



# gazette

JUNE 2026

Happy Sire's  
Day!



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

JUNE 2026

Volume 143, Number 6



## FEATURE

### Studs

Father's Day special: saluting sires who influenced their breeds

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## SECRETARY'S PAGES

## MASTHEAD

The great American dog story

## UPDATES

2026 ANC judges panel; Public Education Awards; AKC and Korea Kennel Federation agreement; Humane Fund goes crypto

## OPINION

Are we pushing away the future of conformation?

## SLIDESHOW

Great Show Dogs: art from the AKC collections

## TIMES PAST

From 2006, Charlotte Patterson stresses hands-on examinations by judges

## VIDEOS

Wolfhound specialty; Cavalier national; "Survival of the Friendliest"; Once Around with Dorothy Macdonald

## DOG PEOPLE

James Reynolds

## AKC PARENT CLUBS

## BREED COLUMNS



## Toy

Brussels Griffons  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels  
Chihuahuas  
Havanese  
Italian Greyhounds  
Japanese Chin  
Maltese  
Miniature Pinschers  
Papillons  
Shih Tzu  
Toy Fox Terriers

## Non-Sporting

Bichons Frises  
Boston Terriers  
Bulldogs  
Chinese Shar-Pei  
Chow Chows  
Dalmatians

## Lhasa Apsos

Norwegian Lundehunds  
Schipperkes  
Shiba Inu  
Tibetan Spaniels

## Herding

Bearded Collies  
Belgian Malinois  
Belgian Sheepdogs  
Bouvier des Flandres  
Briards  
Collies  
Finnish Lapphunds  
German Shepherd Dogs  
Icelandic Sheepdogs  
Norwegian Buhunds  
Pembroke Welsh Corgis  
Pulik  
Shetland Sheepdogs  
Swedish Vallhunds

## BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

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

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

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

# Coming to Concord , NC Saturday, July 18, 2026



## NOHS REGIONAL

*On Track to the September Finish Line!*

**Earn Double NOHS Points!**

**\$1000 Awarded to NOHS BIS**

**\$500 Awarded to NOHS RBIS**

**Cash Awards for NOHS Group  
Placements**



**Hosted by  
Greater Monroe  
Kennel Club**



4759 State Hwy 49  
Concord, NC 28025

Show Superintendent:  
BaRay Events  
<https://barayevents.com/show-info>

- The NOHS Regional is a separate event from the all-breed show, therefore a separate entry must be submitted.
- There are no restrictions on the dog's level of achievement, a puppy at their first show or a seasoned Champion may enter.
- There will not be a NOHS event held during the regular all-breed show on Saturday. Regular NOHS will be offered the other days of the cluster.
- NOHS Regionals hold a single class per breed to determine NOHS Best of Breed. The BOB winners are eligible to compete in their respective groups.
- Championship points are not rewarded at the NOHS Regional.
- NOHS points will count towards the new NOHS Titling option.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## *An Exciting Time*

June is always an exciting time at the American Kennel Club as preparations continue for several of our premier events. We recently announced the judging panel for the 26th annual [AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin](#), taking place December 12 and 13 in Orlando, Florida, along with the panels for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) Finals and the [AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes](#).

The AKC National Championship celebrates excellence in purebred dogs, canine athleticism, and the dedicated community behind the sport. We are honored that AKC Chairman Dr. Thomas M. Davies will serve as Best in Show judge, with Mr. David

J. Kirkland judging Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show, joined by an outstanding panel across all groups and Miscellaneous classes.

We are also looking ahead to the 2026 [AKC National Obedience Championship](#) and [AKC Rally National Championship](#), July 16–19, at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. This year's events will welcome 141 obedience competitors from 33 states and 804 rally competitors from 44 states and Canada, reflecting the continued growth and enthusiasm for AKC companion events.

The continued growth of the [National Owner-Handled Series](#) is another wonderful reflection of the traditions of our sport. Beginning May 20, eligible owners may begin applying for these titles through the Title Application Portal,



with titles grandfathered back to the inception of the NOHS program in 2012. This represents another meaningful milestone for a program that continues to grow in popularity and importance across the country.

Beyond our events calendar, AKC continues to strengthen relationships with kennel clubs from around the world in support of our shared mission to advance the sport of dogs, promote responsible breeding, and protect the future of purebred dogs. This month, we were pleased to announce a new mutual-cooperation agreement with the Korea Kennel Federation (KKF),

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

designed to expand collaboration around canine exhibitions and registrations, education, canine health and welfare initiatives, and the promotion of dogs as family companions. Partnerships like these create valuable opportunities to share knowledge, support breeders and exhibitors, and promote responsible dog ownership on a global scale.

At the same time, we continue to focus internally on positioning AKC for long-term success. I am pleased to announce the launch of our AKC Business-Led Transformation initiative. To support this effort, AKC has engaged BDO, a consulting firm with experience helping organizations align strategy, operations, processes, and technology to support long-term goals. Over the coming months, AKC teams and BDO will work together to assess our current state and help define how we continue to evolve and operate as One AKC, while remaining grounded in the mission and



See page 8 for more ANC news.

values that have guided us for generations.

Whether through world-class events here at home, meaningful partnerships abroad, recognition of the achievements of our exhibitors, or thoughtful investments in our future,

AKC remains committed to supporting dogs, the people devoted to them, and the future of the sport of dogs.

Gina M. DiNardo  
President and CEO  
American Kennel Club

STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC



# FCM Universal Championship

Four AKC International Dog Shows 2026

For AKC breeds Fully recognized.

# FCM Universal Championship

Special Attraction Dog Shows

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



Expo Santa Fe. Mexico City



November 12–15, 2026

## FOUR ALL - BREED DOG SHOWS

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

**FCM - Panamerican Championship Title**

(Thursday November 12th, 2026)

**FCM - Continental Championship Title**

(Friday November 13th, 2026)

**FCM - Intercontinental Championship Title**

(Saturday November 14th, 2026)

**FCM -Universal Championship Title**

(Sunday November 15th, 2026)

**FCM - Mexican Championship Title**

(All four days)

**AKC - Championship Points**

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

**AKC - Grand Championship**

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

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

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



managing editor  
BUD BOCCONE

senior editor  
ARLISS PADDOCK

creative director  
KATE MCCROARY

design projects manager  
CHRIS ESPIRITU

publications coordinator  
ALYSSA LELI

archivist-librarian  
KIM ROSS

**FREE**  
**AKC GAZETTE**  
**SUBSCRIPTION**

publications business  
manager  
VENUS RODRIGUEZ  
[venus.rodriguez@akc.org](mailto:venus.rodriguez@akc.org)  
212-696-8260

Write to the editors  
[gazette@akc.org](mailto:gazette@akc.org)

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## The Great American Dog Story

It was a gracious note from one gentleman to another: GENERAL WASHINGTON'S COMPLIMENTS TO GENERAL HOWE, DOES HIMSELF THE PLEASURE TO RETURN [TO] HIM A DOG, WHICH ACCIDENTALLY FELL INTO HIS HANDS, AND BY THE INSCRIPTION ON THE COLLAR APPEARS TO BELONG TO GENERAL HOWE.

At Germantown, 1777, Washington's Continental army lost the battle—but Howe, the British commander, lost his dog. American soldiers found the little terrier on the battlefield after the fighting. They urged Washington to keep the dog as a trophy.

Instead, the general dictated his now-famous note to aide-de-camp Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton's draft today resides in the Library of Congress, preserving the memory of America's first great dog story.

There have been many great American dog stories since Germantown. You might say that the AKC, founded in 1884, is America's longest running dog



"General Washington's compliments"

story, with no ending in sight.

This summer we celebrate 250 years of independence. We will join the fun in July with AKC Celebrates USA 250, at Philadelphia, birthplace of our liberty and our organization.

**Information: AKC Celebrates USA 250**

### On Our Cover:

Boxer Bang  
Away of Sirrah  
Crest, by T.  
Tashira



BOXER/AKC COLLECTION; WASHINGTON/PUBLIC DOMAIN



*Dr. Davies judged the Herding Group at the 2022 ANC.*

## 2026 ANC Judges Panel

*Davies, Kirkland to top the bill at Orlando*

The AKC has announced that Dr. Thomas M. Davies of Brimfield, Massachusetts, will judge Best in Show, and David J. Kirkland of Sanford, North Carolina, will judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show, at the 26th AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin.

The AKC’s signature event will be held December 12 and 13 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

“The AKC National Championship continues

to bring together the best of the best—exceptional canine athletes, exhibitors, and judges,” AKC President/Show Chair Gina M. DiNardo. “We are honored to have AKC Chairman Dr. Thomas Davies and Mr. David Kirkland leading the 26th show. It promises to be an exciting and highly competitive event.”

### GROUP JUDGES

**Sporting and Miscellaneous class**

Frank Kane; **Hound** Dennis Sprung; **Working** Robin Stansell; **Terrier**

Kathleen Ferris; **Toy** David Fitzpatrick; **Non-Sporting** Grace Fritz; **Herding** James Frederiksen

### BEST BRED-BY GROUP JUDGES

**Sporting** Debbie Campbell-Freeman; **Hound** Jon Cole; **Working** Dr. Steven Keating; **Terrier** Dr. Valeria Rickard; **Toy** Angela Pickett; **Non-Sporting** Harold “Red” Tatro III; **Herding** Linda Clark

### BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

Mary Dukes

STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

## UPDATES

# Last Call: Public Education Awards

There is still time for clubs to apply for the annual Public Education Award (PEA). Submissions close on July 1.

AKC clubs are encouraged to apply for the opportunity to be recognized for their outstanding public-education

efforts. The award honors a club's exceptional commitment to educating its community about dogs.

The selected club will receive a \$500 monetary award, a commemorative plaque, and recognition across AKC Education social-media channels.

[Apply for Award](#)

Questions: [publiced@akc.org](mailto:publiced@akc.org)



JOHN RICARD ©AKC

## THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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

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

Available at *Amazon* or in the AKC Shop at [shop.akc.org](http://shop.akc.org)

## UPDATES

# New Cooperation Agreement

The AKC and the Korea Kennel Federation have announced a mutual-cooperation agreement.

The agreement strengthens international collaboration around shared priorities, expanding canine exhibitions and registrations, advancing education, promoting dogs as family companions, and supporting responsible breeding, while establishing a framework for cooperation to deliver meaningful value to breeders, exhibitors,

and dog owners in both the United States and Korea.

“A shared commitment between the AKC and the Korea Kennel Foundation to the preservation, growth, and advancement of purebred dogs is strengthened through impactful collaboration,” AKC President/CEO Gina DiNardo says. “We are proud to partner with the Korea Kennel Federation and look forward to working together to enhance breeder support



and strengthen the long-term future of purebred dogs and dog sports on a global scale.”

[Read More](#)

## AKC Humane Fund Goes Crypto



House of Doge Inc., MoonPay, and the Dogecoin Foundation have launched a fundraiser with the AKC Humane Fund to support its programs dedicated to protecting and improving the lives of dogs across the United States.

To kick off the campaign, House of Doge, MoonPay, and the Dogecoin Foundation have collectively contributed 1 million \$DOGE, demonstrating a shared commitment to advancing canine welfare.

[More Information](#)

*"We kept showing up. We kept doing the work. And over time, we earned our place."*



# *Needed: More Mentors, Fewer Gatekeepers*

*A breeder-exhibitor asks, "Are we pushing away the future of conformation?"*

By Frank Lavoie

**T**here's a growing conversation in the dog-show world that many are hesitant to say out loud: We are struggling to retain and welcome new people into conformation.

And part of that problem isn't on the outside—it's within our own ranks.

Too often, individuals who

are eager, motivated, and willing to invest in the betterment of a breed are met with resistance instead of mentorship. Instead of guidance, they encounter gatekeeping. Instead of collaboration, they face closed doors.

This isn't about a lack of respect for experience—far from it. The sport is built

on decades of knowledge from dedicated breeders, handlers, and judges. That foundation is invaluable and should be protected.

But knowledge only has value if it's shared.

When newer exhibitors or breeders—especially those with strong backgrounds, proven work ethic, or a

## OPINION

genuine commitment to preservation—are dismissed or blocked from opportunities to grow, we create a bottleneck that ultimately harms the breed.

We've experienced this firsthand.

Breaking into Giant Schnauzers was not easy. It took time, persistence, and pushing through barriers that didn't always have anything to do with the dogs themselves. There were moments where support was limited, and opportunities weren't readily given.

But we kept showing up. We kept doing the work. And over time, we earned our place.

That experience matters—because while it proves that it's possible to break through, it also raises a bigger question: Should it have to be that hard?

Progress shouldn't depend on who can withstand the most resistance. It should come from collaboration, mentor-

ship, and a shared goal of improving the breed.

### SHARING IS PROGRESS

We've also seen what happens when people do work together—when knowledge is shared and the focus stays on the dogs. That's when real progress happens.

In some breed communities, particularly smaller or more insular ones, resistance to new voices can be even stronger. That kind of environment doesn't preserve a breed—it stagnates it.

If the goal is truly preservation and advancement, then we must ask ourselves some hard questions:

Are we mentoring, or are we gatekeeping?

Are we encouraging growth, or protecting territory?

Are we building the next generation, or shutting it out?

Because the reality is simple—this sport does not grow without new people.

And not just any people, but the right people: those

willing to learn, invest, and carry breeds forward with integrity.

We cannot expect participation to increase, entries to grow, or quality to improve if we make the path unnecessarily difficult for those who are trying to do it right.

There is a difference between protecting a breed and protecting egos. One builds the future. The other limits it.

At the end of the day, every successful program, every respected breeder, and every strong breed community exists because someone, at some point, was given an opportunity.

The question is—are we still willing to do the same?—**F.L.**

---

*Frank Lavoie breeds and exhibits Giant Schnauzers under the Down Low banner. He is an AKC Delegate, president of the Ozarks Kennel Club, and Midwest Director for the Giant Schnauzer Club of America.*



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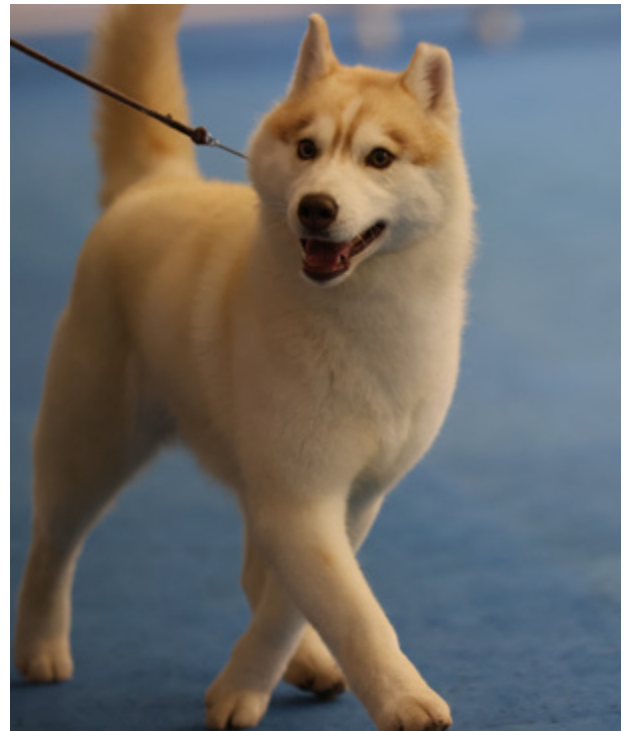


PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

# RINGSIDE

Photos by *Kathleen Riley Photography*

Siberian Husky Club of the Twin Cities | April 11 and 12 | Lake Elmo, Minnesota



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PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY



**familydog**



# THE 2026 AKC PHOTO CONTEST — NOW OPEN TO ALL!

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

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

**Start snapping!**

# FEATURE



English Cocker Spaniel  
Ch. Dunelm Galaxy  
(b. 1964), sire of 94  
champions (Tauskey  
photo)

# Studs

*We honor Father's Day with a salute of prepotent sires who  
influenced breed histories.*

## FEATURE



### **Standard Poodle Ch. Puttencove Promise**

“The magnificent snow-white Puttencove Promise was whelped in 1955 and won Westminster’s Best in Show three years later,” Pat Trotter wrote for the GAZETTE. “He was the turning point for the standard

Poodle as we know the breed today, a bridge from the working water dogs of the past who brought the breed into the present. Because he was a prepotent sire of great quality, his stamp still can be seen decades and generations later.”

### **Beagle (15-inch) Ch. King’s Creek Triple Threat**

Trippe, sire of more than 70 champions, is shown notching one of his 84 career Hound Group wins.

“Trippe’s total show record, including hundreds of honors all gained in



*Anna Katherine Nicholas called Trippe a great showman and a superb sire.*

the keenest Eastern competition, has never been equaled by any other breed member,” Anna Katherine Nicholas wrote in 1981. “Additionally, he was a superb stud dog having sired more than 70 champions to date. It is especially noteworthy that this dog achieved a fantastic show record with absolutely no advertising, and [it is] a

tribute to his quality that it was never necessary.”

### **English Springer Spaniel Ch. King Peter of Salilyn**

With the unwavering support of her husband, veterinarian Fred Gasow, Julia Gasow bred hundreds of champions and top producers who changed the course of our sport’s history.

Mrs. Gasow was origi-

nally a breeder of mink. She switched to dog breeding in 1936. In the late 1940s a faulty furnace caused a fire that burned her first kennel to the ground. None of the kenneled dogs survived. But in a merciful quirk of fate, a few of the Salilyn Springers were boarded at Fred’s clinic, awaiting routine check-ups, on the night of the fire. One of those lucky dogs was King

## FEATURE



*Mrs. Gasow with her King Peter*

Peter of Salilyn.

Mrs. Gasow wanted to

quit the sport. But her husband urged her to continue

and had the facility quickly rebuilt. King Peter would go on to sire 36 champions and revive the kennel's fortunes. Salilyn's greatest days were yet to come.

### **Boston Terrier Ch. Arroyo Anarchist**

A mainstay of the AKC art collection is "Ch. Arroyo Anarchist," by Gustav Muss-Arnolt.

Anarchist (also known as Invader), breed winner at Westminster in 1916, was



## FEATURE

a foundation stud of the Arroyo Boston Terriers owned by Freeman Ford, of Pasadena, California.

A 1919 Arroyo kennel ad said that “Anarchist won his Championship in the hottest of Eastern competition, and, with limited opportunities due to his location on the Pacific Coast, has already proven himself a remarkable sire.” Among Anarchist’s get was Intruder, one of the most prolific stud dogs in breed history.

### **German Shepherd Dog AOE Sel Exc Ch./Can. GV/Ch. Kismet’s Sight for Sore Eyes, HSCs, PT, TC, ROM (Dallas)**

In *Born to Win, Breed to Succeed* (revised edition), Pat Trotter wrote of the breeding strategy behind this member of the ultra-elite “100/100 club” (dogs with more than 100 BIS and more than 100 champions sired):

“Because he was not tightly bred, Dallas had a pedigree that, at casual



study, would not lead one to predict that he would break the breed’s long-standing record of 79 champions and become its most significant sire in the last quarter century.

“To Jim Moses goes much credit for the breeding decisions made over the years by many associated with German Shepherds. ... Owners Colin and Angela Howells are also grateful to Moses

for his handling of Dallas’s stud career as well as his show career and the careers of his descendants.”

### **German Shorthaired Pointer Ch./NSC Adam v Fuehrerheim, GSPCA HOF**

Adam (b. 1962), was bred by Charles Jordan and owned by Bob McKowen. He was a national-specialty winner and a superb



*Adam in the field*

gundog. “He has 54 field trial placements, including first in Puppy, All Age, Amateur Gundog, and Open Gundog,” wrote McKowen.

By McKowen’s count, the strapping liver-and-white sired a combined 128 ring, field, and dual champions, putting him among the sport’s top sires of all breeds.

### **Standard Schnauzer Int. Ch. Pavo de la Steingasse**

From an online memoir by Burt and Ellen Yamada: “You can’t write about the black Standard Schnauzer in America without including a bit about the top-winning black, Int. Ch. Pavo de la Steingasse.

“Pavo was born in Blotzheim, France, in 1966. He was brought to

America as a puppy from the Krayenrain kennel in Switzerland by Mrs. Margaret S. Smith. ...

“Pavo had an astounding show career. Handled by Sue Baines, he was Best of Breed more than 75 times, with five Group I’s and more than 30 other group placings, and he went BOB at two consecutive national

## FEATURE



*Pavo at Westminster with judge Henry Stoecker*

specialties. He also won the Westminster Working Group in 1971.

“Pavo’s influence as a stud dog is equally as impressive. Bred exclusively to blacks, he produced 14 champion offspring. He is one of the very few blacks to be included in the leading producers list compiled by the SSCA.”

### **Bulldog Mapo’s Souvenir**

Mapo’s Souvenir was one of a long line of potent sires out of the Houston-based Mapo Kennels, advertised as “The Best Little Stud

House in Texas.” He is pictured here with owner and

Bulldog Club of America Hall of Fame breeder Richard Maze.

### **Pekingese Am./Can. Ch. St. Aubrey Laparta Dragon**

British breeder Lilian Snook bred and exported many notable Pekes, her most famous being Dragon, who at age 7 months was sold to Nigel Aubrey-Jones.

Dragon was already a prolific stud in Canada



*Richard Maze with Souvenir, super stud*

## FEATURE

before Aubery-Jones sold him to Edward B. Jenner (Knolland Farm) of Illinois. With Luke Boileau handling, Dragon was a top-winning show dog in America.

More importantly, Dragon left his stamp as a prepotent stud. He was the all-time top Peke sire, producing more than 100 champions. These included Westminster BIS Ch. St. Aubrey Dragonora



*Edd Bivin gives BIS to Dragon.*

of Elsdon and her half-brother by Dragon, Ch.

St. Aubrey Bees Wing of Elsdon. **GZ**

## And Let's Hear It for Mom!

John Buddie has had prominent studs in his Tartanside Collies program—most notably the dog pictured here: Tartanside Preview, ROM, sire of 26 champions. But, says the 2015 AKC Breeder of the Year, a successful breeding is equally dependent on the bitch:

“I like to look at a four-generation pedigree and see who the key individuals are. And I think your bitch lines are every bit as important as your sire lines. Every time I sit and hand-write a pedigree and write a dog's name, I visualize that dog in my head. And using that information lets me picture what is going to happen three generations later when I take granddaughters of this dog and breed them to grandsons of another.

“That's pretty much how I use a pedigree—pictures in my mind of the characteristics I want to perpetuate.”





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## Friends Hanging Around the Office

The walls of our AKC offices and the AKC Museum of the Dog are lined with works of distinguished painters who immortalized great show champions. The combined collections represent dogs who ruled the rings going back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to the modern era. To longtime AKC staffers, these pictures are old familiar friends. Here are a few of our favorites.

The names of the dogs and artists appear on the slideshow's YouTube page.

## Hands On

*We go back to our May 2006 issue for this good advice from breeder-judge Charlotte Patterson, who judged Westminster's Toy Group earlier this year.*



There are some things that can only be confirmed by getting your hands on a dog. You especially have to use your hands with coated breeds, of course.

One thing I always want to know is where the dog's elbow is. With a coated dog, I lift the coat and want to find out where that elbow is in relationship to the withers.

The different standards describe specific breed traits that can only be ascertained by feeling. The Pekingese standard describes in detail the way the dog's ear leather should be; you must feel under all that hair to make sure that ear leather is what

the standard calls for. The Bedlington Terrier's ear leather must be long enough to reach the corner of the mouth, so you have to pull the ear up, and you have to make sure that what you're measuring is the leather itself, not the tassel.

With breeds like Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, and Boston Terriers, you have to feel the base of the tail, to determine that the tail is not inverted, where two or three vertebrae have gone inside the body. These are all things that you have to use your hands for—not things that you can stand back and look at.

I don't understand judges

whose exams seem to consist of "withers-butt-tail-and-go." Maybe I'm not smart enough to get that much information in two or three quick little pats! They'll walk up, look at the dog's head, pat him a couple of times on the back, and say, "Take him down and back."

And then there are judges on the other end of the scale who are great massagers—they rub and rub and rub. I probably fall somewhere in the middle.

