



gazette

MARCH 2026



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Westminster Candid

Feature:
Seeing Smarter

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



FCM Universal Championship

Four AKC International Dog Shows 2026

For AKC breeds fully recognized.

FCM Universal Championship

Special Attraction Dog Shows

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



Expo Santa Fe. Mexico City



November 12–15, 2026

FOUR ALL - BREED DOG SHOWS

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

FCM - Panamerican Championship Title

(Thursday November 12th, 2026)

FCM - Continental Championship Title

(Friday November 13th, 2026)

FCM - Intercontinental Championship Title

(Saturday November 14th, 2026)

FCM -Universal Championship Title

(Sunday November 15th, 2026)

FCM - Mexican Championship Title

(All four days)

AKC - Championship Points

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

AKC - Grand Championship

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



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®



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

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

Thanks for All You Do

As we move through the early months of the year, I am continually reminded of the passion, dedication, and heart that define the AKC community.

I would like to begin by congratulating the AKC's outstanding recipients of this year's Dog Writers Association of America Awards. AKC Publications and AKC Digital Content were honored with more than 20 nominations and 11 award wins across multiple categories for 2025. These talented writers play an essential role in educating the public about breeds while elevating conversations around dogs and responsible ownership. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to accuracy, creativity, and advocacy on behalf of dogs.

Later this month, we look forward to one of the most exciting events on our cal-

endar: the AKC National Agility Championship, taking place March 19–22 at Galway Downs in Temecula, California. This premier competition will welcome more than 870 dogs representing 46 states and Canada, all coming together to showcase speed, precision, and teamwork. These remarkable canine athletes will compete for the title of 2026 AKC National Agility Champion at their respective jump heights, and we are thrilled to celebrate the skill and dedication of both dogs and handlers on this national stage.

Looking ahead, nominations will open March 4 for the AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE), a program that recognizes extraordinary dogs doing extraordinary work. The ACEs honor canine heroes in six categories: Uniformed



Service, Therapy, Search and Rescue, Service, Exemplary Companion Dog, and Teams. The Teams category recognizes certified teams working together in search and rescue (human detection and disaster response), therapy, and K-9 police work.

Together, these honorees represent dogs whose courage, training, and devotion make a meaningful difference in the lives they touch. Past recipients have included a therapy dog who supported survivors of the Alameda fires, a search and rescue dog whose many missions included locating a lost 83-year-old woman suffering from dementia, and a crisis canine team that has responded everywhere from

AKC PHOTO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AKC National Agility Championship:
California here we come!

Uvalde to the Central Texas floods. Nominations will remain open through July 31, and I encourage you to help us recognize these remarkable dogs by submitting a nomination. Submission information is available at akchumanefund.org.

I am also pleased to share that applications are now open for the John D. Spurling Scholarship, which supports students pursuing education in animal care, veterinary science, and other dog-focused fields.

This scholarship reflects AKC's ongoing commitment to investing in the next generation of professionals dedicated to advancing canine health, welfare, and education.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the clubs, volunteers, exhibitors, AKC staff, and, of course, the incredible dogs who made AKC Meet the Breeds in New York City such a tremendous success this February. Despite frigid weather, we welcomed more

than 38,000 dog lovers, making it the largest Meet the Breeds event ever. The enthusiasm, generosity, and dedication on display were truly inspiring. This event is possible because of you.

Thank you for all that you do to support dogs, the sports we love, and the community that brings us together.

Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
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March Forward

Somehow, 28 Westminster have come and gone since I came to work at the GAZETTE. Of the 330 issues I've worked on, many of my favorites have been March issues.

March is the month when we perform a favorite yearly task: publishing Westminster photos taken by our game's top photographers. It was a joy this year to work with Oleg Bochkov's images from the 150th-anniversary show.

Also, March brings the frolic of St. Patrick's Day and, with it, our annual nod to the dogs of Erin. Befitting a nation of poets, the Irish have woven myth and folklore into their breed histories.

In the May 1927 GAZETTE an Irish fancier wrote, *"I think often of an old Irish legend concerning the Irish Terrier, which assigns his origin to that mystic land of the fairies that is always close to the Irish imagination, and claims as his first playfellows, the 'Little People' who dance in magic rings*



On Our Cover

Irish Terrier courtesy Lynda Beam

on moonlit nights."

Finally, March is the gateway to spring. As I write this, the city is shut down by what will be recalled as The Blizzard of '26. But by the time this issue runs its monthly course, the neighbor's dog will again be sniffing around the tulip bed out front.—**B.B.**



Vines & Wines Cluster

Presented by Kern County Kennel Club & San Luis Obispo Kennel Club

March 26-29, 2026

Entries close Wednesday March 11, 2026

Kern County Fair Grounds - 1142 S P St, Bakersfield, CA 93307

\$1000 NOHS REGIONAL BIS PRIZE

\$500 NOHS REGIONAL RBIS PRIZE

Planned Events:

· All Breed Conformation · Junior Showmanship · AKC 2026 NOHS Regional Event (Saturday March 28th) · Regular NOHS Thursday, Friday, and Sunday · Obedience · Rally · Fast CAT · Trick Dog · CGC and CGCA · Dock Diving · AKC Scentwork with Advanced levels · Best Puppy (Thursday) · 4-6 Puppy (Friday & Saturday) · Pee-Wee (Saturday) · Best Bred By (Sunday)

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Scotland, The Brave Dogs



John Sargent Noble (English, 1848–1896). “The Gamekeeper’s Bothie,” c.1875. Oil on canvas. Museum purchase through funds from Gayle S. Bontecou.

AKC Museum’s heart in is the Highlands. By Alan Fausel

From the rolling Borderlands to the rugged Highlands, dogs have been an essential part of Scottish life for centuries. As tireless herders, skilled bird dogs, steadfast hunters, and cherished companions, they worked shoulder to shoulder with their people, embodying Scotland’s deep-rooted bond with man’s best friend.

Scotland is home to some of the world’s most beloved and instantly recognizable breeds. From the noble elegance of the Deerhound to the bold charm of the Scottish

Terrier, these dogs have inspired artists across generations, becoming enduring symbols of strength, loyalty, and character.

Coinciding with New York’s [Tartan Week](#), the AKC Museum of the Dog proudly presents [Scotland, The Brave Dogs](#), an exhibition celebrating Scottish breeds through works by noted Scottish artists such as Edwin Douglas and Samuel Fulton, as well as renowned artists Sir Edwin Landseer, Richard Ansdell, John Sargent

Noble, and George and Maud Earl.

More than a celebration of iconic breeds, the exhibition offers a window into the nation’s rich history and cultural legacy. Through the stories of these dogs, their roles, their evolution, and their deep connection to the land, we honor Scotland itself: its working traditions, its artistic heritage, and the remarkable dogs that helped shape both.

Scotland, the Brave Dogs runs from **March 26 through July 5**.

UPDATES

CHF Announces **New CCDS Guidelines**

The [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) has announced the first-ever published guidelines for diagnosing and monitoring Canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CCDS). The guidelines were developed by an international working group of canine-cognition experts led by North Carolina State University's Dr. Natasha Olby and were made possible in part by CHF funding.

“Establishing evidence-based standards is exactly what we need more of in veterinary medicine,” CHF Chief Executive Officer Dr. Stephanie Montgomery says. “When veterinarians, researchers, and owners use the same language rooted in science, answers come sooner, care improves, discoveries accelerate, and dogs benefit.”

Published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* ([abstract](#)), the guidelines provide veterinarians with

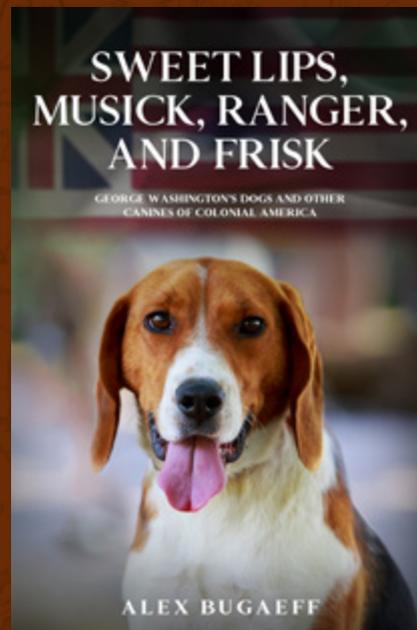
a standard definition of the condition, practical diagnostic criteria, and guidance on monitoring progression. They also help owners and families understand CCDS and provide the best care for their senior dog.

CHF is partnering with

Olby to launch a new online resource hub for canine cognitive dysfunction. This centralized, easy-to-navigate website will bring together the latest science, guidance, and practical tools for veterinarians and dog owners.

[Read More](#)

Before America Had Presidents, It Had Dog Lovers



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

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UPDATES

DWAA Awards

In from the cold, Family Dog writers grab the gold

NEW YORK CITY—Writers, editors, publishers, and other assorted canine-media types gathered at Connoly’s Pub on Sunday, January 31, for the annual awards luncheon of the [Dog Writers Association of America](#), celebrating its 90th year.

On a day that saw record-low temperatures, two [AKC Family Dog](#) contributors came away with that warm-all-over feeling after winning multiple Maxwell Medallions.

Lindsey Dobruck’s feature “Hogan’s Run” was judged best in the Behavior, Training, or Sports category, and her story “Taking the Lead” received two special prizes: The Pat Hastings



Dennis Sprung receives Hall of Fame plaque from DWAA board member Dr. Joel Gavrielle-Gold.

Mentorship Award and the Walter Fletcher Memorial Award.

The AKC’s prolific Penny Leigh won in the Rescue category for her *Family Dog* feature “Touch Tones,” and took special awards for “Touch Tones” (Harrison Stephens Inspirational Feature), “Ron May You Run” (USDAA Agility Award), and “In a Blur” (The Cody Award).

Other AKC Publications writers honored were Theo Bernstein in the Young Authors category for his *Family Dog* coverage of AKC Meet the Breeds, and the Bearded Collie Club of America’s Alice Bixler in the Humor category for

her *GAZETTE* breed column “What Are the Chances?”

The high point of the day was the induction of former AKC President Dennis Sprung into the DWAA Hall of Fame for his “transformative initiatives that elevated public appreciation for dogs across every medium, including books, magazines, television, websites, and social media.”

The DWAA honored two AKC parent-club publications. *The German Shepherd Dog Review* won in the Club Publications (Special Topic) category, and *The Weimaraner Magazine* took the Maxwell for Club Publications (Regularly Scheduled).

UPDATES



Westminster Results

*Westminster Kennel Club, New York City,
Madison Square Garden, February 2 and 3
(total entry: 2,556)*

Best in Show

Doberman Pinscher
GCh.P Connquest Best of Both Worlds; judge David Fitzpatrick

Reserve Best in Show

Chesapeake Bay Retriever GCh.P Next Generation's Accelerate

Sporting Group

Chesapeake Bay Retriever GCh.P Next Generation's Accelerate; judge Douglas Johnson (entry: 440)

Hound Group

Afghan Hound GCh.G Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman; judge Michael Canalizo (entry: 354)

Working Group

Doberman Pinscher GCh.P Connquest Best of Both Worlds; judge Sioux Forsyth-Green (entry: 365)

Terrier Group

Smooth Fox Terrier GCh. Aimhi Side Bet; judge Polly Smith (entry: 295)

Toy Group

Maltese GCh.B T a-Jon's Made From Scratch; judge Charlotte P. Patterson (entry: 359)

Non-Sporting Group

Lhasa Apso GCh.P Ta Sen Westgate Jingle Juice; judge Eugene Blake (entry: 298)

Herding Group

Old English Sheepdog GCh.B Bugaboo's Give Me Smore'; judge Sheree Moses Combs (entry: 383)

Junior Showmanship Finals

Hadrian Towell (with Standard Manchester Terrier); judge Michael Faulkner



Big Apple Meet-Up

NEW YORK CITY—The AKC has presented its Meet the Breeds events since 2009, and the February 2026 edition was the biggest yet. Despite record-cold temperatures, more than 38,000 spectators jammed the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center to get acquainted with 140

breeds presented by AKC clubs. The two-day family-friendly canine spectacle demonstrated the extraordinary power of in-person engagement, providing an in-person hands-on way to meet purebred dogs and learn about responsible pet ownership.

Meet the Breeds remains a cornerstone opportunity to connect directly with the dog-loving public while advancing the AKC as the trusted, go-to resource for all things dog, from education and responsible ownership to sport and advocacy.



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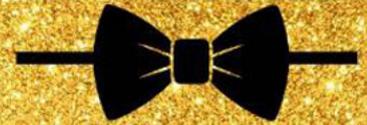
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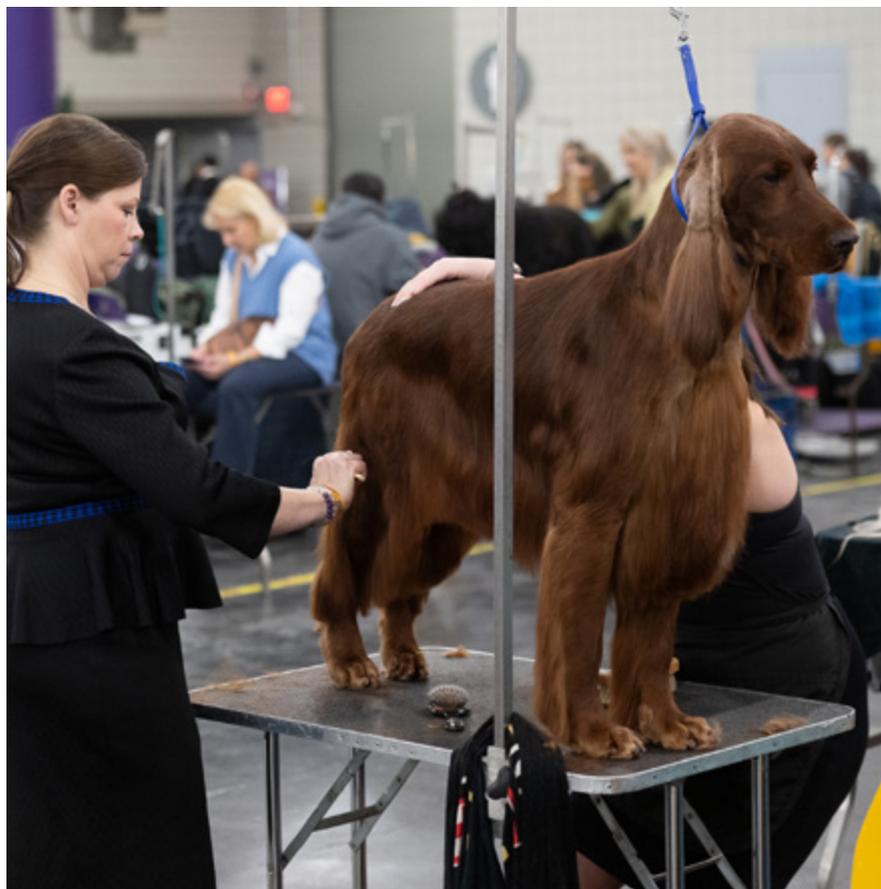
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Westminster KC | New York City | February 2



Every year since 1877, Westminster has transformed New York into the international crossroads of dogdom. This was never truer than in this, the 150th anniversary year of the grand event. This edition of “Ringside” is a virtual stroll around Javits Center on the first day of breed showing, where we run into old friends who have enlivened many a Westminster past.

Thanks to Oleg Bochkov for a delightful portfolio of candid photos from around the rings.

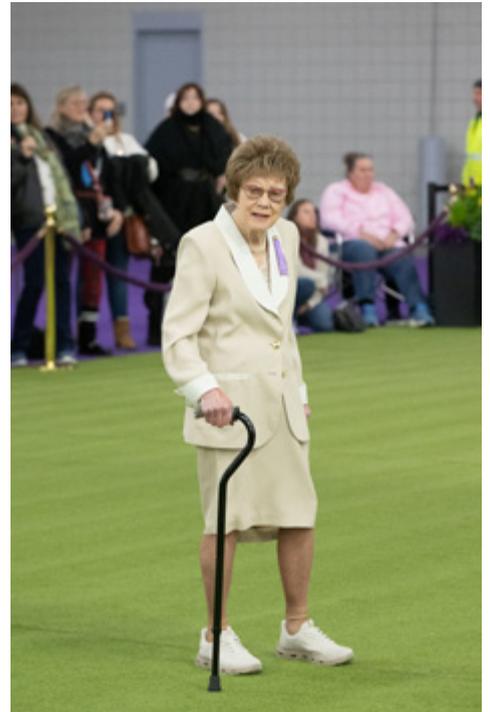


PHOTOS COURTESY HOTDOG

RINGSIDE

Westminster KC | New York City | February 2

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RINGSIDE

Westminster KC | New York City | February 2

Photos Courtesy HOTdog



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RINGSIDE

Westminster KC | New York City | February 2

Photos Courtesy HOTdog



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RINGSIDE

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FEATURE



*To better understand
how dogs think, we
must understand how
they see.*

SEEING SMARTER

*Science considers the interplay among canine vision, cognition,
and intelligence.*

FEATURE

Children interpret the gesture as pointing to the object, whereas dogs take pointing as a directional cue.



When we point at an object, a toddler focuses on the object, while a dog usually takes the gesture as a directional cue. In a recent study, researchers from the department of ethology at Eötvös Loránd University find explanations for this phenomenon. It appears that the discrepancy is not only due to how dogs see, but may, in fact, reflect how they think. For “smarter” dogs, the appearance of an object matters as much as

its location, suggesting that their information processing is more similar to that of humans.

Spatial bias is the phenomenon of interpreting information in relation to space, location, or distance when the same information could easily apply to an object. “This is manifested, for example, in the way dogs and children react to gestures when we show them the position of an object,” explains Ivaylo

Iotchev, first author of the study, appearing in the journal *Ethology*.

“Very early on, children interpret the gesture as pointing to the object, while dogs take the pointing as a directional cue. In other words, regardless of the intention of the person giving the cue, the meaning for children and dogs is different. This phenomenon has previously been observed in dogs using a variety of behavioral tests, ranging from simple

FEATURE

associative learning to imitation, but it had never been studied per se.”

The researchers have concluded that the spatial bias is an untapped opportunity to better understand how dogs think.

Previous research has not clarified whether dogs behave this way because they have inferior vision compared to primates, or whether it is an information-processing bias, whereby the parameters of the space around them are more important to dogs than the specific, nearby objects.

THE TESTS

The researchers measured spatial bias in two behavioral tests involving 82 dogs. In one task, the dogs had to learn, over a maximum of 50 trials, whether the treat was always on the right or left plate, so they learned a location.

In the other task, two types of plates were used, a white round one and a

black square one, these were always placed in the middle. A dog was always given only one type of plate to eat from but was exposed to each in a semi-random sequence.

In this constellation, they were learning about the properties of the plate. Learning was measured by how fast a dog ran to the correct plate.

The results showed that the dogs learned faster when the treat was placed to the right or left, so they had to choose which direction to go. They had more difficulty remembering whether the treat was on the white round or black square plate. The “spatial bias” measure described how much faster the dogs were at learning about the place than at learning about object features.

THE SHORTER THE HEAD ...

A more complicated task followed if the dogs had already learned where the

treat was, because then the situation was reversed. That is, if they had previously received the treat on the right, it was now on the left in the new position, and if it had been on the white plate, it was now on the black plate.

To find out whether spatial bias is sensory, cognitive, or mixed, the researchers needed to detect and measure differences between the visual and cognitive abilities of dogs.

This involved measuring how short the dog’s head is—as this is correlated with visual acuity—and also measuring how efficiently they solve problem tasks.

The head shape was investigated by Zsófia Bognár Ph.D., student and co-author of the study. “The visual abilities of dog breeds differ from each other, which indirectly results from their head shape. Dogs with shorter heads—scientifically known as brachycephalic—develop human-like vision,” explains

FEATURE

Dogs and Cats: Getting the Point

Dog and cat owners are familiar with the age-old question: Which of the two species is smarter?

The degree to which our two most popular pets are similar has long been a source of a scientific debate. Many comparative studies have already been conducted on these species, with varying degrees of success. For example, it is unclear whether they can recognize human communicational signals, such as pointing, to the same extent.

Researchers at Eötvös Loránd University compared how well companion dogs and cats can choose based on human pointing gestures in their recent study. Importantly, the pets were tested under the same conditions, ensuring the comparability of the results.

“We tested cats and dogs first in the laboratory, which was quite the challenge for cats,” says Attila Salamon, the first author of the resulting

article.

“A total of 62 indoor family cats were brought to the department by their owners, but we could carry out the pointing test with only 34 of them. The rest were either too shy or unmotivated to participate even though their favorite treats were offered.

“On the other hand, no dogs had to be excluded.”

Co-author Melitta Csepregi sets the scene: “The task appeared to be simple: we placed two containers on the ground, one of which contained a food reward. The experimenter always pointed at the baited container, then the subject could choose. Overall, dogs proved to be more skilled: They found the reward significantly more frequently than cats.

“In addition, cats gradually became less willing to choose, while dogs were eager to work during the whole duration of the test.”

