

Maria Murphy (110906) CA

(925) 788-9749

mariamurphy2@cox.net

Tracking – TDX

**EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/
TRACKING JUDGES**

Susan Trotto – Rally

**APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC
REGISTERED NAME PREFIX**

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club. Letters in regard to these applications should be addressed to Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary:

INDIAN ACRE – Poodles – Jean M.

Colvin & Lynn D. Colvin

KIMPAWSIBLE – Old English

Sheepdogs – Kimberly Crutchfield & William Crutchfield

JUNIPER MTN. – Chesapeake Bay

Retrievers – Samantha A. Peyrollaz

REGALO – Greyhounds – Michelle R.

TeVeld & Arieca R. Devery

RIVER VALLEY – Mastiffs – Rebecaa K.

Davia

ROAN POINT – German Shorthaired

Pointers – Erin L. Whitt

SILVER SUMMIT – Cane Corso –

Shane P. Barger

SUGAR KISSED – Australian Shepherds

– Marleina R. Storey

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

AZOREAN HERITAGE – Barbado da Terceira – Mark D. MacCartney

CHELSEA – German Shorthaired Pointers – Malina Tzartzanis

COASTAL – Poodles – Myka Rudd-Shaw

CRESCENT MOON – Shiba Inu – Jonathan M. Wagner & Yvonne D. Wagner

DOVE CREEK – Australian Shepherds – Gail Weaver

EMIRYOAKS – Rottweilers – Elizabeth K. Kee

EVENING STAR – Golden Retrievers – Carol A. Cooper

KANTO – Cotons de Tulear – Inga I. Young

MZURI RIDGE – Rhodesian Ridgebacks – Cheryl A. Steffen

NORTH POINT – French Bulldogs – Ann Egan & Timothy J. Egan

RUSTED WIRES – Wirehaired Vizslas – Alison Stebbins

SILVER TIP – Samoyeds – Marci L. Harlo & David L. Haro

SUGAR LOAF – French Bulldogs – Brandy L. Morris-Sweet

SUMMIT – Akitas – Cecila Ortiz-Carmean & James R. Carmean

SWIFTCREEK – English Cocker Spaniels – Kimberlie E. Snyder & David A. Harmon



QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES

OF

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

JUNE 10, 2025

Gina M. DiNardo, President

PRESENT 248

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*

Airedale Terrier Club of America—*Aletta L. Moore*

Akita Club of America—*Ms. Nancy S. Amburgey*

Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corey Heenan*

American Belgian Malinois Club—*Carol J. Shields*

American Bloodhound Club—*Mary Lou Olszewski*

American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terry Hilliard*

American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Mr. Brian P. Meindl*

American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—*Neil Butterklee*

American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harry Miller*

American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*

American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—*Barbara Donahue*

American Pointer Club, Inc.—*Mr. Danny D. Seymour*

American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*

American Sealyham Terrier Club—*Barbara Shapiro*

American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*

American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—*Mark Stempel*

American Spaniel Club, Inc.—*Dr. James R. Davis*

American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—*Cindy Grodkiewicz*

Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*

Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*

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*

Baltimore County Kennel Club—*Lucy C. Campbell*

Basenji Club of America, Inc.—*Katie Campbell*

Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*

Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Robert M. Lamm*

Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Howard Solomon*

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Mary G. Buckwalter*

Bell Vernon Kennel Association, Inc.—*Mike Kriegel*

Big Apple Working Group Club—*Andrew I. Kalmanash*

Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*

Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Barbara S. Dalane*

Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*

Bracco Italiano Club of America—*Allison Schultz, M.D.*

Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*

Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*

Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*

Bulldog Club of America—*Link Newcomb*

Bulldog Club of Philadelphia—*Elizabeth Milam*

Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Ioia*

Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Wayne Gilpin*

Canaan Dog Club of America—*Pamela S. Rosman*

Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*

Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*

Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Rebecca Campbell*

Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Jason Hoke*

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*

Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*

Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—*Dr. Stephen Lawrence*

Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*

Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Kelly E. Lease*

Colorado Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*

Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nili Young*

Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—*Leslie A. Joseph*

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*

Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—*Stephanie*
A. Crawford

Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A.*
D. Butherus

Detroit Kennel Club—*Lawrence A. Letsche,*
D.V.M.

Doberman Pinscher Club of America—
Glen Lajeski

Eastern Dog Club—*Frederick R. Vogel*

Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer
Club, Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*

English Setter Association of America,
Inc.—*Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.*

Evansville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Heidi Kilgore*

Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret*
B. Pough

First Dog Training Club of Northern New
Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*

Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*

Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—
Gale Golden

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

German Shepherd Dog Club of America—
Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of
America, Inc.—*Joan Payton*

Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—
Steven A. Sansone

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 River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs.*
Cindy Stansell

Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr.*
Ellen C. Shanahan

Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—
Ms. Karen J. Burgess

Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara*
Shaw

Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club, Inc.—
Gloria Askins

Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers
Association—*Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz*

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of
America, Inc.—*Joanne Schottinger*

Greenville Kennel Club—*Robert L. Vandiver*

Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*

Greyhound Club of America—*Kathleen B.
Whitaker*

Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandra L.
Rolenaitis*

Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*

Havanese Club of America—*Vicki Gray*

Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia
M. Cruz*

Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*

Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Nancy
Nelson*

Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—
Susan Ratz

Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile
A. Waterstraat*

Irish Red and White Setter Association of
America—*Christopher M. Orcutt*

Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms.
Karolynne M. McAteer*

Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—*Dan
Sayers*

K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex
County, NJ, Inc.—*Dave Morgan*

Kalamazoo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Angela
Boeske*

Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Christine Cone*

Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard
Su*

Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut,
Inc.—*Doreen Weintraub*

Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Mr. Thomas
S. Powers*

Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret
Doster*

Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A.
Thomas*

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*

Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diana
L. Skibinski*

Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—
Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.

Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—*Deborah
L. Kreider*

Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carolyn M.
Vack*

Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan
Croft*

Langley Kennel Club—*Ms. Dianne E. Franck*

Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert N. LaBerge*

Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Meyer*

Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*

Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sue Goldberg*

Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michaelann Mako*

Los Encinos Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Desmond J. Murphy*

Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*

Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ruth Crumb*

Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jessica Ricker*

Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*

Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*

Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—*Mary L. Speer*

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.—*Mr. Marc Crews*

Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*

Montgomery County Kennel Club—*Ms. Ida E. Weinstock*

Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*

Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Eleanor Campbell*

Mount Vernon Dog Training Club (MVDTC)—*Christopher Marston*

Nashville Kennel Club—*Anne Gallant*

National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Alfred J. Ferruggiaro*

National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*

Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club—*Kathy Kirk*

New England Beagle Club, Inc.—*Blaine Grove*

New England Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Lucy Grant-Ruane*

Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—*Julie Poulin Siefert*

Newton Kennel Club—*Cathy Murch*

Nisqually Kennel Club—*Sylvie McGee*

Norfolk Terrier Club—*Susan Schneider*

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Ann M. Schultz*

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*

Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia, Inc.—*Susan D. Sorbo*

Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Wendi Freedman*

Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tim Ufkes*

Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Bradford Yamada*

Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*

Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—*Gary Koeppel*

Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Renee L. Popkey*

Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*

Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M. Sterling*

Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*

Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*

Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dean Burwell*

Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Linda Gagnon*

Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*Marlene Groves*

Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Kathy Gregory*

Ramapo Kennel Club—*Jeffrey D. Ball*

Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Grace Wilkinson*

Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mary E. Ferguson*

Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*

Rockland County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sara Gildersleeve*

Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*

Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen Cottingham*

Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—*Cathleen Rubens*

Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*

San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy J. Shaw*

San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club—*Dorinne Waterman*

San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M. Wooding*

Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita R. O'Berg*

Saratoga New York Kennel Club—*MaryLou Cuddy*

Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mimi Winkler*

Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—*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*

Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—*Ann M. Cook*

Skye Terrier Club of America—*Brice Wonders*

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—*Sally Sotirovich*

Somerset Hills Kennel Club—*Lois Tubbs*

South Jersey Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jean Edwards*

South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*

Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—*John V. Ioia*

Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—*Mrs. Glenda Stephenson*

Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*

Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas M. Davies*

St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Susan Weigel*

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America—*Toni M. Pawson*

Standard Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser*

Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Martorella*

Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan M. Napady*

Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Eisele*

Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—*Marcy L. Zingler*

Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura Trainor*

Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*

Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*

Tampa Bay Kennel Club—*Mr. Eugene R. Biller*

Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Richella M. Veatch*

Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*

Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—*Mallory C. Driskill*

Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*

Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*

Trinity Valley Kennel Club—*Debby Fowler*

Troy Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Donald S. Gillett*

Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia C. Sarles*

Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T. Fugiwara*

United States Australian Shepherd Association—*Judy A. Harrington*

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club,
Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*

United States Lakeland Terrier Club—
Maria Sacco

Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—
Robert Lachman

Utah Valley Kennel Club—*Kelly D.*
Reimschiessel

Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol*
Fisher

Vancouver Kennel Club—*Jolyne Lea*

Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Sandie*
Friend

Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy*
A. Rust

Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs.*
Virginia T. Rowland

Wallkill Kennel Club, Inc.—*Elisabeth*
Szymanski

Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christine*
Gonsalves

Washington State Obedience Training
Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan R.*
Gladstone

Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marthina L.*
Greer

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America,
Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*

West Highland White Terrier Club of
America—*Rebecca Koester*

West Volusia Kennel Club—*Cathy M.*
Driggers

Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—*Peter*
J. Festa

Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Laura*
Myles

Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Nanette Prideaux

Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, Inc.—
Jane Fitzin

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—
Pamela A. Langstein



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

SECRETARY'S PAGES



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
DELEGATES MEETING
JUNE 10, 2025**

Gina M. DiNardo, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. ET.

The National Anthem was sung by Anthony Caputo, AKC Broadcast Manager.

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. When Staff prints the purple-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; Shari Cathey, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of Luis Sosa on May 14, 2025. He was the Delegate for the Louisiana Kennel Club from April 2002 to May 2025.

The Executive Secretary read the names

of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Gloria Askins, Murfreesboro, TN, to represent Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club

Dr. James R. Davis, Rockland, MA, to represent American Spaniel Club

Wayne A. Gilpin, Prior Lake, MN, to represent Cairn Terrier Club of America

Judy A. Harrington, Monson, MA, to represent United States Australian Shepherd Association

Cristy Kay Joy, Raymond, NE, to represent English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Kathryn Kirk, New Milford, CT, to represent Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club

Rebecca J. Koester, Willow Park, TX, to represent West Highland White Terrier Club of America

Dominic Koon, Woodstock, GA, to represent Kennesaw Kennel Club

Janet Vining Mitchell, Santa Barbara, CA, to represent Channel City Kennel Club

Steve Ostrander, Beach Lake, PA, to represent Lackawanna Kennel Club

Toni M. Pawson, Manorville, NY, to represent Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America

Lisa Peterson, Newtown, CT, to represent Norwegian Elkhound Association of America

Cathy Rubens, Kenly, NC, to represent Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club

Steven A. Sansone, Malvern, PA, to represent Giant Schnauzer Club of America

Gaye Scharingson, Des Moines, IA, to represent Central Iowa Kennel Club

Monica L. Schott, Red Hook, NY, to represent Mid-Hudson Kennel Association

Bernadette "Bernie" Taflan, Normal, IL, to represent Corn Belt Kennel Club

Lois M. Tubbs, Flemington, NJ, to represent Somerset Hills Kennel Club

Lynn Tyler, Cumming, GA, to represent Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia

Robert L. Vandiver, Greenville, SC, to represent Greenville Kennel Club

Pam D. Whitley, Austin, TX, to represent Austin Kennel Club

Rachel Ann Wilson, Scituate, RI, to represent Worcester County Kennel Club

Maggie Witwer, Greeley, CO, to represent Greeley Kennel Club

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

Dr. James R. Davis, to represent American Spaniel Club

Wayne A. Gilpin, to represent Cairn Terrier Club of America

Vicki L. Gray, to represent Havanese Club of America

Judy A. Harrington, to represent United States Australian Shepherd Association

Kathryn Kirk, to represent Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club

Rebecca J. Koester, to represent West Highland White Terrier Club of America

Steve Ostrander, to represent Lackawanna Kennel Club

Toni M. Pawson, to represent Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America

Lisa Peterson, to represent Norwegian Elkhound Association of America

Steven A. Sansone, to represent Giant Schnauzer Club of America

Lois M. Tubbs, to represent Somerset Hills Kennel Club

Lynn Tyler, to represent Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia

Robert L. Vandiver, to represent Greenville Kennel Club

Pam D. Whitley, to represent Austin Kennel Club

The minutes of the March 11, 2025 Delegate Meeting were published in the April 2025 issue of the online *AKC Gazette*. The complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

The **Biewer Terrier Club of America** was duly elected as a member of The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning. It is my distinct pleasure to officially and publicly welcome our new Executive Staff members to their first Delegate meeting in their new capacities. Gina is our new President & CEO, and Sheila is our new Executive Secretary. While not new to the organization, they round out a spectacular C-suite along with Gordon and Ted. Together, to paraphrase our new tagline, they are leading the way in efforts to improve everything we do for our dogs, and our clubs, breeders, fanciers and owners. Join me in welcoming them.

(Applause.)

There are two issues to explore when we discuss our current situation. The first, and that to which we have direct control is our Micro-Environment. It consists of those factors that directly apply to and are a function of what we are and do. They

are factors that we can control: Our clubs, judging community, our cadre of pure-bred dog breeders, and our exhibitors. It certainly includes our governing organization – the great American Kennel Club.

We bemoan the decreasing registrations, the decreasing entries at events, and the decreasing number of breeders. And who do we blame? The great American Kennel Club.

However, in all our discussions, we seem to forget an equally important issue that directly affects and controls what we do. That is the Macro-Environment. It has an even greater impact on what we do and how we do it. These factors include demographic, ecological, political, economic, cultural and technological factors. These are things that we, as individuals and as an organization, have little or no ability to control. But as is clearly evident, they have an enormous impact on our sport and our organization.

I assert that we do pretty well with our Micro-Environmental factors. We also do our best to try to affect many of the factors within the Macro-Environment. I will elaborate on one such effort in a moment. Even as we try, we recognize that we can only educate the world, not control how these factors affect us. There are so many issues outside of our sphere of control.

Perhaps some of the most important

factors in the Macro-Environment are addressed by our Government Relations Department. We are fortunate that the person who has built that department into the force that it is, our new Executive Secretary, Sheila Goffe, will continue to head Government Relations.

One of the latest enhancements that I would like to highlight today is the Government Relations Department's redesigned, updated reports of AKC's Economic Impact by State.

Building on figures developed through the years of surveys of AKC dog fanciers, AKC Government Relations has reconfigured its national overview of the economic benefit of dog shows to present a more local picture. Now, after we offer 50 unique one-page reports, one for every state. These documents provide valuable information to share with lawmakers, local media, chambers of commerce, and other institutions about the positive contributions that AKC makes directly within the community.

The state reports are available for all in the Government Relations Toolbox found on the department's dedicated website, AKCGR.org, as well as on AKC.org. We offer a 51-page full report that begins with a summary cover letter introducing AKC and our affiliates, followed by information tailored to each of our states

in alphabetical order. Individual state reports are valuable as one-sheets for easy reference for all. We also provide a national overview sheet to accompany the state reports. This document is called The Economic Benefit of AKC Dog Events. That's very clever because that's what it's all about. It estimates average local spending and potential economic impact of dog shows on a national scale.

The state reports present key information in new and impactful ways. They introduce the American Kennel Club prominently, calling out the specific number and growth of AKC clubs, events, and event participations in each state since 2024. We have expanded this information beyond the scope of Conformation to cover all AKC events in each state.

Another excellent feature of the State reports is the inclusion of data showing how AKC affiliates directly benefit communities. The number and names of police departments that have received grants from AKC Reunite are listed. The report also cites the number of disaster relief trailers that Reunite has donated, and corresponding numbers of pets that can be accommodated by state. Each report also provides cumulative dollar figures of grant money provided by the AKC Canine Health Foundation to specific numbers of institutions within the state.

These newly designed reports have already begun to prove the value of the work that went into them. According to Sheila, “AKC has stopped bad breeder bills cold” with these reports.

Delegates, know that these State reports are for your clubs’ use too. Share them widely. Post them on your clubs’ social media accounts. Use them to help others understand AKC’s positive impact. I am pleased that many in our sport are taking advantage of their state reports and sharing their feedback.

The Greater Ocala Kennel Club has told AKC, “*We are definitely using this when fighting new legislation.*” That region was facing a bill requiring owners of intact females to register with the state of Florida and submit to their inspections. That same bill was going to let local government agencies and rescue groups create standards of care for breeders and owners of intact dogs. Luckily, our advocates actively opposed this outrageous bill, armed with AKC’s data, and the bill was defeated.

All-Breed and specialty clubs are using the Government Relations new state reports to help them secure and retain venues and show sites. A cluster organizer shared “*I use the economic impact constantly in our community to get sponsors and lower the cost of our venue rent...Using the economic impact within a community allows the*

local politicians and government officials to realize dog showing is no small-time sport.”