There's always something going on at a dog show—for judge or exhibitor—that you can learn from. Don't miss the opportunity.—**C.P.**

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



### **Once Around with Dorothy Macdonald**

*Newly posted: Two years before her death, a sage of the show ring shares her wit and wisdom. 40:17*



### **Survival of the Friendliest**

*From 60 Minutes: Anderson Cooper reports on how dogs have used friendliness toward humans to survive and thrive. 13:07*

## VIDEOS



### **The Big Gray Guys**

*TULSA, OKLAHOMA—Red Tatro judges Irish Wolfhounds at the Hound Club of Oklahoma specialty. 15:18*



### **AKC National Agility Championship**

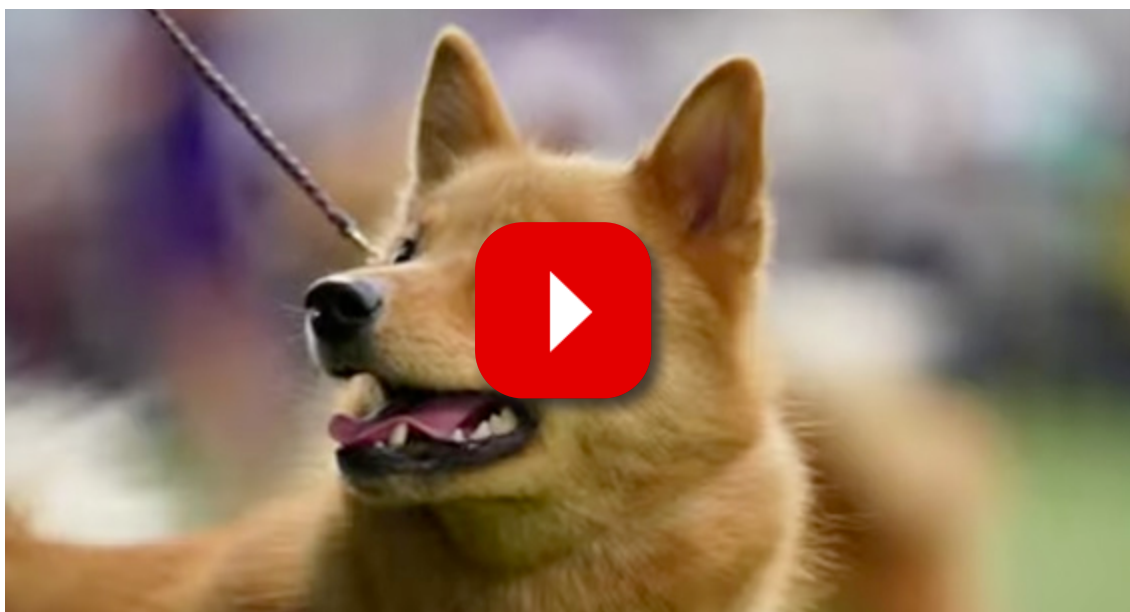
*Cosmo the Vizsla wins it all with an absolutely gorgeous final run. 2:00*

## VIDEOS



### **A National Fit for a King**

*KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE—The American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club has posted in-depth coverage of their national. 2:31:36*



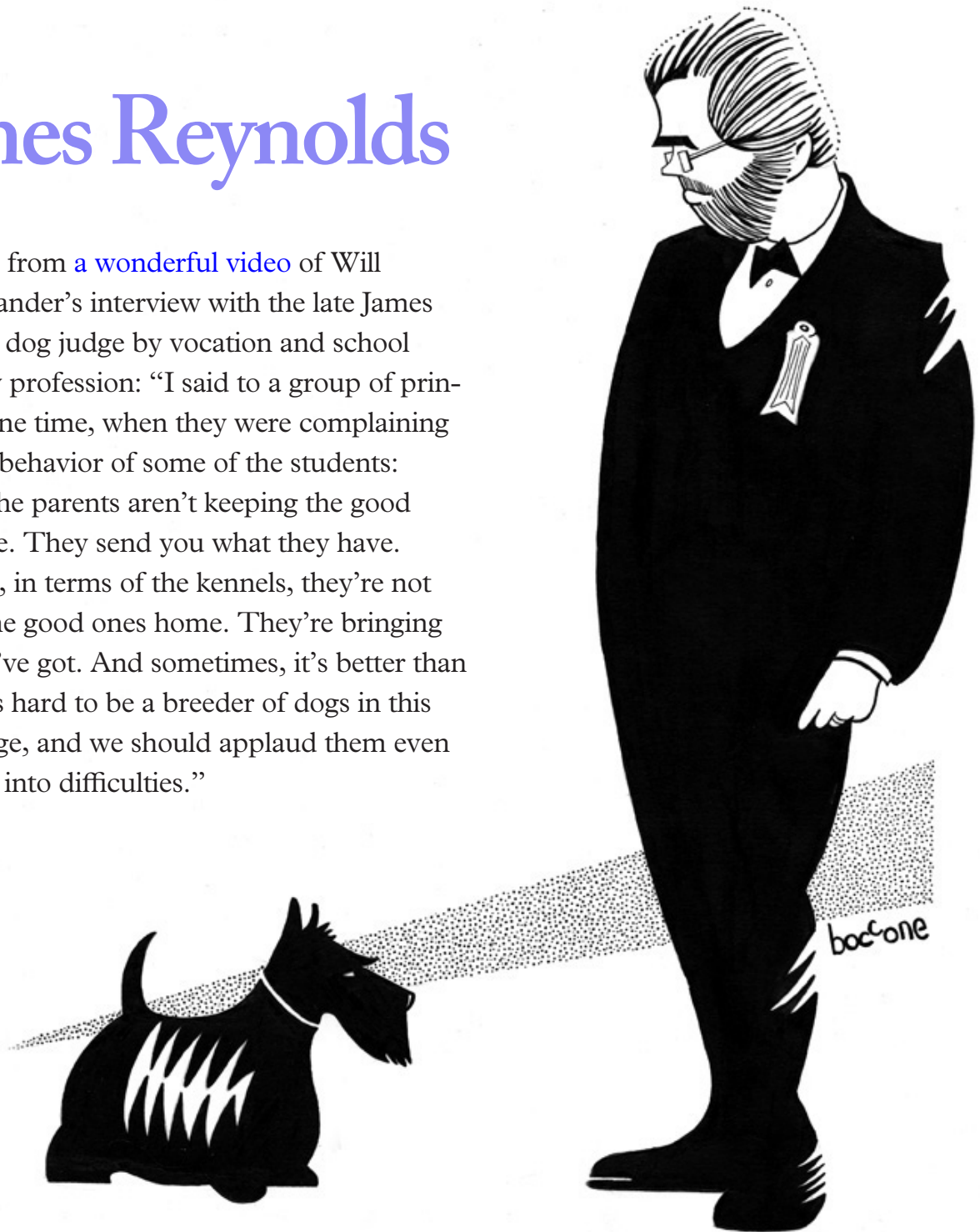
### **The Square Pegs**

*A Gazette Gallery: Looking at the delightfully different breeds of the AKC Non-Sporting Group.*

## James Reynolds

This is from [a wonderful video](#) of Will Alexander's interview with the late James Reynolds, dog judge by vocation and school teacher by profession: "I said to a group of principals at one time, when they were complaining about the behavior of some of the students: Y'know, the parents aren't keeping the good ones home. They send you what they have.

"And so, in terms of the kennels, they're not keeping the good ones home. They're bringing what they've got. And sometimes, it's better than others. It's hard to be a breeder of dogs in this day and age, and we should applaud them even if they get into difficulties."



# BREED COLUMNS

Edited by **Arliss Paddock**

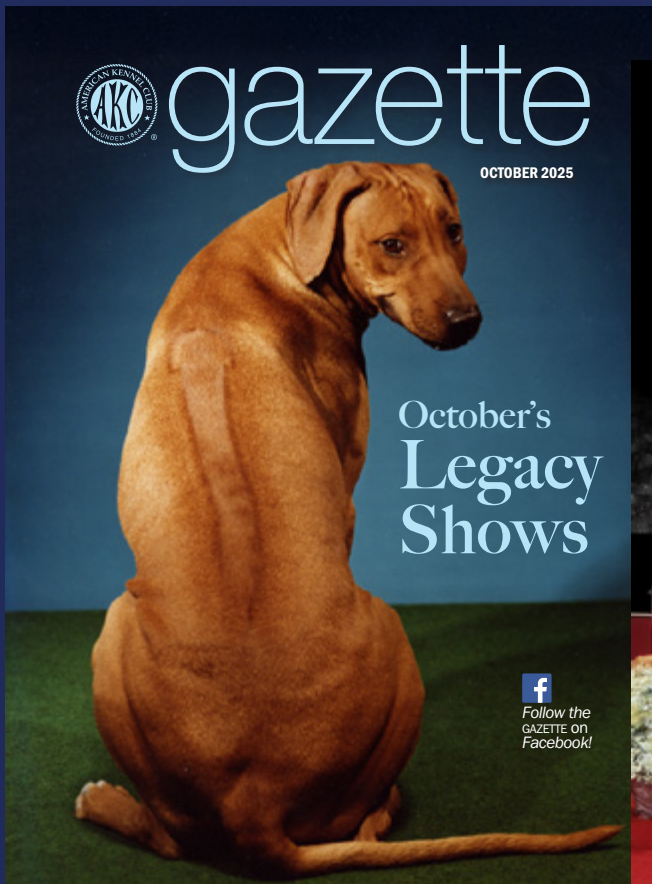


*An alert Norwegian Lundehund perks up her triangular ears. The breed's especially mobile and expressive ears are just one of their unusual traits—to learn more, check out Norwegian Lundehund Association of America columnist Kristina Maze's article on p. 70.*

COURTESY ERIKA KIRCH

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# BREED COLUMNS

## ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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



## THIS MONTH

### Toy

- 38 Brussels Griffons
- 39 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- 41 Chihuahuas
- 42 Havanese
- 44 Italian Greyhounds
- 46 Japanese Chin
- 48 Maltese
- 50 Miniature Pinschers
- 53 Papillons
- 54 Shih Tzu
- 56 Toy Fox Terriers

### Non-Sporting

- 58 Bichons Frises
- 60 Boston Terriers
- 62 Bulldogs
- 64 Chinese Shar-Pei
- 65 Chow Chows
- 67 Dalmatians

- 68 Lhasa Apsos
- 70 Norwegian Lundehunds
- 72 Schipperkes
- 74 Shiba Inu
- 76 Tibetan Spaniels

### Herding

- 79 Bearded Collies
- 80 Belgian Malinois
- 83 Belgian Sheepdogs
- 84 Bouviers des Flandres
- 86 Briards
- 88 Collies
- 90 Finnish Lapphunds
- 93 German Shepherd Dogs
- 94 Icelandic Sheepdogs
- 96 Norwegian Buhunds
- 98 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- 100 Pulik
- 102 Shetland Sheepdogs
- 106 Swedish Vallhunds

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

### Brussels Griffons

#### WHAT GRIFFONS TEACH US

A squeak coming from the kitchen signaled that one of the 8-week-old puppies was hurt. It turned out that his mom, Edie, had warned him several times not to bite her, but he didn't pay attention. So the next time, Edie snapped at him. He cried. Then he left her alone.

This is how dogs discipline dogs. Edie was teaching Corby, the baby, that there are limits to what you can and can't do in this world. Corby was dismayed. But he learned the lesson.

In my observations over 40 years with dogs, dogs are tougher disciplinarians than I am. They nip another Griffon who comes near their food bowl. They pounce on a puppy who steals a toy. For some infractions, they insist on sit-stays or down-stays lasting for minutes, enforcing it by staring at the offender with a look that dares him to move.

Dogs have much to teach humans about setting



Brussels Griffon

boundaries. Last week a phone call came in from Jason, who purchased Leo, a 3-month-old Brussels Griffon puppy, from me. "He bites our toes," Jason complained. "He bites when we try to play with him. My wife and I feel like we are prisoners on our couch," without even a hint of irony that he is talking about a five-pound puppy holding 130-pound adults hostage.

Jason and his wife are

unable to play with the puppy because they have no idea how to discipline it. He complained that when they showed Leo a toy, he bit the hand. "Say 'no!' and tap him!" I advised. A Griffon mother punishes a puppy for biting her too hard. The puppy usually never does it again.

Jason was shocked. "Then he won't like us," he said.

"If you can't tap him, then speak very loud," I said.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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“Clap your hands! He has to know you mean it. Then put him in his crate for a time-out. You must respond so he won’t repeat the behavior.”

“You don’t hit your puppies,” Jason pointed out. Which is true; it is all positive-reinforcement training here. Almost all.

“Only once,” I said. “And only for biting. They never do it again.” Some counties have a “two times and out” rule; if a dog bites a human twice, he is put to sleep. The rule is to protect the public from vicious dogs, but it can be applied to any breed.

The other big problem for a dog owner: We live in a litigious society. If your dog bites someone, you can be sued. You must stop biting behavior immediately. With Brussels Griffons, this is easy. They have no desire to hurt humans.

After lecturing him, I gave Jason the name of a New York City dog trainer. They had a session the next day.

“Leo is doing much better,” Jason said in a phone call the following week. “He

is not as aggressive.”

It took all my self-control not to point out that Leo is not aggressive. He is a little puppy looking for direction and leadership. The trainer had taught Jason and his wife how to provide a little leadership, and the puppy responded immediately.

“He’s not biting as much,” Jason said.

Translation: He is not as frustrated and confused with owners who don’t even understand how to play with him.

“And stop going bare-foot,” I instructed. “Toes are too delicious for a puppy to resist. Put your slippers on.”

Between the trainer and myself, we may eventually get these people to understand puppy behavior. Jason and his wife are only 30 years old. They are planning to reproduce. If we don’t get this couple trained, we shudder to think what they will unleash on the human world.

—Sharon Sakson

[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

## Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Stephanie Abraham wrote the following for this column in 2009.

### THE “WOW” FACTOR

Recently two veteran Cavalier breeders were seated at ringside discussing the entry before them. First one, then the other lamented the lack of “wow” dogs in the ring at this important specialty show. As this story was recounted to me, I began to ponder what lessons we could take from it.

If we are extremely lucky in our lifetime, we will see a few dogs who make the fancier’s spine tingle just to look at them. These are the dogs who possess the “wow” factor—and there may be only a few in a generation. We most often see them either in a show ring or at a breeder’s home, though theoretically they could be encountered anywhere.

These dogs are never perfect. They may lack a bit of angulation or need a firmer topline, but in the last

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP



Cavalier King  
Charles Spaniel

analysis we do not *care*; they are supremely beautiful, they are poetry to watch, and generally even the most divided breeder factions are simply awed in their presence. A very broad spectrum of judges—breeder and all-rounder alike—rewards them consistently. These animals are the epitome of breed type, and they carry themselves with that extra dimension of sheer *presence* that commands our attention. Sometimes we can identify such dogs as pup-

pies, as they begin to walk and run—their star quality is evident. Others take longer to develop it, but once achieved, it stays with them forever.

Breeders should always be on the lookout for such dogs. I have the uncomfortable feeling that we are losing some of these animals from the show and breeding world. So many Cavalier breeders do not keep males that there may well be dogs with “wow” quality sold as pets and likely neutered.

And sometimes breeders just make poor choices and keep the pup that turns out to be the lesser-quality animal, relegating the potential “wow” to strictly pet status.

Often these regrettable decisions involve our inability to look at the overall dog without fixating on one fault or another. We need to remind ourselves that perfection is unattainable. And I suspect that quite often we do not have the patience to wait for a slow-maturer. We are so tuned into the “now,” we forget that the Cavalier is a notoriously slow-maturing breed and we may need to appreciate him at the age of 3, not expect him to take top honors at 13 months.

Homeranne Caption was such a slow maturing dog, and he had a mantle coat besides. How many of us would have had the foresight to keep him? Ravenrush Best Dressed of Luxxar, Elvenhome Buckthorn, Ricksbury Royal Temptress, Craigowl Replica, Prestonville Blackmoor, and Rattlebridge Masterpiece—

DAVID WOO ©AKC

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

these were “wow” dogs for me, and for many others who saw them. I’m sure each of us could give his own special list.

Notably, the “wows” are often great producers and are prepotent for the qualities that we admire. We must not let such potential fade into obscurity from our own whelping boxes. The fancy deserves the chance to see these dogs as living models of what we can achieve as breeders and for what they have to offer to future generations of Cavaliers. These are the dogs that rise *above* excellence and live in the memory, and the pedigree, long after they have passed away. —*Stephanie Abraham*

[American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club](#)

### Chihuahuas

#### FAULTS, FAILINGS, AND VIRTUES

Most of us consider faults to be about the construction of the dog, and failings more about the cosmetics. A dog’s construction



Chihuahua

(conformation) is the most important part of any animal. If a dog isn’t constructed properly, it isn’t moving properly and therefore cannot do the job it was created for. When you hear of a particular judge who likes good movement, it means they like a well-constructed dog. They go hand in hand.

We rarely see a major fault such as a poor front or unlevel topline on a

top breeder’s dog—but we might see a failing, such as less coat than desired or ears that are smaller than we like. Breeder #1 may select a fabulously constructed dog with a moderate head and longer muzzle for their breeding program, while Breeder #2 may settle for a dog with a weak rear and low tail-set who has a fabulous coat and a beautiful head.

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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Breeder #2 has just made the decision to continue structural faults in their breeding program. The old saying “a dog doesn’t walk on its head” well illustrates the poor decision that Breeder #2 made. It’s possible to put a beautiful head on a dog in one breeding, but great conformation can take many years and generations once the structural fault is present.

The whole package of balance, beauty, quality, soundness, and temperament is what all top breeders strive for. When you see the “total package” in the ring, you can be sure the breeder has done their homework and made structure selection a top priority.

Developing an eye for a good dog takes time. Every new breeder should be at the group ring watching each and every group of dogs so their eyes can learn to recognize how great dogs move. Once you have developed your “eye” for movement and balance, the selection of your breeding dogs will

improve in record time.

Assessment of virtues differs from person to person, but good conformation, type, substance, balance, and soundness are essential.

Temperament is of great concern for a Chihuahua breeder, since developing the “saucy” personality isn’t the easiest task. There are many beautiful dogs in the show ring who have fabulous conformation but exhibit personality failings. They might stand like a well-trained robot with no expression, or sometimes they may misbehave. There is nothing more beautiful to the eye than to see a gorgeous Chihuahua strutting around the show ring and loving every minute. A good show Chihuahua will enjoy a little playtime during appropriate intervals while in the ring. When another dog approaches them, they gladly explore this new friend, and many will strike a “sparring” posture. This dog truly exhibits the saucy personality. Since temperament is an inherited trait, it

should be highly considered during puppy selection.

Once these virtues are achieved you can begin to add desired expression, coat, pigment, ears, eyes, and other cosmetics to perfect your ideal dog, imprinting them with your “look.”

All of this takes time, but with patience, knowledge, and the help of a good mentor, success will be a joyful journey. —Virginia (Jenny) Hauber

[Chihuahua Club of America](#)

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## Havanese

Our guest author is Havanese Club of America member Becky Roeder.

### HAVANESE: A NATURAL AT THERAPY

Try this little experiment. Put your Havanese on your lap and shut your eyes. Now just pet the dog. With each stroke, can you feel your heart rate slowing; your breathing becoming deeper, steadier? That’s what therapy

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP



*Affectionate, smart, and happy to be the center of attention, Havanese are natural therapy dogs.*

dogs do for those they visit. They also help relieve loneliness for those that are more isolated.

A Havanese is a natural therapy dog. They're small so they easily fit on your lap or cuddled up next to you. And more importantly, they

like it, so they'll stay as long as you need them to. If you change your mind and want to be entertained, they love being the center of attention. A lot of Havanese use their tricks to entertain their fans on therapy visits.

Dolly, my first Havanese,

was typical of the breed—cute, mischievous, always happy, and so very smart! She became an AKC champion, then a mother, but eventually found her true calling as a therapy dog. Fifty documented visits earned her the AKC Therapy Dog (THD) title at the end of her name. She visited a local assisted living center, schools, the public library, and was a favorite with a local oncology camp in the summer, where she would go on hikes up to the waterfalls with kids and counselors.

She wasn't always good at this. In the beginning, she wasn't quite sure what to do or why we were going—but if I was going, she wasn't going to be left behind! After a couple of visits, she caught on and would get excited when I pulled out her bandana and special collar.

There was one very sweet, gentle man we used to visit. His name was Ray. Ray had moved to our area to help his daughter start a business and eventually ended up in

COURTESY REBECCA ROEDER

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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the assisted living community we visited. He would talk fondly about his farm in North Dakota and his hunting dogs, all while petting Dolly. He looked forward to our visits and always had a smile for us when we arrived.

After many months of regular visits, we noticed he wasn't around. We thought he might have been moved to a nursing home for more individualized care. Then one day, after enjoying a nice visit, we got ready to leave. As we stepped off the elevator, a couple of the nurses approached us and asked if we wouldn't mind visiting with just one more patient. They took us in a neighboring room and there he was, lying on his bed. He wasn't in very good shape; he was a little agitated and not completely aware of his surroundings. I wasn't sure if visiting with him was such a great idea, after all, but thought I would leave it up to Dolly. So I picked her up and put her on the bed.

She walked confidently on

the bed up to where the man could reach her with his hands and curled up next to him. He started petting her and immediately calmed down.

We stayed for about half an hour until he fell asleep. That's when I finally understood why she was so good. She was never taught empathy or compassion. For all of the Havanese traits that are suited for therapy work, this instinct, or "sixth sense," as some might call it, is perhaps the most unique and valuable trait of all.

Dolly retired from public therapy work and became my mother's constant companion, always alerting her instinctively when it was time for a nap! Mom passed away about three years ago at the age of 103. I am absolutely certain that Dolly helped her live a long and happy life.

If you are interested in doing therapy dog work with your Havanese, I would encourage you to find your local organization and get involved. This is a fabulous

way to give back to your community, while sharing this special breed! —R.R.

[Havanese Club of America](#)

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## Italian Greyhounds

Guest contributor Jerome Milko wrote the following for this column in 2018.

### YOUR NEW ITALIAN GREYHOUND PUPPY

The Italian Greyhound is one of the most loyal and loving breeds, and the rewards are many watching them grow and develop while you teach and train the pup for his or her new life. Your young pup's success in life and the show ring is dependent upon you recognizing the breed's attributes and developing your pup's individual personality.

Socialization is a crucially important part of training. World-renowned animal behaviorist Dr. Ian Dunbar has spent a lifetime studying behavior and development of dogs. He stresses this point in his many books and

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

seminars and compares the importance of socialization to the importance of vaccination.

Socialization begins early in their life, with the breeder frequently handling the newborn pups. Pups who need help through hand-feeding the first few days to assure their survival can actually become the most healthy, loyal, and affectionate companions.

Socialization skills are also learned between the pups as they play with one another and respect each other's bite and sharp teeth, known as bite inhibition.

When the responsibility transfers to you the new owner, be prepared to continue socialization with humans and other dogs. The developmental period of 2 months to 4 months is critical, as this is when most pups are placed in their new home.

Exposure to pathogens in the young immune system is always a concern, so plan events in your home such as a puppy party. Take



*Italian Greyhound*

precautions by removing shoes and washing hands.

After age 4 months, your local kennel club is a great resource for training, with puppy kindergarten and conformation training

classes. Your local kennel club requires vaccination certification and provides a much safer environment than walking into a chain pet store for training or going to a dog park.

JOHN RICARD ©AKC

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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The new exhibitor also needs training, and once again your local kennel club is the best place to find competent instructors and handling seminars.

Two important rules to always follow:

(1) *Make training fun*, and remember your IG wants to please you. The results will stand out in the ring. A show dog who loves what they are doing is a joy to watch and handle as they show with *personality*. A show dog who is over-trained will simply go through the motions. Never aversion train your IG. Keep the sessions short, and make the recognition of commands a regular part of your interaction with your pup. If your pup thinks training is fun, this will transfer to the show ring.

(2) *Always remember what is in your control and what is not*. What is in your control are your pup and yourself. You have no control over the other exhibitors, you have no control over what other exhibitors say and do, and you have no control over

what the judge does. They are all human and subject to a good day, bad day, and making very human mistakes. Concentrate on having fun with your dog, just as you do during training. This is under your control; forget about everything else.

There is nothing more rewarding than when a young pup gains confidence because they are with *you* in that show ring! By concentrating on your pup and just enjoying your time together in the ring, another very important thing happens: You forget about your nerves and relax. Your pup, who is looking to you for guidance in this very different environment of the show ring, will also relax with the positive feedback and energy you project. When you can personally accomplish this, the show ring will bring great rewards every single day—and on some days an award, thus ensuring a long, satisfying, and successful career for both of you. —J.M.

[Italian Greyhound Club of America](#)

## Japanese Chin

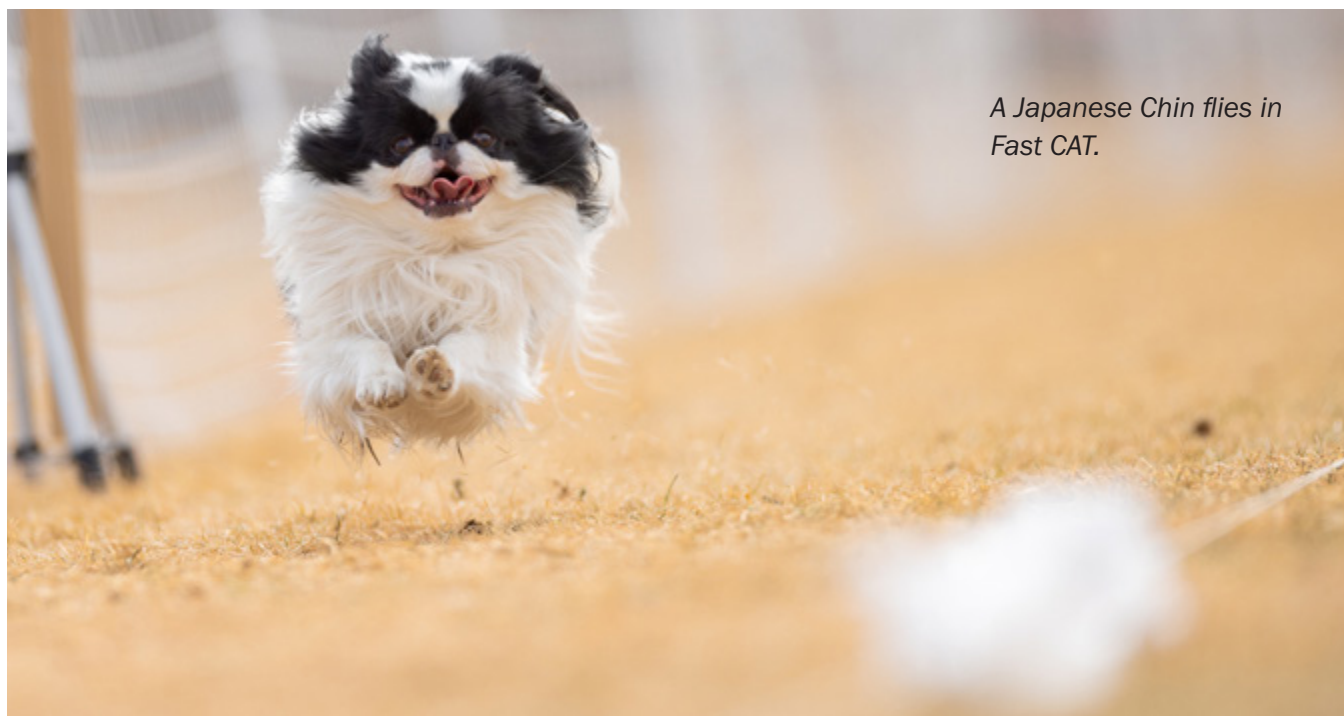
### HOW WE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE BREED

If you are reading this, you are probably at least familiar with the Japanese Chin. But are you in love yet? It is almost impossible to not love this little breed. I have shared many times about my first Chin, but I wanted to know how others made their discovery and made this breed their own. So, I went on a mission to see how breed enthusiasts fell in love with the Japanese Chin. Following are some of the stories that I heard.

“I fell in love with a puppy-mill-mama rescue from Missouri. She had four teeth, tattoos in both ears, and her belly dragged the ground due to having multiple litters a year. She stole my heart when I first met her. It took her about six months to become a Chin. She had a sassy, playful personality that was so lovable. I called her ‘my cat-dog.’ She laid on the back of the sofa like a cat, and she licked her paws and cleaned her face

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP



*A Japanese Chin flies in Fast CAT.*

like a kitty. When I discovered the ‘Chin spin,’ I just about died. She would get so excited and spin around. Coming from a place where she didn’t know how to be a puppy to being one with a bigger-than-life personality, she taught me what it means to be resilient. Once she passed, of course we got two more.” —*Terri Fahnestock*

“I am a cat person, and a friend I had made had one of these dogs. I fell in love with that dog who was the best of both worlds: basically a cat I

could walk. So once my cats were gone, and when her dog’s breeder had her little brother available, I jumped. Now I have my boy!” —*Jill Elizabeth*

“I stumbled upon my first Chin in a pet store. He was from Missouri. He was the runt, and he also had kennel cough and a heart murmur, but I fell in love with the breed because of Mr. Wiggles. They are so smart, observant, quiet, happy dogs to love. I feel very fortunate to have had these three in

my lifetime. They touch your soul like no other dog can.” —*Peggy Deos*

“I was at a party at the house of Richard Moll (the actor from the sitcom *Night Court*). He had this little beautiful black and white dog that I found out was called a Japanese Chin. It was very funny seeing them together, because Richard was six-foot-nine, and the dog was so little. I fell madly in love with the breed. I spent the whole night outside in the garden with the

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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doggie and ignored the whole party. Ever since then I've had and have had three fantastic, wonderful, beautiful, sweet, amazing Japanese Chin." —*Joan Alperin-Schwartz*

"Our first was a rescue clown Chin that we were told was a Pekingese. We had the pleasure of Yoko's love for only two years. We described her as the perfect schoolgirl who never did her homework. Now we have our fourth Chin and will never be without one. They are nothing but pure joy." —*Bari Irvin Holm Nazario*

"Growing up, all I ever asked both Santa and G\*d for was a dog. I was 9 years old when my mother told me we would be babysitting a Japanese Chin. We watched black and white Keke for two weeks. I fell in love, of course. He belonged to an elderly man and his wife, and it turns out that the two weeks was really a test run. We got to keep Keke. It was as if every

dream I ever had came true. I love this breed. They are truly my heart." —*Vicki L. Friedman, mom of AKC Joyal's Romeo*

"I started with Saints and decided to size down. I was a ring steward at the Shreveport show for the toy breeds. Gilbert Kahn was there with two black and white Chin. I talked to him, and then my friend and I talked about Chin all the way home from the show. Two weeks later, we drove to West Texas and bought our first Chin from Donna Collins." —*Nancy Mellott*

"It was the early 1980s, and we lived in Ossining, New York, with our two Yorkies and were looking to expand our family. We started to look for a Peke, but after a couple of weeks we saw an ad for a Japanese Chin puppy. We had no idea what that was, as this was way before the internet. One day we made the drive and picked up Pinky Pepper. I felt like I had to protect her

because she was small and our Yorkies were rambunctious. I was really having a hard time bonding with her. She wasn't like any dog I had ever known: very distant, not caring whether she got any attention or not. She was not loving. I thought about taking her back, but thank goodness I got some sense.