Since cats seemed to be at a disadvantage in the



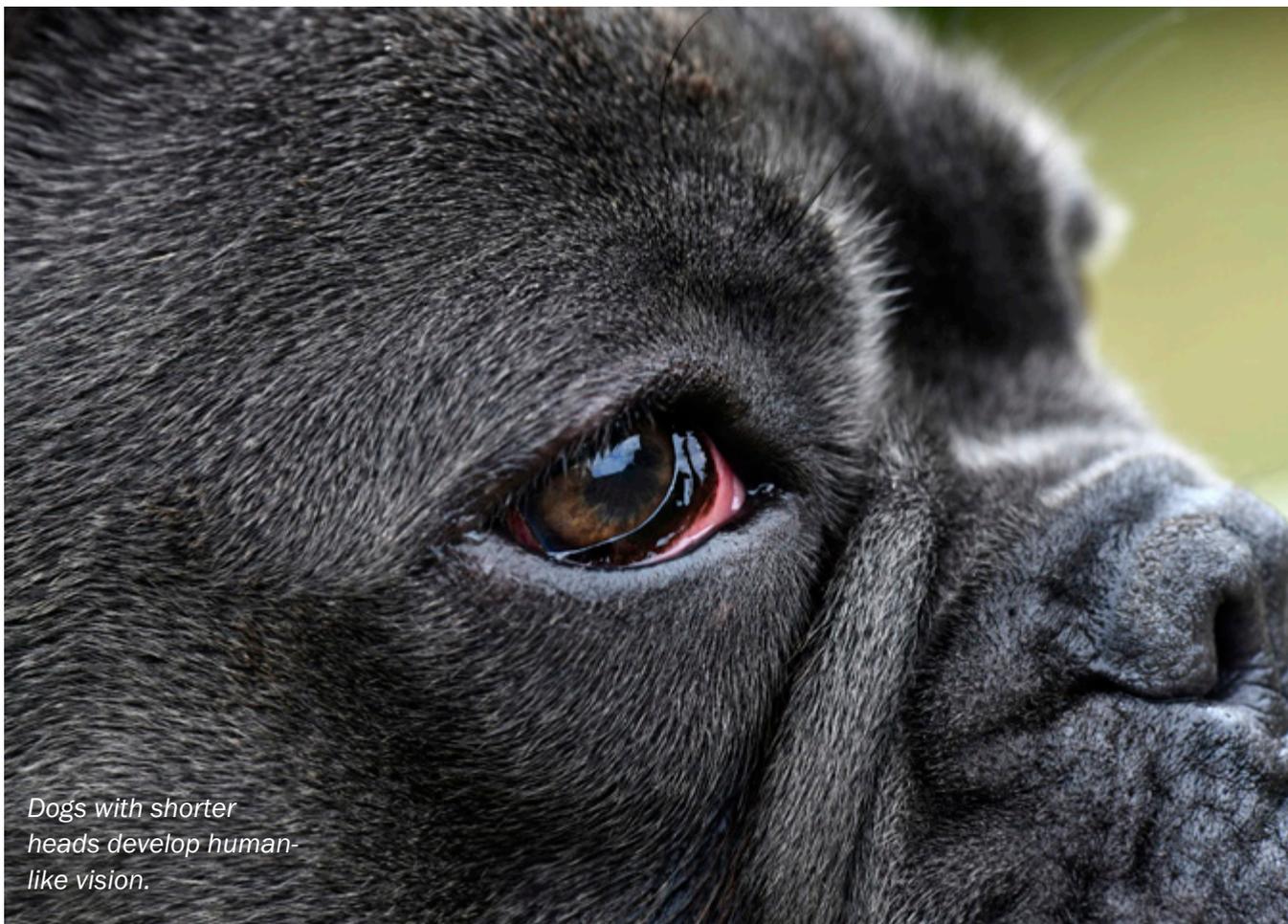
unfamiliar environment, the researchers later tested a subgroup of the cats at home. While cats’ willingness to choose a container did not decline at home, their overall success was still lower compared to dogs.

There may be several sources of these differences. “Cats may have been less attentive, less motivated by food rewards, or frustrated by the unfamiliar environment or unusual handling during the test,” lead researcher Márta Gácsi says.

“Unlike the cat, the dog is a social species and was selected for interaction and cooperation with humans during domestication.

“Differences in how we keep them may also have contributed to the test results. All things considered, it’s no surprise that it’s less relevant for cats to rely on human communication cues.”

FEATURE



Dogs with shorter heads develop human-like vision.

Bognár. “The structure of their retina implies sharper and more focused vision than their longer-headed counterparts.

“This has allowed us to use a measure of head shape, the so-called cephalic index, as an approximate measure of the quality of vision in dogs. It is calculated by dividing the width of the skull by the length of the skull. The shorter the head,

the higher the number.”

To measure cognitive ability, the dogs took part in a series of tests. Researcher Eniko Kubinyi adds: “We tested their memory, attention skills and perseverance. We found that dogs with better cognitive performance in the more difficult spatial bias task linked information to objects as easily as to places. We also see that as children develop,

spatial bias decreases with increasing intelligence.”

The study found that spatial bias is smaller in dogs with better visual acuity and who are “smarter.” Concludes Iotchev: “Spatial bias in dogs is not simply a sensory problem but also a mindset. We also found that ‘smarter’ dogs are resilient in difficult learning situations and can overcome their biases.” **GZ**



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Red Girl in the Big City

In February, Andy Linton returned to the Westminster winner's circle after 37 years, again handling a Doberman Pinscher. Linton's first Garden BIS came in 1989 with a magnificent red bitch named Indy, 1988's Top Dog All Breeds. Here's a look back at that memorable win from The Dog Show, by William Stifel.

She was not just a Champion. The CD after her name indicated she had earned the title of Companion Dog in obedience competition. Her dam also carried the title. The elegant red Doberman bitch had been a finalist in 1988 and now had come back to take Best in Show, her 45th top award. Handled by Andy Linton, she was the first of her breed to win the Garden since 1953. She had



Linton with Indy: elegant, correct, and balanced

won 19 specialties. Ch. Royal Tudor's Wild as the Wind, CD, was owned by Sue and Art Korp, Beth Wilhite, and Richard and Carolyn Vida. They called her Indy. Judge Charlotte Clem McGowan, who put the four-year-old first in the group, said: "She's elegant, beautifully balanced, with a superb headpiece."

Best in Show judge Mrs. Muriel Freeman, one of the country's foremost breeders of Rottweilers and formerly an eminent golfer, took 19 minutes to make her decision. "She is very elegant, very correct, and very balanced," was her terse comment. "She was all the things she's supposed to be."—**W.S.**



Fancy Meeting You Here

John Elliott, of CBS New York, visits the Javits Center in this supercut of his AKC Meet the Breeds coverage. 21:22



Behind the Green Carpet

CBS Sunday Morning tells the story of 150 years of the Westminster KC show. 7:44

VIDEOS



More than Just a Fancy Haircut

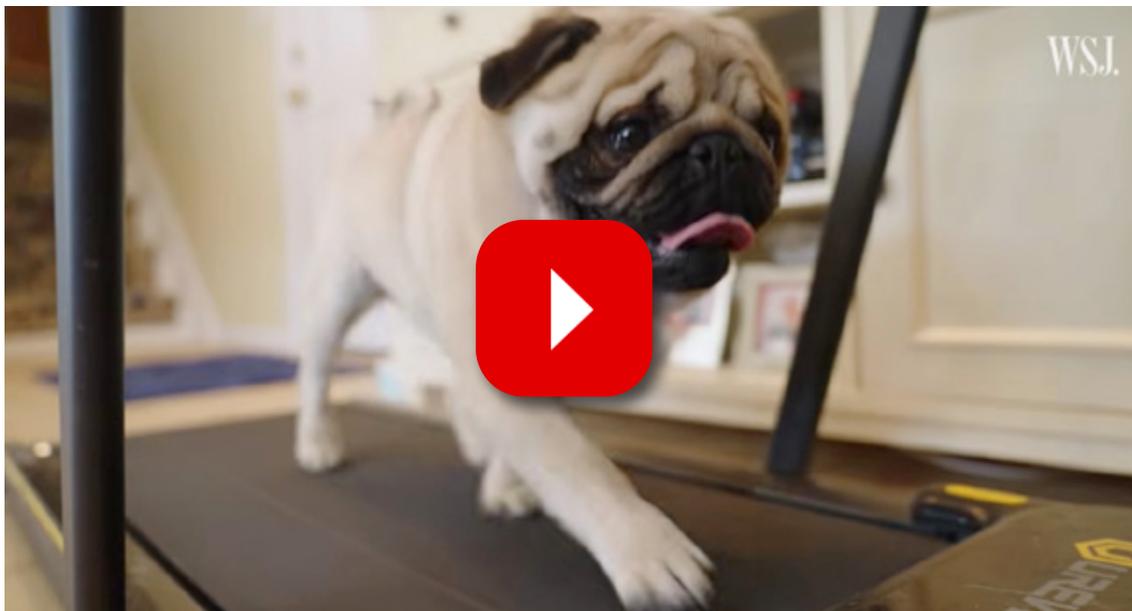
A recent addition to the AKC's Meet the Breed series: The multifaceted Poodle. 9:49



The Gentleman Judge

Adrian Woodfork discusses his life in dogs and his first Westminster assignment. 4:01

VIDEOS



It's a Dog Handler's Life

A nicely done video from the Wall Street Journal spotlights veteran pro handler Kim Calvacca. 6:09



Once Around with Jane Forsyth

Slideshow gallery: A life in the ring, from the pages of the GAZETTE. 1:13

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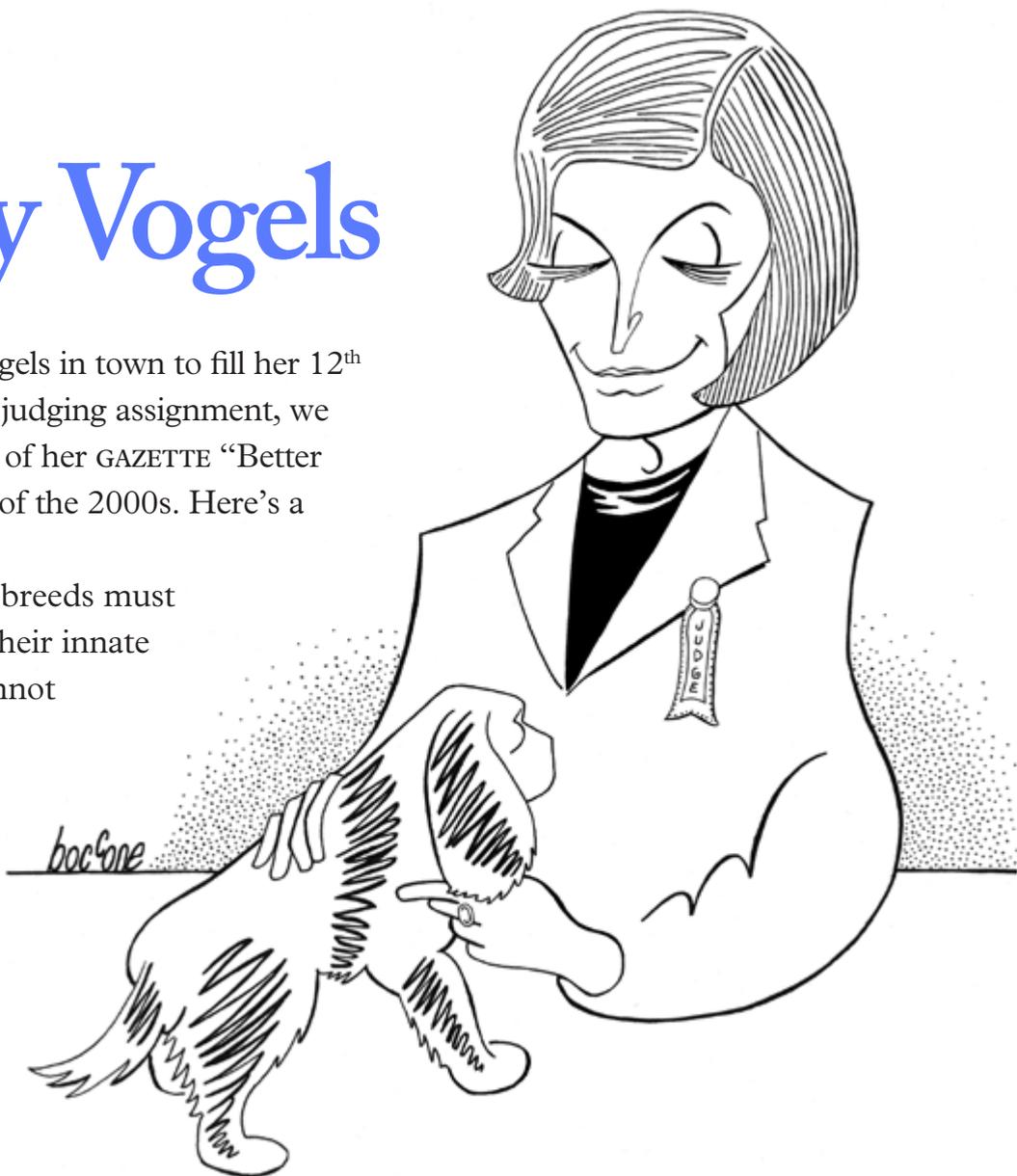
This **23rd edition** of The American Kennel Club's **The New Complete Dog Book** belongs in every dog lover's home, the library of every town and institution, and dog club reference section in America.

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Cindy Vogels

With Cindy Vogels in town to fill her 12th Westminster judging assignment, we recalled the wisdom of her GAZETTE “Better Breeding” columns of the 2000s. Here’s a taste from 2002:

“In the show ring breeds must be appreciated for their innate temperament. It cannot be expected that every breed will show with the on-its-toes attitude of a terrier. Breeders should not fall into the trap of modifying the natural essence of a breed’s temperament to produce more ‘exciting’ show dogs. Although many of the hound, working, and herding breeds are not stand-up show dogs, the intensity of their character can be appreciated in the ring.”



BREED COLUMNS

Edited by **Arliss Paddock**



Congratulations to the Bearded Collie Club of America's Alice Bixler on her DWAA Award (Humor category) for the breed column "What Are the Chances?" She's at it again this month, with an amusing look at homemade dog treats called "Fry Me a Liver."

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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



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Brussels Griffons

THE NEW PUPPY WHO WON'T EAT

The caller on the phone sounded frantic. The puppy was doing fine, she assured me. He had bonded strongly with the family. He was truly the right match. But: “He won’t eat! How can I get him to eat?”

When I started breeding Brussels Griffons, I was puzzled by this question. After all, the puppy was eating just fine before he left home.

I like my young puppies a little on the chubby side because in the excitement of a new home, they are often too busy to eat. I explained this to the caller. “Give him some time.” She didn’t sound convinced.

Sure enough, she called again, three days later. “He doesn’t like the food you sent!”

He thought it was just fine before he left here. He ate it every day. What’s changed? So, we unpack the situation, step by step, to find out what’s going on.



*Brussels Griffons,
Maud Earl*

First of all, how much is she feeding him? My recommendation for a 12-week-old puppy is about one-quarter to one-third cup, three times a day. But as I suspected, my new puppy owner is putting a full cup of food into his dish. He may have consumed a dozen kibbles, but that is undetectable in such a large dish of food.

Plus, I explained, it was my experience that a puppy is sometimes overwhelmed by a large amount of food in

his dish. It may have something to do with his sense of smell. Your puppy possesses up to 600 million olfactory receptors in his nose, compared to you, with a mere six million. He can detect smells at a concentration of one part per trillion, which means one tiny drop in an Olympic-size swimming pool. A big dish of food may swamp his delicate nose. Put just the required amount of food in his dish. That’s enough.

Where is she feeding him?

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On the kitchen floor.

Well, the puppy was accustomed to eating on the floor with his littermates or alone in his crate. Put him in his crate and give him some privacy. The owner admits she does not want to put him in the crate, because she thinks it's cruel. I explain that the crate is his bedroom. It is his safe place. It is where he can go to have some privacy, take a nap, or eat his food.

There is another avenue to explore: What kind of treats is she feeding him, and when? Some new owners are unaware that treats are *food*. If there is a training session in which the puppy eats a dozen hot dog bits as rewards for learning to walk on a leash, then he is not eating because *he is not hungry*.

What is his behavior when she puts the dish down?

“He just looks at it, looks at me, and sits down.”

New owners seem surprised to discover that Brussels Griffons do not approach food with the enthusiasm of sporting dogs.

Brussels Griffons do not gulp their food. Most eat slowly. Some stop eating, leave a little food in the dish, then finish it after a short rest.

The new owner is reminded that she chose the Brussels Griffon because he is sensitive, emotional, and adapts himself to his human's mood. This means he can feel her staring at him, and it makes him uncomfortable. Think about how you feel if someone is staring at you while you eat. You become self-conscious. Finally, you give up and move away. This is how your puppy feels.

Lastly, the owner has become extremely anxious about his reluctance to eat, and the puppy is aware of her anxiety. An anxious state is not comfortable for him. He understands love and approval and happiness. He doesn't know what to do about her anxiety. He doesn't eat the food because he is trying to relieve her anxiety.

The solution? Approach

his feeding time in a calm and ordered state of mind. Prepare his food and place it in his crate or on the floor with just a few words of encouragement. Then leave him alone. You don't have to leave the room; just work on the laptop or make a phone call. Take all your judgement and anxiety off him.

If he doesn't eat the food within a set amount of time (say, 15 minutes), pick it up and put it away for the next feeding. With bigger breeds, you'd let him go hungry until the next meal. With Brussels Griffon puppies, however, their low body-weight makes them subject to hypoglycemia, which can cause fainting. So if he's not eating, you need to give him a high-calorie nutritional supplement, such as Nutrical or Dyne, to keep his blood sugar levels from dropping. We use a syringe to put it directly into the puppy's mouth.

I'm happy to say that this new puppy owner was able to implement my suggestions and have the patience

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to let them work. However, far too often the owner finds it easier to bring home ever-more-expensive foods until they finally settle on one made almost entirely of meat. This, they are convinced, is the only thing their fussy, complicated puppy will eat. And eventually, it is.

It turns out Brussels Griffons are better at training us than we are at training them.

—Sharon Sakson

[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

HONORING OUR AGING

CAVALIER BREEDERS:

GUARDIANS OF OUR BREED'S LEGACY

In the Cavalier world there are breeders whose names are spoken with unmistakable respect—people whose vision, dedication, and unwavering love shaped the breed we cherish today. Their choices influenced type, preserved essential



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

virtues, and protected the Cavalier's unmistakable charm long before the breed rose in popularity. In every ring, in every pedigree, you can still trace their fingerprints.

Yet as time passes and health and life changes begin to touch our most seasoned breeders, it is

easy—too easy—for them to slip quietly from the center of our busy show world. Many who once stood ringside at every national, whelped litters through the night, and mentored generations of newcomers are now attending fewer shows or have stepped away from active breeding. Their bodies

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may have slowed, but their minds and memories remain priceless repositories of our breed's past.

And although this article centers on the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel community, the truth extends far beyond us. Every breed, and every judge and breeder who has devoted a lifetime to their dogs, deserves this same care and remembrance. The lessons are universal throughout our sport.

Recently I have been reminded how important it is to keep watch over the elders of our Cavalier community. Many exhibitors—even longtime ones—do not realize the depth of sacrifice, heartbreak, resilience, and brilliance behind the familiar kennel names found on our pedigrees. Some of our greatest breeders weathered tremendous challenges for the advancement of the breed: pioneering health testing, protecting type, making difficult breeding decisions, and standing firmly for the Cavalier's gentle, merry temperament.

Their stories are not simply personal memories. They are the living history of our breed.

There is a natural pull in every competitive sport to look toward the new, the promising, the next dog in the ring. But Cavaliers cannot move forward safely if we lose sight of the breeders who safeguarded their past. When we sit down with one of our elders—over coffee, in their living room, or ringside—and ask about a great dog from decades ago, about an old English import, about a breeding decision that changed everything, we receive something that cannot be found in books, seminars, archives, or social media. We receive mentorship, distilled over a lifetime.

Many of these extraordinary breeders are more vulnerable than we may realize. Some live alone after losing longtime partners. Some face health limitations. Some navigate financial hardships quietly. Others simply miss the companionship and purpose that

Cavaliers—and Cavalier people—once filled their lives with.

Checking on them is not an act of charity. It is an act of respect. A phone call, a visit, a heartfelt “we’d love to have you come to the show,” or simply asking their opinion on a dog can bring comfort and meaning to someone who once poured every ounce of themselves into the betterment of our breed. Escorting them ringside, finding a comfortable seat, celebrating the dogs who carry their influence—these gestures reflect our gratitude far more than words alone ever could.

We owe them the grace and support we can offer now, because they gave our Cavaliers everything they had then.

If the ACKCSC community wishes to preserve its history, its heart, and its identity, we must actively care for the elders who shaped it. And in doing so, we honor not only them, but the timeless truth that spans every breed: The future

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depends on how we treat the people who safeguarded the past.

The legacy of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is not only written in pedigrees or preserved in the ring. It lives in the hands, memories, and hearts of the breeders who carried it forward for decades. And now, it is our turn to watch over them.

—Jennifer Flowers Foster

[American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club](#)

Chihuahuas

SELECTION OF BREEDING STOCK: THE FUTURE OF THE CHIHUAHUA

Our breed's parent club, the Chihuahua Club of America, and the American Kennel Club are guardians of the Chihuahua's breed standard. The breed standard is a blueprint of the breed's specific qualities, such as *appearance*, *movement*, and *temperament*. It is our "word picture" of the appearance and behavior of an idealized Chihuahua. The breed standard is



“the standard or model which breeders endeavor to achieve.”

The basis of judging in conformation dog shows is *breed type*, which is the combination of characteristics that are typical of a particular breed. The judge looks at

the entered dogs to discern the ones who most perfectly resemble her mental image of ideal breed type. The goal of the conformation show is to identify breeding stock for the future of the breed.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks to proper

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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selection is allowing what we *like* to stand in the way of something that is equally correct and fully acceptable. These “likes” can develop into obsessions, and sometimes they do not fall within the range of preference. Restricted vision serves as a detriment to the breeder and to our breed as a whole. If decisions during puppy selection are based entirely on a personal preference, we risk inaccurately interpreting the breed standard.

We see this in our show ring, with Chihuahuas exhibiting such traits as extremely short muzzles and curly tails—both of which are incorrect according to the standard. Only when we select within the confines of our breed standard do we work to produce better dogs.

Selection of our puppies will influence the future of our breed and should not be taken lightly. The longer people breed and watch puppies grow and mature, the more proficient they will be in evaluating what stands before them.

If we are doing our job as breeders with the best possible intentions for the future of our breed, some very good dogs will be neutered or spayed, while those who are even better will be retained for future breeding. There is no doubt that neutered and spayed stock of the best breeders is far superior to much of the stock being used by others.

It behooves all breeders to work in the best interest of the breed. *Selection* is what it's all about, and it's the key to breeding success. An inability to look at your dogs objectively can wreck your dreams for the future and derail years of hard work. Successful breeders who produce quality dogs year after year are consistent with their selection process. They maintain a picture of the type they are trying to produce and know the ingredients that make up that type.

Finally, your ability to select wisely will depend both on your in-depth knowledge of dogs in

general and your breed-specific knowledge. Read your standard until you know it forward and backward, and understand what you are reading. Above all, think of the future of our breed when selecting your next show puppy. —Virginia (Jenny) Hauber

[Chihuahua Club of America](#)

Havanese

Our column for this issue is by guest writer Barbara Lombard. Barbara teaches agility classes, and her dogs have titles in obedience, agility, rally, scent work, Fast CAT, and CGC.

THE VERSATILE HAVANESE: MORE THAN A LAPDOG

The Havanese is a delightful paradox. At first glance, they look like perpetual puppies—fluffy, cuddly couch companions and expert lap-warmers with a clownish streak that keeps everyone laughing. Yet beneath that adorable exterior lies remarkable intelligence,

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confidence, and an almost boundless eagerness to work and please.