No small-time sport, indeed. The Official Tourism Association for Orlando, Florida has estimated the AKC National Championship can generate approximately \$65 million in economic impact. Even small AKC events also inject significant dollars into the local economy. Site owners, local businesses, politicians, and community leaders need to know that we matter, and we do bring them value.

Later this year, AKC will be sending out new surveys to understand how much money AKC event participants spend at shows in order to estimate our economic impact today. If you receive a survey, please spend time to complete it thoughtfully. Your answers will make a difference for all of us. As always, if you need any assistance, the AKC Government Relations Department is here for us. Contact doglaw@akc.org or visit AKCGR.org for access to the AKC Legislative Center. Thank you.

Ms. DiNardo delivered the President’s Report as follows:

I am deeply honored to be here with you today. As part of my commitment to transparency, I want to take a few moments to share some of the important work that is happening across the AKC. Our teams are hard at work on some truly

impactful initiatives, and I think it's important that we all stay connected to that progress. These updates are not just about what's been accomplished, but they're about recognizing the collective effort behind that progress and reinforcing the shared mission that will drive us all forward.

We begin with great news from our Sports & Events Department. With Board approval, we are launching a new Conformation Titling Program specifically for National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) Exhibitors. Starting this October 2025, Owner-Handlers have the ability to earn NOHS Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum based on performance thresholds. This program underscores AKC's commitment to supporting Owner-Handlers, as we know they are vital to the future of our Conformation events.

Our Education Department has also been hard at work creating innovative resources to support the dog-owning community at large. One major development is the new AKC Canine College Training Center. It's a flexible, expert-led online platform designed to complement in-person training. This work responds directly to the rising demand for accessible, high-quality education in dog sports and foundational training. In addition, 39 breeder education modules, 16 of which are now fully mobile responsive via our new AKC Ca-

nine College app. They're available on the Apple Store and Google Play. These tools make it easier for breeders to access professional development resources anytime, anywhere – we are trying to be modern.

Our Government Relations team continues to make a strong impact, producing resources strengthening AKC's reputation and legislative influence. Key accomplishments, of course, are the AKC Economic Impact Reports that Dr. Davies just spoke about, updates to AKC Above and Beyond, which showcases exemplary breeder practices, and a scientific summary dispelling myths about breed health and advocating for fact-based dialogue. There's also a congressional briefing held by Sheila and her team to help distinguish between animal rights and animal welfare. This reinforces AKC as the trusted expert voice on responsible dog ownership and policy.

Meanwhile, our Registration Department has made tremendous strides in enhancing customer service for the dog registration process. They recently rolled out a new Online Dog Registration Application, and it has helped to transform the registration process. We're trying to make it easier for people to register dogs. It's a mobile-friendly design, has a streamlined, intuitive interface. You can now upload photos for color verification in the app. Before you would have to email or mail

photos and that would take time. Now there is flexibility for users to complete payment or naming later, which was one of the points where we had registration fall off, so we're hoping that will help. In fact, we know that these upgrades are already delivering some success. Same-hour completion rates rose from 54 percent to 62 percent. Same-day completion increases from 86 percent to 94 percent. This is a good example of innovation, collaboration, and how we will be customer-focused to drive performance.

One of our most visible and meaningful achievements this season was AKC Salutes the Troops at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. This very special event brought together military families and the AKC dog community. We held three marquee competitions – AKC Agility Premier Cup, Fastest Dogs USA, and AKC Diving Dogs. These events will air nationally on ESPN beginning June 14, 2025 with the AKC Diving Dog Challenge, and Bill Ellis, our Senior Director of Broadcasting, will share additional details about this shortly. While preparing for these events, we learned that the 3rd Infantry Division (3ID), was looking to have a live Bulldog mascot to carry on the legacy of its historic mascot, Rocky the Bulldog, created by Walt Disney. In the infantry's history, they have only had two living Bulldog mascots, and the last one

was Stubby back in World War I. We actually have a statue of him in the AKC Museum of the Dog. When we found out that 3ID was searching for a Bulldog, we were honored to assist in the effort. Thanks to Robin Stansell, who put out a call to the Bulldog community, and to the extraordinary generosity of breeders Terry and Kim Borcharding of Ardmore, Oklahoma, in two weeks we were able to provide the division with a beautiful AKC-registered Bulldog that now proudly serves as their live mascot. This is a very powerful collaboration and added profound meaning to the weekend, which coincidentally is the Army's 250th Anniversary. As part of the celebration, we created a customized AKC Challenge Coin. It's a symbol of camaraderie, honor, and service. The coins are a longtime military tradition to exchange to commemorate achievements. I had the honor of presenting the AKC Challenge Coin to Major General Christopher Norrie, Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart, and he proudly placed it under glass in his office alongside hundreds of other coins he has collected throughout his career. At the end of today's meeting, all Delegates are invited to pick up a coin at the registration table. We have one for each of you as a memento. They are cool, we're proud of them.

Finally, I'm pleased to share that there is

a redesigned *Welcome to AKC* brochure. This is a refreshed brochure. It's an essential resource for our clubs. It will introduce the general public to AKC. It is thoughtfully aligned with our new current brand campaign, *Declare Your Love*. Many thanks to the marketing and PR teams for their collaboration in bringing this new piece to life. It's available on AKC.org with the option to order it for use at your events.

With that, we look forward to a busy and productive summer. I hope these updates remind you what we can achieve when we work together with purpose and heart. I thank you for your support, your leadership within your clubs, your dedication to AKC's mission, and I look forward to continued progress that we will make together. Thank you.

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:

Well, good morning again. Thank you, Gina. It's a pleasure to be here. And as always, Delegates, we appreciate your time and your involvement.