"It took me a while to understand her. She was more cat than dog. A little clown. Her very own person. Nothing like the Yorkies. We have now had over the years a total of 13 ... they are ever so collectible. You can't have just one." —*Lana Stokes*

—*Karen L. M. Wolfer*  
[Japanese Chin Club of America](#)

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## Maltese

### WHY BLOODWORK MATTERS BEFORE A MALTESE PUPPY LEAVES THE BREEDER

Responsible breeding goes far beyond pairing two Maltese dogs; it includes taking every step possible to ensure each puppy begins

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

life healthy and ready for its new home.

One of the most valuable practices a breeder can implement is performing bloodwork before a Maltese puppy leaves their care. Following are some key points as to why this is important.

### **A commitment to health and transparency**

When a breeder completes bloodwork prior to placement, it demonstrates a clear commitment to the puppy's well-being. It also provides reassurance to new owners that the puppy has been carefully evaluated beyond a simple physical exam. Bloodwork gives an inside look at the puppy's health, something that cannot always be detected through observation alone.

### **Early detection of hidden issues**

Maltese puppies are small and delicate, and certain conditions may not be immediately visible. Conditions that pre-



*"In the world of responsible breeding, it's not just about raising beautiful puppies, it's about raising healthy ones."*

placement bloodwork can help identify include:

- Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), which small breeds are especially prone to
- Liver abnormalities, including potential shunt concerns
- Early signs of infection or anemia
- Electrolyte imbalances

Catching these issues early allows the breeder to address them before the puppy transitions to a new environment, reducing stress and risk for both the puppy and the new owner.

### **Establishing a health baseline**

Bloodwork performed before the puppy leaves

COURTESY AMY PREUETT

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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provides a valuable baseline. This record becomes part of the puppy's medical history and can be shared with the new owner and their veterinarian. If health concerns arise later, having these early results allows for better comparison and quicker diagnosis.

### **Supporting a smooth transition**

Moving to a new home is a big change for a young Maltese puppy. Stress, diet changes, and new surroundings can all impact their health. Knowing that the puppy's bloodwork was normal prior to leaving helps rule out pre-existing conditions if any issues occur during the adjustment period.

### **Building trust with new owners**

Providing documented bloodwork results helps build trust and credibility. It shows that the breeder is proactive, ethical, and dedicated to producing healthy puppies—not just selling

them. For many buyers, this level of care sets one breeder apart from another.

What should buyers receive? A responsible breeder should provide:

- a copy of the bloodwork results
- an explanation of the findings (if needed)
- veterinary contact information
- guidance on follow-up care

Performing bloodwork before a Maltese puppy leaves the breeder is an extra step—but it's one that reflects a higher standard of care. It helps ensure that each puppy starts its new life with the best possible health foundation, while also giving new owners confidence and peace of mind.

In the world of responsible breeding, it's not just about raising beautiful puppies, it's about raising healthy ones.

—Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Preuett

[American Maltese Association](#)

## Miniature Pinschers

### **LEGACY BREEDER INTERVIEW: ARMANDO ANGELBELLO**

#### **PART TWO**

Using the question bank provided by the AKC Parent Club Committee, I have been working to collect interviews with our legacy breeders. This is my second interview of the series. Our interviewee is Armando Angelbello. Armando has been breeding and showing/competing with his Marlex Miniature Pinschers for nearly 40 years. This is the second part of the interview, which began in the March issue.

*Did you have a specific mentor who helped you as you were learning the breed? Did you have more than one?*

This was covered when I mentioned Ann Dutton and mentorship. I do have many breeder friends who I have discussions with and/or seek their opinions on many topics.

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

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP



Armando Angelbello and a few of his Marlex Miniature Pinschers

Without *type*, you have nothing! The standard defines *type* (as in “looks”) as a silhouette breed that is compact and short-coupled and short-backed (square!), carrying a chiseled head (with level planes of skull to stop and stop to point of

muzzle, and nice underjaw), arched neck, level or sloping topline with high tail-set standing erect, *no* drop at the croup.

Then of course the hallmark gait of the Min Pin which is hackney-like (not hackney), explained

beautifully in the standard outlining there must be high-stepping lift and bend, reach, and drive from the rear.

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

The biggest issue I see is length of back and weak rears. While the standard allows that a female *may* be slightly longer, it doesn't mean it could be a freight train. It says *may* be, not that it should be. [It is] unforgivable in a male to be long. I understand the tendency to be attracted to slightly longer, as they look more impressive with the high-stepping going around the ring covering more ground, but not correct!

Weak rears (cow-hocked, lacking angulation, moving under themselves) have become more prevalent, and it's something to watch out for.

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

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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*greatest assets are/were?*

When I first started it was Ch. Pevenseys Cash Dividend's time, and he was impressive, with a beautiful gait, which was not prevalent at the time.

Typewise, there was a bitch named Ch. Sunsprite Sparkle Plenty who took my breath away the first time I saw her standing on her own on a table examination in Fort Myers, Florida, right before I got my first show dog, Ricky. I vividly remember that live picture.

Later, Ch. Redwings On the Cutting Edge (Cutter) and Ch. Altanero Barnstormer (Ace)—both of whom I bred to and had great puppies sired by them.

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

First it must meet my criteria for beautiful type, and then a big bonus is if compatible or linebreeding pedigree. I never let the pedigree wag the dog's tail—that is, never breed to just a pedigree. For me it

must be both. I will outcross if it's a well-bred dog. I take chances with youngsters, too.

Part of my decisionmaking is instinctual as well. On a proven stud dog, one looks for prepotency in complementing the bitch's improvement needs.

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

For the most part, I see much stronger temperaments in the ring. Part of it may be that breeders are more conscious of not showing iffy temperaments. We all get them from time to time, but I for one will not show iffy ones.

*What do you feel is the difference between a good Miniature Pinscher and a great Miniature Pinscher?*

A great Min Pin is undeniable and commands recognition of greatness from a breed expert as well as fanciers. Besides conformation and movement and temperament excellence, they display an undeniable

presence that makes them stand out. It's not a common occurrence.

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

Read and research anything and everything you find on the Miniature Pinscher. History is extremely important in helping one define their interpretation of correct type per standard. Don't look to redefine the standard but rather to honor and conform to the standard for the breed.

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

No changes to the standard, period. The standard is a blueprint for the breed and we should all be breeding to it instead of looking how to change it. If the standard is not satisfactory to you, then get another breed.

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

I usually concentrate on

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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topline and temperament up to 8 to 10 weeks old. Usually, the ones that fail in one or the other or both do not make it to top of selection.

After that, more concentration on conformation and movement as I catch their moments of brilliance standing or on the go. I make my best choices I feel, after ear crops, which is when they become Min Pins to me!

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

The biggest challenge comes from the animal-rights groups and a culture of wimps and what is viewed as appropriate or not. We all know that most countries have succumbed to the AR groups against ear-cropping and tail-docking. Eventually, only the USA will remain as the sole country to allow both for a time and hopefully forever, but I am not so sure. Long live ear-cropping and tail-docking choices to do or not!

*Thank you very much for this interview.*

—Joanne Wilds,  
[minpinchaz@gmail.com](mailto:minpinchaz@gmail.com)  
Miniature Pinscher Club  
of America

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## Papillons

### THE ENJOYMENT OF RAISING PAPILLON PUPPIES

I have always loved participating in the care and raising of my puppies and have immensely enjoyed watching them develop and grow. Once I retired I was able to devote more time and have seen the difference it has made in the puppies' confidence.

It all starts out with whelping. Having easy access to them at night by my bedside allows me to watch, handle, and give reassuring pets and cuddles while listening to the normal suckling sounds of nursing that signal all is well.

When they are about 3 weeks old, I first introduce them to a litter box. I use one designed for ferrets that is small and fits in a corner. It's amazing to watch how

smart and clean they are, and they instinctively know where to "go." I make their space larger by attaching additional crate-panels, and finally when they have nearly stopped nursing,

I put an ex-pen in my kitchen/family room, where they have a large area to play with toys as well as space for the litter box. Numerous times during the day I check and handle them.

They hear the sounds of the TV, music, vacuum cleaner, and telephone and the rattling of pots and pans. They also become accustomed to visitors, running up to strangers to give kisses and be cuddled.

I start their training young, putting them on the kitchen counter to stand while giving treats. They take their first walk on a lead around my kitchen island. They learn to listen to key words such as "good boy" to give them assurance, and for hand signals to "stop," "stay," and "OK, let's go!"

After a few times, I gave them a test run and put

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP



Papillon

them in crates for a short ride to the church parking lot a block away. I made sure I had their water, treats, and some plastic bags for cleanups. However, in haste, I left the bags in the car. Of course, one of my pups decided to do his business right in the front of the rectory! Luckily, I grabbed a nearby leaf for cleanup.

By the time the pups were 6 months old, they were ready for a long ride to our

PCA national specialty held in Wilmington, Ohio. It was a more than nine-hour drive, making it in nearly 11 hours when including several stops for restroom, food, and gas. Having packed the car well, giving the puppies access to their ex-pen, food, and water made the trip go faster.

In the hotel room I put down a thick tarp on the carpet, placed the ex-pen on top, and inserted their litter

box—which was an extra crate, unscrewed, and very convenient for young ones. Once we arrived, they easily acclimated themselves with their new surroundings. Rugs, marble floors, and even elevators were all taken in stride with tails up—typically characteristic of the breed! They loved meeting new people and other Papillons, and they looked forward each day going to the “show.”—Roseann Fucillo

[Papillon Club of America](#)

## Shih Tzu

### SOCIALIZE THOSE PUPPIES

“Buy from a responsible breeder,” we say. If you are such a breeder, you will spend much time preparing your puppies to go out into the wider world.

From a very young age, puppies should be gently handled. Pick them up, turn them upside down and onto their backs, handle their feet, and stroke them. As they grow, introduce them to varied surfaces, new sounds,

DAVID WOO ©AKC

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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and people large and small. Boxes, tunnels, and ramps encourage games that build confidence. While puppies learn valuable lessons from their dam and littermates, they also need socialization as individuals, away from familiar surroundings.

As you get to know each puppy, you can address their individual problems and properly match them with their new owners in terms of temperament, attitude, and energy level.

Even if a puppy is not a prospective show dog, he should get used to nail-trimming, teeth-cleaning, brushing, baths, and face-washing. Much of this training, interspersed with petting and treats, can be done on the couch or grooming table, where you both will be more comfortable. Imagine how enormous you must look from his perspective down on the floor—to say nothing about how hard on your back it is to bend over to reward him!

Try putting some peanut

butter or other soft treat on a spoon taped to the end of a stick and holding it in front of his nose to entice him to walk on a lead next to you. Sit on the floor and throw toys down the hallway to encourage him to retrieve. What fun for you both!

Remember that people tend to excuse misbehavior in small dogs, especially in cute puppies. As they get older, however, such antics become less charming. New owners don't always realize how easy it is to overwhelm a young puppy, even one as outgoing as a Shih Tzu.

The ASTC's code of ethics says that puppies should not be sold before the age of 12 weeks, except in unusual circumstances. By this age they should be well started on housebreaking and crate-and lead-training, and they should be used to being handled and groomed. They have gone on car rides and walked outside.

Some planned encounters can have the potential to be intimidating, but you take care to not be overprotective

or pushy. Instead, you are calm and nonchalant, so the puppy realizes there is nothing to fear.

Your job as breeder doesn't end when your puppies go to their new homes. Their owners should be instructed in grooming techniques and the need to groom often. How should they deal with common issues like housebreaking and bite inhibition—not to mention the “testing” many Shih Tzu do in efforts to avoid grooming, to be fed table scraps, and to generally train you to do what they want, rather than the other way around?

Tell owners about small-dog puppy classes that use positive-reinforcement training methods and about the wealth of information found on the ASTC website, [www.americanshihtzuclub.org](http://www.americanshihtzuclub.org). Urge owners to call you before small problems become big ones. Remember, more puppies are given up by their owners for behavior problems than any other reason. Of course,

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

you should be willing to take back a dog who doesn't work out—but isn't it better if you've carefully matched puppy to buyer and followed up to make sure that things go well? —Jo Ann White, 2010

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

### Toy Fox Terriers

#### GETTING A TOY FOX TERRIER

Now that you've fallen in love with these wonderful little dogs, it's time to find one. How do you go about finding a Toy Fox Terrier to join your family? There are a few decisions you need to make before you begin your search.

First, do you want a puppy or an adult? Then, male or female? Or perhaps it doesn't matter. Color is normally less of a consideration, unless your heart is set on one of the less common colors: White and tan, white and black, and white and chocolate with tan are more difficult to find than white and black with tan.

Many families with work



*Adding a Toy Fox Terrier to your family will bring love, joy, and years of fun*

and school schedules are choosing to get an adult Toy Fox Terrier. They avoid many of the issues of raising puppies, as adult dogs are

often already housebroken, don't have to go outside as often, and are done teething and less likely to chew up your home.

COURTESY SUSAN THIBODEAUX

# BREED COLUMNS

## TOY GROUP

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If you decide on an adult, then you have a couple of choices. Toy Fox Rescue works to rehome Toy Foxes who find themselves in unfortunate situations such as having been found and unclaimed, death or illness of their owners, or surrendered by owners who find themselves unable to properly care for the dog.

Additionally, you might find a suitable adult from a breeder, as ethical breeders will take back dogs they bred in these situations. Occasionally breeders and show exhibitors also have adults they wish to retire into a pet home or who they kept to show but didn't turn out. These dogs usually already have had some basic training such as house-training, walking on a leash, getting their nails done, and socialization. Breeders occasionally place these adult dogs to keep numbers manageable or to allow the dogs to be the star of their own family instead of being one of many dogs.

Should you decide on a puppy, there might be a wait and travel involved. Toy Fox Terriers aren't produced in the numbers the more popular breeds are, so there is often a wait to get one.

There are several good places to begin your search. It's important to be cautious as you search for your puppy.

The most treacherous place to look is online. Scammers are rampant, and many steal legitimate breeders' photos and set up false pages and websites—and then when they see a person online searching for a puppy, they pounce. The Better Business Bureau estimates that up to 80 percent of sponsored internet ads for puppies are fake.

An excellent place to start your search is the breed's parent club, the American Toy Fox Terrier Club. The [ATFTC.com website](https://atftc.com) has a list of members who wish to be listed as breeders, and it also has excellent information

on the health and genetic testing that the puppies' parents should have prior to being used for breeding. The club also has puppy-referral volunteers who can help point you to current or planned litters. Another place to look is the AKC Marketplace (<https://marketplace.akc.org>).

When you find a person with puppies, check their references, make sure the puppy's parents had the recommended genetic and health clearances, and pick up the puppy in person. If that isn't possible, ask the seller to write the date on a piece of paper and Facetime you with the puppy and the date in the video.

Adding a Toy Fox Terrier to your family will bring love, joy, and years of fun. Whether puppy or adult, male or female, Toy Fox Terriers are devoted little dogs who steal your heart.

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

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

### Bichons Frises

#### ROUTINES AND DOGS: BEDTIMES

There is nothing so upsetting to a dog owner as a pup—or even an older dog—who can't settle into a sleep routine. Because of this, at my house, we start routines as young as possible and use strong reinforcers to solidify the behaviors we want to encourage. Getting a routine in place not only helps you sleep better but also makes traveling easier, when you can use your routine as a way to make your dogs feel more comfortable in new places.

#### **Start them young**

Whether my dogs are going to be sleeping in the bed or sleeping in their crates, good bedtime hygiene starts with making sure every pup is comfortable in a crate. Even if I plan on allowing a dog to sleep on the bed with me, I want that dog to be comfortable in a crate if we have company, if they are on bed rest

for illness or injury, or even during fire season so I can be sure exactly where each dog is if we have to evacuate quickly. There are dozens of reasons you might need to crate your dog at home overnight. So start them right.

If I'm raising a litter of puppies, there are crates in the weaning pen from about week 4 on. I don't expect the pups to sleep individually in crates, and I usually don't even have doors on the crates yet. By about week 6, when the puppies are mostly weaned onto solid or semi-solid food, the doors go on the crates. Puppies eat in the crates, one to a crate. At first, the doors are open. Within the space of about a week, the doors are closed while they are eating. The doors are still open while they are playing and at night.

Between weeks 7 and 8, they begin sleeping singly in crates with the doors closed at night. Daytime naps by this point have been happening in the crates

for about a week—doors open—with puppies choosing to sleep in the crates or in a bed or scattered around the weaning pen.

Music is another component to crate training and rest or bedtime. I play classical music whenever I want them to sleep, heavy on the Mozart but at a low volume, from the time they show signs of being able to hear. If I need to when they are older, I can use a bit of music to help them settle. Even my 13-year-old calms a bit when the classical music comes on.

Another ritual I start early is giving each pup a treat when they go into the crate at night. This might be a chew to keep them occupied until they fall asleep, or, as they get older, a few pieces of training treats to reward them for going directly into their crates.

Sometimes with puppies, especially any puppy who is new to your house, the first few days can be especially rough. A “heartbeat puppy” stuffed animal can be really

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP



*“Whether my dogs are going to be sleeping in the bed or sleeping in crates, good bedtime hygiene starts with making sure every pup is comfortable in a crate.” After a gradual process of each puppy learning to eat in a crate, between weeks 7 and 8 they begin sleeping singly in crates.*

helpful for a new pup. I also raise their crates off the floor so they can see me when I’m on the bed. Finally, I put them right next to the bed, within reach, so I can put my hand into their crate to pet them and soothe them if they begin to fuss. I always plan on the first week to 10 days being a settling-in period. Nap when they nap, sleep when they sleep.

### **As they get older**

My dogs are now 14,

5, and 3 years old, and 5 months. The 14-year-old has lived with me since he was about 13 weeks old. The other two are dogs I bred, so they’ve always lived with me. The baby came to live with us about a month and a half ago. We have a pretty set routine for bedtime, for which they are very enthusiastic.

Here’s what works for us right now:

1. We have a “take the meds” ritual that we’ve done since the oldest dog was a

pup. I get out the canned dog food, squeeze-cheese, or yummy leftovers to put pills in. They sit in front of me and take turns getting a “treat.” I have them watch me put the pills in things, and they rarely care because they want the treat around it. Even the dogs who don’t get meds get to practice with either empty treats or supplements.

2. We do our last run outside. On rainy days we often flip this and the first step, so

COURTESY CHERIE EKHOLM

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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that they have more time to dry off before hopping into bed.

3. We run to the “bedtime treat station” just inside the bathroom door, where I gather the treats. These might be glucosamine/chondroitin chews or training treats.

4. Once I have these treats in hand, we open the bedroom door, and all the dogs run to their treat stations. For the youngest three, these are inside their sleeping crates. Each can open the unlocked doors, so they nose their ways into the crates and wait expectantly for me to deliver the goods.

5. I deliver the treats to the younger dogs and close their crate doors. Meli gets his treats on the floor next to the bed, then he hops up on the bed for his nightly massage.

This routine happens in a similar form whether we are at home, in the motorhome, at a friend’s house, or staying in a hotel. It helps keep me grounded, and it makes the dogs feel at home wherever we might be.

What sort of routine do you have with your dogs? Hopefully if you need help in some aspect of establishing a nightly routine, something here will be of help. If all else fails, try playing a bit of Mozart.

—Cherie Ekholm,  
[wrappedupindogs@outlook.com](mailto:wrappedupindogs@outlook.com)

[Bichon Frise Club of America](#)

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### Boston Terriers

#### PLANNING AHEAD FOR SURVIVORSHIP

This column will discuss true stories of people who thought their dogs would be cared for after they died but were so wrong. This can happen when friends don’t consider your pet as part of their family and feel the dog isn’t their problem. They may not be able to afford caring for another animal but don’t know how to tell you. It is the owner’s responsibility to plan for their pet’s care ahead of time, with good common sense.

Many people don’t want to think about death, and preparing for the future is sometimes hard, but it’s very necessary. One lady lost her Boston Terrier at the age of 14 years but felt she was too old to have another animal. A senior gentleman had made plans with a dog rescue group called Care. He had cancer and no family but loved his beloved dog, who laid on the couch and bed at night. The man passed away, and the organization heard about the lady who had lost her pet. She was afraid that the 12-year-old dog wouldn’t work out but decided to try, since the dog wasn’t eating well and was very depressed and too old for most families.

When the old pet came into the room, it was a magical moment; as their eyes met, you could see the joy each one felt. The senior dog climbed into the recliner and snuggled up with the old woman as if to say, “I’ve found my forever home.”

Planning ahead is very important for their survival.

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP



You may think your spouse loves the dogs as you do, but in many cases it may not be true. One old-time breeder produced over 100 champions. He spent 50 years of his life perfecting and improving the Boston Terrier. After his death, many people called to help the wife continue the wonderful bloodline but heard they had gone to pet homes and said the dogs were “his thing” that made him happy.

This was such a loss for the Boston Terrier’s lineage.

Many great bloodlines have disappeared from our breed when assuming a spouse or friend will care when death arrives. Sometime co-owning a dog doesn’t work either; the person may not have the income to provide for care, already having many animals of their own.

One lady’s friend had been taking care of her senior

dog while she was sick. If something happened it was assumed Gracie would live with him; if not, her nephew who inherited the estate. The dog was the woman’s whole life after the death of her husband. However, none of them wanted Gracie after her death. The hairdresser gave false hope by not letting her know he worked too many hours and felt she should have left him money for care. The nephew was asked, who would take care of Gracie? His answer was, “Not me! I’m flying back home tomorrow.” Cold chills to hear these words from someone left a large inheritance. There was no regard or remorse for the dog’s care. There were no provisions in the will, it was just assumed.

You should want to make sure your dogs have the same wonderful life as when living with you and leave money for their needs. Under the law pets are considered property, so you can’t leave them any money or assets. You can assign

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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money for their care to a caregiver, but they aren't obligated to use the money for the dog. The same could be true if money is left to a veterinarian or friend.

You can however create a pet trust, and you can also assign a secondary caregiver as a backup executor who holds assets for your pets, which enables them to make decisions concerning your wishes, but someone else cares for the animal.

You can have a pet clause in the will, also known as power of attorney for dog care. You could have a pet insurance policy to help with the care.

Naming a person to care for your dog(s) in a will doesn't legally make it enforceable. Having a pet trust can offer additional security, because it is legally enforceable.

You can find forms for a pet trust and other arrangements online. Look for dog organizations where if extra money is left after the dog passes away, the money can go to help other pets.

Just please plan for the welfare of Boston Terriers. As you know, they are very sensitive, and they don't do well in just any home.

—Patricia S. Johnson, BTCA, BTCNC, and DWAA, 115 Poe Rd., Siler City, NC 27344; [patsgrooming@gmail.com](mailto:patsgrooming@gmail.com)

[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

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## Bulldogs

### BULLDOGS AND THEIR IMAGE

The Bulldog has long stood as a symbol of resilience and determination—representing a nation during World War II, serving as the mascot of countless schools and institutions, and frequently cast as the embodiment of toughness in popular culture. The image is one of strength, resolve, and unwavering spirit.

So why, then, is the modern Bulldog so often characterized as anything but that?

The answer is not a simple one. What is clear, however, is that the official

breed standard has never described anything other than a dog of strength, vigor, and stability.

From its earliest history, the Bulldog earned its reputation in the blood sports of the time—most notably bull-baiting, but also in contests involving bears, donkeys, and, in rare instances, even lions. These were not tasks suited to a weak or compromised animal.

Whatever else may be debated, the breed's strength, endurance, and tenacity are beyond question.

With the outlawing of these activities came a turning point, as the Bulldog transitioned from a working animal to a companion. In the early years of organized dog exhibitions, however, some fanciers pursued exaggeration in misguided attempts to define type. Practices such as restricting the growth of puppies, mechanically altering shoulder development, or forcing jaw structure were employed—methods that were neither humane nor

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP



reflective of the breed's true form or purpose.

Against this backdrop, small but dedicated groups of breeders and enthusiasts worked to preserve the integrity of the Bulldog. Early breed clubs were established not only to promote exhibition but also to safeguard the breed from dilution, misrepresentation, and even extinction. Historical records and club minutes clearly document these efforts.

That challenge has not entirely disappeared. Even today, newly developed

mastiff-derived dogs are sometimes marketed as “improved” or “healthier” versions of the Bulldog, often trading on the breed's name while departing from its defining characteristics.

As in the past, extremes tend to capture public attention. Yet the Bulldog's future has always depended on those who value soundness over spectacle. Dedicated breeders continue to prioritize adherence to the standard, supported by modern health initiatives such as the Bulldog Club of America's Health

Ambassador Program, as well as comparable efforts worldwide. These programs increasingly provide objective data demonstrating that the breed, when properly bred and managed, is capable of the health and vitality it was always meant to possess.

The Bulldog does not require reinvention. It requires stewardship.

Through careful, conscientious breeding and a disciplined commitment to the standard, the breed will continue to endure as it always has: strong, stable, and vigorous.

Though the number of deeply committed fanciers may be small, that has always been the case. And, perhaps fittingly, it is their quiet persistence—their distinctly “Bulldog” determination—that ensures the breed's legacy will carry forward.

### **2026 National Specialty**

We are looking forward to the 2026 BCA “National in Wonderland” to be held October 25–31 in East

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

Peoria, Illinois. Show chairs Shirley Slaterpryce and Brook Nugent promise a fantastic time!

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

### Chinese Shar-Pei

#### BEING IN DOGS: A LIFETIME OF LOVE

I am 44 years into this sport and this breed. A lifetime of love in dogs, any dogs!