This versatility sets the Havanese apart. While many toy breeds are content with a life of leisure, Havanese thrive in performance sports. They excel in agility, rally, obedience, scent work, nose work, Fast CAT, Trick Dog, tracking, Barn Hunt, and virtually any game their owner dreams up. Their joy for life and love of being with their owner make training a genuine pleasure.

Unlike breeds developed for herding, hunting, retrieving, or guarding, the Havanese was bred solely for companionship. The wonderful surprise is how much more they offer. That deep desire to make their humans happy translates into exceptional trainability. They adore being the center of attention, performing for applause, and earning treats and praise. A well-trained Havanese is a true showstopper—something strangers frequently point out to me, with comments



like “I never knew a little toy dog could be so smart and capable!”

Training a Havanese requires a light touch and a good sense of humor. These dogs learn quickly but expect the process to be fun. Short, upbeat sessions filled with generous rewards and happy praise bring out their best. They don’t need endless repetition; they want to know they’re making

you smile. Their exuberant “zoomies” and friendly greetings during training are part of the package. With patience and laughter, those distractions fade as they discover the task itself is even more fun than racing in circles.

Despite their small size, Havanese are sturdy and athletic. Their compact, well-muscled bodies are perfectly proportioned

COURTESY ANNA FAUST

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for jumping agility obstacles, sprinting 100 yards in Fast CAT, or weaving through rally signs. Their low-to-the-ground build and outstanding sense of smell gives them a surprising edge in scent-related sports—often finding odor faster than taller breeds. In obedience and rally, their attentiveness and willingness to follow verbal cues or hand signals shine.

Havanese are also excellent watchdogs. A quick, loud bark announces visitors, yet they settle instantly with a calm “Quiet!”—no lingering alarm or aggression, just confident alertness.

Traveling with a Havanese is effortless. They fit comfortably in a crate for car rides or can be carried at dog shows without strain.

Grooming concerns are often overstated. Whether kept in a practical puppy cut or a flowing show coat, regular brushing and post-adventure cleanups are manageable. The maintenance is a small price for the immense joy they bring.

In short, the Havanese offers the perfect blend: a loving, affectionate companion who is always up for a cuddle, yet intelligent, athletic, and eager to partner with you in almost any activity. Playful, trainable, portable, and perpetually happy, they truly are the little dogs who can do it all. Who could ask for more? —B.L.

Thank you, Barbara.

—Submitted by Jacquelyn Watt. *This article has been approved by the BOD of the Havanese Club of America.*

[Havanese Club of America](#)

Italian Greyhounds

“BEWARE THE DOG”

I would like to clear up some of the popular misconceptions and inaccurate notions that people have regarding the Italian Greyhound breed.

Beware the Dog. My, how the meaning of this present-day well-known and well-used adage has changed through history. The Italian Greyhound is probably the

first breed that was kept by those who could afford to have dogs for no particular utilitarian purpose but to be a companion as well as a living object of art decorating an estate and home. *Beware the Dog* alerted guests that there were small dogs underfoot—and I’m sure even more so, curled up on a pillow at either end corner of a couch. Fashion in the day was dominated by oversized hoop dresses, perfect hiding places for curious but somewhat timid little dogs.

With their delicate appearance that has historically attracted the eye of painters and sculptors, the Italian Greyhounds are not necessarily fragile; rather, they are athletic. These little dogs are and should be fine boned. Very importantly, they are refined in their size *and* for their size. The bladed leg bones are long and fine—finer than what we see comparatively on the larger breeds that Italian Greyhounds resemble.

It’s hard to avoid the fact that too many people equate

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delicate bone with fragility, Here is where I implore that the reader becomes familiar with two other animal species, the dik-dik and the chevrotain. The dik-dik is the tiniest of antelope, measuring 12–16 inches at shoulder. The chevrotain, or mouse deer, is the most ancient living representative of hooved mammal, referred to as a “living fossil,” and measures 8 to 14 inches at the shoulder. Thus, both species are comparable in height to the Italian Greyhound. The dik-dik has been around for thousands of years, and the

chevrotain has existed for millions of years. These creatures live their lives running on toothpick legs, meeting their demise not by broken bones but by natural predation, and of course by human interference and predation.

When raising young Italian Greyhounds, they should be given plenty of space to run and play with obstacles few and far between. This is important in the development of coordination and muscle.

Two big mistakes that are repeated over and over are the following. First, toenails

are not trimmed adequately. Although the breed’s fine hare foot does accommodate a bit longer toenail, nails should be trimmed so the dogs have full use of the footpads.

The other mistake is giving the puppy too much unsupervised freedom in the house. The house is set up for human living and basically is an obstacle course in close quarters. That doesn’t deter the young mind, and Italian Greyhound puppies think they can fly. Compare this to a child who attempts to climb a tree before he or she has the strength and skill to do so. It takes time to master the twisting and turning at high speed that it takes these little dogs to navigate furniture, hard surfaces, narrow passageways, and all the rest that we take for granted in the home. But rest assured, it happens.

Being cognizant of this will raise the puppy to become a happy and healthy Italian Greyhound who will enjoy all the activities of life—including those which

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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people play a part in, like agility and dock diving. Of course, in adulthood the Italian Greyhound still may be seen spending more time curled up in the comforts of home, but it won't be the same as a child throwing away a college education to become that couch potato.

—Harry Bennett,

Harryonly@aol.com

Italian Greyhound Club of America



Japanese Chin puppies, 1891

Japanese Chin

WHELPING A LITTER OF JAPANESE CHIN PUPPIES: NOT QUITE A PACK OF WOLVES

Wolves raise their young for one to two years, and the cubs live with the pack until they are ready to survive on their own. They learn to interact with other wolves, hunt for themselves, and look out for danger.

Thousands of years ago, when wolves started to interact with ancient humans, they began to let the humans raise their puppies for them. Honestly, it is a brilliant

species-survival tactic, if you think about it—allowing a whole other species to take over the work and providing resources for their young!

As humans developed these wild canines into the domestic dogs of modern times, the needs of the puppies changed. How someone raised a litter of working dogs versus a litter of companion dogs was different as well.

My father grew up spending summers on his grandparents' farm in Indiana. My great-grandparents had farm Collies, and my dad says that the

dogs lived in the barn, mostly left to their own devices outside of feeding and working. Litters of puppies were cared for by the mama dog and sold or given away when they were weaned; little to no human intervention was needed.

That seemed to work well enough for a large-breed farm dog back in the 1930s—but what about our toy breeds? It seems to me that a litter of Japanese Chin requires more time, attention, and specific care.

Since I am not a breeder, I went to the experts

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around me and spoke with some breeders to get their thoughts. They agreed that there is a big difference between whelping large breeds and toy breeds, especially our Japanese Chin, which takes a lot of time, effort, and heart.

It all starts when the puppies are born. New moms especially need some help. Once she starts pushing, delivering the litter can take hours, and the average Chin has three puppies. The new mom often wants to hop out of the whelping box, so she needs to be coaxed to stay in and lie on her side to help the puppies to latch. Those first 48 hours are critical. The puppies need to stay warm and be able to feed. Many breeders sleep near the litter to make sure everything goes smoothly those first two days, with everyone gaining weight and eating regularly, including mom.

Once the puppies are ready to wean, a whole new set of concerns come into play. Toy puppies who are only interested in mom's

milk can sometimes have hypoglycemia and can suddenly crash and need a supplement right away. Seconds can count, so being with the litter is crucial. This is one of the main reasons why toy breeds often don't go to their new homes until they are 12 weeks or older, as compared to the typical 8 to 10 weeks for larger breeds.

When the puppies weigh less than three pounds, every ounce is critical, so the breeder must ensure that the puppy is gaining weight rather than losing it. If the puppies aren't interested in food, they might need to be fed with a syringe; sometimes 15 times a day, all the while trying to get them to understand that solid food is a good thing.

Another factor that determines when a puppy can go to their new home is motion sickness. Vomiting in the car can have detrimental effects on a tiny puppy, so if the new home is a 10-hour drive away, the breeder might be practicing car rides with the puppy for

weeks before they are ready.

All in all, raising a litter of Japanese Chins is not for the faint of heart. Instead, it is more like a full-time job for the breeder, to ensure that everyone from mom to puppies is healthy and well. There is a higher death rate for toy puppies than their larger counterparts, so a lot of work goes into the breeding of these dogs. However, one breeder shared that all those hours of work are worth it when a puppy of your breeding takes their first points in a show. I, on the other hand, will continue to enjoy the Japanese Chin from the owner's side and leave the breeding to the experts!

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

Maltese

CELEBRATION AND A POP QUIZ OF OUR MALTESE BREED!

Our breed, Maltese, were in the perfect star lineup with the 150th anniversary of the most famous

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WINNING MALTESE—Champion Martin's Flopsy Puff, eyes a trophy recently won as his mistress grooms him for a trip to Madison Square Garden, N.Y. for the Westminster Dog Show Feb. 14 and 15. Daryl Martin, 14, 842 Old Trail, has taken honors in 15 out of 21 shows entered in 1965 and anticipates equal success in the by-invitation-only show.

Young Daryl Martin with Maltese Ch. Martin's Flopsy Puff in 1965

dog show on earth, the Westminster Kennel Club!

Celebrating this well-run Super Bowl of dog shows, we had as Best in Show judge Mr. David Fitzpatrick, known worldwide for winning the Garden and many huge shows with his famous

Pekes—but few people know that in addition, he is a Maltese breeder of many years. To the newbies, David showed Maltese as a handler back in the day too. Secondly, the announcer Jason Hoke is not a stranger to Maltese in his handling

days, before becoming a “TV star” and a worldwide judge! To judge our breed representation in the big ring was Tim Lehman, a well-known Maltese handler and aficionado.

Interestingly, all three gentlemen all started as young people in this game, with the same passion.

I was upset I couldn't attend this year, due to a huge home renovation, after attending this famous dog show for over 60 years. Few people are still around who attended Westminster when it was at the “Old Garden.” Let's celebrate our beautiful breed!

We also need to thank the Westminster Kennel Club's Donald Sturz and his crew for steering the ship, bringing our passion for purebred dogs to the world stage

A pop quiz: Can you remember the names of other Maltese who have won the Group at the Garden or placed?

—Daryl Martin

[American Maltese Association](#)

COURTESY DARYL MARTIN

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Miniature Pinschers

LEGACY BREEDER INTERVIEW: ARMANDO ANGELBELLO

PART ONE

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, showing, and competing with his Marlex Miniature Pinschers for nearly 40 years. This is the first part of the interview.

How many years have you been breeding/showing your breed?

I have been showing and subsequently breeding Min Pins since 1986.

Please share some of the achievements of your breeding program.

I've bred over 150 home-bred champions and hold the record of most national-specialty wins, with 15 national Best of Breed wins with my dogs. I own the



Armando Angelbello, Marlex Miniature Pinschers

COURTESY ARMANDO ANGELBELLO

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top-winning Min Pin of all time, GCh.P Marlex Classic Red Glare (Classie), with 133 Best in Shows and four national-specialty wins. I have received recognition as Breeder of the Year from MPCA, AKC, and the annual *Dog News Awards*, AKC Toy Dog of the Year (Classie), Owner-Handler of the Year, etc.

What would you consider your biggest success to date in your breeding/showing career?

I am most proud of the accomplishment of 15 national-specialty wins. It is the national specialty that is the most important and defining award for any breed. To have accomplished this record, it is the ultimate. Of course, Best in Show recognition is also satisfying, as well as assessing the fruit of your labor in breeding very typey dogs and a distinct and recognizable type that adheres to the standard.

How would you describe Miniature Pinscher temperament?

The standard clearly defines that to be a true Min Pin, the correct temperament must also be present. *Bold, spirited, and fearless* immediately come to mind. Shyness is not desirable. The tail carriage is the barometer of temperament. If the tail is not up, most likely there is not a correct temperament.

In your opinion, how would you describe the ideal home for a Min Pin?

Someone who is looking for a fun and active dog who loves to cuddle with you but also loves to play and be mischievous just as much. Someone who tolerates and/or enjoys living with a toddler who never grows up. While Min Pins are loving, they also tend to be barkers and are not easy to housetrain.

Do you feel you have achieved all your aims for breeding and showing, or is there something else that you feel is still left to achieve?

Fortunately for me, I have been so lucky and have worked hard at achieving

all goals that I set out to achieve, and more, in breeding and exhibiting Min Pins. I look forward to many more years of enjoyment and to mentor and/or encourage the youngsters who will carry on and protecting and nurturing our beloved breed. For the future, I also see the possibility of becoming an AKC judge.

What made you choose your breed?

I really wanted a Doberman, but 38 years ago my wife, Xio, was afraid of big dogs. I ran across Dr. Boshell's Min Pin book and started my search for a pet. After acquiring our first pet, I became interested in shows and acquired my first show dog a year later, who went on to be a three-time national-specialty winner and among top sires, with 75 champions (Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric).

What has been your greatest challenge while breeding/showing?

At the very beginning, I

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had the look (from mentor Ann Dutton, Sanbrook) that I wanted, but I wanted to incorporate more lift without compromising on the type. It was a challenging process to accomplish this, but I succeeded to my satisfaction.

Who are breeders in the past/present that you admire?

Foremost, my mentor, Ann Dutton (Sanbrook), who was instrumental in passing on vast knowledge not only about Min Pins but also about animal husbandry. A true mentor imparts knowledge and encourages one to develop their own vision. Ann was like that, unlike many so-called mentors who just want to dictate what person should or should not do. That's a dictator, not a mentor. There are many breeders of past and present whom I admire and I work with on breedings and/or co-ownerships, and so on. I don't want to hurt any feelings in case I forget a name, but those who are alive, they know. I am not

one who thinks only my dogs are good. I recognize others have good dogs too, and when I see a great one, I make it a point to say so, even if it's not from a friend.

(To continue.)

—Joanne Wilds,
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Miniature Pinscher Club
of America

Papillons

INFLUENTIAL SIRES OF THE PAST: CH. TUSSALUD STORY TELLER, "DISNEY"

Stud dogs are remembered not only for their beauty, breed type, soundness, and pedigrees, but for what they produced and contributed to the breed. One such a memorable and prolific stud dog was English Ch. Tussalud Story Teller.

Disney was bred by Mrs. Kay Stewart (Tussalud), from Ch. Caswell Principality out of Tussalud Classic Tale. His sire was a Crufts Best of Breed winner in 1989 and also sire of three other champion

offspring. His dam was a full sibling from a previous litter to Ch. Tussalud Nickelodeon, sire of six English champions.

Disney had exceptional breed type, attitude, and showmanship. The confidence and outgoing nature that exuded from this fine-boned and dainty beauty would make your heart melt. He possessed the epitome of the breed and what defines a Papillon in our breed standards.

In his show career, while not fully matured, he won more often than lost and gained his CCs and title all in 1994. He won his first CC at Southern Counties, under Mrs. Gwen Edmed (Silverstreak). His next came at Windsor, under Mr. Mark Hutchings (Gerlil), and his crowning title came at the SKC show, under Mrs. Anna McKnight (Daneview). All three CCs included Best of Breed wins, and all judges were Papillon breeder-specialists.

At Crufts, he had at the time the only other record

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of winning the Dog CC with Best of Breed for three consecutive years: in 1995, under Mrs. Nancy Hutchings (Gerlil); in 1996, under Mrs. Bubbles Wood-Davis (Claretta), topping that year's Crufts win with a Toy Group first; and finally in 1997, under Mr. Ted Fearnley (Tongemoor).

Disney had broken the previous record made 20 years earlier of Ch. Pierre of Oakridges, owned by Mr. Ellis Hulme (Tongemoor), who consecutively won Best of Breed at Crufts in 1974, '75, and '76.

However, be it noted that the only Papillons to have won the group at Crufts before Disney were Mr. Ellis Hulme's Ch. Tongemoor Miss Peppermint, in 1982, and Mrs. Jenny Scovell's Ch. Caswell Copper Tiger, in 1991. The latter went on to win Reserve BIS at Crufts.

During his career Disney amassed an outstanding show record consisting of 29 Challenge Certificates (with 26 including BOB), three Reserve Challenge



Influential Papillon sire Ch. Tussalud Story Teller, "Disney"

Certificates, six groups, and four BIS: the Northern and Eastern Counties Papillon Club, UK Toy Dog Society, South Wales Papillon Club, and The Papillon (Butterfly Dog) Club. He also held the record as top-winning breed male of all time.

Disney was also the winner of the UK Toy Dog Society's Top Toy competition in 1996 and '97, and Top Papillon in 1995 and '96; Dog World Top Stud

Dog three consecutive years 1997, '98, and '99; and in 1998 he won the Papillon (Butterfly Dog) Club's Top Stud Dog annual trophy award.

As a veteran, Disney carried on winning and won the Pedigree Veteran Stakes final in 2001 under Mr. Frank Kane, who wrote:

"There was no denying the winner in my eyes, the Papillon Ch. Tussalud Story Teller. He stormed into the

COURTESY ROSEANNE FUCILLO

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ring holding himself beautifully and never stopped asking for the top award. He is a beautiful model for the breed, and a wonderful veteran.”

This was the last show he was seen gracing the show ring, but he continued his life as the top dog at home, being spoiled and taking it easy sleeping in his breeder and “mother” Kay’s bedroom at night.

Disney left a strong legacy as a stud dog. His name and exquisite type has been passed on to his descendants, who live on in the pedigrees of his champion get: Am. Ch. Brentville the Entertainer; Irish Ch./Ch. Denemore Rainbow’s Cameo; Ch. Martika What’s the Story; Ch. Ringlands Cover Girl Story, Swedish Ch. Siljans Disney, bred by Mrs. Ulla Hanis; Japanese Ch. Sunshoo Imalion King; Australian Grand Ch. Tawzan Tivoli at Tussalud; his breeder Kay Stewart’s own Ch. Tussalud Tell Me a Story; and Ch. Lorah’s

Spellbinda. —Roseann Fucillo, 2016

[Papillon Club of America](#)

Shih Tzu

The following was written in 2015 by the GAZETTE’s longtime columnist for Shih Tzu, the late Jo Ann White.

IF WE WANT MORE VOLUNTEERS, WE NEED TO MENTOR NEWCOMERS

Unfortunately, it seems that the same individuals almost always decorate Meet the Breeds booths and specialty banquet tables, sell catalogues, assemble welcome bags, collect trophy donations, run raffles, etc., etc. As many club members become older, frailer, and more burned out, the demands on the time of those who are still willing to volunteer continues to escalate.

Does anyone notice? Does anyone care?

The few young people entering the sport often do little besides show their own

dogs. While an unwillingness to volunteer is a problem throughout the dog world, it is one that also exists outside of it. Life is certainly harder than it once was for many of us, particularly those who are forced to work ever more hours at jobs that are less and less secure or well paying. Yet with participation in our sport and membership in our clubs shrinking, and expenses for holding shows on the rise, volunteers are increasingly critical. Everyone needs to step up to the plate—or at least express some appreciation for those who still do.

If we want new volunteers, we need to be more willing to mentor newcomers. If we are not, why should we be surprised when they are not willing to give back to our sport?

Ringside these days is often not a very pleasant place. In part, that is because it has become much more expensive and time-consuming to take a dog into the ring, so competition is more cutthroat. Yet

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experienced exhibitors and breeders were all once novices. Even as we moan over how things have changed, we need to remember that.

Those who now give back are most likely those to whom much was once given. Once judging is over, do you immediately pack up and leave, grumbling if you did not win, or do you hang around for a while? This can be a time to soak up more knowledge and offer advice and encouragement to novice exhibitors or educate spectators wanting to know more about our breed or about the dog show world.

We are all ambassadors, like it or not, and we need to become pleasant and effective ones.

In addition, longtime volunteers need to be more open to fresh ideas. Past mistakes have given them valuable perspective, but that doesn't mean that all things must always be done the way that they have been. Think outside the box.

Those who are most enthusiastic about volunteering are often pet owners who do not breed or show, or those involved in agility and other performance events where one tends to encourage fellow exhibitors rather than criticize them and their dogs.

Have you sold puppies to people who love their breed and dog shows and become quite knowledgeable about both, perhaps with your help? Is there a way we can involve such individuals in our activities, whether or not they are club members? Their time at shows is not filled with grooming and the stress of competition.

Some jobs require a lot of knowledge and experience, but others do not. A warm welcome and a willingness to share what you have learned is key to getting people to stick around and want to help. And when they do, thank them profusely rather than taking them for granted.

Enthusiasm, when encouraged and effectively channeled, can be catching! —J.A.W.

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

Toy Fox Terriers

WEIGHTY MATTERS

A number of years ago, I was ringside at a dog show with my first Toy Fox Terrier, waiting to show. A couple walked by with a Toy Fox Terrier in their arms, and seeing my dog, they stopped to admire her and to say they had come to spectate.

They introduced me to their dog, and all I could think was she was the fattest little dog I had ever seen. She had a head and four

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

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Keeping your Toy Fox Terrier at a healthy weight helps to ensure him or her a longer, active, and more comfortable life.

legs sticking out of a very plump, very round body.

When they walked away, I declared to my husband that I would never have an overweight Toy Fox Terrier.

Recently I had a phone call from a person who had a Toy Fox from me who is now about 8 years old. The owner was concerned because the Toy Fox

wouldn't eat and was losing weight. I asked how much weight she had lost, and his response stunned me. He told me she had weighed 13 (!) pounds before her loss of

COURTESY SUSAN THIBODEAUX

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appetite. Thirteen pounds meant she had gotten quite obese.

I advised him to take her to the veterinarian. He called me a few days later to tell me the vet had diagnosed her with diabetes. She now has to have daily shots.

On social media I often see photos of overly plump, sometimes dangerously overweight Toy Fox Terriers. According to several veterinary websites, dogs are considered overweight when they weigh 10 percent to 20 percent above their ideal body weight; dogs are considered obese when they weigh more than 20 percent above their ideal body weight.

In the U.S., obesity is the most common preventable disease in dogs. Just as with people, a dog being overweight also means a high risk for developing arthritis, diabetes, cancer, and joint issues.

It's no surprise that in a breed which is very food focused, when combined with owners who use treats

and food to show love to their dogs, there will be weight problems.

The first remedy for helping your Toy Fox to lose weight is a strict diet. This may include a low-calorie diet food or a reduction in amounts fed to help your pup reach a healthier weight. Be sure your dog eats at the same time every day, and that you measure the portions carefully based on the ideal weight. I have one-quarter and one-third measuring cups that I use to carefully measure out portions for each dog to ensure they get the specific amount of food required for their size, age, and activity level.