Before I begin the first quarter presentation, I'd like to mention an update that has been posted to the Annual Report section of the AKC Delegate Portal. In our efforts to ensure that AKC is transparent with its financial information, we have posted audit reports for the past five

years to ensure that everyone knows that AKC has been audited. There are reports prior to that, but five years of audit reports is enough for anyone. In addition, we posted the Audited Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. I've learned over the past five years that I don't entirely speak the AKC language. I'm not sure how many of you, but I know there's a few, who speak Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). If GAAP isn't your first language, there's a document that we posted called MD&A – Management's Discussion and Analysis. This is a document that in the SEC world would accompany annual disclosures. We have prepared it to allow you to look at the financial statements, be duly impressed, and then read how they're compiled, how they're put together. It includes our affiliates. What I present to you in financial information and to the Board of Directors is AKC standalone. The MD&A gives an overview of operations on a consolidated basis. It looks at our operations and our assets at year end. It also speaks to programmatic impact, stewardship, transparency, and forward-looking comments. The audit for the 2024 financial statements is underway and will be available in September 2025 after it's reviewed by the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors. From a finance operational point of view, I'd like to affirm with this group that the basis for

preparing our annual budgets is always to break even with a small margin to the positive, between 1 and 5 percent. That's our goal. That's our direction. This is best practices for any tax-exempt organization. Since we're not a 501(c)(3), AKC's a 501(c)(4), which is a social welfare organization, we can't ask for contributions to balance the budget like many other organizations would be able to. I encourage you to read the document, ask questions, as it speaks to both financial and non-financial aspects of AKC as a tax-exempt organization. It also points to the impact that we have in a community where everything we do, we do for dogs.

Let's begin our review of the first quarter results. A little challenging, but this is where we are at the end of March 2025. We present key performance indicators of unaudited financial information and metrics for the first quarter. These reports include expenses authorized in our annual budget, which is approved by the Board of Directors. As of March 31, 2025, the net result from operations are a loss of \$1.014 million, principally due to registration revenues. Total revenue is \$23.4 million, which is 13 percent, or \$3.4 million below budget. Based on early forecasts, we expect this trend to be consistent for the remainder of this calendar year. Total expenses are \$24.4 million, or 7 percent, or \$1.7 million lower than budget. One of

the benefits of having an investment portfolio, which you will see the balance as we get to the end of the report, is we have interest and dividends, investment earnings that help contribute to our annual budget. This quarter, we have recorded \$816,000 of investment income, which brings our net result essentially to a break-even point of \$198,000 loss. The important part to remember is while that is there and benefits us, the operating return is negative for the first quarter. We are always challenging internal practices and methods to reduce operating expenses without sacrificing the quality of delivering services to our clubs. The management team has informed the Board of Directors of our plans for expense reductions beginning in July of this year. As you've heard, our evaluation of business needs and delivery has to be thoughtful and best position the AKC, as the finance guy looks at it, for a lower registration environment.

On this slide, we show the primary areas of operating revenue. Registration and event fees total \$15.3 million and represent 65 percent of total revenues. For comparison to the same period in 2024, we reported \$16.7 million of revenue. That's against budget. \$17.7 is the budget, \$16.7 is the priority number. It's not on the slide, but I'm giving it to you as a reference point. The slide shows that this revenue group is \$2.4 million or

14 percent below budget. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalty revenues, which represent an important revenue group, make up 19 percent of total revenues. This group is also experiencing lower revenue, principally due to lower advertising revenue that follows registration activity. The group reduction is about \$700,000 against budget, and we'll show you some additional details in a few minutes. Finally, various e-commerce products and services revenue total \$3.7 million or 16 percent of total revenues. This slide has a breakdown of dog and litter registrations, which total \$5.7 million in Q1 and was 22 percent below budget. The total number of dogs registered for the first quarter was 125,842, which is lower than the same period in 2024 by 28,000 registrations. Litter registration revenue totaled \$3 million in first quarter and was 12 percent or \$400,000 below budget. The total number of litters registered was 56,114, which is lower than the same period in 2024 by 9,000 registrations. Online litter and dog registrations continue to range anywhere between 80 and 87 percent, which is a significant statement for our business and has been consistent over the past five years.

Here's a breakdown of revenues from the three major sport categories. Conformation trending below budget by 13 percent or \$150,000. Companion and

Performance events, again, this is all revenue-based, are close to budget. Total entries in the first quarter are 803,588, which are 3 percent lower than the first quarter in 2024. And total events in first quarter increased by 1 percent to 5,825.

The last slide of this presentation, as it's posted to the Delegate Portal, will have those details for you. This slide further delineates the lower revenue mentioned earlier in the sponsorship, advertising, and royalty area. As I said, the principal subline here is the advertising line, lower by \$400,000 at 27 percent as that follows registration. To summarize our revenue, we can see continued softening for the rest of the year.

Moving on to operating expenses, here we have a breakout of the total operating expenses I mentioned earlier, which total at \$24.4 million. Staff expense is \$11.6 million or 48 percent of operating expenses. The cost of staff in this quarter is consistent with budget and not higher than the same period in 2024. Professional fees total \$4.75 million or 19 percent of total. This total is higher than the prior year, same period, due to the additional focus on brand image marketing approved by the Board of Directors and launched earlier this year. Our operating expenses, including salaries, are carefully managed through a competitive bidding process, use of a compensation consultant, and

senior management review. I have a “no” pen that I use occasionally – “No, you can’t have it.”

This slide presents non-operating expenses. These are consistent with budget, and it’s important to know that AKC continues to support its charitable affiliates with a contribution equal to five percent of total expenses, or in Q1, \$1.3 million.