If you had told me when I started with a rare breed, which is what Chinese Shar-Pei were in 1982, suggested all the places this would take me, my mind would've been blown!

I've been to most areas of our country, and I've been to Canada and Italy and Russia, all by way of this breed of dogs and the sport of showing. I've made friends who are much more like family ... and lost too many to count, both dogs and dog friends, which is the downside of time. But all the joy and love is worth the pain of loss.



Chinese Shar-Pei

I have shown, bred, trained (for show and obedience), and judged my breed. I have written a book, as well as hundreds of articles (for our breed magazine *The Barker*, for other magazines, and now for the GAZETTE). I've served in nearly every role for clubs, be it local all-breed, breed club, or parent club. Just about every avenue in the sport of dogs, except the really new stuff like dock diving!

Recently when I was trying to downsize the homestead, in going through old documents and photos even I was amazed at the life

that I've had as a result of Chinese Shar-Pei and the "dog world."

I hope that everyone can look back on such a rich and diverse experience. I've been truly blessed. And I don't say that because I'm planning on leaving anytime soon! As a matter of fact, I just started with a new puppy. I don't anticipate that I will be doing Westminster with him, or even Orlando ... I'll finish him and have fun with him, but he's one that puts a bow on an amazing lifetime given to me by dogs, and after 15 years of other focus, it's like

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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coming home to be in the ring showing again!

On to more club-related things than my 44 years! The CSPCA Board is trying to get ahead of calendars and economics, and to do this, they have booked a site in Wichita Falls, Texas, for the next two years of nationals. This allows the club to know costs but also to start booking farther ahead of time. The members like our nationals to travel around more, but there needed to be a reining-in of costs. Also, planning farther out allows the club a better likelihood to get the members' first choices in judges. It is exciting to see new venues for our sport being developed by people inside the sport, and that portends greater flexibility for clubs in the future.

I know that AKC has an eye on the future and are trying to plan for the changes we are seeing and those that are likely to come toward us, but it has to be challenging. It feels like there are way more breeds

and way fewer judges than a decade ago! The increase in breeds and sporting events are good problems; the stresses put on clubs, especially smaller breed and all-breed clubs need to be planned for, too. It is something our club got a bit behind on, but the Board is focused now on the future, what we want, and how we get there!

If you are reading this, get involved too! Then, after 40 years, you, too, may find that you went places you never could have imagined because of dogs!

—Karen Kleinhans

DeSilva,

[karenjkleinhans@gmail.com](mailto:karenjkleinhans@gmail.com)  
[Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America](#)

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### Chow Chows

#### THE CHOW CHOW: CAN WE HAVE BOTH HEALTH AND POPULARITY?

Today the Chow Chow is 88<sup>th</sup> in the AKC breed-popularity ranking in the United States, but due to dedicated breeders and

fanciers, our breed is proving that the Chow Chow is continuing to be a breed of choice for many families and fanciers.

Prior to 2000 the Chow Chow was ranked in the top 20 most popular breeds in the country, and with that popularity came increased demand for puppies and breeding stock. Unfortunately, many litters were produced without concern for health, temperament, or the AKC breed standard. The disregard for discrimination in selection of breeding sires and dams allowed our breed to develop high incidences of painful hereditary problems such as hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, and entropion.

These problems often had a dramatic impact on the Chow Chow temperament as the dogs suffered through years of untreated pain. Surgical correction relieved the individual dogs' discomfort but did not correct the gene pool, as some of these Chows were used for high-volume breeding.

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

As the Chow breed became recognized as a high-maintenance breed with potential health and temperament issues, the demand for our breed lessened. Breed popularity began to decline and fell to number 26 in 2002, then number 66 in 2012, number 70 in 2013, and number 76 in 2016.

This decline as well as the incredible efforts of dedicated breeders has significantly helped our breed to regain recognition as a healthy, trustworthy family member, once again capable of performing the functions of a multipurpose breed.

Serious Chow fanciers were thrilled to see this decline, as the profit-driven breeders moved to other breeds and our dedicated Chow fanciers were able to make wonderful progress in the education and promotion of health certification, breeder's selection of sires and dams, breed socialization, and breed-standard education.

It became apparent that



*The Chow Chow breed in the U.S. is seeing great progress.*

we had to put a high priority on educating the potential Chow owner who would be shopping to acquire a puppy. These were the people who needed to realize the benefit of demanding health certification, validation of conformance to the AKC Chow standard via conformation championship titles in the pedigrees, and excellent temperament. Performance events continue to provide socialization and training opportunities and fun for the entire family.

First-time puppy-purchasers are frequently impulsive and have done very limited research, but as they become aware of the

financial and emotional cost of maintaining an unhealthy dog, and the risk of owning a dog that is not trustworthy, they start searching to find reputable, responsible breeders. Available education opportunity is a key element in helping these good people to become dedicated Chow fanciers.

The Chow Chow Club Inc. became very involved in developing educational materials for the public, breeders, and judges. The AKC provided avenues to reach new fanciers, judges, and the general public via their website, the breed flyer program, judges' education, public seminars and events,

COURTESY LOVE BANGHART

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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and the AKC publications. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) provided improved and additional guidelines and tools for measuring progress in health. The AKC Canine Health Foundation has and continues to provide research results to continually improve the health of all breeds.

The noted improvement in breed quality has not been the result of any single person or group but the combined results of determined fanciers of the breed, the sport, and technologists skilled in developing and using new technology. Social media has been extremely valuable in this effort.

Breed improvement is ongoing and far from completed, thus we need new fanciers, new breeders, advanced technology, and new support to continue breed progress. The future holds great promise!

—Love Banghart,  
[Lkendr4300@aol.com](mailto:Lkendr4300@aol.com)  
Chow Chow Club Inc.

## Dalmatians

### REASONS TO BREED

“I only breed for myself” is a phrase I’ve heard frequently over the years. It does sound rather noble: “I’m not in it for the money,” “I’m not filling shelters with surplus dogs,” and most importantly, “I’m not a backyard breeder/puppy miller.” And while I agree with the thought to a certain point, I’d like to expand the perspective on this concept.

We, as responsible breeders, have many duties when planning and breeding a litter. Health testing needs to be done on the prospective parents. Dogs should have titles confirming they adhere to the breed standard and/or are able to perform the duties for which they have been bred. Potential pairings must be evaluated to find the match that will produce a litter that maintains and hopefully improves the quality of the breed. Puppies must be whelped and raised in clean, warm surroundings and provided with the best

physical care. Emotional and mental stimulation is needed so they fulfill their genetic potential. These are all very important things to consider before proceeding.

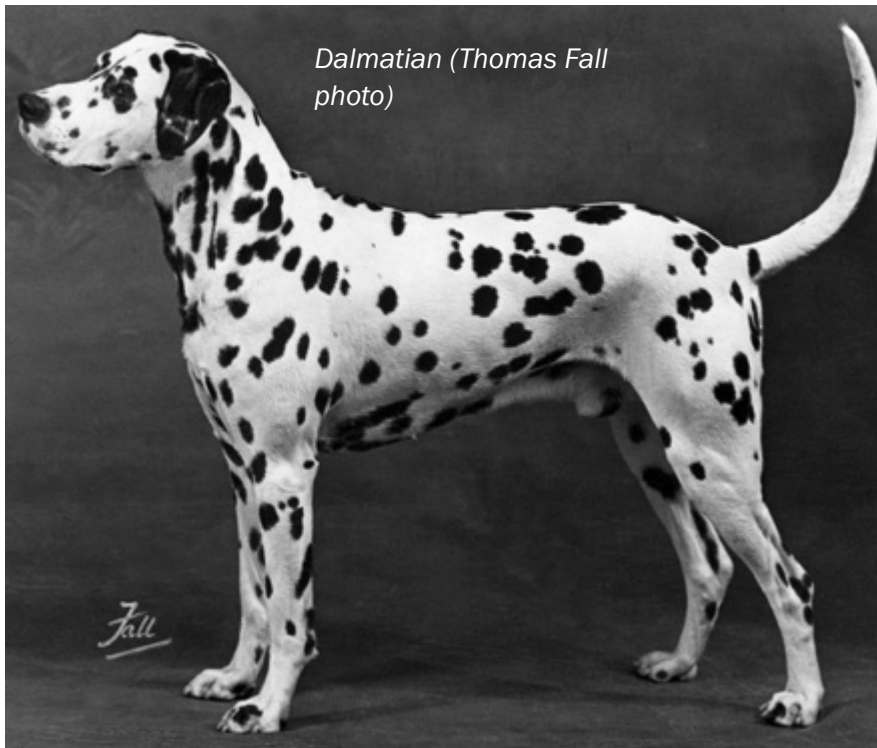
However, I’d like to propose that another reason be considered for breeding a healthy, well-bred litter: People are desperately looking for puppies. This shortage occurs even more so in breeds, like my breed, Dalmatians, that are almost becoming rare breeds. I field many contacts a month from people looking for well-bred puppies. And, unfortunately, I frequently have to tell them they’ll have to wait or travel—or, most likely, both—in order to find that special new family member.

I find myself spinning this into a “treasure hunt” concept to help dampen the disappointment. I’m sure this is true in many other breeds as well.

Good breeders are almost guilted into not breeding desired litters thanks to the animal-rights folk and their

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP



agendas (which has been proven is not necessarily tied to the well-being of the animals as touted). While there are still problems with overcrowded shelters and stray animals, particularly in the rural South, many other shelters are being forced to “import” animals from abroad to meet the demand.

I truly believe one of the noblest reasons to breed a litter is to meet the ongoing demand the public has for our beautiful babies. Yes, there are a lot of folks out

there with whom I wouldn’t place a chia pet. However, there are also so many lovely people—real dog people—who quite simply cannot find a well-bred dog of their breed of choice.

Shouldn’t we do what we can to help these people find their dream dog? I’m not suggesting you breed a litter if that is not something you care to do, in order to simply fill a market niche. What I *am* suggesting is for those who love whelping, raising, and placing puppies (and

possibly making many new friends) to not let public pressure or even peer pressure keep you from doing what you love to do. People are clamoring for our puppies. If you can commit to doing it right, I would suggest you do so and not allow yourself to be portrayed as the “evil breeder.” Let our care and commitment highlight our differences, while proving those naysayers wrong.

And for those of us with a breed found in scarce numbers, may I also suggest that one of our responsibilities to our breed is to work to ensure that it doesn’t go from rare to extinct.

—Jan Warren Linné,  
[janlinne56@yahoo.com](mailto:janlinne56@yahoo.com)  
Dalmatian Club of America

### Lhasa Apsos

Cassandra de la Rosa, the GAZETTE’s recently retired columnist for the American Lhasa Apso Club, contributed the club’s column for more than 30 years,

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

beginning in 1994. She wrote the following in 2008.

### LEARNING FROM HEARTBREAK

Your most important dog is not the one who won the most ribbons, produced the most champions, or sleeps in your bed. It's the one who died of a condition other than old age. This is the dog that furthers your knowledge so you can make better choices in your breeding program or caring for your dogs.

This kind of loss of a young adult or puppy is devastating, but your trauma is compounded by the need to order a necropsy—an examination of the remains—to determine cause of death. When we lose something precious, its legacy can be more than memories.

Nature is not perfect. Many diseases or conditions are the result of spontaneous mutations during prenatal development. Some of these abnormalities may become hereditary when they are



not understood and the corrupted DNA reproduces itself in future generations. Researchers say mutations are responsible for the hereditary kidney problem in our breed. Cleft palate, the failure of the embryonic halves to completely join, is another hereditary condition.

The list includes liver shunt problems, heart abnormalities, hydrocephalus, and much more ... all types of misery we prefer to spare our dogs and ourselves.

There are also congenital

abnormalities—spontaneous mistakes that happen during the developmental process. The mystery of two cells, sperm and egg, joining then dividing to create a fully developed species involves billions of cells that morph into various organs, muscles, and bodily functions. These “worker cells” can be disrupted during their path to perfection by exposure to environmental hazards, pathogens, or simple mistakes that just happen like a hiccup during nature’s

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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delicate balancing act. The results are abnormalities that may kill the unborn, be readily apparent in a newborn, or not be observable for several weeks or months.

We can reduce the incidence of such conditions if we make informed decisions when we breed. We can only make informed decisions if we glean information from our experience.

The post-mortem exam, or necropsy, is the visual examination of the exterior and interior of the deceased dog. We can learn the causes of symptoms by viewing and examining the organs that malfunctioned.

I once had to put down a puppy who had a false anus with no outlet and a rectum (lower bowel) with no end. A fistula (opening) had formed between the rectum and the vaginal wall through which fecal material passed successfully until she was weaned. Because of the fistula, this puppy appeared to live normally for six weeks, then failed precipitously. A necropsy revealed this rare

congenital problem that is seen in small breeds and is not hereditary. Equally important, it assuaged my fear that perhaps I had failed to recognize a preventable problem.

Some problems may require microscopic examination of tissue samples and/or chemical analysis of blood or body fluids. The added cost of these tests needs to be balanced against the potential value of information needed. Occasionally, the expensive answer is that there is no answer.

If a dog dies at home and you want a necropsy, consult your vet immediately. If you can't deliver the remains immediately, ask about proper storage. Freezing destroys some evidence, but refrigeration is always necessary.

If you breed long enough, you will see things you never imagined. Grow your experience by learning from heartbreak. —Cassandra de la Rosa

[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

## Norwegian Lundehunds

### THE UNIQUE OTIC LUNDEHUND

Many dog breeds express their moods by the way in which they position their ears: perked up with curiosity or attentiveness; pinned back in fear, stress, or submission. Then there's the Lundehund, with ears capable of independently pointing, twisting, turning, and tightly folding shut for a variety of reasons.

Known for having six fully functional toes on all four feet, this ancient spitz breed's ears are also an evolutionary marvel. A sum of its anatomical parts adapted to mountainous, windswept terrains, their ears play a crucial role in hunting and survival.

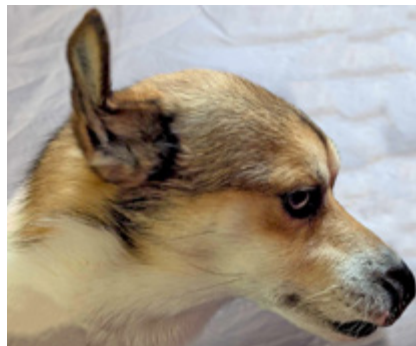
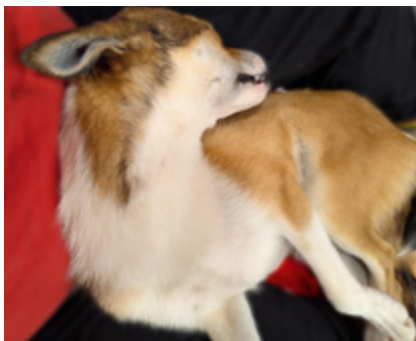
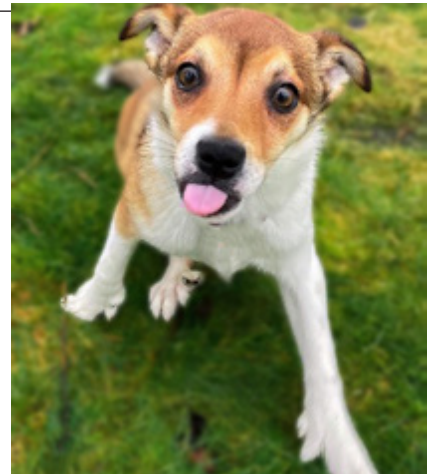
### Get to the point

Short brown hair covers a Lundehund's leathery, pointed ears. Darker brown hair outlines the edges, while sparse white hair grows in the ear-flaps, thinning out in the center.

An alert or playful Lundehund's triangular ears

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP



*The auditory acrobatics of a Norwegian Lundehund's ears are among the breed's many evolutionary marvels. Norwegian Lundehund ears are extraordinarily flexible, move independently, and fold and twist shut.*

perk up high on the sides of the forehead. When relaxed, the ears stretch away from each other to 45-degree

angles. This perpendicular positioning on the head displays the same triangular ear shape—or the twisted

beginnings of the dog's auditory acrobatics.

### **Let's make a seal**

The Norwegian Lundehund is the only dog capable of completely folding their ears shut. This

COURTESY KRISTINA MAZE, DAG ERIK OTERHALS, KATRINE MOUM, KIM DINGMAN-BOND, AND ASA HAGGSTROM

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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otic skill enables the dog to protect the ear canals from crumbling sediment while digging and maneuvering into rocky crevices to hunt puffins. It may have also prevented illnesses and injuries caused by prolonged exposure to persistently harsh winds.

The sea cliffs on the isolated Arctic island of Vaeroy, where Lundehunds evolved and seabirds nest, are steep and ancient. Vaeroy has a mild climate due to surrounding waters warmed by the Gulf Stream. However, its winds can be relentless. Rarely below 11 miles per hour (mph) in summer months, winter winds average 19 to 20 mph, with wind gusts as strong as 38 to 50 mph. Katabatic wind—a natural phenomenon of dense, cold air pulled down by gravity—is common on Vaeroy. Katabatic winds travel approximately 23 mph and the accompanying thick, white clouds dragged down the mountains appear without warning. A tourist attempting to bicycle

into a headwind on the island is one thing; a small Lundehund pitted against katabatic winds while scaling a mountain in search of food is quite another.

### **Volume control**

Lundehunds possess a keen sense of hearing. One of my females will listen with ears independently rotating like periscopes until she pinpoints where prey is—and she is never wrong. For a Lundehund detecting puffins hidden deep inside rocky cliffs, twisting their body into narrow crevices with one ear shutting out debris and the other listening for subtle movements is a masterful hunting skill.

In conformation, a Lundehund's ears are typically erect and point in the direction they are looking. It is not uncommon, though, for an ear to veer at an angle or curl around a sound heard outside the ring. The dogs are sensitive to noise, so rumbling HVAC systems or loudspeaker announcements can cause

ears to pull back and shut. At home, Lundehunds play the primitive breed card of auditory obstinance when they don't want to listen to their humans. Such is life with Lundies.

—Kristina Maze

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

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## Schipperkes

### **DETERMINING SQUARENESS IN THE SCHIPPERKE**

Recently the Schipperke Club of America held its national specialty in Louisville, Kentucky. With 92 class entries and 63 Best of Breed entries, there was a remarkable display of Schipperkes representing each coast and regions in between.

One thing that warrants review is how to determine squareness in a breed with such a distinct and abundant coat.

The standard expresses that the breed is in fact *square* in profile:

*The dog is square in profile*

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

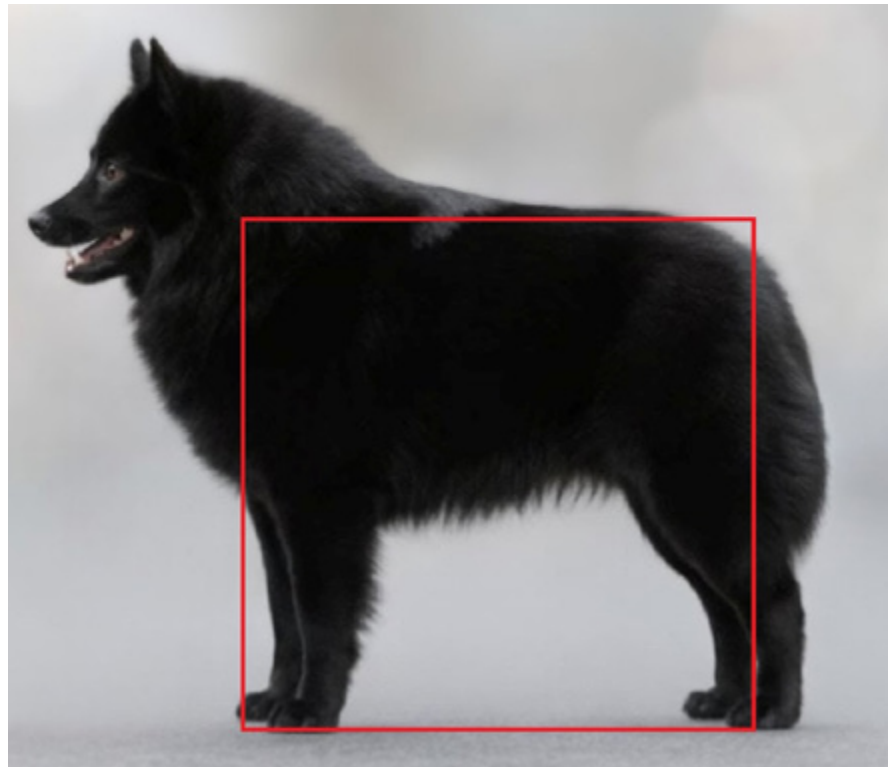
*and possesses a distinctive coat, which includes a stand-out ruff, cape and culottes. All of these create a unique silhouette, appearing to slope from shoulders to croup. Males are decidedly masculine without coarseness. Bitches are decidedly feminine without over refinement.*

*The ruff begins in back of the ears and extends completely around the neck; the cape forms an additional distinct layer extending beyond the ruff; the jabot extends across the chest and down between the front legs.*

*The coat on the rear of the thighs forms culottes, which should be as long as the ruff.*

*Body—The chest is broad and deep, and reaches to the elbows. The well sprung ribs (modified oval) are wide behind the shoulders and taper to the sternum. The forechest extends in front of the shoulders between the front legs. The loin is short, muscular and moderately drawn up.*

*Size—The suggested height at the highest point of the withers is 11-13 inches for*



The AKC breed standard for the Schipperke notes: “The dog is square in profile and possesses a distinctive coat, which includes a stand-out ruff, cape and culottes.”

*males and 10-12 inches for bitches. Quality should always take precedence over size. Proportion—Square in profile. Substance—Thickset.*

Note that the distinct coat lengths of the Schipperke may make it difficult to determine if the dog is square when viewed on the ground or initially on the table, as the coat of the culottes may stick out fur-

ther behind some dogs than others due to grooming. As long as the coat is correct in length and texture, the dog should not be penalized if it is in fact square.

As noted in a previous article highlighting the jabot, which extends from the front of the chest and in between the front legs, is seemingly missing on some dogs. As the Schipperke is a natural breed, trimming

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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other than the whiskers and in between pads of the feet *must not* be done. If a dog lacks proper length of leg that would make the dog appropriately square, there may be trimming of the jabot and underline that is occurring. The coat should appear to have a wispy look at the ends, not a blunt or rounded look. In addition, a properly coated jabot may make the dog appear long as well.

During our judges' education seminars, we share an easy trick to help determine squareness of the Schipperke and hope that you find this helpful in the future.

“While the dog is still on the table, you may find it useful to determine if the dog is square or not. The abundant coat can be deceiving and may make you think that a dog is actually longer than they really are. It is suggested that you take one hand and place it on the forechest while taking the other hand at the hind end where the croup falls, and gently push the

hair into the dog to determine if you are viewing a truly square dog. It is of note that because we are looking for a dog with a proper, thick coat, it is important to determine that the dog exhibits the thickset body as described in the Standard, and not just coat making them appear to be thickset.” (Excerpted from *Judging the Schipperke* by Kristin Morrison and Geri Gerstner-Hart and included in the Schipperke Club of America's JE packet.)

Schipperke exhibitors should welcome the fact that you are taking the breed's coat into account and are trying to determine if their dog is actually square. We look forward to seeing this technique utilized in the ring.

—Kristin Morrison  
[Schipperke Club of America](#)

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### Shiba Inu

Our guest columnist is Jaclynn Lewis of Ren-J Shiba Inu.

### GROOMING THE SHIBA INU

With technology at its all-time high, I still can't believe some topics are not more known or discussed—one topic being grooming. As a groomer myself, people are shocked when they ask me what I do to keep my dog's coat in such good condition. The simple answer: frequent baths with high-quality products and quality dog food.

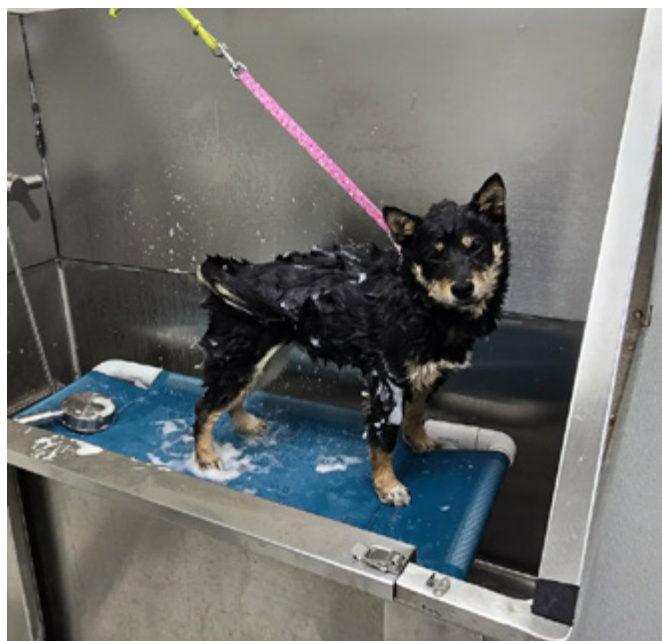
When I am actively showing my dogs, they get a bath weekly. Yes, you read that correctly: weekly! My Shiba Inus are bathed and nails trimmed weekly to maintain them.

Many people have been misinformed when it comes to how frequently dogs should be bathed, especially double-coated breeds much like the Shiba Inu. It's a big misconception that dogs are to be bathed only once or twice a year, to keep the oils in their coats. It's an old wives' tale that is far from the truth.

Consistent baths allow you to remove the loose hair;

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP



*Frequent baths with high-quality products help to keep a Shiba Inu's coat in top condition.*

any dirt or debris is taken off and not brought in the house. Sounds easy enough, right? There are key points I

want to go over to make the bath process a lot easier.

- If you are going to bathe a Shiba, their coat must be

completely dried afterward. Leaving double-coated dogs damp or wet to “air dry” is a recipe for disaster. Moisture

COURTESY JACLYNN LEWIS

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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gets trapped in their coat and may cause hot spots and or skin irritation.

To dry their coat I use a force-dryer on them. When my Shiba puppies are young, I use a fluff-dryer or just a basic human hair-dryer on a warm setting until they get used to the noise. My puppies start getting baths at 8 weeks old.

- Bathing your Shiba in quality products will make a huge difference. Many brands that are available from pet stores are a no-go for me. A high-quality and trusted product that I have used for years is #1 All Systems Crisp Coat. Shiba Inu coat is not supposed to be soft feeling. They should have tough guard hairs that give texture to the coat. When you use shampoos that are not made for breeds that have tough coats, it softens their coat.

It is important for the Shiba to have the proper coat to withstand the outdoor elements. I often will use one shampoo for maintenance baths, and a

different shampoo for preparing the Shiba for the conformation ring. I never have just one shampoo that is my go-to, as it really depends on the dog's coat. If a Shiba is out of coat I use a volumizing shampoo. Plush Puppy is my go-to; I also like the brands Hydra and iGroom for good volumizing shampoos.