There are often hidden calories consumed by our dogs during the day. When I was campaigning my Toy Fox Sparkles, I noticed she had gained weight. I asked my husband if he was giving her treats, which he denied. Turns out he was letting her lick his plate before he rinsed it and placed it in the dishwasher. When it's a toy

dog, that "cleanup" adds a lot of unnecessary calories. She quickly shed the extra weight when the plate-cleaning stopped.

Treats are another source of calories. Treats for Toy Fox Terriers should be very small and used frugally. I use treats the size of peas. I break treats to make them the right size.

Some fruits and vegetables make healthy, low-calorie treats. My dogs love canned green beans and fresh blueberries.

In addition to carefully monitoring your Toy Fox's diet, exercise is crucial. Go for walks, play fetch, and encourage physical activities that will keep your dog lean and fit.

Show your Toy Fox love with attention and exercise, not treats. Keep your dog a healthy weight and help him or her live a longer, healthier, and more comfortable life.

—Susan Thibodeaux,
president@atftc.com
American Toy Fox Terrier Club

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Bichons Frises

LOOKING FOR A BICHON FRISE BREEDER?

When I have no puppies available, prospective buyers ask me to refer them to other breeders. However, since I don't feel comfortable telling them whether or not another breeder is reputable, I have developed a document providing prospective buyers with the following questions and information.

Start by finding breeders in good standing with the Bichon Frise Club of America at <http://bichon.org/breeders/>. Next, ask some important questions:

- *“What is your health-testing protocol?”* At a minimum both sire and dam should have been tested for hip dysplasia at 2 years of age, and they should have been tested for patellar luxation and eye disease within six to 12 months of the current breeding. More health tests are desirable. Go to <https://ofa.org/chic-programs/browse-by-breed/> to find this



information confirmed. You can search on the kennel name or AKC name of a particular dog to find out what tests have been performed on that dog.

- *“Do your dogs have allergies?”* Allergies are a major health problem in Bichons, but unfortunately you can't go online to check this. Ask about dog food, because if it is something unusual it may indicate that their dogs have food sensitivities. When you visit the breeder's kennel, observe the dogs for healthy coats with no signs of scratching.

- *“How do you socialize your puppies?”* Bichons can grow to be very fearful if they are not regularly exposed to different types/ages of people, riding in the car, new places and experiences, and so on, when they are 5–16 weeks of age. Note that all breeders will say they socialize their puppies; you must ask what they *do* to socialize them.

- *“May I come and meet the puppies and their mother?”* Before you buy, insist on visiting the home where the pups are being raised. It is important to meet the dam,

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

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because her temperament and looks will have a huge impact on the puppies. If the sire is on site, check him out also. (Many breeders don't keep boys because of the difficulty of having them around intact girls.)

Never meet a breeder in a parking lot or other place to purchase a puppy! This is a sign that the seller is trying to hide something from the buyer. Reputable breeders *want* you to visit so they can see how you and your family relate to the puppies.

- “*At what age do you place your puppies?*” If puppies are sold too young, they often have lifelong socialization problems. They need to be with their littermates and dam for at least eight weeks, and many breeders will not place puppies before 10–12 weeks. Breeders usually hang on to their most promising pups for a while, so don't reject an older puppy.

Reputable breeders will ask you questions also, because they want to make sure that their puppies are going to the best possible

homes. For information about questions to expect, please go to <https://bichon.org/about-bichons/breed-info/before-you-buy-a-puppy/>.

Good luck! I have had wonderful response to this and hope other breeders will want to reach out to the public in similar ways. —
Mayno Blanding, 2016

[Bichon Frise Club of America](#)

Boston Terriers

UNDERSTANDING A DIVA

BOSTON TERRIER

With 40 years of breeding and showing Boston Terriers, maybe I can help readers understand the diva dog better. If you have a sweet pup who isn't self-centered, consider yourself lucky.

A “diva dog” is confident, demanding, will punish their owner if they don't get their way, and believes the world revolves around them. Some of the behavior is our fault by making them think they are in charge. When not getting their way, they can

throw tantrums by not eating or ignoring us. It's bad enough if it's a pet, but if it's a show dog, you'd better know how to deal with the problem.

The secret is making them want to do what you ask for the reward they get, but also please you. It's kind of like wanting to go shopping at a certain store, and you know your husband will fuss about going, so you tell him about a great eating place near the store to go to first. He enjoys the food, and when you ask about stopping at the nearby store, his tummy is full and he's happy to say yes. Sometime by making things fun for husband or dog, they are more open to doing what you want. which means everyone wins. Hope these true experiences help you learn how to deal with a diva dog.

My first female, named Dolly, at home would eat dry dog food but knew when we were going to a dog show she could get a better deal by not eating. I had to take all types of food

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at a Boston Terrier specialty show, we wanted to reward her by letting her sleep with us. The next day she had all the attention she wanted, so she wouldn't show at all. Then I kept her in the crate and let her out only for a short while; the next day she wanted the extra attention and would show great.

When a diva has had all the attention they want, then it's bedtime—kind of like a cat. Dolly would get mad at the person who groomed her before showing, so Johnny Johnson had to show her. He laughed when handlers wanted to show Dolly. Most people don't understand that our breed is very smart and knows what they want. It's their way or the highway!

Some dogs are food oriented, and if you don't feed before showing, they will show their hearts out for a snack. Other dogs have a favorite toy that only is played with when training or showing. You need to figure out what does best for each diva.

Then there was the “drama queen” named Louise. She saw everything around her and loved to say to the world, “Here I am!” The problem was, you never knew what she was going to do next and couldn't relax a minute. They feel like you are just along for the ride and to protect them from the boogie man.

While in the lineup for Winners Bitch at BTCA, Louise saw some purple flowers across the ring. She looked at them as if they were a monster who was going to eat her. I prayed the judge wouldn't make her move again in the ring. She won, and the judge said, “What great animation—she was asking for the win!” Thank heavens I covered up her fear of the purple flowers, which she had walked by many times while showing.

Be prepared for anything when showing a Diva Dog. Smart dogs love to manipulate, so don't let them know who's in control.

—Patricia S. Johnson,
BTCA, BTCNC, DWAA

115 Poe Road, Siler City,
NC 27344; patsgrooming@gmail.com

[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

Bulldogs

AKC PERFORMANCE AND COMPANION EVENTS: GROWING INTEREST FOR BULLDOG OWNERS

AKC performance and companion events are proving to be growing areas of interest for the Bulldog community. From obedience to agility, rally to Barn Hunt, scent work to Fast CAT, Trick Dog to parkour, flyball, and Coursing Ability, there seems to be no limit to what Bulldogs are accomplishing. Even tracking and dock diving have attracted Bulldog fanciers who are eager to expand their AKC experience beyond the conformation ring. And that is not a complete list.

One way interest can be tracked is through statistics published in the Fall 2025 issue of *The Bulldogger*, the official publication of the

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Bulldog competing at 2020 AKC Agility Invitational—AKC performance and companion events are proving to be growing areas of interest for the Bulldog community.

Bulldog Club of America. From May through August 2025, 57 Bulldogs completed a total of 109 performance titles.

The Bulldog Club of America (BCA) acknowledges top performers through its Hall of Fame, as well as its Versatility Program, with Plateau- and Diamond-level dogs being honored at the annual

awards banquet held during each year's national specialty.

The BCA's official website offers a "Fun Zone" page designed to help newcomers to dog sports navigate the many available activities. The Performance Committee includes Bulldoggers who are currently active—or have long been active—in performance sports.

In addition, social media

pages such as Bulldogs in Performance Events on Facebook continue to grow, reflecting increased enthusiasm among those embracing these activities.

BCA Recognition of Performance Participants

The BCA recognizes performance participants in the following ways: Inclusion into the Hall of Fame, and Versatility Awards. (The top two tiers, out of seven, are announced: Diamond and Platinum.)

Hall of Fame Requirements *Obedience*

Induction requirement (demonstrating excellence):
Utility Dog (UD) title

1st Plateau: Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) title

2nd Plateau: Utility Dog Excellent 2 (UDX2) title

Tracking

Induction requirement (demonstrating excellence):

Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) or

Variable Surface Tracking (VST) title

COURTESY OWNER

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Agility

Induction requirement (demonstrating excellence):

Agility Excellent (AX) or Agility Excellent Preferred (AXP), or

Agility Excellent Jumper (AXJ) or Agility Excellent Jumper Preferred (AJP), or

Excellent FAST (XF) or Excellent FAST Preferred (XFP)

1st Plateau: Two Excellent titles, plus one Master title

2nd Plateau: Agility Championship (MACH or PACH) title

Rally

Induction requirement (demonstrating excellence):

Rally Master (RM) title, plus 10 Master scores over 90

1st Plateau: Rally Master 2 (RM2) title, plus 11 Master scores over 90

2nd Plateau: Rally Championship (RACH) title

Scent Work

Induction requirement (demonstrating excellence):

Scent Work Master (SWM) title

1st Plateau: Scent Work Master Elite (SWME) title

2nd Plateau: Scent Work Detective (SWD) title

Versatility Program

The Versatility Program provides formal parent-club recognition and incentivization for versatility among BCA member-owned Bulldogs. For the purposes of these awards, versatility is defined as a variety of achievements that reflect a range of abilities demonstrated through documented success in multiple fields of endeavor (sports and activities).

A seven-tiered point system is used, with the first tier accommodating the minimum requirement of achievements in three different sports, or alternatively, two different sports plus two different activities.

Sports that count toward Versatility awards include conformation, obedience, rally, agility, coursing, tracking, and scent work, as well as Barn Hunt, drafting/carting, dock diving, fetch,

flyball, herding instinct, weight pull, Canicross, obstacle course racing, treibball, parkour, and UpDog.

Activities that count include Canine Good Citizen, Virtual Home Manners, temperament testing, Farm Dog certification, Trick Dog, Stunt Dog, and Therapy Dog.

Point requirements for each of the seven award tiers are specified in tables that outline the assigned level and point value for each achievement in each sport and activity.

Many thanks to Bea Page for supplying this information.

—Elizabeth Hugo Milam,
celticdogges@me.com
Bulldog Club of America

Chinese Shar-Pei

STEPPING UP TO HELP

As I write this, a huge winter storm is barreling toward us, riding on bitter temperatures (subzero in many places). By the time this article is published, the storm will be a distant memory for

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Chinese
Shar-Pei

most, but I fear it will be a traumatic one for many.

The dog community is one of those that rises to the challenge of the needs of our community, whether it is in raising awareness or funds, educating the public, or sharing scientific information from vet to vet. Like in everyday life, there is nothing like a crisis to make us lay down our divisions and help—especially help dogs!

We are used to the big events that draw us to help: the hurricanes, the earthquakes, the storms. But every day the rescue groups face life-and-death situations, funding crises, answering the “How can I reach that one, how can I save that one?” And through it all, while they may have bad days, other individuals rise up, others shoulder that burden that bad day until

the rebound happens.

That shoulder-to-shoulder helping to carry the load is what it seems so many of our breed and all-breed clubs need—not so much the show chair, or the chair of this committee or that, but sharing of the process burden; not the big decisions, but the small steps to putting the show on and keeping the club going.

Burnout happens much faster when no one steps up to help. And we all know that every load is lighter with more hands! We are down in numbers, and down in numbers of volunteers.

The truth is, often they’ve never been asked. Maybe they were in a meeting where the club was looking for chairs, but the newer member felt unqualified for that. Maybe what they are most interested in they don’t have the time for, the big lead commitment. So they hesitate. Maybe they just don’t know what is needed, and it can be intimidating.

Newer exhibitors can’t know the ins and outs of a

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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club's needs in putting on a show. It's an area where we can educate them. They can't know where they can help if they don't know what the work is!

We can look at how big jobs can be broken down. In rescue, they solved the "How do we get Fido from here to there?" problem by getting creative and having "transport trains." Every hour or two, the dog is handed off for the next leg. Now, if you had asked me to take Fido from Houston to Chicago, that would be a "no, I can't"—*but* if you ask me to meet Fido at the end of Leg 6 near St. Louis and drive him to Bloomington, Illinois, I can do that!

We may need to start looking at jobs long done by one or two people at shows and seeing how we can break them down further. Can you sell catalogs for one hour—not all day? Can you help with judge's lunches for just one day of our four-day cluster?

I find exhibitors willing to help when asked and when

the request is not overwhelming or all-consuming. (Those jobs come later, after experience!)

We may be doing a disservice to our clubs and our newer members by not asking, not inviting them to take on just a small part of job.

I will admit to not being good at this. I will be trying to do better—how about you?

We are there for each other, we just need to refocus how we see that. It doesn't have to wait for a storm for us to ask for a bit of help to move our sport a bit further down the road.

—Karen Kleinhans DeSilva,
karenjkleinhans@gmail.com
[Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America](http://www.chinesesharpei.org/)

Chow Chows

WONDERFUL CHOW CHOW HISTORY ARCHIVE ONLINE

“If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.” —Pearl Buck

Our AKC Chow Chow standard says:

“An ancient breed of northern Chinese origin, this all-purpose dog of China was used for hunting, herding, pulling and protection of the home. While primarily a companion today, his working origin must always be remembered when assessing true Chow type.”

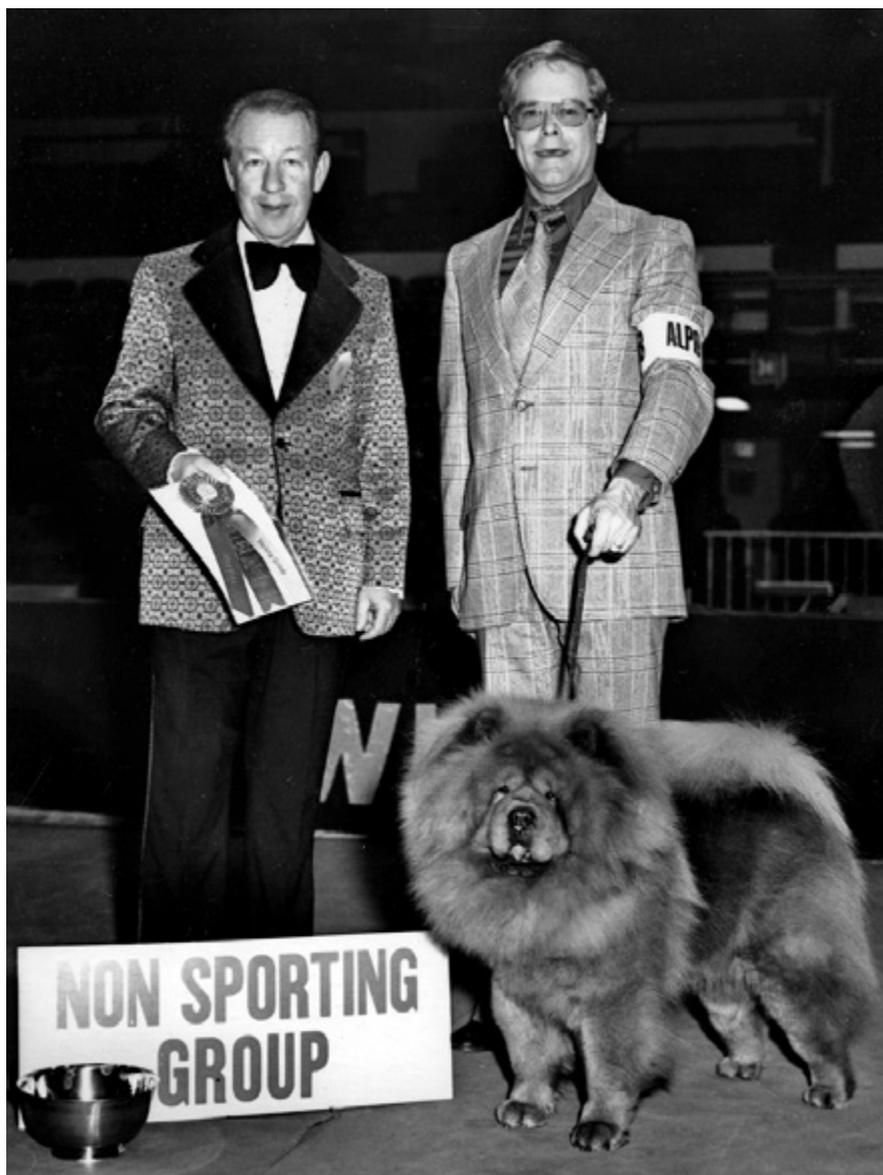
Have you wondered why this is a requirement for the breed? You will find many answers on this wonderful Chow Chow Archive site: <http://chowtales.com/>.

This site contains an amazing collection of photos, articles, and videos dating back to the 1800s and before. The site has recently been updated to include a very educational “Chow History” video created by Sandra and Steve. You will find this video to be both entertaining and educational.

Did you know that there was a Chow on the *Titanic*? That the dog Admiral Dewey made famous in 1913 was a Chow Chow? Did you know President

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Chow Chow Ch. Mi Tu's Han Su Shang, 1975

Calvin Coolidge and his wife owned Chows? Are you interested to see photos of the Chow Chows imported from China? Would you like to see movie clips of Chow

Chows at a dog show in the 1920s? The archives contain all of this, and much more.

Over a period of 110 years, the AKC Chow Chow standard has changed four

times after its initial creation in 1906. Each of the standards is available on this archive (1925, 1941, 1986, and 1996). It is very interesting to note the changes and see photos that document the impact these changes had on our breed.

Our breed has benefited from the generosity and passion of a very dedicated artist, Sandra Miller, and her gifted technology-specialist husband and AKC judge, Steve Miller. They are respected past breeder-exhibitors of our breed and have created and funded the archive project. Although legally blind, Sandra personally restores the photos prior to inclusion on the site. They are dedicated to the ongoing development of the archive project website.

The archive is easy to navigate and browse, and most of all is searchable. The website is permanently hosted and entitled the “Chowtales Archive,” at <http://chowtales.com/>.

The site focus is specifically on pre-1950s

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Chow images, articles, and ephemera, with the stories to go with them, in an easy-on-the-eyes format. The collection that they have is extensive and the stories behind the photos mind boggling.

Chow fanciers extend a big *thank you* to all the Chow memorabilia collectors worldwide who have been contributing their own collections and content to the archives. Paper photos and articles eventually get tossed in the garbage or deteriorate over time, so every tidbit of information is preserved digitally, which guarantees it will not be lost to future generations.

This website is a virtual museum for the Chow breed. Even though the curator, Sandra, and her husband no longer breed or exhibit, they feel it is important to remain involved with this breed which they are deeply passionate.

Categories of photos and articles in the archive include Breed History, Celebrities, historic articles,

the AKC Chow Standards and International Chow Standards, Collectables, and curated photos.

We hope you will take time to enjoy this archive and know that you will benefit from the knowledge you will gain of the history of our beautiful breed.

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

Dalmatians

MORE THAN A PRETTY FACE

While typically not known as a “head breed,” the Dalmatian standard does outline what a Dal head should look like. You may think, “well, a head is a head,” but that would be incorrect. Dals have a distinct outline to their heads, and it should be recognizable in silhouette to any serious student of the breed. After all, it would be grossly inappropriate to have a Great Dane or a Greyhound head sitting atop a Dal’s shoulders—perfectly fine for their respective breeds, but

definitely a no-no on a classic Dalmatian.

So, what do we want to see? According to the standard, there are certain features we want to see gracing the heads of our breed:

The head is in balance with the overall dog. It is of fair length and is free of loose skin. The Dalmatian’s expression is alert and intelligent, indicating a stable and outgoing temperament.

As the standard reiterates in so many places, the Dal is a moderate dog. This includes his headpiece, and there should be no exaggeration to any of his features. This would reflect not only his type but his temperament as well.

The eyes are set moderately well apart, are medium sized and somewhat rounded in appearance, and are set well into the skull. Eye color is brown or blue, or any combination thereof; the darker the better and usually darker in black-spotted than in liver-spotted dogs ... Incomplete pigmentation of the eye rims is a major fault.

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As a working breed, it was imperative that a Dal be aware of his surroundings at all times, hence necessitating a clear field of vision with no impediments to his vision that may compromise his ability to do his duty. Eyes and their set are essential to providing a proper field of vision.

Complete pigmentation is also a requirement to ensure his vision is at its best. Ever see athletes with black smeared around their eyes to keep the sun out of their eyes? Same concept with the Dalmatian.

The top of the skull is ... as wide as it is long. The cheeks blend smoothly into a powerful muzzle, the top of which is level and parallel to the top of the skull. They (ears) are set rather high, and are car-

From the breed's AKC standard: "The head is in balance with the overall dog. It is of fair length and is free of loose skin. The Dalmatian's expression is alert and intelligent, indicating a stable and outgoing temperament."

ried close to the head, and are thin and fine in texture. The lips are clean and close fitting. The teeth meet in a scissors bite.

Once again, we are looking at features that would be appropriate for a working dog. There should be no hindrance to his ability to protect and defend his people or his horses—no jowly lips or long, flapping ears to make him less effective and more vulnerable to other people or animals.

And as mentioned above, our beautiful dogs were meant to be ornamental, so a pleasing and balanced appearance is also a desirable trait.

Yes, while beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and oftentimes we see our dogs

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with our hearts, let's remember a pretty face *is* indeed a melody. As breeders and lovers of the breed, let's do our best to sing that melody loud and clear.

—Jan Warren Linné,
janlinne56@yahoo.com
Dalmatian Club of
America

Lhasa Apsos

Cassandra de la Rosa, recently retired long-time columnist for the American Lhasa Apso Club, wrote the following in 2018.

LHASA APSO MOVEMENT

Efficient movement is not optional in this breed. Lhasas were not the pampered pets of emperors and their consorts. They were the companions of Tibetan families, Buddhist monks, and the Dalai Lama. They lived the same ascetic lifestyle as their masters, which included walking for miles alongside yak-driven carts in the rough terrain and climate of their native mountain home.

In Great Britain and the United States, Lhasa Apsos were considered a terrier from the late 19th through several decades of the 20th century and were treated as such. The AKC eventually moved this tough little breed from the Terrier Group to the Non-Sporting Group, not the Toy Group.

Early standards from both England and the AKC state that the rear should have “well developed quarters and thighs”—in other words, a purposeful rear with strong muscle. Good muscle and sound joints collaborate to provide the efficient movement that would have been vital in the breed's native Tibet and to meet the lifestyle of its inhabitants.