Now, the balance sheet. This whole presentation, please remember, is stand-alone AKC. The total assets of AKC on March 31, 2025, were \$260 million. The largest asset on the balance sheet is our investment portfolio. I’m going to move ahead one month, April 30, 2025, was essentially break-even, and that correlated with the benchmark, which was negative, principally due to equities. However, the asset allocation mix helped offset where we would have been if we were more equity-based. The liability section, as a reminder, is primarily comprised of lease and retirement plan obligations. These total \$76 million at the end of Q1. Net assets, this is in the financial statements, are restricted by the Board for the protection of retirement plan obligations and supportive of affiliates. Pension and retiree expense obligations will continue to be a long-term cash flow draw on AKC.

In closing, thank you for your time. I appreciate your attention, and if you

have any questions, I’m always available. Thank you.

There was a vote on the amendment to **Article XI, Section 9** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds verbiage to indicate the requirement of the President to obtain the advice and the consent of the Board of Directors prior to appointing an Executive Vice President, Vice President or Assistant Vice President.

The amendment was requested by the AKC Board of Directors, endorsed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Pat Cruz, Delegate from the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I only ask that you consider with this vote, that a vote in favor to change this Article XI, Section 9, will remove the President & CEO of the AKC from having the final definitive say about who comes to work for us, the very people who send the Delegates to the AKC. It’s time to ask why this is necessary. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Ann Wallin, AKC Board of Directors and Delegate from the Atlanta Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I wanted to clarify one issue with this par-

tical amendment that was brought up, and that was how it affects our tax-exempt status. We did get some counsel from our corporate attorney, and these are her findings: She did research back to the 2000 AKC Bylaws and did not find anything that states that there was a legal concern related to AKC's exempt status. In addition, she does not understand how the proposed amendment could affect AKC's tax-exempt status. That particular issue is not really involved nor does it apply to this amendment, so our tax-exempt status would not be in jeopardy. Thank you.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article IV, Section 5** of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club.

Ms. Goffe: This amendment is to **Article IV, Section 5** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which reduces the requirement to publish CLUB candidate information in the *AKC Gazette* from twice to once before consideration by the AKC Board of Directors.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the

AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2025 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article VI, Section 4** of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club.

Ms. Goffe: This amendment is to **Article VI, Section 4** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which reduces the requirement to publish DELEGATE candidate information in the *AKC Gazette* from twice to once before consideration by the AKC Board of Directors.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2025 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article VII, Section 1** of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club.

Ms. Goffe: This amendment is to **Article**

VII, Section 1 of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which changes the time period that a Board member must remain off the Board before being eligible to run again from one year to four years.

This amendment was proposed by the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and disapproved by the AKC Board at the May 2025 meeting.

Pursuant to **Article XX, Section 3** of the AKC Bylaws, the Doberman Pinscher Club of America demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2025 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*.

Ms. Goffe: This amendment is to **Article XIV, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds verbiage to address that a fee is required to be submitted to the event-giving club when a complaint is filed at an AKC event.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and disapproved by the AKC Board at the February 2025 meeting.

Pursuant to **Article XX, Section 3** of the AKC Bylaws, the Delegate Bylaws Committee demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2025 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Sylvie McGee, Delegate from the Nisqually Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Ms. McGee: I'm Sylvie McGee, from the Nisqually Kennel Club. This amendment on the service fee was discussed yesterday in the Bylaws Committee, but we know that the Board disapproved of this amendment, but I haven't heard any discussion from the Board about why they disapproved of this amendment, and I think that would be helpful as we go back to the clubs and discuss it with them. Could someone from the Board discuss their concern or their objection to the fee being applied in order to file a complaint?

Ms. DiNardo: I can share that from my perspective, the Board thought that it would be an unnecessary burden to some people and may prevent people from

coming forward with legitimate complaints.

Ms. McGee: That's it?

Ms. DiNardo: I recall that there were issues about how the fee would be processed and concerns about making it more difficult.

Ms. McGee: Thank you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article XVIII, Section 2** of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club.

Ms. Goffe: This amendment is to **Article XVIII, Section 2** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes the requirement that notice of meetings be made by postal mail, allowing for email notice in accord with New York's Not-for-Profit Corporation (NPC) Law §605.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2025 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries*.

Ms. Goffe: This amendment is to **Chapter 6, Section 2** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries*, which modifies the required information published in premium lists to when any specialty club chooses not to offer the three-point major to the Reserve Winners when the number of dogs competing in a sex is twice the number required for a five-point major.

This amendment was initiated by AKC Staff, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2025 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on Bill Ellis, Senior Director of Broadcasting, for an update on AKC Broadcasting and Media, who spoke as follows:

Hi, good morning, everybody. I'm Bill Ellis and I'm the Senior Director of Broadcasting for the American Kennel

Club. There are a number of different initiatives and projects that we work on in the Production Department, but I'm going to focus this morning on our work that we do with our "AKC on ESPN" series. For anyone in the room that might be new to this information, this is a relationship that the American Kennel Club has with Disney, and it focuses on a series of dog sports shows that we produce for ESPN throughout the year. It also includes the ABC Network, which of course broadcasts the AKC National Championship Dog Show annually. This provides an enormous amount of reach for the American Kennel Club. Last year alone, we reached over 15 million people with these broadcasts throughout the year. While they are first and foremost sports shows, we really take a lot of pride, focus and energy in the additional content that goes into these shows in the way of features, storytelling and explainer pieces. We like to assume that anybody who is flipping through channels maybe unfamiliar with dogs on ESPN and maybe it's their first time watching so we want to make sure that the audience is really engaged throughout the show, and we're providing those touch points to hold them until the end.

So far this year, we have worked on five shows that have been completed and delivered to ESPN in three different

locations. That's important to note because we like to focus a great deal of our efforts on the first half of the year. We have worked really closely with the researchers at ESPN to identify where our shows perform the best and identifying those broadcast windows to really maximize the audience. When we're able to work on these shows earlier in the year and get them delivered, then we can really focus our attention on finding the exact moments and windows to really let those shows shine and perform their best. We started the year at the AKC National Agility Championship, and I will tell you this is the fifth year that we worked on this show. So you know, I've shown dogs my whole life. I'm a Conformation kid at heart. But watching these Agility competitors in the finals at the highest level of competition is some of the most emotional moments that I've ever seen people have with their dogs. They are incredible teams. These people are so dedicated. I'm amazed at what they're able to accomplish with their dogs.