I never use conditioner on their coats; I only use shampoo. I also want to add that I don't use de-shed products on my Shibas that are being shown. De-shed shampoos and conditioners are formulated to release the hair, which keeps the dog shedding all the time.

- You should never take a pair of scissors or clippers to the Shiba Inu's coat. The only reason you may need clippers is for the bottom of their feet. Clipping hair out of the pads of the feet will reduce the amount of dirt and debris being brought into your home. It also helps the dog have better traction.

- Never use a Furminator on your double-coated

Shiba Inu. I only use a fine-tooth comb and a slicker brush on my dogs.

I do understand that bathing weekly might be a little obsessive, especially for the typical pet parent. If your dog is not a show dog, that's OK. I recommend at least once a month for a bath, with nails filed too, to maintain a healthy coat. —J.L.

Thank you, Jaclynn, for writing this article.

—Letty Hughes,  
[lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com](mailto:lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com)  
National Shiba Club of America

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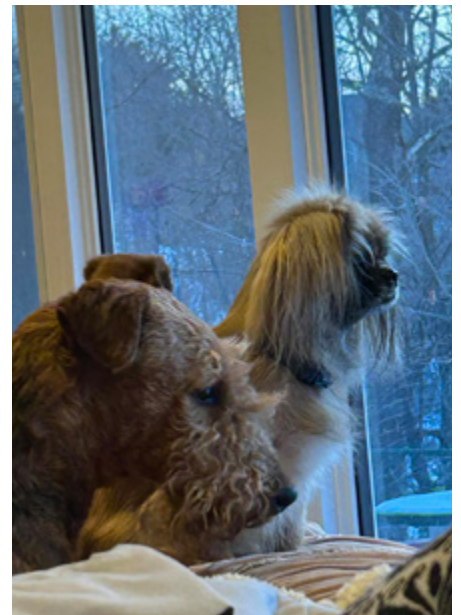
## Tibetan Spaniels

### TAKING THE LEAP OF FAITH

A phrase we hear often these days is “helicopter parents.” *UrbanDictionary.com* defines them as parents who “tend to hover over their [child's] every movement and decision. Often times they take control and do tasks on their behalf.” The definition goes on to say that “helicopter parents do not ease up with age; in fact as the child

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP



*Tibetan Spaniels doing Tibetan Spaniel things*

grows up, the tighter their grasp becomes.”

Today we have our share of helicopter breeders, too; just replace the word “child” with novice or prospective show dog owner. Just as helicopter parents obsess over the quality of friends their child will make, the quality of teachers who will

be privileged to instruct their brilliant offspring, and the national academic standing of the schools they attend, so helicopter breeders micromanage the day-to-day activity of their new puppy buyers. In fact, helicopter breeders will proudly tell you that far more would-be owners are

turned away than accepted.

Is it any wonder that many novices, in their frustration, end up buying a dog from a breeder who is less than stellar but who will actually relinquish the dog without requiring a crippling contract that reads like a pyramid scheme, demanding half a

COURTESY OWNERS / TSCA

# BREED COLUMNS

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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litter back from the next two, three, or even four breedings?

Other buyers look overseas to breeders who maintain a high profile on social media and are prepared to send a dog here without the life-long stranglehold that many American breeders impose.

Facebook show dog groups abound with first-person accounts of serious novices who have been refused a dog simply because they've never owned the breed before. Classic Catch-22. How will they ever become owners if good breeders deny them the opportunity? These novices are often smart, university-educated professionals with well-paying jobs and fenced backyards. They are willing to take handling classes to show their own dog, or else they can afford to hire a professional handler. If they were resourceful enough to reach out to a top breeder (like you!), why wouldn't they be considered intelligent enough to learn how to groom and care for

the breed they love?

Helicopter breeders will mistakenly call themselves responsible mentors. But a true mentor, after assessing a novice and considering her worthy, takes the leap of faith and sells her a dog, trusting her to put into practice all she has learned at the mentor's knee. Mistakes will inevitably be made, but with the experienced breeder's guidance, they will probably be small, fixable ones.

While friendships can last a lifetime, active mentoring is a finite process. Successful mentors eventually push fledglings out of the nest and sign off on dogs when protégés have lived up to their commitments. They act on behalf of the breed and want to see new fanciers blossom and thrive, eventually mentoring their own new generation of protégés.

The large foundation kennels that gave many of the old-timers our start in dogs are a thing of the past. Most active breeder-exhibitors today keep a handful of dogs and might

produce two or three litters a year, if that. It might be argued that, having bred more litters, the large kennels of yesteryear could afford to be more generous to novices, and less controlling. Maybe. I think the old benched shows were a more positive vehicle for fostering face-to-face friendships and a generosity of spirit. It's easier to blow off faceless email requests.

However many or few litters each of us breeds today, part and parcel of the process is finding great homes for all our Tibetan Spaniel puppies, teaching grooming and breed care to every owner, and encouraging any novice who expresses an interest in showing. We would have far fewer mentors and experienced fanciers around if generous breeders back in the day had not taken that all-important leap of faith to welcome us into the sport.

—Allan Reznik,

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

[Tibetan Spaniel Club of America](#)

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

### Bearded Collies

#### PAW AND ORDER

YouTube appears to take particular delight in attacking a certain subject in as many ways as possible. In this case, the subject is dogs, and viewers are treated to categories such as “15 Dog Breeds for Seniors,” “20 Best Breeds for Families,” “25 Kindest Breeds” (do they help little old ladies across the street, or hand out Milk Bones to homeless canines?), “12 Giant Breeds,” “30 Non-Shedding Breeds,” “Most Powerful Breeds,” “39 breeds ranked by IQ” (it might help to rank owners too), “20 Best Protection Breeds,” or “15 Top Guardian Breeds.” And so on.

If you’re well acquainted with Beardies, you’re probably looking at the last two mentioned categories and thinking, “No way am I going to see Beardies mentioned here.” And you’re probably right.

It brings to my mind a time, several decades ago, when my husband suddenly



*Bearded Collies*

announced, “I think we should get a guard dog!”

I reminded him we had about a dozen Beardies in residence, and it was highly unlikely someone would break into our home unannounced.

“Right,” he agreed, “but if a burglar managed to get into our domicile, the best we could do is hope he gets kissed to death.”

I had to agree. And so began our search for a guardian breed.

Eventually, on the advice of a breeder friend, we went to look at a litter of

Briards, a breed highly recommended as natural guardians. But we didn’t return home with a puppy. Instead, we brought back the litter brother of the pups’ dam. (Don’t ask!)

Carlo was a humongous, battle-scarred black male with a look that would have frightened Chuck Norris. After joining the family, he was riding shotgun one day in my van when I went shopping. As I exited the van, Carlo jumped onto the driver’s seat, hunched his shoulders, and scowled out the windshield at passers-by.

DAVID WOO ©AKC

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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I noticed a man staring at him as I turned to lock the door.

“Ma’am,” he drawled, “You don’t have to lock that door. I can’t imagine anyone being darn fool enough to try to get in that van with him there.”

But despite Carlo’s ominous appearance, my husband maintained that wasn’t enough. Step Two in my husband’s plans for Carlo involved placing him with a highly respected protection-work trainer. Andy had trained Bouviers and Dobes, but this was his first time with a Briard, and he was looking forward to the challenge. We left Carlo in his capable hands and crossed our fingers.

Months went by, and finally Andy notified us we could pick Carlo up from his kennel and get a demonstration of what he had learned. So we piled into the van, my husband, our 5-year-old son, Kelly, and our oldest Beardie, Hermione, the grande dam of our household.

First, Andy put Carlo through the basics—sit, stand, down, stay, come, and so on.

Then came the finale. A frightening-looking individual in a padded suit burst out of a shack, wielding a club in a threatening manner and advancing on our group.

A black blur of fur leaped into action, streaking towards the attacker and hitting him with such force that he fell backward and curled up protectively. With the danger averted, the irate canine gave one last shake of the man’s arm and then trotted back to our group.

Carlo? No, it was Hermione. No one threatened my son while she was around. A confused Carlo was still sitting beside Andy, waiting for the command to attack.

Stunned silence surrounded our group. Then Andy and Grant, my husband, stared at each other and in unison exclaimed, “We trained the wrong dog!”

So, you’re not likely to

find Beardies listed in one of YouTube’s categories for protection or guardian breeds. But that’s not to say they won’t step up when the occasion demands. Maybe they just like to work undercover.

—Alice Bixler,  
[alice@bedlamkennels.com](mailto:alice@bedlamkennels.com)  
Bearded Collie Club of America

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## Belgian Malinois

### COMMUNITY MATTERS: BEING INVOLVED TO HELP PRESERVE THE BREED

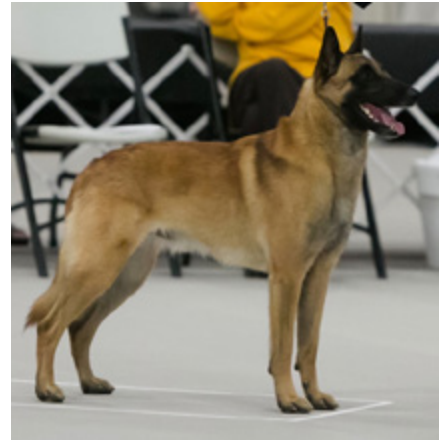
It occurs to me that in my 43 years owning Belgians, 27 years devoted to Malinois, and 16 years as AKC GAZETTE columnist, I have never examined my own motivations for being involved in dog sports. Perhaps now is a good time, as I raise what might be my last Malinois puppy.

It’s simple, really: I want to help my breeders see what they have made.

Originally, dogs pretty much bred themselves. But during thousands of years

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



Two fine examples of the Belgian Malinois breed, owned by members of the breed's "village." Photos 1–2: BISS GCh./UKC Ch. Esprit's Deja Vu at Endeavor, HSAsM, HSAd, HSDs, TT—Encore, as a puppy and adult, owned by Allison Bath; 3–4: BOSS GCh. DC Turicks Wakiya, UD, TDX, HSAds, HXAds, BCAT, TT, DS, CGC, ROM I, HOF—Key, as an adult and as a pup, owned by Monique Buzzarté

of dog-human cooperation, humans gradually took control over their dogs' sex lives to lock in desirable physical and functional traits. The resulting breed prototypes could perform their specialized jobs with minimal and generally inexpert training, and healthwise, natural selection did the rest.

In the late 19th century, thousands of years into the partnership, humans got

the idea to start assessing dogs using a sort of "beauty contest," on the theory that form follows function. Winning at these shows meant gradually shifting breeding goals and selection pressure from the strictly functional toward the aesthetic.

The new sport of showing dogs was dominated by the wealthy—the kind of people who could afford to do

what Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge did, spending \$55,000 a year on dog food for her 150-dog kennel in the late 1930s (see <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/the-legacy-of-geraldine-rockefeller-dodge/>). The wealthy could afford to breed, develop, and exhibit their dogs on a large scale. They had the luxury of experimentation, and the cultural freedom to quietly

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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eliminate failures.

Things are different now. The need for dogs to perform their original functions has faded. The wealthy are even wealthier but often more interested in Mars than in Malinois. Although dog showing and breeding slowly percolated into the middle class from the 1950s on, recent economic and cultural pressures have nearly broken the ability of the average individual to maintain large enough in-house breeding populations to mold a breed to their vision. Today's breeders—especially breeders of Belgians, which are sensitive dogs not adapted to mass kennel life—can often keep only a breeding bitch or three, and maybe a stud dog.

How, then, can a small-holding breeder still have an impact on the breed? By building communities. They must expand their reach by cultivating relationships built on trust, allowing clear-eyed selection for the goals that matter most to the future of the breed.

Not all puppies need

to go to these “it takes a village” situations. Some don't belong in a breeding program and can be sold simply for companionship. However, the core dogs—those with breeding potential or the ability to corroborate the value of their siblings—need to go to owners willing to help breeders advance their goals by demonstrating the dogs' health, livable temperament, and performance capabilities.

The owners of these key dogs have an important responsibility. They must help the breeder honestly evaluate what they have produced. That means doing the health checks, training and exhibiting the dog in relevant performance events, and not suddenly checking out due to “lifestyle changes.” When a potential breeding-quality or closely related dog is never properly tested, the breeder is blinded. That is not fair to the breeder.

Breeders, for their part, must be open to all feedback. While not all owner

reports will be perfectly correct—some owners are better trainers and behavior-interpreters than others—at least the breeder gets information. It's not personal. It's just data. The smart breeder accepts it, interprets it, and folds it into future decisions.

In today's world, a breeder cannot manage without teamwork. I train and compete with my dogs because I want to be part of that team—to help breeders prove what their dogs can and cannot do, and to provide honest observations on temperament, quirks, and trainability that may help guide their choices. Sounds a little starry-eyed, but it's true.

My advice to owners is to be honest with your breeder. My advice to breeders is to let nothing go to waste. Use every scrap of data.

Community matters. This is how we send the Malinois into the future at least as good as it was when it was placed into our hands for safekeeping.

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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

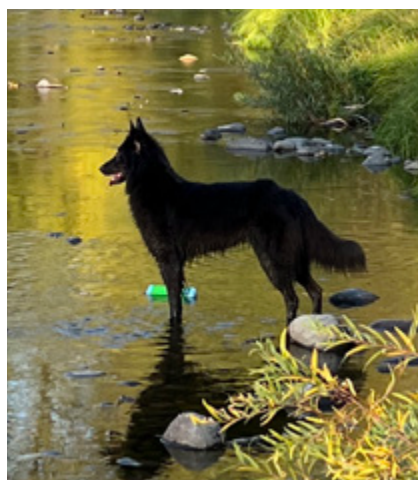
### Belgian Sheepdogs

#### SUMMER TRAVEL

It's once again that time of year when, if you're like me, your mind is deep in a state of wanderlust. Whether your plans include traveling for dog shows or sport events, or a fun-filled family vacation, when traveling with dogs there is always a little additional planning necessary to ensure a smooth trip.

Making travel with dogs as easy as possible requires several factors to keep in mind: where you're headed, what the weather is planning to be like, what you and your dogs plan to do, and of course, each individual dog's needs.

Summer holds a host of special challenges due to the heat, in terms of air temperature as well as ground temperature. Some breeds are better suited to handle



*Careful planning for travel with your dogs helps to make for a far less stressful trip, and more time for having fun.*

hot weather, just as some are not. One the whole, Belgian Sheepdogs tend to not suffer too badly, but they still need to be monitored for signs of heat stress or exhaustion because of their general “all in” type of personality.

With this in mind, packing for ways to relieve you and your dog from the heat while traveling is imperative. Thankfully, there are many various types of equipment to help with this, such as RV/vehicle temperature-monitoring systems, aluminet shade tarps, rechargeable battery-powered crate fans, and plenty

of fresh, cool water. These items, in addition to dog booties and aluminet “cooling coats,” are items that go into my vehicle in the spring and don't get packed away until well into fall.

Some people like to use the type of cooling coats that are soaked in cold water for their dogs; my preference is the style that are made of tight aluminet fabric to reflect the sun. The ones that require cold water to work seem to warm up too quickly, and you always need a supply of cold water for them to be effective.

Of course, food, treats, and

COURTESY SHELLY BROSNAN

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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medications that may be needed are essential. I also always have a first aid kit handy; mine is a combination human/dog kit kept in a small plastic tote box. There are loads of lists online to help you create your own first-aid kit, which you can tailor to your needs, or pre-made kits to purchase.

Another handy thing to have is the phone number for a vet clinic/emergency clinic nearest your destination. In fact, all dog show events are required to list this information in their premium lists for just such situations.

I personally make a checklist a few weeks ahead of time. It inevitably gets added to or subtracted from, but I do start with one. I am also a terrible overpacker, so forcing myself to stick with the checklist also helps me to not appear like a scene out of the old TV show *The Beverly Hillbillies!* It also helps me stay organized, so that I can quickly find something I may need in a hurry.

In fact, as I am writing this column, I am also in the process of packing for a 1,600-plus-mile round trip to just outside of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This comes with the added responsibility of making sure I am in possession of all necessary documentation I may need for myself as well as the dogs I'm taking with me. Passport, CDC forms, and updated rabies certificates, as well as having any maps or address details of your destination are all things to keep handy in the front seat as you go through the border crossing. This includes anything needed for crossing back into the U.S. as well, and any food/drink regulations that may apply.

Careful planning helps to make for a far less stressful trip, which lends itself to more time for having fun.

Happy traveling, and have a great trip with your dogs!

—Shelly Brosnan,

[3busydogs@gmail.com](mailto:3busydogs@gmail.com)

[Belgian Sheepdog Club of America](#)

## **Bouviers des Flandres**

### **CISCOLDO, THE EARLIEST PROMOTER OF THE BOUVIER**

The vision for a more nutritious dog food came after plates of table scraps and day-old bread had been cleared away. Dog food needed a special promoter—perhaps an unusual large, herding breed, who would entice country gentlemen to buy it. The chosen dog, a strapping black Bouvier des Flandres, would be just the one to attract dogs of all sizes to try this canine supper. His owner had just made his way across the ocean.

In the meantime, the first new dog food had been called Ken-L-Ration. The dog on the bright blue label had the face of a spaniel of sorts. The image for the new factory creation showed silver dog bowls filled to the brim. It was a diet offering the first canned meat for dogs. Yet their logo was not quite enough for sales to skyrocket. And during the war, metal cans were to be rationed.

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



*Ciscoldo, the first Bouvier des Flandres to promote the breed in America, gave cart rides to boys and girls, and even a ride-along Poodle, as a goodwill ambassador for Calo Dog Food.*

The idea for Calo dog food was ignited by a Dutch immigrant. Evert van de Pol had moved to San Francisco, introducing Californians to a dog, a Bouvier des Flandres, who came along from his native land. He would be the only breeder of Bouviers on the West Coast from 1947 to 1960. His young dog, Ciscoldo, better known as Ch. Calo Sr., was a huge, shaggy dog who, when sold to Don McNeilly, would tout the simple product name, Calo, on the harness he wore pulling a pretty

wooden cart in the early 1950s. The reason for owners to buy the food was because the prolific and friendly black Bouvier was having a dish for supper. He was advertising the good food every time he moved through Marin County.

Children loved the dog, and he loved them back. Boys and girls hopped in his cart to ride along everywhere he went around town—to dog shows, public events, and grocery stores.

The dog was pictured on postcards circulated by the Borden company—which

was famous for another animal star, Elsie the Cow.

The card was the only place the face of Ciscoldo appeared on paper. He wasn't pictured on dog food can labels, nor giveaway matchbooks. His sensational presence seemed to be enough.

Whelped in 1947, out of Evert van de Pol's companion bitch, Silta, he was sired by Dutch Ch. Basco Aleida v.d. Zaanhoeve. Only 18 Bouviers were registered with the American Kennel Club between 1947 and 1949.

Van de Pol was one of the first breeders of Bouviers in America. He had spent four years of World War II as a baker on Merchant Marine ships that took supplies to England. There were very few Bouviers left in Europe at the time, as most of them had died doing tasks during the war.

Bringing his dogs with him, Van de Pol came to the U.S. and first went to work as the kennel manager for Edmee Bowles at her

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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Belco Farm in Pennsylvania. Several of her Bouvier bitches were bred to his dogs. A few months later, Van de Pol moved west and went to work for United Airlines, helping establish their flight kitchens. His new kennel name would become “Van de Mainliner” as he imported more dogs from Holland.

Marion Hubbard and her husband, Ray, became breeders of champion dogs for more than 50 years. They were quite infatuated with the Bouvier after they first spotted the well-behaved Ciscoldo at a dog show. “Calo sat there on the top of a dog food display, looking very regal,” Marion remembered, “not barking or offering to find himself in any mischief. After meeting him, we decided we needed a Bouvier.”

They purchased their first Bouvier, Cerbere, from Van de Pol in 1954. Interest in the Bouvier was slow to follow, but Van de Pol tried to start the Bouvier des Flandres Club of America. Ten more years would go by

before he succeeded.

Ciscoldo and his decorated cart introduced the dog world to the Bouvier in more ways than breed fanciers realized.

—Debbie Goldstein

[American Bouvier des Flandres Club](#)

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### Briards

Our guest columnist for this issue is Denise Simenauer. Denise has owned and loved Briards since 1974. She has served as Chair of the Briard Club of America Breed Education Committee and as a mentor and tutor to many aspiring Briard judges. She is an AKC and UKC judge and has finished as a breeder-owner-handler over 50 AKC Briard champions. She has bred and owned BISS winners, Best of Breed winner at Westminster Kennel Club, and Best of Breed at the World Dog Show. Denise’s favorite phrase describing the Briard is “a heart wrapped in fur.”

### IS A GENERIC BRIARD BECOMING THE NORM?

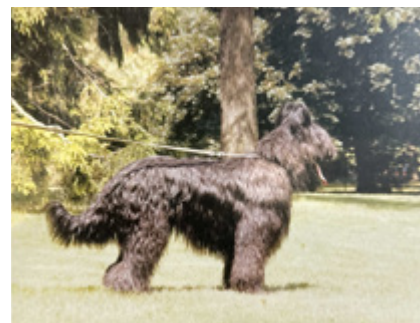
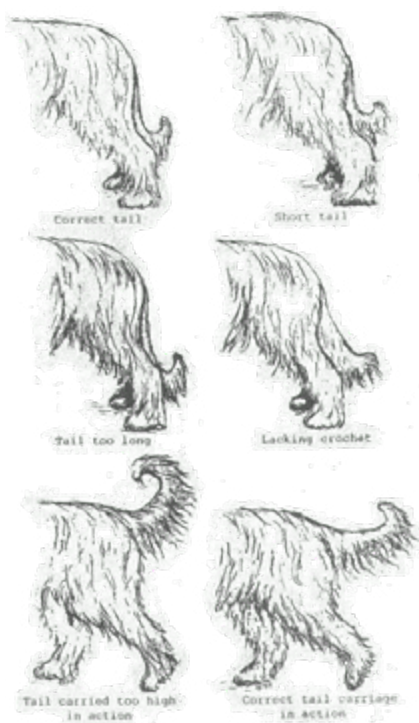
As a judge and student of canine structure for over 50 years, there is not a day that goes by that I don’t look at a dog, any dog, and evaluate the structure and movement, most times subconsciously. Whether out walking or riding in a car, I see a dog and my mind just does it without thinking.

Most of the time, the dogs I see when I am out and about are mixed-breeds and some recognized breeds. Usually, they have some glaring faults. But to my surprise, on occasion I have been taken aback by the beautiful structure, movement, and presence of a few of these dogs. Sometimes I’d think to myself, “Wow, if this dog were allowed in a dog show, it would do really well!”

So, what is my point? No, I am not advocating a dog show for mixed-breed dogs! I am recommending that judges, breeders, and/or breed enthusiasts reward dogs for their adherence to

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



*The Briard standard calls for the tail to form a crook at the extremity—the “J” tail is a hallmark of the breed; double dewclaws on the back feet are required. (Photos from the Briard Club of America BEC archives)*

the breed’s hallmarks, as well as for beautiful structure and movement. Aren’t the hallmarks what make the breed obvious and are really the reason each breed has a breed standard?

Let us examine three hallmarks of the Briard, truly distinguishing characteristics that need to be rewarded.

If you were to look at a dog in the distance, perhaps with

sun in your eyes, and only be able to see a silhouette of a dog gliding along with flowing coat and with a tail not carried above the topline and ending with a “J,” you would know it is a Briard! The “J” tail is certainly one of the most beautiful hallmarks of our breed.

The Briard standard calls for a tail to form a crook at the extremity. The

standard goes on to say that in repose, the bone of the tail descends to the point of the hock, terminating in the crook, similar in shape to the printed letter “J.” Very importantly, the tail should never be carried above the topline, as it completely distorts the characteristic outline of the Briard.

The movement of the Briard is another beautiful

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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hallmark. Our standard describes the gait as quicksilver, giving the impression that the dog glides along without touching the ground. The standard does not describe the Briard as having extreme reach and drive. Rather, the emphasis is on gait that is supple and light, almost like that of a large feline.

The required double dewclaws on the back feet are not dangling extensions with nails. They are very important additional toes, as they help the Briard navigate uneven terrain, snow, mud and assist with the abrupt turns, springing starts, and sudden stops required of the shepherd dog. Forming additional functioning toes, they give a wide base to the foot. They have true bone, forming additional functioning digits.

Most good dewclaws also have complete pads under them and appear as a fifth and sixth toe. A cursory touch to the back leg to determine if there are two additional appendages on

the back leg is *not* sufficient to check for the disqualification and adherence to the standard. The dewclaws must be carefully examined by hand to determine if they are low set, making a wide base to the foot and have bone, not cartilage. There must be two additional digits. Briards with the ideal low-set, double dewclaws that form additional functioning toes need to be rewarded.

So, do we continue to breed for and reward in shows the generic Briard, or should the hallmarks of the breed be valued? There are a lot of pretty Briards, but the mark of a great judge and the mark of a great breeder is one that can sort through the generic qualities and find and reward the dog displaying not only the structure called for in the standard, but the dog displaying the true hallmarks of the breed.

—Denise Simenauer,  
Cape Coral, Florida  
[Briard Club of America](#)

## Collies

Thank you to Joan Johnson of Blu Ridge Collies for contributing this month's column.

### **2026 MEET THE BREEDS: CELEBRATING THE COLLIE AS THE ULTIMATE FAMILY DOG**

The Collie Club of America (CCA) made a spectacular showing at the AKC Meet the Breeds event on February 7–8 at New York City's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. Despite challenging winter conditions, the CCA's Meet the Breeds Committee delivered an unforgettable, welcoming booth that drew crowds and sparked widespread love for the Rough and Smooth Collie.

This year's event welcomed tens of thousands of visitors over the two days (with Saturday alone seeing over 22,000 attendees), turning the Javits Center into a lively celebration of more than 100 breeds. Amid the chaos of a busy New York City convention, the Collie booth stood out as a

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

beacon of warmth, education, and breed pride.

Educating the public about Collies as a family dog is at the heart of the CCA's participation in the Meet the Breeds event. Known for their intelligence, loyalty, gentle temperaments, and deep devotion, Collies form strong bonds with their families—especially children. They're famously affectionate, playful, sensitive, and protective, thriving on companionship while adapting well to suburban homes or larger spaces. Their intuitive awareness, trainability, and patient nature make them ideal companions for all ages.

As the official AKC parent club for the Collie, the CCA attends events like Meet the Breeds to fulfill its core responsibility: promoting the breed and preserving its heritage. We hope that the booth will help prospective owners discover if a Collie is the right fit for their household.

The CCA Meet the Breeds committee crafted a



*Collie Rothsay Lass, Sunnybank Kennels (Marguerite Kirmse, 1920)*

lovely, cohesive presentation aligned with the refreshed club website ([thecollieclub.org](http://thecollieclub.org)). Amidst a slew of thoughtfully curated signage, booklets, stickers, and other marketing materials, business cards and collector's cards with QR codes

offered a simple, streamlined way for prospective owners to get access to information about Collies.