For years, a major shortcoming of the Lhasa Apso standard was not its brevity, but that it was written making assumptions—assumptions that those reading the standard would have a sound working knowledge of normal canine structure and movement. It



Lhasa Apso, November 2005

further assumed they would understand that anything undefined or unstated should default to what is normal for a canine. Assumptions, as we know, can and do create mischief despite the best of intentions. At the AKC's request the standard was amplified in recent years to make it easier for judges to understand this sturdy little mountain dog. The standard now describes motion as follows:

“*Gait:* The Lhasa Apso gait is smooth and effortless with good front reach and equally strong rear

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drive without any hint of wasted action. There is no tendency towards hackney, exaggerated lift or rolling. The rear legs reach under the body and push out well behind, carrying the body forward in balance with the front. Going away, the pads of the rear feet give evidence of good follow-through, without exaggerated kickup. The legs move parallel coming and going with a tendency to converge to a centerline as the dog increases speed. The topline is level and the tail is carried well over the back and may drape to the side. A Lhasa is shown at its own natural speed, neither raced nor strung-up. It is unacceptable to reward a Lhasa that consistently moves with its tail down.” *[Approved August 13, 2019; effective October 1, 2019.]*

Hopefully, this important addition to the standard prompts judges to recognize proper movement.

—Cassandra de la Rosa

[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

Norwegian Lundehunds

ON THE TOPIC OF TOES

A common misconception about the Norwegian Lundehund’s extra toes is that they are double dewclaws. The fact is, every toe is fully functional, with joints, ligaments, muscles, a nail, and a pad. Four toes point slightly outward, and two toes, located on the foot’s inner edge, are angled like thumbs.

Unlike other polydactyl breeds with extra toes either in the front or the rear, the Lundehund has six toes (called hexadactyly) on all four feet.

Lundehunds can have more than 24 toes, although these extra digits are neither a plus nor a penalty when judged.

In the show ring, the Lundehund’s toes play a key role in the physical exam. The judge checks if the front feet meet the breed’s standard of five toes touching the table. Counting the toes while the dog is on the table is

preferred, but toes can also be counted when the dog is held by the handler. As the Lundehund is lifted off the table, the judge examines the paw-pads, ensuring each corresponds with a toe and that the rear pads have the breed’s unique, elongated “swoosh” shape.

Lundehund handlers appreciate judges who take the time to examine their dog’s feet in both breed and group rings and are crestfallen when the examination is skipped. Alas, the toe must go on.

A Feat of Feet

For millennia, the Norwegian Lundehund evolved to hunt puffins nesting in rock crevices and scree—small, loose stones—covering the steep mountains on the island of Værøy. Located in the Arctic Circle, Værøy is part of Norway’s Lofoten archipelago. The island’s 6.1 square miles consist of round stone beaches, valleys, glacial moraines, and mountains

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A Lundehund knows how to press the “on” button of her electric blanket on a chilly day; judges count a Norwegian Lundehund’s toes either on the table or by the handler lifting the dog; four Norwegian Lundehund front feet, with 48 toes—each polydactyl foot is unique; the unique “swoosh” shape of the Lundehund’s elongated rear footpad; each fully functional toe should have a corresponding nail and pad; whether descending steep sea cliffs or stairs, a Lundehund is sure-footed; illustration of paw-prints shows the Lundehund’s slightly turned-out front feet and elongated rear footpads. “Best Feet” is a traditional award presented at the Lundehund club’s national specialty.

dating back three billion years.

Additional toes provided

the dogs traction on Værøy’s unsteady terrain and digging power to expose their

prey. The elongated rear pads served as brakes as they descended Måstadheia,

COURTESY KRISTINA MAZE; KRISTINE MUN; NLAA, INC.; NLAA MEMBERS

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a 1,335-foot-high mountain that is home to puffin colonies.

Imagine a Lundehund, so sure-footed that even a fierce, katabatic wind pulling a thick cloud down the mountain couldn't stop him from returning to his pack or human, a prized, live puffin or an unbroken egg in his jaws.

In the U.S., Norwegian Lundehunds maintain a toehold on their evolutionary ability to climb. I watched Lundehunds run full-tilt down a two-story-high pile of rocks and dirt at an excavation site, their front toes stretched wide apart like a pianist's fingers across an octave. On hikes, the dogs have favorite spots along trails to hoist themselves up and slide down boulders while on long leads.

Four Thumbs Up

A Norwegian Lundehund's clever, problem-solving nature combined with dexterous digits can keep owners on

their toes. On chilly days, one of my Lundehunds hops back into bed and presses the electric blanket's "on" button. During bathtime, she has wrapped her "thumbs" around the bathroom door's glass knob, turned it, and slipped away. And one evening at agility practice, she reached her front feet through her crate and untied my friend's shoelaces. Twice.

Best in Toe

The Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.'s has a national specialty tradition as unique as the breed: a "Best Feet" competition. After Best of Breed is selected, the judge evaluates every Lundehund entrant's feet. Bemused exhibitors, AKC reps, and judges gather to watch the spectacle as one lucky Lundie's toes win them a prize and bragging rights.

—Kristina Maze

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

Poodles

Our column for this issue is by Joann Neal, of Sandstorm.

WHAT SIZE POODLE DO I WANT?

Although all Poodles look similar, there are many differences. The size difference obviously influences owner demographics. Mature Standard Poodles may be great for golden-agers, but the energy, strength, and exercise requirements of a young Standard could be too much. On the other hand, families with children could be a great fit. Since grooming is needed, those who cannot do it themselves must consider that the larger the Poodle, the greater the cost of a monthly professional grooming.

Toy Poodles are too fragile for young children unless there is stringent supervision, and likewise supervision is required for young children and Miniature Poodles. If children are allowed to pick up small dogs, injury is the

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all-too-common result.

When small dogs are inadvertently hurt by children, they may resort to biting to defend themselves.

Miniature Poodles are a great fit for a wide variety of owners. They have enough energy for the most active person but, like Toy Poodles, can get enough exercise inside a house.

All puppies or dogs can be destructive if not given enough stimulation and exercise, and if not confined when supervision is not possible. The extent of the damage is directly proportional to the size of the dog. While a Toy Poodle might chew shoelaces, a Standard Poodle can demolish a sofa in an afternoon. Sleeping with a small Poodle is cozy, but a Standard can take up the whole bed.

It is best remembered that no food item or prized possession is out of reach of a Standard Poodle. Like many large breeds, they may swallow inedible objects. My first Standard ate most of the decorations off the



Standard Poodle Ch. Alekai Airy with Wendell Sammet, 1988

Christmas tree, a shower head, pantyhose, a bathmat, a safety razor, feminine hygiene products, and baby diapers. A Standard owner

might be wise to invest in pet health insurance!

While temperaments of individual Poodles can vary widely, some generalizations

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about the varieties can be made. Standard Poodles possess a sense of humor, turning mundane tasks into larks. Always ready for a game, obedience and agility performances can turn into crowd-pleasers—to the chagrin of the handler. Standards might be the smartest of the varieties—often more clever than the people trying to train them. Natural retrievers, they learn things quickly—not always the things the trainers envision—and offer creative variations with each repetition.

Miniature Poodles, though endlessly playful, are more businesslike about training. Many have great work ethics, are natural retrievers, and enjoy any dog sport or activity their owners enjoy. They are very athletic but when mature are wonderful companions for young and old alike. They are ready to go or ready to chill as the owners' moods dictate.

Miniatures might be the most sensitive of the varieties, and many get their

feelings hurt easily. They tend to go along to get along.

Toy Poodles don't know they are little—one of the characteristics that makes them so endearing. They are endlessly amusing in their antics. Because their small size, people enjoy doting on them and spoiling them. Many Toys have no work ethic for tasks the owners choose, but they are relentless in tasks of their own choosing. Although I enjoyed obedience, agility, and tracking with several Toys, some of them thought these were spectator sports. They are often very smart—in getting their own way.

People think that due to their size, Toys should be sensitive, but I found it hard to hurt their feelings. While a raised voice can destroy a Miniature's day, Toy Poodles are amazingly resilient.

A way to summarize the differences in varieties is to imagine dropping a skillet on the dog while cooking dinner. The Toy Poodle would exclaim, "Oh, boy!

What's for dinner?" The Miniature would never go near the kitchen again ... and the Standard would wait for the cook to leave the kitchen, then surf the counter for anything good to eat.—J.N.

[Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

Our guest column for this issue is written by Kathy Swan.

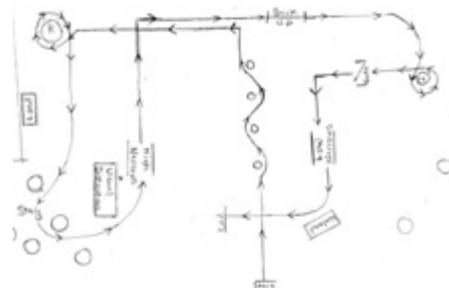
ROLLING WITH THE BIG DOGS: A SCHIPPERKE'S ADVENTURE IN DRAFTING

I've enjoying playing many sports with my Schipperkes for over 20 years. The variety of activities available continues to grow. It's fun to be one of the first dogs of your breed to title when a new sport is rolled out. One of my current dogs, Glory, is a weight pull champion and has her Rally Master title. I thought drafting might blend her skills into a novel sport for a small dog.

After researching drafting tests done by nearly a dozen

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A Schipperke does the long stay during a drafting test; diagram showing example of a NAWBA drafting test course.

breed clubs, I happen to meet a drafting judge at an agility trial. She shared more resources. I joined Facebook groups, purchased two recommended drafting books, and immersed myself. I was on my way to a new sport.

I ordered a Siwash harness and designed a cart from a repurposed children's bike trailer. A local welder cut and connected the one-inch tube steel. The cart weighs 16 pounds, and the 15-inch wheels make it easy to pull over uneven terrain. I am on my third version of PVC

shafts, making adjustments to reduce flex and increase maneuverability for Glory.

We began practicing at home and with a local drafting group. Draft tests vary between organizations. All require the team to negotiate an obstacle course with novice dogs on leash. Many clubs require teams to demonstrate basic control (in a "L"-shaped heeling pattern) plus a recall prior to testing. Like in agility and rally, handlers walk the course first.

Tests start with harness

and hitch and include distractions, circles and turns, a "narrows" (think of a bridge that dog and handler need to cross), a movable barrier across the path, backing up, friendly strangers, and a long stay. Most clubs also include a group freight haul.

We attended our first draft test in May, held by the local Leonberger club. Glory performed exceptionally well until the last station. After completing the course, my final task was to return the "load" (a rolled blanket). During the exchange, the dog must remain standing. Unfortunately, I was slow on my hand signal, and Glory

COURTESY KATHY SWAN

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executed a perfect automatic sit when we halted. We were so close to qualifying.

In August we traveled to Nine Mile Falls, Washington, to compete in the American Bouvier des Flanders Club (ABdFC) and North American Working Bouvier Association (NAWBA) tests. Everyone was welcoming and supportive. Although the tests are similar, there was a major difference. The ABdFC test is pass/fail, while the NAWBA is scored similar to obedience (Novice has 190 possible points).

Glory was amazing on Saturday, passing ABdFC and scoring 187.5 points in NAWBA. We lost 2 points for not backing totally straight, and a half-point because her left turn was not quite a pivot.

She earned two Novice Draft Dog Veteran (NDD-V) titles. She passed both tests on Sunday too. We improved our NAWBA score to 189.5 but lost 0.5 point for her right turn. She earned an Advanced Draft Dog Veteran (ADD-V) title

from ABdFC.

It was redeeming to pass under the judge from the Leonberger test—the judge was my first contact regarding carting and has been our greatest advocate.

Glory's summer adventure to earn a drafting title was a complete success. Now to get Julee ready so I can have a Schipperke brace next year. —K.S.

Thank you, Kathy!

—Kristin Morrison

[Schipperke Club of America](#)

Shiba Inu

EXISTING STUDIES OF THE SHIBA INU: A LIBRARY FOR THE FANCIER

In the free time that is available to me I have a habit of thinking too much and going down a deep rabbit hole. I ponder too often what it means to be a breeder, and I believe many ask that question—why else are there podcasts, social media, and articles on the subject? We attempt to categorize ourselves as a

reputable breeder, conservation breeder, or the most notable catchphrase, preservation breeder.

I recently read an online comment from a non-Shiba Inu breeder that “one cannot be a preservation breeder with only breeding one or two litters a year.” I respectfully disagree with that statement. The term *preservation breeder* takes on many meanings, but the Better Breeder Institute defines it best, in my opinion:

“A preservation breeder is a purebred dog breeder who works to sustain and safeguard their breed so that its existence will continue into the future.” (<https://betterbreeder.org/preservation-vs-conservation-dog-breeders/>)

Taking that definition into account means, to me, being transparent to yourself and others on the health and genetics of dogs, keeping good notes on litters, the tough conversations on problems breeders don't want to address publicly, and at the very least know-

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ing what studies may exist on your breed—the latter being the main point to this article.

I did a Google Scholar search—accessible to anyone—of Shiba Inu studies that are published in peer-reviewed journals. The results below represent a small fraction of studies on the breed. The following are open access published articles that anyone can read the full article and add to the library for free. One doesn't

have to be scholar or Ph.D to understand the basics of these articles:

Aolong Jin, Shuyu Zhou, Shang Cheng et al. 2026. Effects of Dietary Supplementation with Whole Lamb Omasum on Gut Health and Metabolism in Shiba Inu Dogs. *Veterinary Sciences*. 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.3390/vet-sci13010058>

Kaneko F, S. Arata, Y. Takeuchi, Y. Mori. 2013. Analysis of Associations

between Behavioral Traits and Four Types of Aggression in Shiba Inu. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Science*. 75(10), 1297-1301. https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/jvms/75/10/75_13-0082/_pdf/-char/ja

Kolicheski, G.S. Johnson, N.A., Villani et al. 2017. GM2 Gangliosidosis in Shiba Inu Dogs with an In-Frame Deletion in HEXB. *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*. 31(5),

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1520-1526. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.14794>

Nayeong Oh, G. Hwang, J. Kim et al. 2025. GM1 Gangliosidosis in a Shiba Inu Dog: MRI Characteristics. *Journal of Veterinary Clinics*. 42(5), 272-277. <https://doi.org/10.17555/jvc.2025.42.5.272>

Thomsen, M., Künstner, A., Wohlers, I. et al. 2023. A comprehensive analysis of gut and skin microbiota in canine atopic dermatitis in Shiba Inu dogs. *Microbiome* 11 (232). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40168-023-01671-2>

Stepan N. Belyakin, D. A. Maksimov, M. A. Pobedintseva et al. 2022. ASIP Promoter Variants Predict the Sesame Coat Color in Shiba Inu Dogs. *Veterinary Sciences*. 9(5). <https://doi.org/10.3390/vet-sci9050222>

Uddin, M.M., Arata, S., Takeuchi, Y. et al. 2013. Molecular epidemiology of canine GM1 gangliosidosis in the Shiba Inu breed in Japan: relationship

between regional prevalence and carrier frequency. *BMC Veterinary Research*. 9(132). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/1746-6148-9-132>

The following full articles are closed accessed but can be obtained by purchasing or contacting the lead author:

Kumiko Kato, Nobuo Sasaki, Satoru Matsunaga et al. 2006. Possible association of glaucoma with pectinate ligament dysplasia and narrowing of the irido-corneal angle in Shiba Inu dogs in Japan. *Veterinary Ophthalmology*. 9 (2), 71-75. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1463-5224.2006.00438.x>

Kumiko Kato, Nobuo Sasaki, Satoru Matsunaga et al. 2007. Cloning of canine myocilin cDNA and molecular analysis of the myocilin gene in Shiba Inu dogs. *Veterinary Ophthalmology*. 10(s1), 53-62. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1463-5224.2007.00530.x>

Minori Arahori, Yuki Matsumoto, Noriyoshi Akiyama, Miho Inoue-Murayama. 2025.

Differences in allele frequencies of personality-related genes in three varieties of Shiba Inu in Japan. *Animal Genetics*. 56(3). <https://doi.org/10.1111/age.70012>

M. Radice, D. Fumagalli, A. Fronte. 2009. Treatment of lateral dental luxation in a Shiba-inu dog. *Veterinaria*. 23(4), 53-58. cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/full/10.5555/20093248426 (article is in Italian)

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

Tibetan Spaniels

FINDING THE RIGHT MENTOR

Most of us can remember a special schoolteacher who had a profound influence on our lives during those formative years. In our lives breeding and showing dogs, a great mentor can have an equally powerful influence: teaching us, guiding us, and inspiring us. Talk to the iconic figures in our sport, and they will

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be quick to acknowledge the mentors in their own lives who generously shared the dog knowledge and work ethic that guide them today.

But where to find a mentor? In the best of all possible worlds, your mentor would be your breeder. In reality, however, that's not always possible. You may have purchased your dog from across the country, or across the world. While tutorials via Facetime are useful, it's

definitely beneficial to find a more local mentor who will be attending the same dog shows or is close enough that you can visit occasionally for in-person learning.

Look for two mentors, if you can—one who is successful in the breed, and the other a longtime participant outside the breed. The mentor in your breed can help you study pedigrees and learn about the influential sires and dams

behind today's winners and producers. You'll get advice on purchasing the right shampoos and grooming tools, and how to put them to good use, giving your dog that professional look. In time your breed mentor can guide you in choosing a complementary stud dog for your upcoming litter. Join the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—and a regional Tibbie club if you are lucky enough to have one in your

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area—to find a suitable mentor, and attend specialties where you can chat with longtime breeders, as well as observe dogs from many different bloodlines to find those that catch your eye.

The mentor outside your breed is your rooting section; the friend who will be unconditionally supportive, applaud your wins, and console you in your losses without getting bogged down in the minutia of breed details. The outside mentor will guide you in making the big-picture decisions: Should you enter that distant circuit to exhibit to that panel of judges? Should you breed your bitch (after her health clearances) before finishing her, or later? When your very pregnant bitch is digging frantically in her whelping box, it's probably that nearby outside mentor who will be there to hold your hand, make another pot of coffee, help the bitch whelp her puppies, and take notes on their size, weight, and sex.

Your local all-breed kennel club is an excellent place to

network with breeders, make new friends, and find potential mentors you click with. Many of the clubs maintain Facebook pages. If your veterinarian has breeders in their practice, they may have names to recommend.

Sometimes finding a mentor can feel like going on a blind date: On paper you are totally compatible, but in person you may rub each other the wrong way. Since much of your relationship will take place away from dog shows, invite your prospective mentor out for coffee to chat about your goals in the sport. Get to know one another away from the stress of a show, where everyone is madly brushing, fluffing, and blow-drying before entering the ring. How do your personalities seem to mesh? Are you the chatty type while she is more nonverbal? That might make communication frustrating.

Does the mentor seem willing to help even though you bought your dog from another breeder? Is she pushing you to buy a new dog

from her kennel before you're ready? Breeders are naturally partial to their own dogs, but good ones don't bad-mouth other kennels, particularly to a novice who is trying to learn. As a new exhibitor, you should be encouraged to politely communicate with everyone in the breed and form your own opinions. A good mentor never tells a protégée not to talk to so-and-so because they are rivals or have unpleasant history between them. That is too high a price to pay for mentoring. You don't need to be in anyone's camp.

Some mentors burn out after a few bad experiences with ungrateful protégées and become bitter. Others are more pragmatic, less emotional, and wisely realize that the future of our sport lies with dedicated newcomers who must be welcomed.

Choose an easygoing mentor who seems genuinely interested in helping you learn the breed. Of course, you must show appreciation of the mentor's time and knowledge, be professional,

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and at all times respect information that has been shared confidentially.

When a sincere newcomer pairs up with a giving mentor, that magical combination can achieve greatness. Road trips to specialties, shared litters to advance multiple breeding programs, and strong friendships are very real benefits. Experienced, secure mentors know when to let go and encourage their protégées to leave the nest and make more independent decisions, but they are happy to remain lifelong advisors.

Take the time to find great mentors. They will be among your greatest assets in the sport.

—Allan Reznik,
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Tibetan Spaniel Club of
America

Tibetan Terriers

TIBETAN TERRIERS: OUR SPIRITUAL GUARDIANS

Like so many Tibetan Terrier owners, I am

often asked how and why I “got into” the breed. My answer always includes the word *destiny*, and I believe most TT owners would agree. So, in 1991, the advertisement read “Pet of the Week” and included a photo of the most adorable puppy face you could ever imagine. Little did I know just how much that newspaper ad would change my life forever.

I wasn’t looking for a dog. My life was busy, and it had been years since I’d owned a pet. As destiny would have it, three days later I found myself at the other end of the leash, walking down the street with my new dog! Her name was Susie, and the rescue was sure she was a Tibetan Terrier who had been abandoned in a nearby town.

All I knew was that she needed me, and I would soon discover that I needed her. She would be at my side through some very challenging times, and I truly believe that she saved my sanity and was the foundation for my

path to happiness.

Fast-forward 30 years and 12 Tibetan Terriers later, I am convinced that this wonderful breed creates their own destiny until they find the right person and circumstance. Every Tibetan Terrier who has come into my life has been there to guide me. Described as the Holy Dog of Tibet and initially given to visitors as a token of gratitude and good luck by the monks, Tibetan Terriers are truly the spiritual guardians and guides to those who are fortunate enough to be owned by one.

In Angela Mulliner’s book *The Tibetan Terrier*, a description goes as follows:

“There are many stories of the Tibetan Terriers’ ability to assess a situation and act on their own initiative; natural guards, like all Tibetan dogs, they are extremely loyal to their owner and sometimes show a definite reserve or watchfulness in the presence of strangers. They are sensitive and intelligent though not nervous, and they are quite prepared

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Tibetan Terrier, February 1992

to stand up for themselves or their owner when necessary. ... Though friendly with the entire household, there was always one person of whom they took special charge.”

It is their unique ability to take special charge of their one person that makes TTs so endearing, and for many owners, truly lifesaving. Log

in to any Facebook group of Tibetan Terrier owners, and you will find countless stories of just how special and unique these “little people” really are, and what impact they have had on their owners’ lives.

When dogs are described as loving us unconditionally, Tibetan Terriers take

that to a new level. They guide us through illness, mental health challenges, life changes, and day-to-day stress. In an article in *Time* magazine titled “How Dogs Think: Inside the Canine Mind,” it is written:

“What began as a mutual-services contract between two very different species became something much more like love. None of that makes a lick of sense, but it doesn’t have to. Love rarely touches the reasoning parts of the brain. It touches the dreamy parts, the devoted parts—it touches the part we sometimes call the heart. For many thousands of years, it’s there that our dogs have lived.”

If you are fortunate enough to love—and be loved by—a Tibetan Terrier, your life will never be the same. Tibetan Terrier owners’ loyalty to the breed can only be out-matched by the breed’s loyalty to their owners.