From there, we moved onto our first diving dog show of the year. We worked closely with our friends at North America Diving Dogs to host these diving competitions. This one was held at Mississippi State University, and the veterinary school at Mississippi State University actually hosted us. They invited us to come down.

We were able to secure a location right in front of their football stadium, and it served as a great backdrop for us. We had an amazing crowd –not only for show day but also practice day. It aligned really nicely with a lot of campus visits. We had students, families, faculties, and the local community come out for this show that we're really proud of. We were able to bring an additional production crew that was focused solely on capturing content and interviews with the College of Veterinary Medicine down there, so it was a really nice synergy of not only bringing that live event and producing it for ESPN, but the canine health point of view and being able to capture some of that supplemental content. As we were finishing up this show, I was watching these segments and reviewing them to make sure that everything was correct and accurate. I got to the end of the show, and I watched this two-minute moment, and I rewound it, and I watched it again. I want to share it with you all because in the midst of going over this show with a fine-tooth comb, I thought that this moment really showcased in a bigger way why we do what we do and the joy that dogs really bring to all of us.

(Video played.)

(Applause.)

Mr. Ellis: I think, I hope, we created

a lasting memory for that young man, and he gets the chance to see himself on ESPN.

From there, we moved on to our AKC Salutes the Troops events, which you've heard already a little bit about this morning. Gina mentioned in her report, and hopefully you've seen the banner over here, that these events really were a landmark achievement for us in this series that we work on for ESPN. I think that we will look back at shows before AKC Salutes the Troops and shows after AKC Salutes the Troops, but it was a real celebration with the U.S. Army. None of this happens by accident. These shows, but all the shows that we work on for ESPN, they're conceived by us. It takes a lot of work and a lot of planning. This is no exception. It took about 18 months of planning with the U.S. Army to bring these to fruition from the initial concept when we brought it to Gina, who of course wholeheartedly supported this, all the way through building those relationships, not only just AKC and the U.S. Army, but ESPN and their buy-in. We were lucky enough to have them onsite for these events, and of course the sponsors who are integral. You can imagine the logistics planning and all of the work that goes into it, with multiple site visits. As we worked through that, we really discovered so many different ways that the American Kennel Club and the

U.S. Army have this connection. There's, of course, this incredible history with both of our organizations, but there's also this shared sense of tradition and excellence and our love of purebred dogs. Of course, we know about that, but for the military, the working dogs that are soldiers that keep our country safe every day, the veterinarians that are also soldiers that care for them, and we were able to continue to unearth this connection and tell these stories when we were there. I think this really benefits not only the AKC and the content we're able to produce but really showcases the U.S. Army in a way that might be new to most viewers. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield were our great hosts just outside of Savannah, Georgia. It's the largest Army installation that's east of the Mississippi and one of the most decorated divisions in the U.S. Army's history. The soldiers, getting to work with them for the week that we were down there, was an incredibly humbling experience, one that I know that myself and all of us that were there, are eternally grateful for. They were just an amazing support system for us.

We worked on three shows. The first show that we hosted was AKC Fastest Dogs USA, which is a fancy television title for Fast CAT®. We worked on the Agility Premier Cup the following day, which is an invitational competition for about the

top 100 Agility teams, and then we moved to the airfield, and we hosted the Diving Dogs Challenge just outside one of the hangars surrounded by military aircraft. We're super excited about all three of these shows. Once again, we deployed two additional crews. We had the full production crew complement working on the sports show for ESPN. We also had two additional crews that were there throughout the week gathering content, so telling the stories of these soldiers, the military working dogs. There's even a feature with the Army chef and his dog biscuit recipe. We were everywhere that we could be while we were there to really tell that full story and also to create an in-person experience for the families on base. On Friday, during that Agility Premier Cup event, we hosted a barbecue for the military families and our competitors. We built out a kid zone, which included face painters, bounce houses for the families there, and before the Agility finals that afternoon, a full opening ceremony. We had the Army marching band, the Army rock band. I didn't know there was an Army rock band. There is. They were both there. The presentation of the colors, swearing in ceremony for new soldiers, and Gina was kind enough to kick it all off delivering her opening remarks there in person to get the competition started, which is also when we presented Rocky to everyone there on base. This is the bulldog that

Gina mentioned earlier. We were really thrilled to be able to bring Rocky to Fort Stewart. He's with his new family, adored, of course. I know that they are continuing to order more dog beds so that more and more offices on the base can have a dog bed ready for Rocky when he's out and about on base and can be comfortable wherever he is.

This is what it looks like as we look ahead. Ted was kind enough to mention that this weekend we have a show premiering this Saturday, June 14 and that's important because Saturday is Flag Day, which is the official 250th Anniversary of the Army. AKC Fastest Dogs USA premieres this Saturday, perfectly aligned with that anniversary of the Army, followed by the National Agility Championship on Sunday, June 15. Then we move on to another patriotic weekend, July 4, and we have two shows premiering that weekend, the Diving Dogs Challenge and the Agility Premier Cup, both from our time with the Army that will premiere on July 4 and 5, 2025. We're excited about those, but really also grateful to the great partners at ESPN who work so closely with us like I said, to find these moments on the calendar to really let our shows shine. I'm going to leave you with one more video, because I'm the video guy, so there's two in here. This is a full recap video from our time down at Fort Stewart

that was put together by our AKC Social Media team. They were on the ground as well, capturing content all week to support the event. It will give you a bit of an overview of what happened during our time down at the base.