This digital tie-in guides attendees to reliable resources on the CCA website and social media accounts, from detailed

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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breed profiles and health information to articles on responsible ownership and the Collie's role as a family companion. In the digital age, making information easily accessible is crucial to promoting our breed, and ensures that visitors to the meet the breeds booth can easily access all the CCA's wonderful resources—even after the event has concluded.

Special recognition goes to Jackie Caruso (District 2 Director and longtime breeder-exhibitor from Devinwood Collies) and Joan Johnson (a respected breeder, mentor, and webmaster contributor). Their creative vision and deep breed knowledge brought every banner, booklet, sticker, and card to life, making the booth both informative and inviting while centering the Collie's family-friendly charm.

Chair Kate Long truly shone as the driving force behind the success. She personally stuffed over 1,000 goodie bags packed

with educational handouts, stickers, and swag, and even drove from Florida to New York to staff the booth. Her patience in answering endless questions about rough vs. smooth coats, herding instincts, grooming, and classic "Lassie" stories ensured that each visitor to the booth took away a piece of valuable information about Collies.

We also thank volunteers Marni Sharoff, Lotta Hedman, Jared Wadley, and Doreen Ingrassia for their combined expertise and dedication to the success of the event. The participating Collies themselves also served as wonderful breed ambassadors the entire weekend, remaining poised amid nonstop pets, photo ops, and admirers.

The Collie booth wasn't just a display—it was a heartfelt celebration that left lasting impressions. Families discovered (or rediscovered) the Collie's gentle temperament, adaptability, and devoted personality, sparking conversations about responsible ownership and

the joy of welcoming one into their home.

Ready to get involved for 2027? Contact Kate Long at [tamiamicollies@gmail.com](mailto:tamiamicollies@gmail.com) to volunteer, join the committee, or share ideas. Let's keep the momentum going—Collies deserve the spotlight! —J.J.

Thank you, Joan!

—Jae Thomas, Boulder, Colorado; [jae@canineathletics.co](mailto:jae@canineathletics.co)

[Collie Club of America](#)

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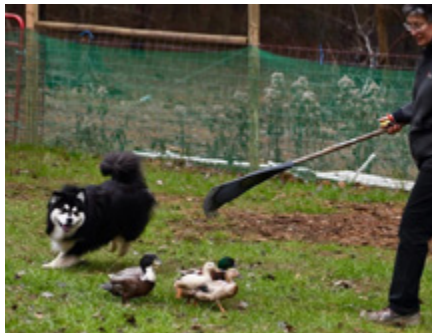
## Finnish Lapphunds

### LAPPHUND HERDING CLINIC

Finnish Lapphunds are not commonly used for livestock work on farms in the States, nor are they regularly seen in herding trials outside of their original territory in Fennoscandia, the large peninsula that includes Norway, Sweden, Finland and parts of Russia. The reindeer herding traits baked into the breed are not particularly suited for cattle, sheep, and fowl, thus limiting their success in herding trials.

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



<b>Manner</b> all fetching	<b>Approach</b> mixed but mostly runs close	<b>Eye</b> all loose	<b>Wearing</b> mostly a little wearing and some shows no wearing
<b>Bark</b> mixed but mostly force barks	<b>Temperament</b> split between readily adjusts and a little distraction	<b>Interest</b> mixed but mostly sustained interest	<b>Power</b> all sufficient for stock
<b>Responsiveness</b> mostly responsive to guidance with some somewhat responsive	<b>Grouping of Stock</b> all keeps stock grouped	<b>Balance</b> mixed but mostly some adjustment	

The first-ever Lapphund herding clinic in the U.S. was held in North Carolina last December. Some of the participants: Rokka, who served as the demo dog, with sheep; Rokka and ducks; Levon and sheep; Mika and ducks; Scarlett and ducks; Risto and sheep.

So how is the Finnish Lapphund's herding style

described? Lappies use their loud bark to be taken

seriously by ornery, semidomesticated reindeer. They

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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use their strong, athletic bodies and high startle reflex to bounce away from dangerous antlers and hooves. They are good at [keeping the back of the herd together](#), with the herd following a lead person and reindeer.

In December 2025, the first-ever Lapphund herding clinic in the U.S. was held in Pittsboro, North Carolina, organized by Constantine LaPasha and hosted by Claire Apple of Not Quite Right Farm. Claire specializes in training loose-eyed and nontraditional breeds. Claire has titled and trained Finnish Lapphunds in herding, so the attendees were in good hands.

Constantine and Robin LaPasha have many herding titles on their boy Rokka, who served as the demo dog for the event.

Eight Lappies worked with hair sheep and call ducks to see what they already knew deep down inside. Owners compared the dogs working different livestock to better understand what makes Lappies unique, and a few

Finnish Lapphund Club of America members shared their experience.

Sharee Meunch appreciated the opportunity for people who know each other to connect at the clinic and to make new friends as well. Sharee said it was amazing to see how Lappies with no herding experience immediately took to stock, and how having basic agility commands helped when working her dogs Scarlett and Levon. The clinic helped her understand how her girl Scarlett's strong prey drive can interfere with herding instinct, especially with the ducks. Sharee said the best thing she gained was for her dogs to have this experience and to understand what is needed to go further in training.

Mamata Reddy attended with her boy Risto, who has very low prey drive. Risto's approach was to jump right in, but he worked the herd with caution and care, and he was able to herd the stock with minimal guidance from Claire. Mamata said he used short, gentle barks to get

the stock to move instead of his normal supersonic bark. Risto also knew how to move from one side to the other to keep the stock going forward without any commands. Mamata said she looks forward to taking her boy back for future events at the farm.

Sheri Smith was excited to find an instructor with breed experience and one who understands that these dogs need a soft introduction to the sport. Sheri said she loved spending the day watching instinct come alive. Her boy Mika took to the sheep with ease—he was calm, careful, and attentive. With the ducks it was more enthusiasm over coordination, but he still managed to not step on one. Sheri said that it was a joy to watch instinct, training, and partnership come together so beautifully.

To help herding trainers and judges understand this breed a little better, this author tallied a few [AKC Herding Instinct Test](#) evaluations to see how

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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Finnish Lapphunds scored (see the table on the previous page). A more in-depth comparison of the breed's herding style written by Shell Gurney from Australia can be read [here](#).

Although AKC title data from 2009 through 2025 shows that Finnish Lapphunds have earned a very limited number of herding titles, Finnish Lapphund owners in the U.S. are encouraged to attend an IT/HIC trial, especially when offered with goats, which is the closest we can get to reindeer-like stock. Owners are also encouraged to attend herding clinics when offered to gain more insight into the herding instinct that lives inside their dogs.

—Maria Swarts,  
[miaswarts@aol.com](mailto:miaswarts@aol.com)  
Finnish Lapphund Club  
of America

*Resources:*  
[Shell Gurney article](#)  
[Herding video](#)  
[AKC Herding Instinct](#)  
[Test evaluation form](#)

## German Shepherd Dogs

### UNDERSTANDING EPI IN THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG: THE DIGESTIVE DISORDER EVERY OWNER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Few dog breeds are as intelligent, loyal, and hardworking as the German Shepherd. But alongside the breed's many strengths comes a predisposition to several health conditions—including one that many owners have never heard of until their dog suddenly begins losing weight despite eating constantly.

That condition is exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, more commonly known as EPI. In dogs with EPI, the body essentially cannot digest food normally—even when the dog is eating large amounts. As a result, nutrients pass through the digestive tract without being absorbed.

Without treatment, affected dogs can rapidly decline. Fortunately, with early recognition and life-long management, many dogs with EPI can go on to live happy and active lives.

German Shepherds are among the breeds most commonly affected by EPI. In many cases, the disease is believed to have a hereditary component.

The most common cause in German Shepherds is pancreatic acinar atrophy (PAA), a condition where the pancreatic cells responsible for producing digestive enzymes gradually deteriorate.

Symptoms often appear in young adult dogs, typically between 1 and 5 years of age, although it can occur later in life as well. Typical signs include:

- extreme weight loss despite a strong appetite
- constant hunger
- loose stool or chronic diarrhea
- pale, yellow, or greasy feces
- increased stool volume
- gas and bloating
- poor coat quality
- low energy
- muscle loss

The good news is that EPI can usually be diagnosed with a specialized

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



German Shepherd Dog Ch. Bodo von Sickerfelde of Giralda, Reuben Ward Binks, 1939

blood test called the TLI. Because untreated EPI can lead to severe malnutrition, early diagnosis is extremely important. Although there is currently no cure for EPI, treatment is often very successful when managed.

Open discussion within the breed community is essential to protecting future generations of German Shepherd Dogs.

A diagnosis of EPI is not the end of a German Shepherd Dog's life. For German Shepherd owners, understanding EPI may one day make the difference between a dog who silently

declines, and one who gets the treatment needed to thrive.

—Vicki Bemont

German Shepherd Dog Club of America

### Icelandic Sheepdogs

#### BREED EDUCATION

In December 2025, the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America (ISAA) was honored as one of six parent clubs to receive the AKC's 2025 Eddy Award. According to the AKC's website (<https://www.akc.org/public-education/resources-for-clubs/akc-eddy-award/>), the Eddy Award "is designed to encourage and reward Parent Clubs that demonstrate a breeder education effort (website, workshop, mentoring, and more) that provides information beyond the expected in an interesting and unique manner."

From its inception, the ISAA has been committed to breeder and owner education as a means of preserving the health, tem-

perament, and heritage of this ancient and small-population Nordic breed. Three ISAA committees principally oversee this work: Breeding Committee, Health and Genetics Committee, and Education Committee. These committees and others within the ISAA are building a library of resources from which breeders, potential breeders, owners, and researchers may draw.

The ISAA Breeding Committee maintains a pedigree database (<https://is-pedigrees.com/>) that includes details important to breeders regarding individual dogs (e.g., number of dew claws, coat color); allows for breeding coefficient calculations on test matings; and displays pictures of dogs in their profiles. This is one of three pedigree databases made available by links on the club's website (<https://www.icelanddogs.com/icelandic-sheepdog-pedigree-databases>); the others are the Icelandic Sheepdog

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



*Icelandic Sheepdogs GCh.S Enska Puck of Caradoc, BN, RN, NA, NAJ, CGC; Lavandels Vera, RATS, TKN; Astvinur Imaldur*



International Cooperative (ISIC) Database and DogsGlobal.

The committee annually generates a report that draws upon data contributed by member breeders and others about litters produced during the previous year, and yearly breed statistics generated by the AKC and OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals). The report addresses health factors such as genetic

defects (e.g., mid-line defects, deafness) as well as genetic diversity information for dogs active in pedigrees. Material in the report also includes pertinent findings made by members of the ISAA Health and Genetics Committee.

The Health and Genetics Committee collaborates with members to identify health issues in their dogs and to evaluate the evidence to see if such changes link with certain pedigrees. This committee and the Breeding Committee have as a resource the international community of dedicated Icelandic Sheepdog preservation breeders networked

through the 12 member nations of the ISIC (Iceland, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S.). The ISIC meets annually to discuss emerging trends and to develop management strategies for the entire population across the globe.

To gather additional statistics for their assessments, the Health and Genetics Committee developed a partnership with Embark Genetic Testing to enlarge the pool of Icelandic Sheepdog genetic data. The ISAA purchases Embark tests and sends them free

COURTESY OWNERS / ISAA

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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of charge to members who have dogs over 10 years of age and organizes a discount for younger dogs so that their genetic contributions may be included in the research. Puppy buyers are encouraged to test their dogs, and some breeders administer the test before puppies leave them. Each year, Embark aggregates all the Icelandic Sheepdog data and shares it with ISAA, thus giving the committee up-to-date information about a portion of the U.S. population. The committee has interest in seeing how genetic materials and the coefficient of inbreeding (COI) may be changing over time.

The Education Committee helps to disseminate and interpret the information collected by the other two committees and hosts educational events both online and at national and regional events that promote the health and wellbeing of the breed. In 2025, the committee started an online educational series for

members. To date, topics included canine conditioning, reactivity, the breeding of rare breeds, anatomy and structure, and AKC Government Relations. Future seminar offerings under consideration are an examination of judges' education materials to allow members and breeders to see what judges are learning, and an invitation to a reproduction specialist veterinarian to explore the utilization of frozen and shipped semen as a means of increasing genetic diversity.

Readers with questions may contact the Breeding Committee for more information: [isaabreeders@gmail.com](mailto:isaabreeders@gmail.com).

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker,  
[kbethwt@yahoo.com](mailto:kbethwt@yahoo.com)  
Icelandic Sheepdog  
Association of America

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### Norwegian Buhunds

#### FORM AND FUNCTION

Norwegian Buhunds have been bred to herd sheep in the rough

terrain of western Norway. Every year, they would drive sheep to summer pastures in the mountains and back to lower terrain. This work involved long, tiring days, and Buhunds would complete this difficult trek twice a year. They had to be tough dogs built to perform this challenging work, and their structure and form reflects that to this day.

Buhunds have to be strong, well-muscled, and have the physical stamina to herd sheep all day. Physical fitness and good form (that is, the ability to hold position properly and to move correctly) are essential not only for working Norwegian Buhunds as they herd sheep, but also for Buhunds in the show ring, as well as those that participate in dog sports.

Form is especially crucial for high-intensity sports such as agility and lure coursing, and for sports requiring stamina such as tracking or carting. Hence all Buhunds, but especially those participating in dog

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



Norwegian  
Buhund

sports need to have a regular fitness program. Similar to regular exercise in humans, fitness routines for dogs can improve cardiovascular health, build muscle strength, and increase speed.

Of course, genetics and breeding have a large impact on structure and form. However, there are targeted fitness routines that can be used to enhance our Buhunds' features. Fitness exercises can help a Buhund's form in terms of their topline, head position, and rear and front foot placement. Exercises

can help build muscles in weaker areas so that they can stand square with their rear and front feet straight and evenly weighted. Exercises can also build muscles to maintain a good topline without roaching or dipping.

All dog sports have specific requirements for movement and speed, and targeted fitness training can improve performance and prevent injuries. Since my Buhunds participate in several dog sports, we spend quite a bit of time on fitness training to make sure

they build muscles in targeted areas and improve their form and movement. Of course, each Buhund has his or her own physical strengths and weaknesses, and exercises must be targeted to strengthen weak spots.

My Buhunds' fitness routines include cardiovascular work, strength training, mobility exercises, and stretches for flexibility. Proprioception activities are also important for all Buhunds, but especially for puppies who often do not even seem to realize that they have rear feet. My Buhunds get their cardiovascular exercise from fast walks, off-lead runs, and short sprints.

We tried a treadmill in the winter months, but only one of my Buhunds really enjoyed it, standing on the treadmill and waiting patiently for us to turn it on. My other Buhunds tolerate the treadmill so long as treats are involved, but they prefer to run outdoors even when it is 20 degrees and freezing.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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Their strength training involves a variety of exercises, which they probably think of as “tricks.” Since Buhunds tend to get bored with routine, we rotate through a variety of exercises that strengthen their core and front and rear ends. Buhunds have a decent amount of bone and need to spend a little more time on their core and rear end compared to breeds that are lighter in bone. I find that standing on uneven surfaces and weight-shifting are ideal for strengthening their core muscles.

I also notice that as my Buhunds get older, they find it more difficult to maintain the quality of their muscles. Strength-building exercises designed for older dogs keep them in good shape and able to enjoy their favorite activities well into their golden years.

—Jasmine Tata, 41285 N. Point Drive, Antioch IL 60002; [ftata2@yahoo.com](mailto:ftata2@yahoo.com)

[Norwegian Buhund Club of America](#)

### Pembroke Welsh Corgis

#### READ THE RULEBOOK

There are so many online groups now for just about any American Kennel Club event. Newcomers ask questions but are frequently told, “Read the rulebook.” Often the question can be easily answered by doing so, but other times it is not so easy to find an answer or even know where to start looking.

Before entering any AKC event, exhibitors should read the corresponding regulations book. This can be difficult, though, because the regulations cover everything, from putting on the event (what the club and event secretary need to know), judging the event, and then showing in the event. As a result, a newcomer can have difficulty finding information.

Complicating things further is that there are other rulebooks that also govern the event. For example, collars are discussed in “Rules Applying to Dog Shows” as well as in several

other publications. Some titles require three qualifying scores, whereas others only require two. “Dealing with Misconduct at AKC Events” is not just reading material for bench committees. Exhibitors should be familiar with the contents.

When answering the question with a suggestion to read the rulebook, some guidance as to which section would be helpful.

There are online internet groups covering every dog event. We have Pembroke Facebook pages for herding, tracking, obedience and rally, and agility, as well as ShowPem-L for serious conformation exhibitors. Questions asked in these groups are answered by people familiar with the activity as well as its regulations. That is not true always true on other sites, and misinformation is abundant. Points off questions are more difficult, as that may vary from judge to judge. The rulebook may say “up to” points off, but it is up to the judge to decide on a

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



*Pembroke Welsh Corgi*

given day. Exhibitors will often say their dog disqualified, when the correct term is *non-qualifying*. The background of both the exhibitor and responder should be considered when a question is answered.

For a specific event, the premium list also serves as a rulebook, yet many exhibitors never bother to read it, even though answers to their questions are in it. Fast CAT events will list many details, such as whether fun runs will be offered, and if so, under what conditions. Other event premium lists will state whether transfers are permitted, and if

so, under what conditions and the time limit to do so. Conformation events may have an entry limit. An agility event may fill almost immediately, and the premium will tell you whether a waitlist will be maintained. There may be site-specific rules concerning parking or crating. Premium lists contain so much helpful information.

The breed standard also serves as a rulebook of sorts. A Pembroke that is 10 inches tall at the shoulder, while some consider this small, is still within the breed standard of 10 to 12 inches. The standard says a narrow white

blaze on the head is acceptable. Eye color is variations of brown in harmony with coat color. The body coat is flat. A seasonal lack of undercoat is not to be penalized if the coat is glossy, healthy, and well groomed. Feet are to be oval and turn neither in nor out. There are no breed disqualifications (other than males not having two testicles), just very serious faults. The parent club website contains a lot of information that is useful in understanding the breed standard.

Exhibitors will need to be familiar with the rulebooks for herding, agility, obedience, rally, conformation, and Fast CAT when our annual family reunion occurs at Purina Farms October 3 through October 10. All events will be held on site. See the club website for details. Entries will open in late summer. And remember to read the premium lists! See you there!

—Lynda McKee,  
[TifflynLDM@aol.com](mailto:TifflynLDM@aol.com)  
Pembroke Welsh Corgi  
Club of America

DAVID WOO ©AKC

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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### Pulik

#### BEYOND THE RIBBONS: PRESERVING THE TRUE PULI

The tension between success in the conformation ring and true preservation breeding becomes especially visible in the Puli. Few breeds are as instantly recognizable or visually dramatic. A well-presented Puli entering the ring can be unforgettable: cords flowing, outline sharp, movement lively and elastic, expression bright and intelligent. It is easy to see why certain dogs rise quickly to the top in competition.

But preservation breeders eventually face a harder question: Is the dog winning today also the one best suited to carry the breed forward? Sometimes it is. Sometimes it is not.

The Puli is particularly vulnerable to the gap between ring success and preservation priorities because its most striking feature—the coat—can overshadow original purpose.

The breed was developed

over centuries as a practical Hungarian herding dog: agile, weather-resistant, quick-thinking, and deeply bonded to its shepherd, capable of working long days over rough terrain. Every hallmark of the breed once served function.

Even the corded coat was originally practical, offering protection from weather and injury. The square outline, moderate size, springy gait, and quick reflexes all supported endurance and efficiency. A correct Puli should still read as a dog built for function, not presentation alone. That distinction matters.

Modern conformation culture, despite the best intentions of breeders and judges, can drift toward rewarding what is most immediately striking. In Pulik, that may mean abundant coat, stylized presentation, or exaggerated movement that stands out in a brief ring appearance. A heavily coated, impeccably groomed dog naturally creates impact.

But preservation breeding asks different questions. *Could this dog still perform the work the breed was developed for? Does he or she retain the temperament that combines independence with devotion? Does he or she contribute health and genetic diversity to a relatively small population? And perhaps most importantly: If widely bred, would this dog strengthen the breed, or narrow it?* Those are not always the questions rewarded by ribbons.

Preservation breeders also recognize a harder truth: A great show dog is not automatically a great breeding dog. Some exceptional individuals do not reproduce their strengths consistently. Others may dominate in competition while quietly narrowing diversity or amplifying weaknesses. A dog's true breeding value lies not only in what he or she is, but in what he or she reliably produces.

One of the greatest risks for a breed like the Puli is gradual exaggeration

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



*“Once structure, function, or genetic diversity is lost, it is difficult to recover. The future of the Puli depends on maintaining that balance: type without exaggeration, beauty without loss of function, consistency without loss of diversity. Preservation is not nostalgia. It is stewardship.”*  
(Puli GCh.B Piroskai Original Sin, RN, AXP, AJP, NFP, CGC, IT, VPA—Vim as an adult, as a newborn, and at 4 months)

disguised as refinement. It rarely happens suddenly. A little more coat becomes desirable. A more dramatic outline begins winning. A flashier gait becomes the norm. Breeders, responding to what is rewarded, naturally follow the trend. Over time, moderation can erode

while the breed remains technically within standard.

The Puli standard calls for balance, agility, and hardiness. But if presentation trends drift toward glamour over function, the breed risks becoming visually impressive yet increasingly removed from the working dog it once was. This is where preservation breeders act as a counterbalance. Many are not breeding solely for the next winner, but for the next generation.

They study pedigrees for longevity, fertility, structural soundness, stable temperament, and genetic depth. They track which lines consistently age well and retain working ability. In a small gene pool, they are especially mindful of preserving breadth as well as quality. Some also test their dogs in herding, agility, or obedience, where structure and instinct are revealed in ways the ring cannot fully capture. A Puli on stock

COURTESY DAGMAR FERTL

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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demonstrates balance, nerve, responsiveness, and intelligence that no stacked presentation can replace. Because the Puli is not merely a decorative breed. It is a living, working one.

The “popular sire” effect adds another layer of risk, especially in numerically small breeds. A top-winning dog may be heavily used simply because success creates demand. Even an excellent sire can, when overused, narrow genetic diversity and amplify hidden faults. The consequences may not appear immediately, but often surface decades later in health or structural issues.

Preservation breeding sometimes means resisting that pull toward popularity. The best long-term choice may be a less visible dog from a stronger, more diverse background—one that preserves moderation, function, and resilience rather than extreme type.

Temperament adds another dimension. The correct Puli is alert, intelligent,

watchful, often reserved with strangers, and deeply bonded to family. It should be neither generic nor unstable. Yet show environments can subtly favor dogs that are easier to manage in constant travel and handling, gradually softening the breed’s natural independence if selection is not careful.

None of this diminishes successful show dogs. Many are excellent representatives of the breed. The question is whether breeders can distinguish between what is currently rewarded and what is permanently valuable.

Historically, the strongest preservation breeders have been those willing to protect moderation when exaggeration becomes fashionable. They understand that once structure, function, or genetic diversity is lost, it is difficult to recover.

The future of the Puli depends on maintaining that balance: type without exaggeration, beauty without loss of function, consistency without loss of diversity.

Preservation is not nostalgia. It is stewardship. And the dogs most important to that future may not always be the ones winning today, but the ones capable of producing a healthier, more capable breed tomorrow. Because ribbons are temporary. A breed’s integrity is not.

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

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## Shetland Sheepdogs

### MOVEMENT

**T**he Shetland Sheepdog standard is very explicit about correct structure and movement. If you are having any trouble understanding the semantics, you need to do your research in canine anatomy and movement.

There are several books that are considered the best to learn from if you have any questions. I recommend *Dogsteps*, by Rachel Page Elliot, as one of the best.

This area of standard evaluation should not be open to interpretation. We have to agree on what each word

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



*Shetland Sheepdog*

and phrase means. The bones, muscles, tendons, and ligaments are all the same in every canine, differing only on selection of size in each breed. Yes, there are the unique breeds with conformed structures, but they still have the same bones.

In our breed we want bones to all be in the same form, position, and proportion. Size of the Sheltie has an effect in the size of a dog's bones, but not on the bones in their relationship to each other. When you evaluate a dog in relation to

its purpose, the ultimate is the dog who can perform its duties efficiently in comfort. Any extra or excessive effort is tiring. Anything that speaks to inefficiency is counterproductive to a working canine. The more effort it takes to compensate for the deviation from soundness the more inefficient the movement.

Shelties are classified as a herding breed. Most herding breeds were on duty for long periods of time. The Sheltie was a multipurpose farm dog of the "Toonies" on

the Shetland Islands. They had various responsibilities, from accompanying the flock out into the fields and islands to keeping the flock and chickens out of the precious family garden with the tempting vegetables.

Shelties are extremely active, and I've rarely seen one that wasn't always ready to join in whatever fun or activity we could dream up. However, I have seen a Sheltie that was so restricted in structure it could not sustain the drive needed to herd sheep or goats. The owner had to participate only in activities herding ducks. This was a sweet girl who had the aptitude for herding but lacked the structure to support the drive needed to herd her owner's goats or sheep.

I would like to discuss the semantics of good structure in the next couple of paragraphs. We need to be sure when we talk to each other about how a Sheltie moves, we use the language of the standard and understand that meaning without using

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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catchphrases such as “clipping daises.” When watching a group of dogs circling the ring, I don’t think “clipping daises”; I think efficient reach and drive. The language of the standard is correct and an effective manner to discuss our dogs.

The terms in our standard referring to structure and movement are so exact that we cannot ignore the wisdom of the early architects in the words they selected. Following are some excerpts from the standard:

“From the withers, the shoulder blade should slope at a 45-degree angle forward and downward to the shoulder joints,” where “the upper arm should join the shoulder blade at as nearly as possible right angle.” This configuration is essential for a Sheltie to be able to reach forward smoothly to full extension.

“Elbow joint should be equidistant from the ground and from the withers.” This addresses the need for correct balance and length of leg.

“Forelegs straight viewed

from all angles, muscular and clean, and of strong bone.” The strong, straight foreleg is essential to maintain the straight column of support that each front leg displays standing and moving.

“Pasterns very strong, sinewy, and flexible.” The pastern is the shock absorber of the mechanics of the front assembly. Its strong and flexible components allow the dog to return the energy of movement back to the dog’s forward progress, or to him being able to flex and change direction without damage to his structure.

“Feet should be oval and compact with the toes well arched and fitting tightly together.” The feet are the final receipt of movement energy. The oval shape makes the foot slightly longer than wide. The compact, arched “toes” and “tight” means that the pads of each toe are equally taking the pressure of that leg impacting the ground. There is not a weak spread of area between the toes allow-

ing stones or debris to get between the pads causing injury.

The hindquarters have similar verbiage to exactly describe the desired conformation of our Shellie’s.

“The thigh should be broad and muscular.” We want to feel and establish that the muscle in the thigh is full from outside to inside of the thigh *and* from the front edge of the muscle of the thigh to the back edge of the thigh. We want to feel good broad, hard muscle so this dog has developed the amount of energy giving muscle of a working dog.