—Janet Krynzal,

tibterrsrule@aol.com

[Tibetan Terrier Club of America](#)

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Bearded Collies

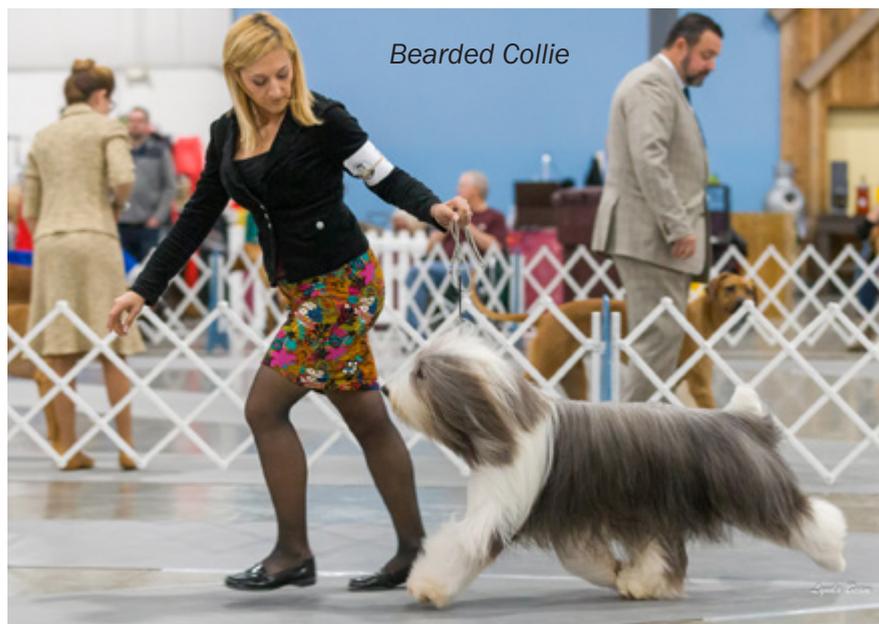
FRY ME A LIVER

“I’ll bet you’re a healthy little boy from eating all this liver,” the cashier smiled as she slid the packages by the register. My son, a precocious 5-year-old at the time, responded with a “You’ve got to be kidding” look.

“The liver is for the dogs,” he told her. “I get hot dogs and stuff like that.”

I elected to stay out of the conversation by busily transferring grocery bags to the shopping cart. Of course I buy beef liver for the dogs! They love it and it’s good for them. My son? Well, I’d probably have had to sit on his chest and shovel it down his throat.

What puzzles me is why so many checkout clerks feel obligated to comment on liver. I can purchase chicken, beef, pork, or turkey, and no one says a word. But throw in a package of liver and the questions start. “How do you prepare it? Do you eat it with onions? Do you fry it? Do you mind the smell



Bearded Collie

when cooking it?”

For the record, the stores where I shop usually sell the liver already sliced with four slices to a package. I punch a few holes in the package and microwave it, three minutes a slice. When cooked, I let it cool, remove the packaging, sprinkle a very little garlic powder on it, put each slice in its own little sandwich bag, and throw them in the freezer until needed.

Please heed the advice about a *very little* garlic powder. While getting ready to head off for a show, I asked a visiting friend to put a bit of garlic powder into

my treat bag. When it was time to show, I walked into the ring, set up my Beardie, and opened the treat bag. Dogs three rings away snapped to attention and enthusiastically sniffed the air. At that point it became obvious my friend’s definition of “a little bit” and mine were miles apart.

One more suggestion. While it’s easy to tear off pieces of the cooked liver (after it has thawed), it may be more convenient and faster to cut the slices into bite-sized pieces before freezing.

You’ll often notice two

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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varieties of beef liver in the meat department: beef liver and calf liver. The main difference between the two is the price. The calf liver is the more expensive of the two.

True, it's easier to buy commercial packaged treats than cooking them yourself, but many years ago I happened to read the fine print on the packages. (Yes, I know I should have been doing that all along.) All kinds of weird ingredients! Dog show folks questioned the use of certain preservatives in particular. Were all these ingredients really necessary?

To add to the doubts and questions, many of the treats weren't made in the good old USA and therefore didn't have to adhere to our stricter regulations. The term "KISS" ("Keep it simple, stupid") seems like good advice. And what could be simpler than liver from the grocery store or local meat market? It's fresh and has not been sitting on a grocery store shelf for weeks or longer.

Over the years, dog treats have come and gone. While some have been around for years and years, others appear on pet store shelves briefly and then disappear. There was an incident of a dog enthusiast who developed her own recipe for canine cookies. She passed them around to friends to give their dogs a taste-test. The dogs loved them! The demand for them grew, and she was kept busy filling orders. One of the larger companies bought the recipe and began making them. A friend whose Beardie had been one of the taste-testers told me what happened next. Her pet, who had adored the home-baked delights, refused to have anything to do with the company version. Others had the same reaction. Did they change the recipe? Did the method of baking have anything to do with the testers' reactions? Or do our furry friends just know the difference between homemade or commercially cooked?

Owners who enjoy baking might try conjuring up treats for their canine companions. There are a number of cookbooks specializing in doggy delights.

Once I attempted to bake liver brownies. My husband wandered through the kitchen, spotted them, and devoured one before I could say anything. He pronounced it "Tasty, but a little different." I just smiled.

—Alice Bixler,
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Bearded Collie Club of America

Belgian Malinois

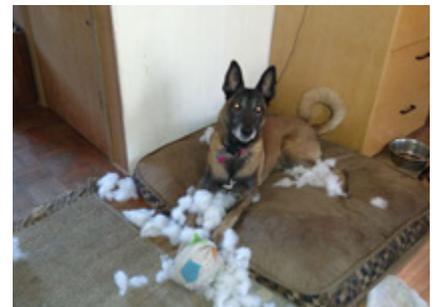
TAILS, PART FOUR: KINETIC ORNAMENTATION

Tails are mainly for wagging and a little for not tipping over during turns. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, just don't go overboard.

In the previous three columns (appearing in the June, September, and December 2025 GAZETTE), we've examined the Belgian Malinois tail's impact on

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Top: A tail of correct length and form, set correctly, carried at horizontal even when moving— *Taikatalven More Money Than Sense*, owned by Sakari Joenväärä (photo by Maiju Livio); 2. *De Vel Judgement Day*, “Ruger”—his tail carriage is excellent, but his tail is perhaps on the shorter side—owned by Tawny Castro (Tyler Crady/All Breed Photo); Archer—tail higher, but note that it is level for a few inches first—owned by Melissa DeWitt (photo Melissa DeWitt); 3. *Quanah* doing bitework—example of a tail that curls up and around immediately from its attachment point on the croup, is it just arousal?—owned by Shade Whitesel (photo by Kelly Byrd); 4. *Quanah* in his older years, dreaming of bitework. His tail is curled even at rest, so we can conclude that it is not just arousal but actual structure driving his curled tail (owner/photographer, Shade Whitesel).

spinal health, function, and communication. In this final part, we’ll look at its aesthetic—though it turns out to be difficult to disentangle the defining features of “beauty” from the idea that these virtues have some deeper functional significance, real

or imagined.

What, exactly, makes a tail pleasing to the eye? Siberian Husky fanciers prize the “graceful sickle curve” carried over the back, and Bulldog devotees admire the breed’s naturally short “straight or screw”

tail, each as described in that breed’s AKC standard. The Malinois tail sounds utilitarian by comparison. From the AKC standard for the Malinois: “The tail is strong at the base, reaching to the hock, and carried down at rest. It is curved,

COURTESY SAKARI JOENVÄÄRÄ, MAIJU LIVIO, TYLER CRADY/ALL BREED PHOTO, MELISSA DEWITT, KELLY BYRD, SHADE WHITESEL

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raised when moving, but not passing the horizontal or forming a hook or deviation. A cropped or stumped tail is a disqualification.”

Still, the standard’s very first sentence describes the Malinois’s “elegant appearance,” and this must obviously include the tail. A correct tail provides finish to the outline and contributes to what I think of as “the look of eagles.”

Let’s flesh out the customary interpretations of the standard’s words. The tail:

- Is robust where it meets the body.
- Hangs relaxed against the body at the top, with the remainder hanging free, not tucked against or under the body. It terminates in a gently curved tip.
- Rises when the dog is moving, ideally not above the horizontal. Dogs feeling spirited emotions may carry it higher. A tail which extends straight and level with the back for several inches and then curves up is generally still acceptable,

but the tail which shoots straight up from the first free vertebra is not.

- Is carried straight, with no consistent deviation to either side.
- Reaches the hock. Before the newer 2021 version, the standard explicitly stated that the tail bone should reach the hock, which seems like a more reliable rule of thumb. Even now, that is how proper tail length is generally interpreted.
- Has slightly longer hair than the body, but with the same texture, forming a tamed-down bottle brush—never a plume (Tervuren-like) or having a fringe (setter-like).
- Matches the body color on the outside and is lighter fawn on the underside (similar to the belly and britches).

To maximize the silhouette’s flow and balance, we must consider not only the tail but also the croup’s length and slope. An overly flat and/or short croup will shift the angle of the tail’s

base upward, causing the tail to be carried too high. This fault is, perhaps, seen more often in working lines, where performance characteristics must take precedence over style. Few disciplines place more rigorous demands on a dog’s physique than the protection sports. So perhaps we can conclude that within the range seen in the Malinois, tail-set does not have a substantial impact on athleticism.

In the end, then, what is the relationship between a handsome tail and the Malinois’s abilities? Does “form follow function”?

I think we can say that a sound, normally proportioned tail completes a healthy spine. Since bobtails can indicate hereditary spinal weaknesses, a docked-tail disqualification is reasonable. Beyond health considerations, the tail plays a modest role in dynamic balance, and perhaps a larger one in social signaling. It doesn’t have to be perfect for either of those purposes. All the

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rest—the exact length, the quality of the hair, the precise carriage, the nature of the curve at the tip—is frosting, not fundamentals.

In judging and breeding, the dog's overall quality must outweigh what are essentially “style faults” of the tail. Penalties for these shortcomings should be scaled to their deviation from the standard and their overall impact on the desired elegant appearance of the Malinois, with a ringed or curled tail carried high over the back the most serious fault.

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,
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References:

1. AKC breed standards, as mentioned in the text
2. Huge thanks to Sakari Joenväärä and Christine Klockenbrink for conversations and help. Occasionally, I have incorporated their phrasing or concepts without specific credit. Any misstatements are my responsibility.

Belgian Sheepdogs

FITTING IN TIME FOR FITNESS

One human, two active Belgian Sheepdogs. How do you keep them fit and ready for the activities you participate in? Does it cross your mind? Do you notice when they're just not quite up for the physicality of the sport you're going to do? Or does it just come naturally, until it doesn't?

Over the 20-plus years of having Belgian Sheepdogs, I've never given a lot of thought to it, because I've found that the breed on the whole tends to be quite naturally athletic and fit. They're naturally a lean dog, and very easy keepers in regard to staying fit provided they have space and time to run and the structure to keep things going as they should.

The last few years, though, I have started a sport that requires a bit more of the dogs, both physically and mentally. They have the potential for six to eight runs, lasting anywhere from mere seconds, up to four

minutes of running, searching and scenting over larger, varied terrain.

Now, we're not talking search and rescue or sled-ding-type fitness, but more than my personal dogs have ever done—which includes things like dock diving, agility, tracking and conformation. My youngest dog is trialing at the highest levels in North American Sport Dog Association (NASDA), and when we qualified to start trialing in Masters, I could tell she was tired. Adding the element of sniffing for a certain scent to running makes for tired dogs at the end of the day!

Did you know that owning all the cool canine fitness equipment in the world doesn't help unless you actually use it?

Wait, as someone who owns a treadmill and an exercise bike, I should have already known this!

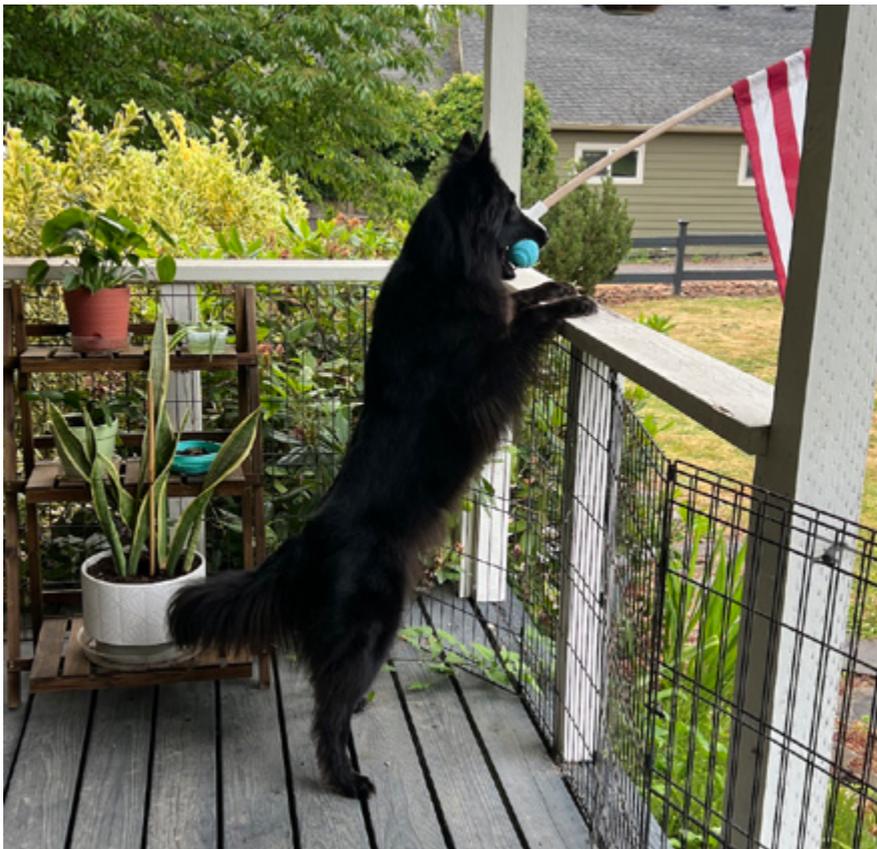
So, I made things as easy as possible for myself. I say “myself” because my dogs are always ready to train and just do things—I am the

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When starting a new, physically strenuous activity, it's often best to start slowly and progress slowly.



the Klimb, the Cato board, the cavalettis, and the other various pieces I've acquired over the years. Now, each time we come inside from the yard in the evening, each dog gets a short workout over a small course I developed to work on core strength and stamina. Afterward, each dog gets a brief massage, which is in part massage for relaxation and part massage for bodywork. I watch for movement that might express "Hey, I like that!" or, conversely, "Ouch, I'm a bit sore in that spot." There are many ways for a dog to "tell" you if they're uncomfortable with what you're doing; wide eyes, tight mouth/jaw, stiff body, head movements, and it's your job as their caretaker to pay attention to things like that.

one who typically needs the motivation.

I set up a mini workout area in my garage. Out came

Let me repeat that. *It is literally your job to pay*

COURTESY SHELLY BROSNAN, MORGAN REID

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attention to things like that.

Dogs spend their entire lives carefully watching our movements, learning our behavior and our tone so they can act accordingly. We owe them at least the amount of attention span it takes to see if they're comfortable or not.

That being said, I am not a canine massage therapist. I have taken a few online courses and workshops and watched countless how-to videos by licensed and respected professionals. I would highly suggest that if you're interested in canine fitness and massage techniques, start with an organization that caters to the fancy, such as Fenzi Dog Sport Association. They offer many courses annually that can help you. The majority of name-brand fitness gear items also come with training videos to get you started, as well as links to more online information.

Just as with people, especially with individuals who may have underlying soreness or injuries, start slowly.

Start slowly and progress slowly. If your dog seems reluctant to do something, stop and think about why they might behave that way. Is it physically uncomfortable for them? Or is it mentally difficult? Muscle memory is a real thing, and ease of an activity comes with practice.

Start small, piece by piece until your dog can back-chain the entire exercise. It's not a race, it's the process to complete the race successfully and healthily!

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Bouvier des Flandres

STORYBOOK BOUVIERS: BROUGHT BY THE ANGELS

An angel who had a very big halo of gold must have been watching over this unusual silver dog. Otherwise he had to have been blessed with the nine lives of a tomcat.

One could not imagine how much trouble found

him wherever he trotted. Whether it was down South or up North, he could not keep a home for very long.

It was 1985, and there weren't that many Belgian dogs known as Bouvier Des Flandres around. It was way before rescue efforts crossed early breeders' minds. The old dog pounds seemed to be the only hope for a dog dressed in long, gray whiskers who broke out and wandered.

That is, unless a visitor could weed past the big, unruly mops of hair that was the color of a mouse. Identifying the beast of a dog behind the chain link could present a challenge. Most ungroomed Bouviers were thought to be Giant Schnauzers.

Jumping into a lake near his home, he narrowly escaped the jaws of a crocodile. That was after he had been using his shaggy paws as paintbrushes, given away by an artist, and gotten into a fight with a Chow.

On their way to their new home, which would not have

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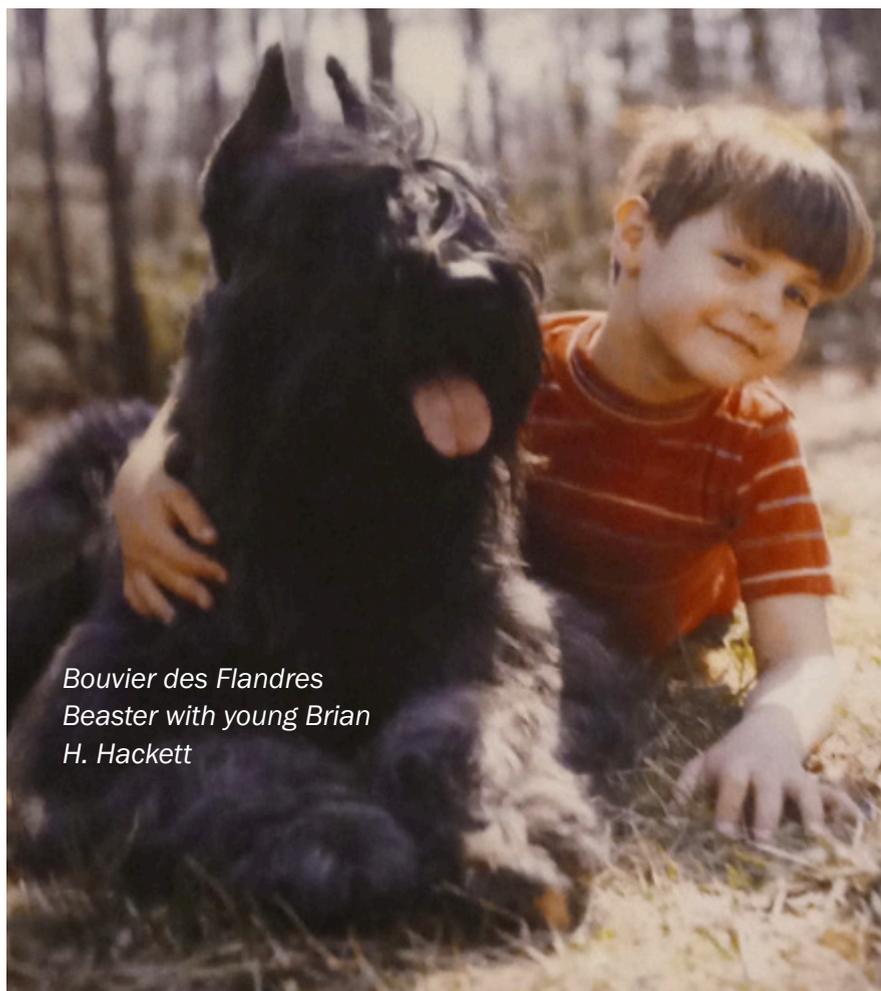
a fence, the father, Bruce Hackett, his wife, Sheila, and their three children stopped at a roadside motel for the night. Their new pet Bouvier, whom they had named Beaster, would share their room.

But first they would stop for dinner. “You will have to stay here, Beaster,” they warned him. “We’ll bring you something good to eat. Just wait here and watch TV. Try to stay out of mischief, if you can.”

Beaster did not like staying alone. He whined and he howled. Poking his nose through the curtains, he sat by the long window, waiting for his family to return. It seemed like hours went by. Children of all ages ran past, but Beaster didn’t see anyone he knew.

Moments later, he heard a scream. It startled Beaster so much that he pressed his ears together on top of his head.

“A bear! A bear! I saw a bear in there,” shrieked an older guest as her eyes met Beaster’s through the glass.



*Bouvier des Flandres
Beaster with young Brian
H. Hackett*

His black nose was pushing on the red ruffles, and his fur was in disarray.

Deciding to take no chances, he crawled under the bed, but the lady spotted his gray front paws sticking out from the coverlet.

She yelled for help again. She summoned the manager, who convinced her she had nothing to fear. It was

only a dog, left alone with no family near.

Just then, Mr. Hackett returned, chuckling. But only a little. Beaster could not wait to leave. Somehow he thought he was sharing his room with a bear!

When they reached their new home Beaster ran away again. He finally came back, wiggled his way through

COURTESY BRIAN H. HACKETT

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the front door, and left his muddy paw-prints from the living room into the kitchen, the den, and into all the bedrooms.

The Hacketts thought it would be best and time to look for someone who could find Beaster another place to live. The children overheard whispers about a humane society, a group of dog lovers nearby, who helped unwanted cats and dogs find new, loving homes when someone else couldn't keep them. But often it took weeks.

Beaster sank to the floor and tried to hide his face between his paws.

The next day, he escaped on a running spree close to dark. Gallivanting down the street, he sped between two trucks, forcing them to collide in a crash near the stop sign.

The Hacketts had to pay for the accident. Beaster's fate was sealed.

A Boy Scout troop wanted Beaster to be their mascot, but they would be camping in the woods for another

week. It might be better to think about a person who desperately needed another dog right away.

Canine stories of compassion circulated quickly in the tiniest of circles. Society member Liliane Jarboe had heard about a sympathetic gathering of churchgoers in the next county who bowed their heads in prayer for Abby, an ailing young Bouvier who was the sidekick to a news editor on all her stories. The dog, who was 2 years old—the same age as Beaster—was not doing very well, going on to dog heaven in only a few days.

Liliane knew that the girl very much wanted a dog, one possibly like Abby, to fill the empty place in her heart.

"Would you like to have a naughty boy Bouvier, who has been transferred with his family to the Naval base here?" she asked. "You can take him home today."

"Someone is coming to see you, Beaster," Mrs. Hackett said, chatting with the dog, who understood

her every word. "She is very sad. She saved her money so she could buy her new friend, they even showed at Westminster, then the dog suddenly couldn't walk ..."