Thank you.

(Video played.)

(Applause.)

The Chair called on Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services, for a presentation on behalf of AKC and the Junior Task Force, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. Once again, representing the Junior Task Force, we would like to honor one of our clubs that has had a continued influence with their local 4-H group. Members of the Somerset Hills Kennel Club have worked with the Somerset 4-H group by facilitating ring steward training for Obedience. The 4-H members have successfully competed in Obedience as well as Conformation Junior Showmanship. Additionally, these 4-H youth participate in AKC Meet the Breeds® at the Cocker Spaniel Booth, greeting the public with their dogs. The relationships established between all breed or dog training clubs for the 4-H community will serve both entities for the future of each organization. Thank you to the Somerset Hills Kennel Club, and

if our new Delegate would please come forward to receive this.

(Certificate presented.)

Ms. O'Neill: If your club is currently engaged and doing things with your local 4-H group, please share that information with me so I can honor you in the future.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the list of vacancies for the Delegate Standing Committees that are to be filled in September.

Ms. Goffe: These are the vacancies on Delegate Standing Committees that are to be filled at the September 2025 Delegate meeting:

All-Breed Clubs Committee – 4 three-year terms

Bylaws Committee – 4 three-year terms and 1 one-year term

Canine Health Committee – 4 three-year terms

Companion Events Committee – 4 three-year terms

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee – 4 three-year terms

Dog Show Rules Committee – 4 three-year terms

Field Trial & Hunting Test Events Committee – 4 three-year terms

Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and

Scent Work Events Committee – 4 three-year terms and 1 one-year term

Parent Clubs Committee – 4 three-year terms and 1 two-year term

Perspectives Editorial Staff – 6 two-year terms and 1 one-year term

Ms. DiNardo announced that the Delegates will be emailed self-nomination forms by the end of June. The self-nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by Friday, July 18, 2025.

Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be directed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self-nominate for one committee, except that a member of the *Perspectives* Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee.

In August, the Delegates will be emailed the nominees for each committee, and their qualification statements with the September Delegate meeting notification.

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club, to provide an update on the AKC PAC, who spoke as follows:

If you were in the Legislative Caucus this morning, you heard Sheila talk about how important the PAC is for GR. Of course, in June we kick off – and those that were there this morning

got a heads up – on what the package is this year for our fundraiser. You know, we do the sweepstakes for a fundraiser. It's our main fundraiser for the year. This year we've gone back to something we haven't done in a very long time that was a big favorite, and it's a Westminster package. It will be four nights of your hotel, plus tickets to all the events and tickets to parties, and we're adding to this. We have other things coming in every day for it. It's five tickets for \$100, one for \$25. We hope you'll do the \$100. We will be out at the GR table, and yes, we can accept credit cards. So please be generous and support the PAC, which in turn supports Government Relations. Thank you.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the Tuesday, September 9, 2025 Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. More detailed information will be emailed as soon as it becomes available.

Lunch was served following the meeting's conclusion on the Terrace.

Delegates were not required to return the 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 the continuation of New Business:

Pamela Rosman, Delegate from the Canaan Dog Club of America, expressed the club's excitement in welcoming Gina DiNardo and Sheila Goffe to their new Executive positions, the new members of the AKC Board and working together to benefit the sport moving forward.

As a low-entry breed, she was thrilled to share that they had seven Canaan Dogs represented at their supported entry in Doswell, Virginia in March 2025. Pamela remarked on the collaborative effort that made the event a success – she gave appreciation to Tim Thomas for facilitating an impromptu judge's education and mentoring program, thanked Nancy Fisk, Karen Burgess, Maggi Strouse, and the Virginia Cluster members for their assistance and creative resources and acknowledged the judges for their motivation to learn more about the breed.

Joyce Rowland, Delegate from the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, highlighted the value and importance of the Darkness to Light® program for the AKC, however reported that 56 percent of Herding Judges had not completed the training by the deadline, prior to it being extended. Since many of the judges are outdoor oriented without frequent computer use or experience, she suggested that the Board and Staff explore alternative training methods to accommodate those who are less inclined to engage in

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



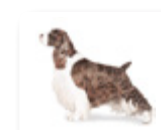
Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



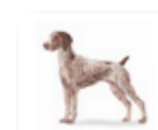
English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English
Coonhound



American
Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan
Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick
Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



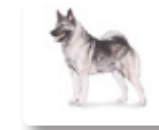
Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian
Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese
Podengo Pequeno



Redbone
Coonhound



Rhodesian
Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish
Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker
Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan
Malamute



Anatolian
Shepherd Dog



Bernese
Mountain Dog



Black Russian
Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman
Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de
Bordeaux



German
Pinscher



Giant
Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss
Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan
Mastiff



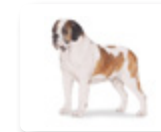
Newfoundland



Portuguese
Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard
Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American
Hairless Terrier



American
Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



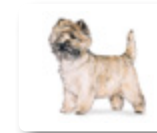
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont
Terrier



Fox Terrier
(Smooth)



Glen of
Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue
Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester
Terrier



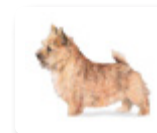
Miniature Bull
Terrier



Miniature
Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell
Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



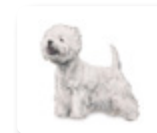
Soft Coated
Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire
Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland
White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo
Dog



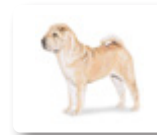
Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese
Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian
Lundehund



Poodle
(Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

HERDING GROUP



Australian
Cattle Dog



Australian
Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian
Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des
Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh
Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher
Mountain Dog



Finnish
Lapphund



German Shepherd
Dog



Icelandic
Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American
Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English
Sheepdog



Pembroke
Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland
Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



Pyrenean
Shepherd



Shetland
Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish
Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

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

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>