“The thigh bone should be set into the pelvis at a right angle corresponding to the angle of the shoulder blade and upper arm.” The thigh bone fits into the pelvis at nearly a right angle to the 30 degrees of the pelvis corresponding to the slope of the croup. This together with the “slightly longer stifle than the thigh bone” become the engine and forward locomotion of the dog. This is where the power is generated.

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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The balance between these bones and the short hock bones provides the dog the ability to concentrate its energy into powering the dog forward.

The stride of the dog needs to be the same in the front as the rear. That is why the angles front to rear need to be the same. Balance front to rear allows the dog to move in a sound manner. However, moving correctly front to rear with correct reach and drive means the dog is efficient. Being too straight in the front and rear means the dog has to take more steps to cover the same amount of ground. More steps equal more effort and less efficiency. Having a straight front and good rear or vice versa means the dog lacks balance front to rear, which leads to all the movement abnormalities we see and, because they are tiring the dog, lacks efficiency. Dogs that can reach and drive with correct converging to the center line of gravity under the dog are displaying

efficient movement and the ability to perform their tasks attributed to the breed. A sound dog is a dog who is comfortable longer in their lifetime.

We are the breeders and fanciers of this beautiful, sensitive breed. We owe it to them to know our standard and strive to create puppies who excel in both type and structure.

### **2026 National Specialty**

Since our national specialty just wrapped up, I would like to share the names and owners of the top winners this year. Our judges were Al Bianchi for dogs, Hector Hector judging bitches, and Amy Massey doing the Shelties competing for Best of Breed. Congratulations, everyone!

#### *2026 Shetland Sheepdog National Specialty Results*

Best of Breed—Ch. Amberlyn's Animation (Kimberly and Elizabeth Sawatzsky)

Best of Winners, WD—

Laureate Hamilton (Kim Aston and Peter Adrian Culumovic)

Best of Opposite Sex—GCh.S Laureate Ode to Joy (Kim Aston and Pete Adrian Culumovic)

Select Dog—Ch. Lynphil Persona (Kim Wendling and Donna McCulloch)

Select Bitch—Ch. Rosmoor Del Mar (Jennie Hynes and Rose Tomlin)

Winners Bitch—Afterglow Marvella (Jason Lynn and T. Isherwood)

Reserve Winners Dog—Cassbar Inside Out (Michelle and Dale Rogowski)

Reserve Winner Bitch—Cassbar Pristine (Diane Hawes, Michelle and Dale Rogowski)

Best Junior—Demery Livingston

Reserve Best Junior—Tara Crowley

Best in Futurity—Cassbar Pristine (Diane Hawes, Michelle and Dale Rogowski)

Runner up to Best in Futurity—Starphire Winterfell Fireheart

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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(Tabitha Hortenstine and Nancy Ager)

### **Award of Merit Recipients**

Ch. Laureate Archetype (Kim Aston and Peter Adrian Culumovic)

Ch. Mystic Suntime Unapologetic (Tracy Robinson)

GCh. Belmark Eternal (Herbert O'Brien and Zana Friend)

GCh.S Solange Emoji (Linda Nicholas)

Ch. Blue Heavens Silver Fox (Lloyd and Lisa Graser)

GCh.P Kismet Legendary (Julia French, Michelle Miller, Guy Mauldin, and Tracy Hegarty)

GCh. Emmy's Simply Orange (Hanna Campbell)

Ch. Cassbar Reflections (Michelle and Dale Rogowski)

Ch. Liberty Bell's Ocean of Wonders (Becky Johnson and Emily James)

Ch. Laureate Ophelia (Kim Aston and Peter Adrian Culumovic)

GCh. Dury Voe Festival Flying First Class

(Deborah Reed)

Ch. Belmark Rewrite the Stars (Bella Thompson Corwin)

GCh.B Becon Small Talk (Becky Johnson and Emily James)

Ch. Shaizach The Marvelous Mrs Maisel (Rebecca & Paddy Jarit)

GCh. Rosmoor Versallies, ROM (Jennifer Hynes & Rose Tomlin)

—Janice M. Leonard  
[American Shetland Sheepdog Association](#)

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## Swedish Vallhunds

### THE BEST WRITING TIP? GET A DOG.

In my weekend wanderings through *The New York Times*, I encountered the article that also gives this column its title (<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/13/books/the-best-writing-tip-get-a-dog.html>).

Alexandra Alter, of the *Times*, interviewed a number of published authors and editors who live with dogs and feature them prominently in their

work. Among them is Alice Hoffman, the editor of the newly published essay collection *The Best Dog in the World*. Hoffman said, “It’s harder to write a dog character than a human character. They’re kind of a mystery.”

Chilean native and lifelong feminist Isabel Allende has received many awards for her literary works, among them the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which she received in 2014 from President Barack Obama. An author of magical realism, she featured a Great Dane named Barrábas in her earliest published work, *The House of the Spirits* (1982). *Ripper* (2014) forced a serious decision for the dog-lover: She had to choose between killing the hero or his dog. (Spoiler alert: The dog lived.) “Dogs taught me from early on to see the world through the heart, emotions, relationships, intuition, instinct,” Allende said. “I am a much better person when there is a dog around.”

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP



Writer Ann Leary's current canine companion is Eddie. Adopted at about a year of age, and now almost 11, the sort-of herding dog (by DNA testing, 50 percent Australian Cattle Dog,

with some husky, pit bull, and Chihuahua) drove Ann crazy at first. "Maybe that's why I didn't like him at first," she said. "I was like, 'Why is he so difficult and afraid and anxious and obsessive?' All the things I

struggle with."

Paul Yoon's latest work, *Etna*, is due on bookstore shelves in August. Yoon's own dog, Oscar, directly shaped the tale, told from the perspective of a former military dog who survives

# BREED COLUMNS

## HERDING GROUP

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combat and tries to find his way home. “That was a huge leap for me,” Yoon said, “to enter the mind of a dog.”

Authors prominent in other genres have written a vast array of “dog books.” Additionally, the audience has varied reading appetites: memoirs, true stories, a variety of scientific/behavioral works, mystery, and even horror are represented. Many are familiar with Dean Koontz’s *Watchers* (1987), a now-classic horror work featuring a Golden Retriever named Einstein. Far fewer know his later work, *A Big Little Life, A Memoir of a Joyful Dog Named Trixie* (2011).

Dr. Patricia B. McConnell’s *The Other End of the Leash* (2003) is a renowned book on dog behavior and is properly on many thinking dog owners’ shelves. Her new book in town (as of February 2026) is a mystery novel, *Away to Me*, featuring herding dogs and their people.

*New York Times* bestsell-

ing author and former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins presents this special collection of poems inspired by our beloved companions, with watercolor canine portraits by Pamela Szybel: *Dog Show: Poems* (2025).

CBS News international correspondent and co-host of *CBS Sunday Morning*, Martha Teichner, can be found in almost any location on Earth. Her reporting has earned multiple national awards, including 15 Emmy Awards, six James Beard Foundation Awards, and a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. Her *When Harry Met Minnie: A True Story of Love and Friendship* (2022) is not just another dog tale. It is the memoir of friendship, love, and loss as only Martha, who lived it, can write it.

Dr. Laurel Braitman, Stanford University School of Medicine’s Director of Writing and Storytelling, has helped thousands of medical professionals become better communica-

tors, find renewed purpose and meaning in their work, and combat burnout. In her first book, *Animal Madness: How Anxious Dogs, Compulsive Parrots and Elephants in Recovery Help Us Understand Ourselves* (2014), she highlights animal-human relationships in a variety of species and examines how those relationships are reflective of the stresses of life on Earth. Written in a style friendly to non-scientists, with a degree in Science History she does a lovely job of demonstrating what can be done in the real world.

As you can see, there is a wide variety of literature by dog lovers available to dog lovers. Discover the depths of feeling, knowledge, and experience that are as close as your nearest public library. Remember, books are screen-free portable entertainment!

—Laura Kiedaisch, Board of Directors

[Swedish Vallhund Club of America](#)



# SECRETARY'S PAGES

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

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

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617  
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## ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:30 a.m.

## DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

**Dr. Lisa A. Connor**, Saint Helena Island, SC, Great Pyrenees Club of America

**Spencer Guynup**, Puyallup, WA, Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers

**Colleen E. Kimble**, Saratoga Springs, NY, Glens Falls Kennel Club

**Ashley Maas**, Ankeny, IA, Central Iowa Kennel Club

**William Maseth**, Baltimore, MD, Progressive Dog Club

**Sebastian Steele**, Des Moines, IA, Des Moines Kennel Club

**Susan Swords**, Scott Depot, WV, Magic Valley Kennel Club

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**Katherine A. Wright**, New York, NY, Montgomery County Kennel Club



gazette

Click here to read the June 2026 issue!



# SECRETARY'S PAGES

## NOTICE

### REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fine imposed on Superintendent for acceptance of entries not in accordance with AKC recognized class, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 5.

Executive Dog Shows, Ltd. ....\$500

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

German Shepherd Dog Club of Orlando ....\$25

Treasure Coast German Shepherd Dog Club .....\$50

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT Regulations*, Chapter 2.

Lawrenceville Kennel Club.....\$50

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 13, Section 3.

Weimaraner Club of Washington DC Area .....\$50

Heart of America GSP Club.....\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, Chapter 13.

American Amateur Retriever Club .....\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels*, Chapter 14, Section 3.

Loup River Valley Sporting Spaniel Club ...\$50

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

- Mr. George Chandler (Clovis, CA)
- Ms. Rebecca Cross (Gettysburg, PA)
- Mr. William Salazer (Boulder City, NV)
- Mr. Mike Thomas (Reno, NV)

## NOTICE

Ms. Jacqueline Caruso (Ridgefield, CT). Action was taken by the Collie Club of Maine for conduct at its March 1, 2026 event. Ms. Caruso 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 April 21, 2026. (Collies)

## NOTICE

Ms. Stefanie Perrine (Bristow, OK). Action was taken by the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac for conduct at its April 7, 2026 event. Ms. Perrine was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Labrador Retrievers)

## NOTICE

Mr. Matthew Perry (Berkeley, IL). Action was taken by the Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club for conduct at its February 14, 2026 event. Mr. Perry was charged with disregard of published club regulations. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a two-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective March 8, 2026. (Multiple Breeds)

## NOTICE

Ms. Aslynn Rose (Cedar Creek, TX). Action was taken by the Fort Bend Kennel Association for conduct at its April

5, 2026 event. Ms. Rose was charged with disorderly conduct. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes)

## NOTICE

On March 23, 2026, the Trial Board (Robert Newman, Esq., Chair, Kathi Brown, James Phinizy) of The American Kennel Club heard charges against Mr. Adam McCabe, (Plymouth, WI) for violating AKC's Personal Conduct Policy. The Trial Board sustained the charges and suspended Mr. McCabe from all AKC privileges for six months, and imposed a \$500 fine, effective March 30, 2026. (Dachshunds)

## NOTICE

On April 1, 2026, the Trial Board (Samuel Kovitz, Esq., Chair, Laurie Maulucci, Dr. John Ioia) of The American Kennel Club heard charges against Mr. Jay Van Zandt, (Hearne, TX) for inappropriate treatment in connection with an event. The Trial Board sustained the charges and suspended Mr. Van Zandt from all AKC privileges for three months and imposed a \$300 fine, effective April 12, 2026. (Multiple Breeds)

## CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at [judgingops@akc.org](mailto:judgingops@akc.org).

## APPLICANTS

The following persons' applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified **but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.**

## NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

### **Brandy Brian (118783) ID**

(208) 631-4860  
brandybrian@live.com  
Golden Retrievers, Bernese Mountain Dogs

### **Jennifer Hester (118849) FL**

(561) 909-7581  
oceanbluedanes@gmail.com  
Great Danes

### **Julie Hamlin Luther (115437) MA**

cespa@comcast.net  
Lhasa Apsos

### **Mr. Glenn Lycan (118713) NC**

(919) 306-5244  
glennlycan99@gmail.com  
Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, English Setters, Weimaraners, Salukis, Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Giant Schnauzers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers, Border Terriers, Shih Tzu, Dalmatians, Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

### **Mrs. Kirklyn Stacia Ohira Over (118859) HI**

(808) 778-0220  
staciaohira@gmail.com  
American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Chihuahuas, Papillons, Pomeranians, French Bulldogs

**Michelle Stephens (118789) NY**

(315) 489-3697

northstar.michellestephens@gmail.com

French Bulldogs

**ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING  
APPLICANTS**

**Dr. Bree Ardizzone-Sulewski (98661)**

**WI**

(315) 481-1107

bardizzone315@gmail.com

Australian Shepherds, Berger Picards,  
Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Polish  
Lowland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water  
Dogs

**Ms. Sheryl Cammarata (108245) CO**

(970) 213-4554

goldenendeavors@gmail.com

Irish Setters

**Mrs. Vicky Cook (103755) OR**

(541) 601-5355

vickycook@mac.com

Greyhounds, Whippets, Papillons, Dal-  
matians

**Mrs. Shauna DeMoss (92470) CO**

(970) 234-5512

demossakcjudge@gmail.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Bullmastiffs, Dogo  
Argentinos, Giant Schnauzers, Neapol-  
itan Mastiffs, Saint Bernards, Siberian  
Huskies

**Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) SC**

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Toy Fox Ter-  
riers, Shih Tzu

**Ms. Marie Ann Falconer (51642) TN**

(413) 433-6474

mylaone10@aol.com

Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Glen of  
Imaal Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich  
Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

**Mr. Israel Garcia (111901) TX**

(512) 605-7658

izzy-garcia@hotmail.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, English  
Foxhounds, Portuguese Podengo  
Pequenos

**Mrs. Christine Goodin (113467) VA**

(804) 310-5203

deellittlepoms@aol.com

Papillons

**Ms. Krista Hansen (95865) NY**

(585) 993-1351

camlochcollies@aol.com

Azawakhs, Redbone Coonhounds, Salu-  
kis

**Ms. Kristen Henry (116735) CO**

(303) 883-0144

kristen@bonchien.com

Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-  
Pei, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Poodles,  
Tibetan Spaniels

**Mr. Douglas A. Johnson (17190) IN**

(812) 322-0322

clussexx@aol.com

Balance of Herding Group (Australian



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB

# SECRETARY'S PAGES

Cattle Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds, Shetland Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds)

**Mrs. Stephanie Kaul (110173) CA**

(408) 242-7990

stephanie@kauls.com

Barbets, Irish Red and White Setters

**Ms. Shari M. Kirschner (97107) IN**

(219) 331-9493

smkirschner@comcast.net

German Wirehaired Pointers, English Setters, Clumber Spaniels

**Mrs. Tina Leininger (101522) PA**

(717) 865-6055

whytewynd@gmail.com

Akitas, Great Pyrenees, Komondorok

**Ms. Claire Mancha (56114) OR**

(503) 516-6449

claire@whiz.to

Leonbergers

**Mr. John Mayhall (101705) OR**

(928) 970-0969

mtndogsrule@live.com

American Foxhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Borzois, Otterhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds

**Dr. Camille McArdle (66682) MN**

(612) 743-7329

camillemca@gmail.com

Boerboels, Portuguese Water Dogs

**Ms. Shelley Miller (102995) NC**

(919) 525-5001

sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Lagotti Romagnoli, Gordon Setters), Affenpinschers, Silky Terriers

**Ms. Mary C. Murphy-East (36967) MN**

(763) 291-2263

marmcmurph@aol.com

American Foxhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Bloodhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Pharaoh Hounds, Sloughis

**Ms. Carol Pyrkosz (96273) TN**

(352) 300-2711

cpyrkosz@yahoo.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds

**Mrs. Gina M. Schag (108997) IL**

(630) 669-1131

chulachis@yahoo.com

Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers

**Barbara Scherer (58838) IL**

(630) 388-8290

hairologybk@gmail.com

English Setters, Irish Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Dalmatians

**Ms. Michelle T. Shultz (99665) CA**

(925) 351-8352

michelle.t.shultz@gmail.com

Beagles, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois,  
Plott Hounds, Chinese Cresteds, Papil-  
lons

**Dr. Jerry Sulewski (93475) WI**

(920) 327-9641

collikenutt@yahoo.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Beard-  
ed Collies, Belgian Malinois, Cardigan  
Welsh Corgis, Mudik, Swedish Vallhunds

**Mrs. Susan C. Willumsen (52119) NH**

(603) 475-1588

willcare@comcast.net

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers,  
Weimaraners

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING  
APPLICANT**

**Layna Landers (118083) KS**

(316) 779-6055

laynalanders1@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**

**Ms. Lindsay Bryson (118447) CA**

(408) 771-3836

lcbryson4@yahoo.com

Beagles, Dachshunds, JS - Limited

**Tracy Gensler (118234) IA**

(319) 936-0429

kyrieshelties@hotmail.com

Shetland Sheepdogs

**Dr. Rachel Romano Kelly (80179) MD**

(360) 649-3447

rachelgeordie@yahoo.com

Vizslas

**Mrs. Gail R. Stiefferman (118063) MO**

(314) 660-3305

forstknoll@gmail.com

German Shepherd Dogs

**Sarah Tennesen (118375) WI**

(715) 308-4328

tennesse@charter.net

Bernese Mountain Dogs

**Ms. Sue Wellenstein (118373) WI**

(920) 573-0434

bugziere@gmail.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs

**ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES**

**Mr. Richard D. Albee (57263) AL**

(334) 750-2110

albeerd@charter.net

Bearded Collies, Berger Picards, Border  
Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Briards,  
Collies, German Shepherd Dogs, Min-

ature American Shepherds, Old English  
Sheepdogs

**Ms. Nancy S. Amburgey (42492) OH**

(614) 264-7524

lopat@aol.com

Boston Terriers, Keeshonden, Lowchen,  
Xoloitzcuintlin

**Ms. Marjorie Anderson (102675) AZ**

(480) 250-3798

mba.arcade2.0@gmail.com

Affenpinschers

**Mrs. Jennifer U. Bell (109179) LA**

(225) 933-6132

mystang50@yahoo.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Leonbergers, New-  
foundlands, Saint Bernards

**Mr. Brian C. Bogart (100059) NY**

(716) 984-0012

sumerwyndb@aol.com

Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Portu-  
guese Water Dogs

**Mr. Phillip (Phil) Booth (115975) NY**

(517) 518-2641

philboothphs@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Barbets,  
Bracchi Italiani, Nederlandse Kooiker-  
hondjes, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Nova  
Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American  
Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Irish  
Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh  
Springer Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing  
Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas)

**Mrs. Kathleen J. Brock (47792) WA**

(253) 988-1764

toccatockers@aol.com

Salukis

**Ms. Bridget J. Brown (102665) AL**

(205) 515-8753

jackeye@bellsouth.net

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracchi Ital-  
iani, Pointers), Boston Terriers

**Regina Lee Bryant (105299) CA**

(209) 327-8778

catoriaussies@gmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Briards,  
Lancashire Heelers, Polish Lowland  
Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds, Span-  
ish Water Dogs)

**Ms. JoAnne M. Buehler (22770) FL**

(301) 590-9056

joanneb@his.com

Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers,  
Border Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten  
Terriers, Tibetan Terriers

**Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC**

(803) 628-8323

dean@pawgate.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Boerboels,  
Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Chihuahuas

**Mr. Dominic Carota (97729) GA**

(518) 461-9504

hallamhounds@aol.com

Rhodesian Ridgebacks

**Mr. Wayne Cavanaugh (5571) MI**

(269) 760-2552

wcavanaugh317@gmail.com

Basenjis, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Borzois, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeens, Greyhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otterhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Whippets

**Ms. Joanne Chaplek (97963) NY**

(578) 796-1770

joanne.chaplek@gmail.com

Australian Shepherds

**Ms. S. Marie (Miki) Cooney (15638) FL**

(508) 254-1112

ladyslipper6@gmail.com

Chihuahuas

**Ms. Karen L. Dewey (112481) NH**

(603) 504-2813

pkdewey603@gmail.com

Basenjis, Norwegian Elkhounds

**Mr. James R. Dickson (97563) NJ**

(973) 229-8242

tajback4z@gmail.com

American Hairless Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

**Ms. Helen Dorrance (19022) TX**

(512) 964-3294

gdkdogs@gmail.com

Boxers, Chinooks, Doberman Pinschers, Rottweilers

**Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS**

(410) 829-2455

bethdowney539@gmail.com

American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Borzois, Cirnechi dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Scottish Deerhounds

**Ms. Mary Lynne Elliott (100062) CO**

(720) 289-2515

ml@vedauwoorr.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Chow Chows, Cotons de Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan Terriers

**Mr. Alfred Ferruggiaro (7410) MD**

(240) 418-8452

alferrug@gmail.com

Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels

**Mrs. Brandy Greenhagen (113965) CO**

(970) 371-4261

brandygreenhagen@comcast.net

Belgian Sheepdogs

**Miss Evalyn Gregory (6130) KY**

(502) 777-1969

evjudge@aol.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracchi Italiani, German Shorthaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons), Doberman Pinschers, Rottweilers

**Mr. David W. Haddock (18846) TN**

(615) 430-4773

globalfone@aol.com

Belgian Laekenois, Polish Lowland  
Sheepdogs

**Ms. Judy A. Harrington (16665) MA**

(413) 531-4258

jahyeesss@comcast.net

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco  
Sheepdogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish  
Lowland Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shep-  
herds, Spanish Water Dogs)

**Mr. Duff Harris (91790) CA**

(714) 425-0454

allegro6@ix.netcom.com

Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-  
Pei, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Poo-  
dles, Xoloitzcuintlin

**Robin A. Hug (67358) CO**

(303) 717-1702

robinahug@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds, Amer-  
ican Foxhounds, Beagles, English Fox-  
hounds, Harriers

**Mr. Richard Todd Jackson (94771) MD**

(202) 491-5513

richardtoddjackson@yahoo.com

American English Coonhounds, Bluetick  
Coonhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone  
Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coon-  
hounds

**Dr. Laura J. C. LaBounty (96455) NH**

(603) 313-9597

specialcollies@msn.com

Balance of Herding Group (Belgian  
Laekenois, Lancashire Heelers, Mudik)

**Mr. Kevin E. Lind (112598) MD**

(202) 440-2225

kevin.e.lind@gmail.com

Mudik

**Mr. Dale R. Martenson (111413) OK**

(817) 517-3304

castlemar3@hotmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting (Lowchen,  
Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan Span-  
iels, Xoloitzcuintlin)

**Ms. Robin Mathews (110537) NJ**

(732) 501-9581

bisdogs@aol.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Siberian  
Huskies, Berger Picards

**Mrs. Sandra McCue (18851) CA**

(916) 217-9912

indianbendsetters@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Gordon Setters, Irish  
Red and White Setters

**Mrs. Chris Ann Moore (108927) AR**

(479) 221-0555

bisacd@aol.com

Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos,  
Icelandic Sheepdogs

**Ms. Kimberly Moshlak (114681) KY**

(301) 802-4145

cubruncwc@gmail.com

Bouvier des Flandres, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Sherry Patton (110239) TX**

(318) 518-6542

4everbts@gmail.com

Basenjis, Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Pugs, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki

**Ms. Lori Pelletier (110445) RI**

(401) 294-8819

norfolkes@aol.com

Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

**Ms. Deirdre Petrie (63937) PA**

(610) 763-8976

deirdrepetrie@yahoo.com

Bedlington Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

**Ms. Lexa Richmond (100815) TX**

(432) 210-9666

hialehdachshunds@gmail.com

Clumber Spaniels

**Sheree Sanchez (97389) CO**

(719) 313-1755

outlawaussies@hotmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Bearded Collies, Bouvier des Flandres, Finnish Lapphunds, Lancashire Heelers,

Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pumik), Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, American Staffordshire Terriers, Border Terriers, Scottish Terriers

**Mrs. Karen Scholz (100177) WA**

(425) 877-9537

a777flygirl@aol.com

Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Maltese, Russian Toys, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

**Mrs. Pamela Schroeder (108285) WA**

(778) 834-0059

pamelaschroederakc@gmail.com

Cane Corso, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Tibetan Mastiffs

**Ms. Kathryn Schwabe (51893) NC**

(610) 698-6108

kathryn.schwabe@yahoo.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Lancashire Heelers, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Vicki Seiler-Cushman (100265) OH**

(513) 638-1585

seilerva@yahoo.com

Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Pugs, Russian Toys, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

**Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. (6347) CA**

(609) 351-3647

danieljsmythesq@aol.com

Flat-Coated Retrievers, English Setters,  
Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels,  
Irish Water Spaniels, Danish-Swedish  
Farmdogs

**Mr. Jon Titus Steele (55162) MI**

(989) 860-9677

jonauroral@gmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Belgian  
Laekenois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian  
Tervuren, Finnish Lapphunds, Pyrenean  
Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs), Shiba  
Inu

**Mr. Scott Toney (110847) NC**

(704) 968-4491

midwoodchin@gmail.com

Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow  
Chows, Finnish Spitz, Norwegian Lun-  
dehunds, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels

**Marilyn Van Vleit (67040) OR**

(503) 510-1332

mvanvlielt@gmail.com

Boston Terriers, Chow Chows, Cotons  
de Tulear, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz,  
French Bulldogs

**Ms. Cynthia Woodward (105631) TX**

(501) 425-3454

cyndrwood@yahoo.com

Bullmastiffs, Leonbergers

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES****Mrs. Brandy Barbour (115361) IN**

(574) 300-4516

redhawkecanecorso@gmail.com

**Rebecca Lloyd (118251) FL**

bec1lloy@gmail.com

**Mrs. Sueannette Maniscalco (118041)  
CA**

(619) 448-3098

suetskennel@cox.net

**BEST IN SHOW**

The following person, has successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, and has been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

**Ms. Nancy Talbott (5898) PA**

(661) 547-9985

belgoldnt@gmail.com

**RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES**

Mrs. Helen K. Szostak

Alice M. Watkins

**EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE**

Diana Engeszer

## **REGULAR STATUS APPROVED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES**

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments, and their names have been added to the list of *regular approved* judges for the class indicated.