There was a knock on the door. Beaster spotted the girl right away. She had long, blonde hair and two sad eyes. She had been crying on the 30-minute drive all the way there.

"I'm Debbie, and this must be Beaster," she said, hurriedly gazing at the dog with the mop of long hair on his head who was sitting on the floor.

When Beaster's brown eyes met mine, I smiled for the first time in days. He sat down beside me, looked into my face, and extended his furry foot. I knew that it had to be a miracle, finding another Bouvier out of the blue. I could never leave the Hacketts' house without him.

(The story will continue.)

—Debbie Goldstein,
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[American Bouvier des Flandres Club](#)

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Briards

THE THERAPEUTIC PRESENCE OF A BRIARD

Every weekday morning cameras flash, dog cookies come out of pockets, and visitors swarm. All at once, a celebrity, commanding attention, pads across the huge silver and tan rug. He is a majestic, big, gentle dog with flowing hair like Goldilocks and the carriage of a Parisian runway model. It is a Briard in all his glory, likened to a hidden happy surprise in a candy box.

“Hi, Hollywood!” a red-haired girl in a purple business suit calls out. It is only a moment before he spots her, and the dog show begins.

First comes the wag of his plumed tail, waving like a flag does in the South Carolina breeze. Next, he sits down. He extends his right paw, then the other. All the while he keeps a guarding eye on his handler, who is softly holding a British slip-lead from a small wheelchair behind him. She is so quiet, almost invisible, giving

the dog center stage.

Anyone who comes in the front door near the concierge desk gathers around. The speculations are endless. “I didn’t know they were making giant Yorkshire Terriers these days,” an older gentleman chides. “If they are, I want one. He is the cutest dog I have ever seen. What kind of dog is he?”

“He is a Briard.” The dog’s silent owner finally speaks. “A French farm dog, who is often raised with little lambs in his native land,” she added, spelling the name of the breed.

Hollywood is tireless, living a life of a Briard, who loves being close to the curiosity of a crowd. Like the famous hillside movie sign, he poses for pictures at a moment’s notice. His own social calendar stays more jammed than one belonging to a Charleston socialite.

Greeting people at The Harmony, a residential community in Columbia, South Carolina, where he lives, is his side job, where he can show off a touch of obedi-

ence in between his time spent as a young show dog. He practices baiting for a goodie and squaring his feet. He will know what to do whenever he is set to appear in a dog show.

The Harmony director Cathy Casanova phones for the dog when someone wants to meet him. He has his own fan club at the complex, complete with his own business cards and souvenir photos designed with his paw-print autograph. Ladies sew satin bows to hold his topknot that keeps his hair out of his eyes.

Local police officers often wish they had a K-9 like Hollywood to better convey friendliness to people on the street. Studies show that when humans pet a dog, within minutes they get a massive release of special hormones that make people happy and decrease stress. It is quite evident when one witnesses their reaction to Hollywood.

His striking image makes him a grandiose billboard in the three-story building that

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Briard Hollywood, with Conner; Hollywood with three fans at The Harmony.

lets visitors know that dogs are welcome, much-loved fixtures.

During the week of the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, televisions at the location were all tuned in and onlookers were cheering for the Herding Group. Most residents knew that his half-sister, Flambé, was the top Briard. The two dogs' photos appeared in the weekly news briefing.

"I just love their ears," a white-haired woman announced. "Are their ears painted gray, or is that their color?"

Hollywood's owner brushes him every day. He gets into the shower for a shampoo once a week. He walks into the elevator to go out for an hourlong romp or more down the sidewalk at least five times daily, sunup till sundown. She has trained him to circle around her wheelchair, running to stay in condition. He likes to exit the side door, where he pulls his owner outside, exercises, and returns inside as she opens the door,

allowing him to walk in first.

An 11-year-old boy named Conner visits him with his grandma. She has been teaching Hollywood a song and dance routine to Doris Day's song "Hooray for Hollywood." He picks up his paws on cue.

Some residents keep tiny biscuits with them at all times. On holidays, Hollywood shares treat-bags with his fellow canine tenants Henry, Fabio, Sammy, Chester, Ranger, Sunny, Buddy, Maxwell, Lily, and Itty Bit—a conglomeration of breeds.

There isn't a shining gold star knitted into the carpet, but several of Hollywood's Briard cousins have appeared off-Broadway in *Annie*, and in the cinema in a pair of Dennis the Menace films.

Hollywood learned to propel his person in the lightweight chair in only two weeks. Guiding her at a smooth trot up and down the long hallways, his routines help him stay in shape.

COURTESY FAMILY AND HOLLYWOOD'S OWNER

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They are proud to have one another.

—Debbie Goldstein,
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Briard Club of America

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

THE RULE OF THIRDS

In photography, composition is the thing—the framing of a shot to create impact. We who are not trained photographers may not know exactly why a photograph appeals, beyond subject matter. But subject matter, be it human, landscape, or canine, can be framed so that the impact is greater. And that’s where the Rule of Thirds comes in.

The Rule of Thirds is a composition technique that places the subject to one side or the other of the central line, vertical or horizontal. It falls into one-third of the photo. The remaining two-thirds are made up of landscape, or color, or something other than the subject.

OK, so how does this apply to dogs, and to

Cardigans in particular? For this topic, I am refining correct structure to only a few specific elements.

In silhouette, a correct Cardigan has a prominent prosternum, good length of neck blending into the shoulders, and shoulder layback should be approximately 45 degrees.

The body should be long and strong extending from base of the neck to a dis-

tinct croup. Length should come from the ribcage, not the loins. The loins meet the upper curve of the stifle, which should have a long, obvious rounded structure and appearance.

Excluding the tail, the bony portion that extends the rear segment of the dog farthest is the ischial tuberosity, what we call in humans the “sit bone.”

To find the Rule of Thirds



COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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in Cardigans, which is the desired composition, or conformation, mentally divide the dog into thirds: (1) prosternum to end of shoulder/elbow; (2) from shoulder/elbow to the upper curve of the stifle; and (3) from the curve of the stifle to the ischial tuberosity.

Please note that these three portions are *approximations*. They are not precise, but they nonetheless provide the mental eye with visual landmarks in evaluating a Cardigan silhouette.

The shortest of the three portions is number 3, stifle to ischial tuberosity, especially if the stifle is straight. But the britches fill in some of the missing length.

A Cardigan with the correct assembly of prosternum to layback/elbow; rib/loin to upper stifle; and hip/thigh/ischial tuberosity ratio, is *balanced*.

How important is balance in a Cardigan? The standard says this: *Overall balance is more important than absolute size.*

The commentary in our

superb Illustrated Standard says this: *Overall balance is essential for correct silhouette.*

A good trick for emphasizing evaluation of balance is to examine win photos. Take a ruler, and place it vertically behind the shoulder/elbow. Now place it vertically just in front of the bend of stifle. From there, place it at the ischial tuberosity or somewhat beyond to account for the britches. Britches provide the impression of a third of the body length.

And because white collars on Cardigans can alter the look of the shoulders, try this. Photocopy the photo, fill it in so the entire silhouette is black. Use the bony landmarks to sort out where the ruler should be placed.

If the length between prosternum and shoulder/elbow is shorter than the body segment, the dog is not balanced. Its structure is incorrect. If the body segment is greater, the dog is probably too long in loin and lacks balance.

Overall balance is essential for correct silhouette.

Overall balance, in Cardigans, meets the Rule of Thirds, and not only is it correct but it greatly pleases the eye.

Of such things are winners made. —Jennifer Roberson, 2023

[Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Collies

SENSITIVITY: A COLLIE SUPERPOWER

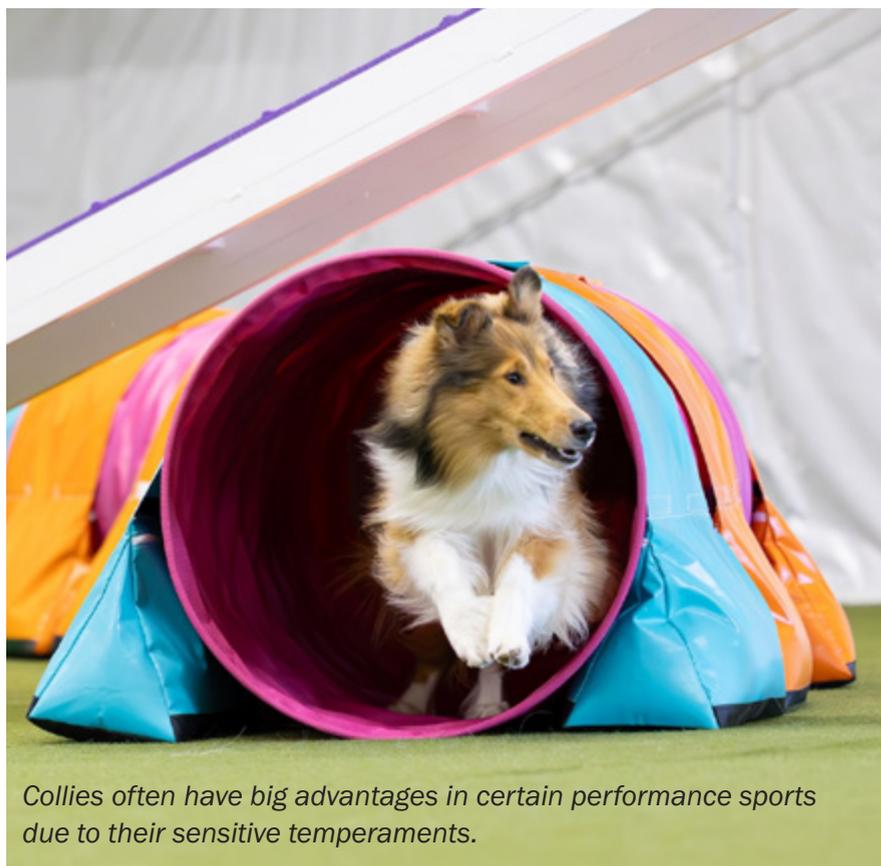
What does it mean for a breed to be “sensitive”?

I was practicing a difficult agility course with my Collie once, and there was a section of the sequence that we were having trouble with. It was a tough discrimination, and she really needed to listen to me and follow my body language.

As is the case in most dog sports, she was having trouble because my handling wasn't quite right. We had about three or four failures before I got a bit flustered. I looked at her and asked, “What are you doing?”

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Collies often have big advantages in certain performance sports due to their sensitive temperaments.

in a tone that was slightly harsher (and louder) than I normally speak to her in.

She looked at me dead in the eye for a few seconds, then calmly turned around and walked out of the agility arena.

As a dog trainer, I often use this anecdote to demonstrate what dog sensitivity is to my students, many of whom have sensitive herding breeds themselves. My Collie didn't shut

down or become scared in this instance. She made a confident decision to opt out of the training when I approached her with a poor attitude. Almost as if to say, "Come to me again when you have a better hold on your emotions."

Though it's not listed explicitly in our standard, Collies are typically described as a sensitive breed. Sensitivity here isn't to be confused with fear-

fulness, though. The Collie standard says that timidity, sullenness, viciousness, and lack of animation are all incorrect temperament traits.

A Collie's sensitivity, when manifested properly, can actually be one of their greatest traits in my opinion.

Now, what does appropriate sensitivity look like in the breed? Here are a few examples: Collies are highly emotionally attuned with their families. They let us know when there's a stranger at the door, or something odd is going on in the house. They're masters at positive-reinforcement-based training, and they live to please if we approach the tasks with the same can-do attitude. Collies don't do well with compulsion or correction-based training.

A Collie with a correct temperament should also be "sensitive" enough to read the room. They should learn that when it's quiet time in the household, it's best to go take a nap. Or if

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we're standing ringside at a show and we're not engaging, it's time to settle in until our number is called.

This sensitivity can also give Collies great advantages in the show or performance rings. When showing a dog, have you ever leaned into them to get one of their front feet to move backwards into the perfect stack? Or on an agility course, have you added pressure to your dog's line to guide them in the correct direction? These are both instances of sensitivity in practice. All dogs have this pressure sensitivity to a certain extent, but herding breeds with softer temperaments, like Collies, excel at it and are experts at reading their handlers.

Sensitivity likely comes from our breed's herding heritage. Most herding breeds were developed to be acutely aware of movement, sounds, and their environment in order to manage their livestock, take direction from their handler, and multitask.

The word "sensitivity" is so routinely associated

with negative attributes as it relates to dog temperament. People tend to think that "sensitive" equals a dog who is fearful, shy, or lacks confidence, but I find this to be a misinterpretation of the word.

Perhaps we should rethink or rebrand the word "sensitive" as it relates to our breed due to its existing connotations. I find that "thoughtful," "aware," "observant," and "responsive" are better descriptors of the desired temperament traits of Collies.

—Jae Thomas, Boulder, Colorado; jae@canineathletics.co

[Collie Club of America](#)

Finnish Lapphunds

This column is written by guest columnist Leeza Friedman-Prokopishyn, a Finnish Lapphund Club of America Foreign Member, Finnish Lapphund breeder, and Canadian Kennel Club judge. This column begins with breed history from

anthropologist Myrdene Anderson and includes more about her trip to Finland in August 2025 (see December 2025 AKC GAZETTE).

MYRDENE ANDERSON—STUD DOG OWNER, SCHOLAR, AND BREED ELDER

I am not certain which is more memorable: meeting Myrdene Anderson, or knowing her special role in modern breed development. I will tell you about both.

I first met Myrdene in 2017, she was already in her 80's. She was working full-time as an anthropology professor and ethnographer in Sámi reindeer culture, at Purdue University. She was the former college professor of a good friend, Katja Pettinen. So, Myrdene came to Canada to visit both of us.

When Canadian customs and immigration asked Myrdene why she was visiting the country, she replied, "I am going to meet Finnish Lapphunds. They herd reindeer!"

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Myrdene Anderson in Kautokeino, 1970s; Myrdene with reindeer in living room, 1970s; Runne-Beana, 1970s; Myrdene with puppy Muste (Runne-Beana descent), circa 2000; Puppy Muste (Runne-Beana descent), circa 2001; Myrdene with Muste (Runne-Beana descent), circa 2005; Myrdene and Yuni (Runne-Beana descent), circa 2017; Myrdene with Leeza's dog Odin in Canada, circa 2017; Myrdene's 91st birthday—L-R: Leeza Friedman-Prokopishyn, Myrdene Anderson, Katja Pettinen, Nic Prokopishyn—in Inari, 2025; L-R: Katja Pettinen, Nic Prokopishyn, Gus, Myrdene Anderson, Taina Friman, Leeza Friedman-Prokopishyn—in Joensuu, 2025.

COURTESY MYRDENE ANDERSON AND LEEZA FRIEDMAN-PROKOPISHYN

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This answer clearly confused them, so they detained her for further questioning. During her detention, she presented several hours of lectures to them on Sámi reindeer dogs. Eventually, they allowed her into Canada.

“I annoyed them, until they let me in,” she said. “It was highly effective.”

Myrdene did eventually make it to my house. We became a fragment within her fieldwork—the first North American breeders she had ever met. She then met my dogs, whom she absolutely adored.

In the 1960s–’70s, she was residing in Kautokeino, Norway, studying reindeer dogs. As she wrote about in [“Runne-Beana, Dog Herds Ethnographer,”](#) a local reindeer dog adopted her (not vice-versa). After Runne-Beana adopted her, his traditional herder family gave him to Myrdene. They determined that the dog had found a new job for himself—herding Myrdene. He was eventually used as a stud dog.

In the process, Myrdene befriended early Southern Finnish breeders working with the Paimensukuinen (pure reindeer working lines), including Mari Pena, Peski, and Shacal Kennels. Myrdene had a unique front-row seat to postwar breed development.

These kennels are behind many of the Finnish Lapphunds present today. I can find Myrdene’s Runne-Beana in two of my pedigrees and descendants.

Myrdene, in her lifetime, has had three Finnish Lapphunds. Only Runne-Beana was bred, but a She later imported two lappies to America—both from Shacal Kennel, and both descendants of Runne-Beana.

Myrdene is really someone who has taught me about how the breed developed to serve the very special role they do in Sámi communities. I would highly recommend reading [“From Predator to Pet: Social Relationships of the Sámi Reindeer-Herding Dog.”](#)

In North Sámi-speaking communities like Kautokeino, women traditionally bred the dogs. Men had dogs as working partners, who were crucial to family livelihood. Pairings were based upon working ability and the reputation of the working human-dog pair. During a conversation with Myrdene in 2025, she told me, “The Sámi still talk about the best working dogs decades later.” Some things have not changed since the 1960s. How do they herd? “They jump up and down, bark, and annoy the reindeer until they move—highly effective” as she describes. That is the same then as it is now.

Myrdene still teaches full-time at age 91, including doing fieldwork in Sámi communities. She spent time in Kautokeino and Tromsø before meeting up with us on our trip to Finland in August 2025 after the World Dog Show in Helsinki. We met in Inari, traveled through Kuusamo, and on to a dog show in

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Joensuu. She watched as we finished a Finnish title on a homebred girl, which Myrdene said was the highlight of her trip. Finnish breeders who met her at ringside treated her as a respected elder.

There are few alive today who had a front-row seat to postwar breed development. If you are interested in breed history, I would suggest reading Myrdene's research. One can search ResearchGate to find her very special body of work.

—Leeza Friedman-Prokopishyn,

Leeza@bears pawlappies.ca
Finnish Lapphund Club of America

A special thank you to Leeza for sharing this introduction to Dr. Anderson's work and this window into Finnish Lapphund breed history. —Maria Swarts

Links to articles:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312416829_Runne-Beana_Dog_Herds_Ethnographer

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230091917_From_Predator_to_Pet_Social_Relationships_of_the_Saami_Reindeer-Herding_Dog

[net/publication/230091917_From_Predator_to_Pet_Social_Relationships_of_the_Saami_Reindeer-Herding_Dog](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230091917_From_Predator_to_Pet_Social_Relationships_of_the_Saami_Reindeer-Herding_Dog)

German Shepherd Dogs

HISTORICAL BREEDER OF THE PAST: MARIE LEARY

Marie Leary was one of our most influential early breeders of German Shepherd Dogs. Her Cosalta Kennel was established in 1923 in Connecticut.

One of her early (if not her first) dogs was an animal named Hector. Hector was imported from France. Her famous breeding program went on to produce many champions

Miss Leary not only became a breeder of renown but was also active as a club officer and director.

Marie Leary was described as a determined breeder

and a woman who always came prepared for competition! A fun fact is that she always wore a blue dress for competition—a subliminal reminder to the judges as to the color of the ribbon she expected to win.

I have a keen interest in performance and biddability in our breed. It is important to me that Miss Leary exhibited in both conformation and obedience. She was closely tied to the legendary Blanche Saunders, and



Mary Leary, of Cosalta, with one of her German Shepherd Dogs

COURTESY WICKI BEMONT

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nearly all of her dogs carried obedience titles. In fact, Ch. Anthony of Cosalta was the first-ever German Shepherd Dog to earn the CDX title.

Miss Leary also did obedience-oriented demonstrations. She would amaze audiences! One of her more popular performances involved having a dog carry an American flag as it scaled a tall ladder. She often arrived at dog shows with multiple dogs at her side—off lead.

Marie Leary was also a leader and proponent of good health in our German Shepherd Dogs. She was one of the first to promote X-rays to control hip dysplasia.

Cosalta Kennels was active from 1923 until the early 1960s.

My sincere thanks to Dr Carman Battaglia for providing the cornerstone for this article in his book *German Shepherd Dogs: Unleashing 100 Years of History*.

Also thanks to Gloria Birch, who personally knew

Miss Leary. Upon her death, Miss Leary bequeathed historical documents to Gloria.

—Vicki Bemont

[German Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Icelandic Sheepdogs

WISCONSIN ICELANDIC SHEEPDOG TEAM AT THE RACH INVITATIONAL

For this month's column we hear from Kait Ryan, who was one of two owners invited to show their Icelandic Sheepdogs at the AKC's second annual RACH Invitational, held December 2025 in Orlando, Florida, and the only one to attend. She describes the journey toward her Rally Championship title and her experience in the competition at Orlando.

From Kait:

“When I brought Samus home in 2019, I had no idea a RACH even existed, much less had goals to achieve one. That would come later. The goal was just to try everything with my first show/performance dog and

see what stuck.

“Samus and I both enjoyed Rally, and in 2021 she quickly got her Novice and Intermediate titles. Then I waited, nervous to take off the leash. But as Samus's maturity kicked in, and I gained a few more years of training and confidence, it was time to take off the training wheels. It was July 2023 when the leash came off, and now I knew what a RACH was and secretly wanted to see if we could get one. In a few short months, we went from getting our Advanced title to getting Triple Qs and Master points towards our RACH.

“On March 15, 2025, Samus (Ch. RACH Red Cedar Thrymheim Elsa, BN, RM4, RAE3, RC2, CAX, FCAT5, CGCA, CGCU, TKN, ATT, FTN) became the third Icelandic Sheepdog to earn a Rally Championship title. When we received eligibility to attend the RACH Invitational, I decided we should go—the first Icelandic team ever to do so.

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Kait Ryan and Samus (Ch. RACH Red Cedar Thymheim Elsa, BN, RM4, RAE3, RC2, CAX, FCAT5, CGCA, CGCU, TKN, ATT, FTN)—the third Icelandic Sheepdog to earn a Rally Championship title.

I had three goals for us: have fun; stay connected in the ring; and try to obtain scores in the 90s.

“In Orlando, I admit I

didn’t ‘feel’ that nervous. Each course had a sign that could trip us up, but I was confident that we would do well, equal to what we would do if this was just a regular Rally trial at home. It also helped that with eleven people representing Wisconsin, and five from Illinois, all my favorite people were there—friends I had made over the past two years competing with Samus.

“Now it was time to step into the ring. We were the fifth team starting in Ring

2, and I was way more nervous than I expected. Samus felt those nerves, and we struggled and bombed signs that we knew well. Then disaster struck with sign #311 (‘Backup 3 Steps—Stand & Leave—Call to Finish—Forward’). As we were backing up, I stepped on Samus’s toes, making her yelp and leaving both of us flustered. There was a moment when I wondered if I should excuse us. Then I looked down and despite everything—the nerves, the

COURTESY KAIT RYAN

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flustered dog—I still had my dog with me. She was right there, connected, trying her hardest for me. We finished the course, stronger than we started, connected in the ring, just like I had hoped.

“Next, we were in Ring 3, and if our first run was a disaster, this one was spectacularly good. Samus was with me, connected. We lost points on some crooked sits, but nothing compared to losing ten points on a sign. Then it was onto Ring 1 where we continued to be connected, and we successfully did a ‘Backup 3 Steps’ perfectly *without* me stepping on her toes. I had my dog’s trust, and she continued to try her hardest for me. Our final scores were 61, 95, and 94, for a total of 250 out of 300. In some ways, bombing the first run allowed us to settle down and just focus on having a good time.