### **Cheryl Goldman (110843) IN**

812-951-9512

luvdogshows@yahoo.com

Regular Tracking TD/TDU

### **Annette Lynch (115135) IL**

708-927-6051

agaklynch@sbcglobal.net

Regular Tracking TD/TDU

### **Brenda Riemer (104082) MI**

734-474-8900

thyminator@yahoo.com

Regular Obedience Utility

## **DECEASED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES**

Ken Kincaid – Obedience and 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:

ALTA-TOLLHAUS – German Shepherd Dogs – Julie E Richards

BRIGHTNORTHSTAR – Old English Sheepdogs – Sherry K. Schreiner Beckwith & Mary McIntosh

CREDO – Portuguese Water Dogs – Landon Stafford

CREDO – Chinese Cresteds – Landon Stafford

DAISYLANE – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Kristine M. Schmidt

EVERLOVE – Pembroke Welsh Corgis – Shylah L. Love

LA CORSA – Italian Greyhounds – Terri Jones & John R. Jones

MAGSHIRE – Cairn Terriers – Amanda Edwards

MALEWOOD MTN– Dachshunds – Kelly L. Pollizzi & Stephen M. Polizzi

NORWINDS – Norwegian Elkhounds – Deanna K. Seitner & Danielle N. Seitner

OAKRIDGE – German Shorthaired Pointers – Sarijana Reynolds

ROYAL AN'WIZARD-West Highland  
White Terriers – Anna A. Jucova Krex

SADDLERIDGE – Australian Shepherds  
– Sally A. Pacheco

SIERRA – Saint Bernards – Pam Leighton

SUMBERN-Bernese Mountain Dogs –  
Summer D. Ory

## REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a  
breed-specific Registered Name Prefix  
have been granted

4 CLOVERS – Miniature American  
Shepherds – Erica R. Beattie

AMSCOT – French Bulldogs – Amy E  
Traufler

BIRCHVIEW – Miniature American  
Shepherds – Sharon L. Hulke & Amy J.  
Pirkl

COPPERRIDGE – Rhodesian Ridgebacks  
-Lin Hainlen & Bob Hainlen

CU SEILGE – Scottish Deerhounds –  
Terri L.B. Crawford

ENCHANTED MESA – Miniature  
American Shepherds – Kristin Hill

GLEANNFAE – Cavalier King Charles  
Spaniels – Lorraine C. Wood & Evelyn  
Wood

JBj – Portuguese Water Dogs – Nina A.  
Britton

LAVISH – Bernese Mountain Dogs –  
Loyal L. Bouaoun & Christopher D.  
Petersen

LEBORIA – Border Collies – Zihui  
(Hebr) Lin & Yuan (Olivia) Wang

LONGMILE – Miniature American  
Shepherds – Stacy L. Miller

PONDSIDE – Cardigan Welsh Corgis –  
Robert J. Smead

ROCKIN-B FARMS – Golden Retrievers  
– Elizah Brandstuddt & Brian Brandstuddt



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AKC OFFICES AT 8051 ARCO  
CORPORATE DR.  
RALEIGH, NC  
MAY 11-12, 2026**

The Board convened on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 8:33 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present in the Raleigh Office: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Dominic Carota, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Jason Hoke, Mr. Dan Smyth, and Mr. Robin Stansell. Ms. Sylvia Thomas and Ms. Sue Goldberg joined via video conference.

The Executive Secretary and the Chief Financial Officer were also present.

### **April Minutes**

Copies of the April 13-14, 2026 Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review.

Upon a motion by Dr. Davies, and seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the April 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

### **President's Update**

Ms. DiNardo reported that AKC is continuing to receive interest from numerous foreign national registries and kennel clubs about expanding recognition of pedigrees and opportunities for cooperation with AKC.

AKC has recently signed mutual cooperation agreements with the New Zealand Kennel Club and with the Korea Kennel Federation. Meanwhile preparations are continuing for AKC's first internationally sanctioned dog show, in Mexico City this November.

Closer to home, AKC is making preparations for AKC's own USA 250 celebration in Philadelphia, on June 5-7. *AKC Celebrates USA 250* will offer three days of canine sports in a family-friendly educational environment at the Marine Parade Grounds at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The festival is free to the public and offers interactive canine educational activities, and a mini AKC Meet the Breeds<sup>®</sup> event alongside the AKC Diving Dogs Team Challenge, the AKC Agility Premier Cup, and the AKC Team Agility Challenge – all of which will be broadcast on ESPN as part of their USA 250 festivities.

### **Legal Update**

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel

– Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Status update as of May 2026.

## **Quarterly Update on Communications, Social Media & Digital**

Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Public Relations and Communications, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference. She presented an update highlighting the collective achievements of the Communications, Social Media, and Digital Content teams in Q1.

Unique Clips Evaluated in Q1: 15,387 (+19% from 12,921 in 2025)

## **Q1 Totals Comparison**

Year	Clips Evaluated
2023	9,162
2024	11,263
2025	12,921
2026	15,387

\* Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Notified.

## **Media Coverage Highlights Resulting from Proactive Pitches:**

Date	Media Outlet	Subject
1/2	<i>Yahoo! Life</i>	New Breeds
2/7	<i>CBS</i>	AKC Meet the Breeds®
3/18	<i>TODAY Show</i>	Most Popular Breeds
3/18	<i>Associated Press</i>	Most Popular Breeds
3/18	<i>WRAL</i>	Raleigh's Most Popular Breeds

- Ongoing media pitching executed to key audiences with stories that speak

to positive qualities of AKC purebreds and breeders. Distributed 12 press releases to appropriate media outlets.

- Promoted all major AKC events and broadcasts on ESPN with press releases and media alerts.
- Continued positioning the American Kennel Club and its spokespeople as the expert on all things dog.

## **Q1 Performance Highlights**

- 7.19% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications.
- 9.1% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (+2.5% from Q4 2025)
- Maintained a 97% positivity rating.
- Media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) on par with Q1 2025.

## **AKC Education Q1 Review**

Ashley Jacot, VP, Education, participated in this portion of the meeting. She presented Q1 highlights for the Education Department.

### *AKC Canine College (AKC CC)*

In Q1 2026, the AKC CC developed and published 6 new courses. The Learning Management System (LMS) now hosts 521 courses, totaling 1,621 modules.

## *AKC CC Breed-Specific Courses*

In Q1, six new breed-specific courses were released, two breed-specific courses were updated, four breed courses are under Parent Club review, and seven new breed courses are in development or queued. In Q1 2026, 694+ course enrollments were recorded, with 18 days remaining in the quarter, representing approximately a 4.7% increase over Q1 2025.

## *Required Judge's Exams*

As of March 13, 2026, in Q1, 2,100 exam enrollments were purchased, which included 812 breed exams, 422 judge recertification exams, 225 performance exams, and 649 CGC Evaluator exams.

## *Expanding Reach Through Courses, Campaigns, and Cross-Promotions*

AKC CC is looking to deepen cross-promotion across AKC's platforms and services, creating a more connected ecosystem to drive learner engagement while unlocking new revenue opportunities for other areas of the business. AKC CC currently features targeted placements linking learners to relevant AKC products and services, including the AKC Shop, AKC Pet Insurance, AKC DNA, AKC Good-Dog Helpline, and more.

## *Breeder Development Support*

In Q1 2026, three webinar sessions were hosted and three more are currently planned for Q2.

- OFA Testing and the Breeder's Commitment to Canine Health
- A Breeder's Blueprint, the Breed Standard
- Breeding Quality, Healthy Dogs – Selection that Epitomizes the Breed
- Troubleshooting Canine Infertility in Females (*scheduled*)
- Neonates: The Critical Period (*scheduled*)
- [June 2026 session – TITLE TBD (*scheduled*)]

## *AKC Meet the Breeds® (MTB) 2026*

The Public Education team received over 300 art contest entries from around 32 different schools this year. The artwork of 100 finalists and four winners was displayed at MTB. The four winning pieces are being displayed at the AKC Museum of the Dog for the next few months.

The Education team also ran the popular AKC Patch Program at the event, with over 500 families participating.

Other highlights include:

*Bailey's Birthday Surprise:* This children's picture book, written by the AKC Public Education team and illustrated by Kathleen Stack, is scheduled for completion at the end of June, with printing planned for Q3.

*Pee Wee Patch Program:* This program is being expanded for ages 3-6.

*RDO Coloring Book Update:* The Education team has developed a plan to update the book's language and content to provide clearer, more comprehensive information about responsible dog ownership, along with refreshed illustrations that promote inclusivity.

*Breed Posters:* The Public Education collection of dog breed posters has grown to approximately 130 and continues to expand.

*AKC Library and Archives:* Work this quarter focused on improving access to collections, strengthening internal workflows, and more effectively supporting researchers. L&A is moving toward more sustainable, accessible, and user-centered services.

*Webinars:* In Quarter 1 of 2026, AKC Education hosted ten webinars for 1,262 participants, bringing the total number of participants to 84,798 since March 2020.

*AKC Groomer Program:* In Q1, the AKC Dog Grooming Program continued to implement process improvements designed to streamline the user experience, reduce administrative burden, and strengthen margin performance across existing offerings.

*National Dog Groomers Association of America:* NDGAA membership certificates have been transitioned to a fully digi-

tal format aligned with updated branding. Campaigns are underway for improving member retention and expanding new membership.

*National Certified Master Groomer Program:* Many of the program updates initiated in Q3 focused on the National Certified Master Groomer (NCMG) program, which includes both in-person and virtual evaluations. Given the number of customer and evaluator touchpoints, efforts have centered on simplifying the experience while maintaining the program's position as a leading industry certification.

## **IT Transformation Plan – Update**

Since the October 2025 update, AKC's IT Transformation program has moved from planning into formal execution. Following a competitive evaluation process, AKC selected BDO as its transformation partner. The contract has been fully executed, the program kickoff has been completed, and structured interviews and discovery activities with leadership and key stakeholders are now underway.

These steps mark a significant transition from analysis and roadmap development to active delivery of a multiyear business and technology transformation. The program is now focused on establishing a shared understanding of current-state challenges, aligning leadership on future-state objectives, and defining a

sequenced, executable roadmap that addresses business alignment, cost, risk, and delivery effectiveness. BDO's timeline for the first phase of the effort is expected to take seven months.

## **FINANCE**

### **Preliminary Financial Statements** **(Unaudited) March 31, 2026**

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, reported on preliminary financial statements for the first quarter ending March 31, 2026. This period reported a Net Operating Loss of \$796K, primarily due to registration revenue trailing Q1-2025 by 11%. Q1-2026 NOL excludes an investment spend rate allocation of \$710K. Q1-2026 NOL represents 4% of operating revenues, the same as Q1 2025, indicating financial stabilization across the two comparative periods. The 2026 Q1 vs 2025 Q1 results reported lower operating revenues of \$1.5MM, or 6%, and lower operating expenses of \$1.7MM, or 7%. Donations to AKC affiliates are on budget and are funded by the matching use of investment funds.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services, joined this portion of the meeting.

### **Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®)** **Guidelines – AKC Citizen Science** **Task Force Recommendations**

The Citizen Science Task Force has sub-

mitted recommendations to modify the Foundation Stock Service® Guidelines as follows:

- FSS® breed Parent Clubs will annually submit a report about their progress and status: For FSS® breed Parent Clubs, if there is a lapse of three years in communication between the Sports Services Department and the designated Parent Club, the club will no longer be considered representing the breed.
- One of the criteria for a breed to be considered for full recognition is that there must be minimum of ten unique Parent Club households owning dogs that have earned AKC titles.
- The AKC Communications Department will develop a 12-month media and social media plan for clubs of newly recognized breeds. This plan will serve as a practical roadmap to help clubs build visibility, generate interest, and raise public awareness for the breed, with AKC offering guidance and support to assist clubs.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hoke and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Abstained: Dr. Battaglia) to approve the recommended modifications.

These modifications to the Foundation Stock Service® Guidelines are effective June 1, 2026.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters.

### Russian-Bred Dogs

It was reported out that the Board VOTED to repeal the ban on registering Russian-born dogs.

### Trial Board Administration

It was reported out that the Board VOTED to establish a Board committee to review Trial Board member applications and adherence to the *Trial Board Member Requirements & Guidelines*. The Board appointed three Board members to the committee: Mr. Dan Smyth, Mr. Dominic Carota, and Ms. Sue Goldberg.

## **Government Relations Update First Quarter 2026**

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations, updated the Board on quarterly and year-to-date Government Relations and advocacy highlights. Updates included key issues, coalition building, legislative and regulatory trends, advocacy and educational outreach at the state and federal levels, successes and challenges, and recent alerts, publications and new resources for dog owners, lawmakers and advocates.

### AKC Community/Economic Impact

In March, GR introduced newly researched studies of AKC economic and community impact figures for all 50 states. This newly revised resource utilizes survey data of expenditures in local communities by exhibitors in 2025 at AKC Conformation, Companion and Performance events. On average, AKC exhibitors spend approximately \$982 in a local community during a dog show weekend.

*AKC Impact by State* reports provide data on the positive impact that AKC affiliates, clubs, and events have in each state. This is valuable information to share with lawmakers, local media, chambers of commerce and other community entities to educate the public about the positive impact that AKC has in every community we touch.

Each state summary includes a broad range of information including:

- Economic impact of AKC dog shows.
- The number of AKC dog clubs and events by state.
- AKC Reunite Disaster Relief Trailer and K-9 Officer donations by state.
- AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF) Research grants and dollars by state.

The full report is available in the AKC Government Relations online toolbox.

## Legislative/Regulatory Tracking

As of April 24, 2026, Congress and legislatures in 33 states and the District of Columbia are in session.

The AKC GR team is currently monitoring more than 2,500 active bills and regulations at the local, state and federal level that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and well-being of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the sport and the American Kennel Club.

To date in 2026, GR has prepared and published more than 100 legislative alerts and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers or written and/or oral testimony on more than 85 measures.

By volume, the most common types of bills monitored in Q1 2026 related to:

Cruelty/ Breeder Restrictions	268	22%
Working Dogs	241	20%
Veterinary	203	17%
Hunting/Land Use	186	15%
Animal Control/Dangerous Dogs	174	14%

The remainder of bills fell into other, smaller categories, including performance events, rescue/shelters, enforcement actions, service dogs, retail and other bills. This illustrates the broad range of canine legislation introduced and tracked by the GR team.

## Administrative/Implementing Regulations

AKC GR also tracks administrative (im-

plementing) regulations and rule changes impacting dogs. In Q1, GR monitored 688 active regulatory proposals: 15 federal; 673 at the state level.

By far, the most common regulatory category continues to be *Hunting/Land Use* (383 total; 54% of measures tracked). Regulations regarding *Veterinary Medicine* (130; 18%) are also common. *Veterinary Professions* are third with (85; 12%), *Dogs in Public* are fourth with (50; 7%). The last two categories are *Other Canine Policy Issues* (43; 6%) and *Public Health* with (24; 3%) round out the top six specific categories.

## New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® – Lucas Terrier

The Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) Committee recently approved a petition for the Lucas Terrier to be accepted into the FSS® Program.

## Companion & Performance

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports and Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services; Lisa Liggins, Administrative Director, Obedience, Rally, and Tracking; Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events; and Douglas Hurley, Director of Agility, joined this portion of the meeting.

## Parent Club Request for Three-Quarter Jump Height in Obedience – Norfolk Terrier

The Norfolk Terrier Club has submitted

a request to have the regular jump height requirement in Obedience lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

This change requires an amendment to the *Obedience Regulations* and may be approved by a vote of the Board.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fineburg and seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Absent: Ms. Goldberg) to approve lowering the regular jump height requirement for Norfolk Terriers to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

This change is effective June 1, 2026.

## **Agility – Allowing the Wall Jump in all Classes**

Staff presented a recommendation to modify the *Agility Regulations* to allow all AKC licensed Agility clubs to use the wall jump as an optional piece of equipment in all AKC Standard and Jumpers with Weave classes (but not allowed in FAST or T2B). The wall jump may replace the panel jump or be substituted for a spread jump (triple, double, ascending or the broad jump). The wall jump may only be taken one time in Standard and Jumpers with Weaves classes.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Absent: Ms. Goldberg) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Abstain: Mr. Hamblin) to modify the *Agility Regulations* to allow use of the wall jump as an optional piece of equipment.

This change is effective August 1, 2026.

## **Pointing Breed Field Trials – Retrieving Test**

The Board considered a recommendation to allow clubs the option to host a retrieving test at Pointing Breed Field Trials. This is a pass-fail test where dogs that pass earn one retrieving credit which counts toward earning a Field Championship (FC) or Amateur Field Champion (AFC) title.

This is a change to the *Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds* and may be approved by a vote of the Board. If ap-

proved, the change will become effective November 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

## **CAT and Fast CAT® – Clarifications & Updates**

The Board considered a series of nine technical clarifications/updates to the *CAT and Fast CAT® Regulations* designed to offer clearer guidance to exhibitors and host clubs. Changes made to the *CAT and Fast CAT® Regulations* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the changes would be effective November 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

## **Lure Coursing – Allowing FSS® Breeds to Earn Prefix Titles**

The Board considered a recommendation to allow Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) breeds to earn prefix titles in Lure Coursing. FSS® breeds have been eligible to earn prefix titles in Companion events.

This is a change to the *Lure Coursing Regulations* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the recommendation would become effective upon the completion of programming.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

## **CONFORMATION**

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events;

Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Mark Desrosiers, Director Event Programs; and Guy Fisher, Director of Club Development, participated in this portion of the meeting.

At the January 2026 Board meeting, the staff was directed to study ways to improve scheduling of Conformation dog shows. Following its review of the memorandum presented by staff concerning the scheduling of Conformation dog shows at the April 2026 meeting, the Board directed staff to further pursue potential rule and policy changes discussed within the memorandum and/or emanating from its discussion.

## **Required Number of Rings for Conformation Dog Shows**

The Board reviewed a proposal to adopt a *Minimum Number of Rings Policy* to establish the requirement for All-Breed and Limited-Breed dog shows to provide a minimum of one ring per 150 entries, inclusive of all Conformation classes/competitions offered by the club. Staff was directed to forward the proposal to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee for discussion at its June meeting and to provide feedback for the Board's consideration.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be January 1, 2027.

## **Group and Best in Show Judges**

The Board reviewed a proposal to amend current Board policy to prohibit judges assigned to the regular Group or Best in Show competitions from being assigned to judge the Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition or FSS® Open Show on the same day. Staff was directed to forward the proposal to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee for discussion at its June meeting and to provide feedback for the Board's consideration.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be January 1, 2027.

## **Conformation Judges Daily Limit**

The Board reviewed proposals concerning the daily limit for Conformation Judges to either: (1) lower the daily limit for all Conformation Judges from 175 to 150 entries, or (2) maintain the 175 entry daily limit for Conformation Judges, with the caveat that judges assigned to a regular Group or Best in Show are limited to 150 entries per day inclusive of All-Breed, Junior Showmanship, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition and FSS® Open Show assignments.

Staff was directed to forward the proposals to adopt the *Judges Daily Limit for Group and Best in Show Judges Policy* to establish the maximum number of entries that may

be assigned to judges assigned to a regular Group or Best in Show at Conformation dog shows may not exceed 150 on the day, inclusive of All-Breed, Junior Showmanship, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition and FSS® Open Show assignments to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs and Dog Show Rules Committees for discussion at its June meeting and to provide feedback for the Board's consideration.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be January 1, 2027.

## **Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club 3rd Show Request**

Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club has requested approval to hold a 3<sup>rd</sup> show at the Industry Hills Exposition Center in the City of Industry, CA on week 39. From the Industry Hills Exposition Center, it is 368 straight-line miles and 446 driving miles (7+ hrs. driving time) from the closest shows in Carson City, NV. The distances do not meet the Limited Number of Events isolated criteria.

This memo provides the Board with information related to the club's request for an exception.

The recommendation is to approve the Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club's request for an exception to the Limited Number

of Events Isolated Criteria to hold a 3<sup>rd</sup> show.

This recommendation is an exception to Board Policy and may be made by a vote of the Board.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Opposed: Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Dr. Garvin) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Smyth the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Opposed: Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Garvin) to approve Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club's request for approval hold a third show until such time as circumstances may change.

## **Fines & Reprimands**

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

## **Events & Entries**

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

## **JUDGING OPERATIONS**

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events,

and Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

## **Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges – Individual Examination of Dogs**

The Board reviewed a proposal to amend the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* to remove the requirement for Group and Best in Show Judges to re-examine dogs judged earlier at the same event for standard disqualifications and check for two normally descended testicles in males.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be July 19, 2026.

## **REGISTRATION**

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services; Keva Allen, Director of DNA Operations; and Jill Zapadinsky, Sr. Director of Customer Service, participated in this portion of the meeting.

## **Cloned Dogs Listed as PAL Dogs**

The Board considered a recommendation to clarify Board Policy regarding cloned dogs, specifically the phrase "under certain circumstances a cloned dog may obtain a PAL enrollment." to better define what circumstances would qualify a cloned dog for PAL (Purebred Alternate Listing) enrollment.

The Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell. Opposed: Mr. Hamblin. Abstained: Ms. Thomas.) to approve the recommendation to modify AKC Board policy as follows: The AKC will not provide full registration to a cloned dog. A cloned dog may enroll in the PAL (Purebred Alternate Listing) program provided they meet all PAL requirements, including spaying/neutering. Further, cloned dogs that are enrolled in the PAL program are eligible to participate in any event that a dog with a PAL listing can participate.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

## **CLUBS**

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting. Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Report on Member Club Bylaws Approved in March and April**

All Breed Training Club of Akron, Akron, OH (1954)

American Sealyham Terrier Club (1913)

Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Ann Arbor, MI (2008)

Blackhawk Retriever Club, La Crosse, WI (2005)

Detroit Kennel Club, Detroit, MI (1916)

Five Valley Kennel Club, Missoula County, MT (2002)

Manitowoc County Kennel Club, Manitowoc County, WI (1949)

Newnan Kennel Club, Coweta County, GA (2005)

Sioux Empire Kennel Club, Minnehaha County, SD (1968)

### **Report On Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in March and April**

East Tennessee Working Dog Association, greater Knoxville, TN (including communities north to Kentucky state line, south to Walland, east to Johnson City, and west to Crossville), 27 total households, 14 local.

Northwest Rat Terrier Association, greater Seattle, WA (including communities north to Mount Vernon, south to Centralia, in proximity to Interstate 5), 22 total households, 14 local.

## **COMPLIANCE**

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Inspections, and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting.

## **Code of Sportsmanship & Civility Enforcement Policy Changes**

The Board of Directors considered a recommendation to incorporate clarifying language into the *Code of Sportsmanship & Civility Enforcement Policy* and continuing to utilize the *AKC Discipline Guidelines* to bring charges for more serious violations. It also considered recommendations to re-order parts of the policy for greater clarity.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be July 15, 2026.

## **Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken**

The Board received a report of actions taken.

## **Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions as of April 20, 2026**

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of April 20, 2026.

*(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)*

## **Compliance Status Report – First Quarter 2026**

The Board received a report of Compliance quarterly statistics for the first quarter of 2026.

## **Inspections Status Report – First Quarter 2026**

The Board received a report on inspections statistics for the first quarter of 2026.

## **CONSENT Retriever Hunting Tests – New National Retriever Gun Dog Championship**

The Board considered a recommendation to amend the *Regulations & Guideline for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers*, to allow the newly-formed, AKC-licensed, National Retriever Gun Dog Championship Club, Inc. to host an annual national event within the AKC Retriever Hunting Test program called the National Retriever Gun Dog Championship.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Absent: Ms. Goldberg) to consider this measure separately from other items on the consent agenda.

Following further discussion, and upon a motion by Mr. Hoke, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr.

Stansell. Abstain: Ms. Thomas.) to approve that the newly-formed, AKC-licensed, National Retriever Gun Dog Championship Club, Inc. host, as a pilot program, an annual national event within the AKC Retriever Hunting Test program called the National Retriever Gun Dog Championship.

(See [Appendix A.](#))

These changes are effective June 1, 2026.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Consent agenda items to follow.

### **Redefine the meaning of “Fast” in the Obedience Regulations**

The Board VOTED to approve a request of the Delegate Companion Events Committee to amend the *Obedience Regulations*, removing the words “must run” from the current statement and replacing them with “Fast,” meaning that the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed.

(See [Appendix B.](#))

This change is effective June 1, 2026.

### **Judging Applications and Pending Discipline Policy**

The Board VOTED to approve a staff recommendation to amend the *Judging Applications and Pending Discipline Policy* to specify the handling of applications

for judging approval previously placed on hold pending the resolution of a pending disciplinary matter.

### ***Judging Applications and Pending Discipline***

When a judging applicant is under investigation and has been informed or has been charged for alleged misconduct under AKC’s *Judging Misconduct Policy* or under the disciplinary provisions of AKC’s *Bylaws*, any pending or newly submitted judging application for breeds or classes will be held in abeyance until the resolution of the disciplinary matter. If final resolution results in no suspension to affect judging privileges, the hold on the application will be lifted, and processing of the application will resume. If final resolution results in a suspension to affect judging privileges, the application will be returned to the applicant and will require resubmission if and when privileges are restored to good standing.

This change is effective May 20, 2026.

### **Approval of Newly Recognized Breeds**

The Board VOTED to approve the staff recommendation to modify the *Adjunct Application Process* to extend the period in which an Adjunct breed is added to an application for the balance of the group to one year after the date of full recognition.

## *Adjunct Application Process*

Additional breed applicants that have applied for a balance of a group in which an Adjunct breed would automatically be added upon final approval of the balance of that group will be required to submit a non-refundable \$35 application fee per applicable adjunct breed(s) prior to being scheduled by staff for their interview on all applied breeds with an AKC Executive Field Representative. The applicant Applicant must be interviewed satisfactorily by an AKC Executive Field Representative on the adjunct breed. Credit will be applied on future application(s) of any breed(s) not approved. This applies to applications for the balance of a group in which an Adjunct breed is entering received within one year after the Adjunct breed's date of full recognition.

This is effective immediately.

## **Parent Club Request to Retire Cutwater (Portuguese Water Dog)**

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America to retire the kennel name "Cutwater" on behalf of the owners.

## **Parent Club Request to Retire Damasyn (Doberman Pinscher)**

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America to retire the kennel name "Damasyn" on behalf of the owners.

## **Delegate and Club Approvals**

Terry R. Bridges

To represent Illinois Capitol Kennel Club  
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Dennis N. Corash

To represent Terry-All Kennel Club  
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Sharon A. LeVan

To represent Clermont County Kennel Club  
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Joao Machado

To represent Oakland Dog Training Club  
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Christian A. Morales Reyes

To represent Greater Miami Dog Club  
Published in *AKC Gazette*: April, May 2026

Lori Sage

To represent Sherwood Dog Training Club  
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Sharon Tracy

To represent Pocatello Kennel Club  
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026



# SECRETARY'S PAGES

Linda C. Wozniak

To represent Durham Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April  
2026

## **Approved for AKC Membership**

Rat Terrier Club of America

Households: 96 households

1<sup>st</sup> Licensed Show: July 31, 2015

Bylaws: Acceptable

Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April  
2026

## **Investment Committee**

CFO Ted Phillips provided the Board with an update from the Investment Committee.

Adjourned: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at  
12:54 p.m. Eastern.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



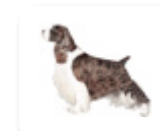
Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



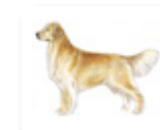
Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English Coonhound



American Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



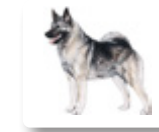
Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno



Redbone Coonhound



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker Coonhound



Whippet

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



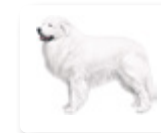
German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



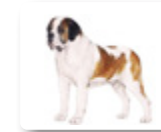
Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



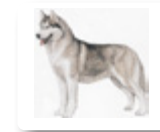
Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



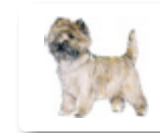
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester Terrier (Toy)



Miniature Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



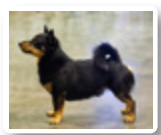
Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



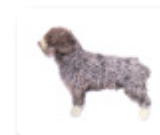
Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



# AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

**The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.**

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>