“In the end, I had fun, and it was great to connect with old and new friends and cheer them on. Even though we didn’t make it to

competition on the second day, I did make a point to swing by and watch some of the Top 50 teams and all the Top 20. I cheered on each team, hoping for each one to have a good run.

“My second goal was achieved: Samus and I were connected in the ring. Even with a rough first run, I can look back and watch the videos and know that although I felt horrible in the moment, there is Samus trying so hard for me, right there at my side. And with two of our three runs with scores in the 90s, I made my third goal. We have the skills, we just need to polish them, make them more solid. And next year, we’ve got this!

“Thank you to the whole RACH Invitational team for making this experience smooth and fun. Thanks to the judges for taking time to create the fun and challenging courses and for being so kind and supportive of us all. Thanks also to the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America for sponsoring the Best of

Breed medallion. Not every club takes the time to support performance events, but you do, and it is appreciated.” —K.R.

Many thanks to Kait for sharing her reflections. Her comments remind us that although our high hopes for a competition event may not be achieved, we still may accomplish other important goals. And in the end, we still go home with our beloved canine partner.

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker,

kbethwt@yahoo.com
Icelandic Sheepdog
Association of America

Norwegian Buhunds

**NORWEGIAN BUHUNDS:
ATTACHMENT, INDEPENDENCE,
AND FOMO**

Norwegian Buhunds are dogs who like to be close to their families and participate in as many family activities as possible. But can this “closeness” go too far at times?

One of my Buhunds, Finna, used to be a “Velcro”

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dog. When people saw her interact with me, they would say, “She is really attached to you.” And she was, indeed, very attached to me. She would follow me from room to room, even getting up in the middle of the night to follow me to the bathroom.

There was a reason that she had become so attached to me. Several years ago when she was younger, she was very ill and diagnosed as “terminal.” Thankfully, many years later she is still with us. But during the time she was ill, and during her recovery, I took care of her almost all of the time. I worked from home at that time, and she would lie in

her bed next to my desk all day and sleep next to our bed at night. I suspect that this constant closeness resulted in her attachment to me.

She is in better health now, and not as much of a “Velcro” dog. But this led to me wonder why some dogs have a tendency to become overattached to people.

One phrase that seems to be popular in the dog world nowadays is the issue of FOMO, or “fear of missing out.” Perhaps that was part of Finna’s attachment to me? She might have thought that she was missing out on attention if she did not stay close to me. FOMO typically refers to dogs who

want to be part of anything that is going on and become unhappy, anxious, or frustrated when they miss out. Basically, they feel they are being excluded from activities, or attention from people, or interaction with people or dogs—and do not know how to cope with the situation. So they respond by whining or barking, or they might run in circles. Some dogs act like “fun police”—they bark at other dogs playing.

I wonder if some Norwegian Buhunds might be more predisposed to FOMO. Being herding dogs, Buhunds are constantly vigilant, eager to participate in all family activities, and have a desire to be close to their family “pack”—characteristics that could encourage a tendency to FOMO. However, being a Northern breed, Buhunds also have innate independence, which could mitigate that tendency.

I do try to encourage independence in my Buhunds; from the time they are puppies, they learn to play

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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independently with toys. But sometimes it is important to balance that Buhund independence with a desire to be with or near the pack. For example, my youngest Buhund, Linzie, is perfectly happy to do her own thing when out on an off-leash hike. I am sure that she believes she could survive perfectly fine on her own. So it is up to us humans to temper that independence and convince her that it might be worth her time to keep up with the pack.

—Jasmine Tata, 41285 N. Point Drive, Antioch IL 60002; ftata2@yahoo.com

[Norwegian Buhund Club of America](#)

Old English Sheepdogs

WALKIN' THE DOG

If you are part of a multidog household, that energetic young dog will likely be the focus of your attention. Maybe you find him digging in the flower bed or barking at the kids playing next door. Thus, some training time is in

order. At the same time, if you look around you may notice that an older dog has gone off to find a quiet spot for a nap. You will also want to interact with this older dog to make sure she remains happy and healthy as she ages. Of course, this could also apply if you are a single-dog family where your furry companion is getting along in years.

There is a certain amount of truth to that old adage “Use it or lose it.” If your older canine’s naps seem to be running together, you need to get the dog up and moving again. However, when you do this some care is in order. The inactivity may be the result of a developing medical condition or another problem.

A likely candidate for the latter is some extra inches around the middle. Just being spayed or neutered can slow the metabolism and add weight if food portions are not adjusted. Any extra weight will put added stress on those old joints and ligaments. If you remember



Old English Sheepdog, March 2023

one of my previous columns on the topic of body condition score, or BCS, the ideal rating for an older dog would be somewhere between 2 (underweight) and 3 (normal). Keeping the dog within this range will minimize possible joint damage but still help ensure they have the energy to undertake a variety of activities.

If the dog’s BCS is more like a 4 (overweight), or even a 5 (obese), then it is time for action. However, crash diets are not the answer. A good target is to lose about five percent of body weight per month.

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A more rapid decline can cause some health problems, especially with an older dog.

Before you undertake some regime of increased activity, you also need to involve your veterinarian and have a wellness exam done on your oldster. A senior blood panel will indicate the status of various organ systems. If problems are identified, appropriate action can be taken so that your dog can become more active. The vet should also check for any mobility issues that might limit activities. If necessary, your activity program could be designed to sidestep any serious issues.

Once you are getting any weight issues under control and the vet has given you a thumbs-up, you can start to focus on an increased level of activity. For older dogs, there seems to be little doubt that swimming is ideal. This activity allows the dog to work muscles and ligaments without putting a load on their joints. Unfortunately, most of us do not have the necessary aquatic facilities. In

addition, a large, wet, shaggy dog wandering around shaking and dripping may not be your cup of tea.

For older dogs, is there much else besides walking? This activity has many advantages and may benefit you as well as the dog. With all the recent covid restrictions, you have probably become a victim of Sir Isaac Newton's Law of Inertia: *A body at rest tends to remain at rest.* Knowing that your dog is in need of some exercise can be the motivation to get off your duff and out the door with your partner. Once you two are on your way, there will likely be some mental as well as physical benefits. Most dogs like the outdoor with its changing sights and smells. The two of you can also be bonding without distractions from family members, be they four-legged or two-legged.

There are many variables you can change as your walking program evolves. Duration is obviously one. You can start with short walks, then add to the

distance covered as your conditioning improves. A level route also seems like the way to start, eventually adding some inclines. You should even give some thought to your walking surface. A sandy beach, mowed grass or a synthetic sports surface will cause less damage to joints than hard surfaces like concrete sidewalks. If you try walking, you can also look for other ways to vary the activity.

Finally, let me close with a tip of the hat to R&B singer Rufus Thomas, whose 1964 hit song "Walkin' the Dog" provided the title for this column, as well as some good advice. —Joe Schlitt, 2021

[Old English Sheepdog Club of America](#)

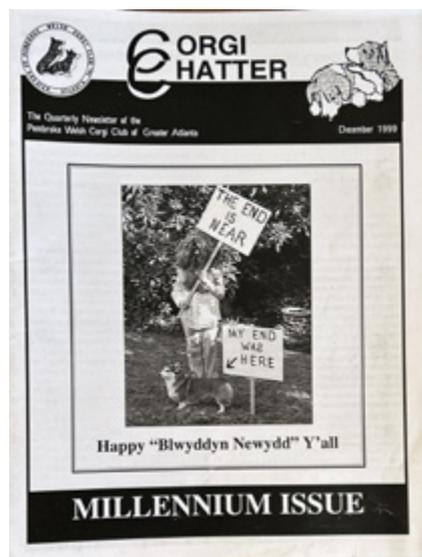
Pembroke Welsh Corgis

PRESERVING HISTORY

When famed dog photographer Bo Bengtson passed away, he had made provisions for his photographs from the archives of *Kennel Review*

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From the archives: 1999 Millennium cover of Corgi Chatter; PWCCA of Greater Atlanta 25th Anniversary artwork.

(1918–1993) and *Dogs in Review* (1997–2013), along with those from his personal collection to be sent to the parent club for their archives.

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America (PWCCA) received its treasure trove this past fall. The PWCCA Archives Committee, chaired by Jo Durrance, has had the task of identifying the dog, judge, and handler in each photo.

Due to Jo’s longtime involvement in the breed, she recognized many of the dogs, handlers, and judges. Others, she was not sure

about and turned to social media for help with the identifications.

And what fun that has been! Seeing younger versions of judges and handlers has been a delight. Being able to identify some of them has been a thrill for me and probably many others as well. Seeing photos of well-known dogs of the past is always a treat, and many would still be competitive today. Dogs with well-known judges or handlers but the dog itself was not well-known outside its home area have been able to be identified as well.

The American Kennel Club has a vast archive that contains information submitted by the parent clubs. The AKC Museum of the Dog is the repository for artwork. The PWCCA is thrilled to have these photos for its archives.

This leads to wondering, how are local clubs, as well as breeders, preserving the history of their clubs and breeding programs?

When my local specialty club celebrated our 25th specialty show, we created a “Memories” booklet. Members donated photos and boxes of club records were searched for more. Several members wrote brief articles on the club’s history to that point. We used the specialty records from copies of the *PWCCA Handbook* to list major winners of each specialty. We sold ads to pay for the printing of the booklets and even made a profit on the ad sales. The booklets were free to attendees. This remains the best historical record of the club.

COURTESY PWCCA

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Another Pembroke club published a magazine record for the club and its members every two years. It is a way to preserve club history and allowed members to share their accomplishments for those years.

The *PWCCA Handbook* has an Honor Roll section open to any Pembroke that earned an AKC title of record up until the deadline for that year's edition. A color photo and three-generation pedigree, breeder, and own provide a historical record for the fancy. The Obituary section is free. Owners can include a brief paragraph with the color photo of their beloved Pembroke.

The *Handbook* serves as a history of the breed, going back to the first edition in 1970. The club's quarterly *Newsletter* provides results of all the specialty shows.

PWCCA Scholarship

The PWCCA will award up to \$2,000 to one or more qualified students currently enrolled or who

plan to be enrolled in an institute of higher education. This includes high school seniors, high school graduates, and those already enrolled in higher education. This scholarship is open to all U.S. citizens. Applicants are not required to be a member of the PWCCA or a Pembroke Welsh Corgi regional club. Completed applications must be received by June 1. See the PWCCA website for details.

—Lynda McKee,
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Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Club of America

Pulik

CARING FOR THE SENIOR DOG

The Puli is known for athleticism, intelligence, humor, intensity, and its unmistakable corded coat. As puppies, they are agile, opinionated, and eager to work. Over time, the bounce softens, the muzzle grays, and your once-tireless companion begins to measure steps more carefully.

Pulik are generally long-

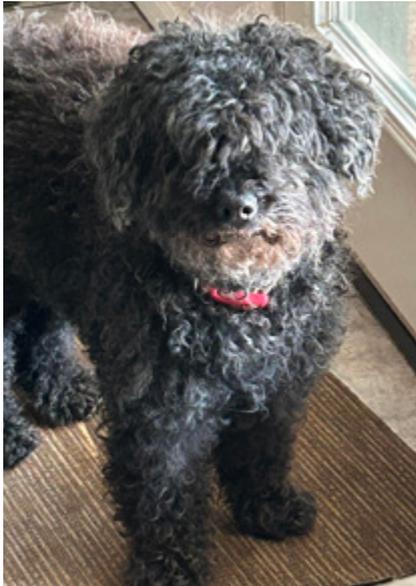
lived, often reaching 12–15 years, with some exceeding that. (At present, one of my Pulik is 17; she still participates in household life and plays ball, though misses seeing many of the throws.) Longevity reflects genetics, responsible breeding, body condition, nutrition, activity, veterinary care, and environment.

Responsible breeding—including health testing and careful selection—supports vitality, but genetics are only part of the story. Maintaining proper body condition—fit and well-muscled, not underfed—is among the most powerful influences on longevity. Avoiding excess weight protects joints, organs, and overall health. Regular veterinary care, dental maintenance, parasite prevention, and attention to subtle changes are equally important.

Lifestyle matters. Pulik thrive on mental engagement and structured activity. Dogs that stay physically and mentally active into

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Senior Pulik: Eve, 17 years young; Eve's litter sister Celosa; Gabby, 15 years young, in anti-skid socks.

care can restore comfort and function.

Consistent, moderate exercise is preferable to sporadic bursts. Daily walks on forgiving surfaces (such as grass or turf) maintain muscle tone without stressing joints. Ramps, non-slip flooring, anti-skid socks, and orthopedic bedding can help improve comfort. Some senior Pulik need help accessing furniture or favorite resting spots.

For many, the corded coat remains defining, but priorities shift. Cords may thin, skin may become more sensitive, and grooming tolerance may decline. Owners often shorten or thin cords to reduce weight and improve hygiene. Protective clothing can help during colder months. Regular checks beneath cords for lumps, irritation, or infection remain important.

Senior Pulik often sleep more deeply, aiding



midlife often transition more smoothly into senior years. Arthritis, particularly in hips, knees, and shoulders, becomes more common. Because Pulik are stoic and driven, early discomfort

may be easy to miss. Subtle signs—hesitation before jumping, reluctance on stairs, shorter stride, slower turns—deserve attention. Pain management, massage, and veterinary chiropractic

COURTESY DAGMAR FERTL, CHRISTINA SOLIS, AND PAM ERSTLING

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recovery. Longer naps and sound nighttime sleep are normal and should not be mistaken for lethargy.

While the body slows, the mind often remains sharp. Many Pulik retain problem-solving abilities and a desire for purpose, sometimes becoming more routine-oriented with age. Research, including work by Dr. Pongrácz, suggests that dogs participating in sports or mentally and physically challenging activities may show less severe cognitive aging.

Some senior Pulik experience cognitive decline, or canine cognitive dysfunction. Signs include disorientation, confusion, altered sleep-wake cycles, decreased recognition of familiar people or dogs, changes in house training, and increased anxiety or irritability. Early recognition, environmental adjustments, and enrichment activities help maintain quality of life.

Aging affects Pulik differently. Some adapt with resilience, staying engaged despite limitations. Others

struggle more noticeably. Changes in hearing, vision, mobility, or cognition can affect security. Occasionally, senior dogs show signs resembling human depression—less interest in activities, altered sleep, reduced social engagement. These should not be dismissed as “just old age.” Medical causes should be ruled out, but emotional adjustment is also part of aging. Age-related urinary or fecal incontinence may occur and requires patience, understanding, and sometimes medical or lifestyle interventions.

Environment matters. Many Pulik function beautifully with attentive owners who adjust routines, provide reassurance, and maintain inclusion. In multi-dog homes, calm companions offer comfort. Some senior dogs prefer quiet spaces. Both responses reflect temperament interacting with aging; the key is recognizing your dog’s needs. Owners must be patient with daily changes and be ready to make accommodations such as assisting

with stairs, managing incontinence, or adjusting meals for metabolism shifts.

Respecting changing preferences is important. Some seniors enjoy continued involvement; others prefer shorter interactions and more rest. Observing and honoring these cues fosters confidence.

Twice-yearly senior wellness exams are advisable. Trend monitoring through bloodwork can detect early shifts in kidney, liver, thyroid, or metabolic function. Dental health deserves attention, as chronic oral inflammation affects systemic health. Vision and hearing changes are common. Thoughtful environmental adjustments—nightlights, clear pathways, predictable furniture placement—help seniors navigate safely.

Many Pulik remain alert, engaged, and active well into their teens. Thoughtful adaptation, rather than restriction, is key. Reducing unnecessary strain while preserving meaningful activity allows

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them to age on their own terms.

Longevity reflects inherited strengths, responsible breeding, preventative care, conditioning, nutrition, environment, emotional support, and sometimes good fortune. Owners' attention to body condition, engagement, veterinary partnership, and daily care has a profound impact.

Recognizing that each Puli ages individually is equally important—some remain resilient and social, while others require quieter support. Patient understanding and consistent care make all the difference.

The senior Puli may no longer launch as high or spin as quickly, but the steady gaze, quick intelligence, and unmistakable presence remain. In many ways, the older Puli is not a diminished version of the young athlete, but a distilled one—thoughtful, observant, and deeply attuned to the people they have always watched over.

Caring for them now is less about extending time

at any cost and more about preserving quality: mobility, comfort, purpose, and connection. When these elements are supported, the Puli's final chapters can be as rich and meaningful as the exuberant beginning.

AKC Resources:

Aging in Dogs: Physical and Mental Signs Your Dog Is Getting Older -

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/aging-in-dogs-physical-mental-signs/>

Can Dog Sports Keep Dogs Sharper as They Age? - <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/dog-sports-senior-dogs/>—Dagmar Fertl,

dfertl@gmail.com

[Puli Club of America](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

LOOK BEYOND THE RIBBONS WHEN CHOOSING A STUD

“An important issue in breeding is the popular-sire syndrome. This occurs when a stud or tom is used extensively for breeding, spreading his

genes quickly throughout the gene pool. There are two problems caused by the popular-sire syndrome. One is that any detrimental genes which the sire carries will significantly increase in frequency—possibly establishing new breed-related genetic disorders. Second, as there are only a certain number of bitches or queens bred each year, overuse of a popular sire excludes the use of other quality males, thus narrowing the diversity of the gene pool.”

“The popular-sire syndrome is not limited to breeds with small populations. Some of the most populous breeds have had problems with this syndrome. Compounding this, there are several instances where a popular sire is replaced with a son, and even later a grandson. This creates a genetic bottleneck in the breeding population, narrowing the variety of genes available. [...]

“The problem with the popular-sire syndrome is

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that the individual’s genes are spread widely and quickly—without evaluation of the long-term effects of his genetic contribution. By the time his genetic attributes can be evaluated through offspring and grand-offspring, his genes have already been distributed widely, and his effect on the gene pool may not be easily changed.”

The above is an excerpt from “Popular-Sire Syndrome: Keeping Watch Over Health and Quality Issues in Purebreds,” by Jerold S Bell, DVM, Tufts

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, N. Grafton, MA

<https://www.vin.com/apputil/content/defaultadv1.aspx?pId=11203&id=3853865#:~:text=The%20problem%20with%20the%20popular,dog%20can%20sire%20or%20produce>

(Accessed Jan. 19, 2026; adapted from an article that originally appeared in the “Healthy Dog” section of the August 2004 AKC GAZETTE)

Obviously, looking at this pattern of procreation, especially through offspring and grand-offspring as well,

the male can pass his traits much faster and in greater numbers than a bitch would or could, being limited by heat cycles occurring at substantial intervals.

The bottom line? A popular sire can have more effect on the gene pool in one year than a single bitch can have in a lifetime of breeding.

Let’s take our investigation in another direction. How may an owner best evaluate the quality of the bitch or dog proposed for breeding?

An excellent place to begin is in the records of The Orthopedic Foundation

The screenshot shows the OFA website interface with a navigation bar and a 'Testing Statistics' section. The statistics table is as follows:

Breed/Registry	Total Tested	Normal/Clear		Abnormal/Dysplastic		Carrier		Equivalent		Rank	% Trend by Birth Year (% indicates Normal if not further broken down)							
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%			<=1990	1991-1995	1996-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
EYES	965	851	88.2	114	11.8	-	-	-	-	13	0	0	100.0	75.0	83.2	89.7	89.9	87.2
HIPS	589	534	90.7	55	9.3	-	-	4	7	127	12.5	0	5.3	6.6	2.8	16.8	22.5	
HIPS - EXCELLENT		82	10.4								37.5	71.4	55.6	57.3	58.1	57.5	59.5	62.7
HIPS - GOOD		352	59.8								12.5	14.3	32.4	30.7	23.5	22.6	11.5	12.7
HIPS - FAIR		120	20.0								25.0	14.3	11.8	5.3	10.3	17.0	12.2	2.0
HIPS - ALL DYSPLASTIC				61	9.2						0	0	0	1.3	7	2.8	0	0
HIPS - MILD				5	.8						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HIPS - MODERATE				1	.2						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HIPS - SEVERE				5	.8						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELBOW	254	249	98.0	5	2.0	-	-	-	-	125	0	0	100.0	96.2	100.0	95.6	100.0	95.6
ELBOW - ALL DYSPLASTIC				5	2.0						0	0	0	3.8	0	4.4	0	3.4
ELBOW - GRADE 1				4	1.6						0	0	0	0	0	4.4	0	3.4
ELBOW - GRADE 2				1	.4						0	0	0	3.8	0	0	0	0
ELBOW - GRADE 3				-	0						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PATELLA	61	59	96.7	2	3.3	-	-	-	-	63	0	0	100.0	100.0	85.7	100.0	100.0	85.0

Swedish Vallhund OFA statistics

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

for Animals (OFA.org). Founded by a sportsman concerned with the prevalence of hip problems in his hunting dogs, the OFA has become a major repository of many categories of health data for many breeds. Knowing a dog's registered name will lead you to its pedigree and the health results recorded for the animal and its relatives.

Different breeds have different health concerns; by consulting the index of breeds on the OFA site, users can determine which tests are recommended for each breed. For Vallhunds at this time, the ACVO eye exam and, for the hips, either the OFA radiographic exam or the PennHIP evaluation are required for a CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) number.

Note: It is now possible to file results from the PRA-MERTK testing for the Swedish Vallhund-specific form of PRA. While not yet

a part of CHIC, the OFA now has a category for these results.

In evaluating breeding stock, looking at the animal's siblings and ancestors is more telling than focusing solely on the data for a single animal. For example, if three generations of relatives show the same level of a less-than-perfect evaluation, there are likely underlying inherited deficits. Further, looking at the pedigree for siblings and half-sibs of the parents may point to tight linebreeding. While linebreeding can set positive traits, it can also magnify negative ones.

Now the *really* scary part: Since the beginning of OFA recordkeeping, only 965 Swedish Vallhunds have submitted eye exam results; hip scores number only 599. The percentages of affected dogs may be skewed to the low side because tested dogs that do not pass may be opted out of the reports by their owners.

The OFA's numbers are

for the period prior to 1990 (prior to OFA dividing the time into consistent measurement periods), through 2021 and beyond (printed before final data for that interval). (see graphic) That's an average per year of fewer than 32 animals reporting eye exams, and fewer than 20 reporting hip evaluations.

Do your homework!

I implore prospective Swedish Vallhund owners and breeders to do their homework at the OFA website. This was truly an eye-opening (no pun intended!) experience for me. Help build the knowledge base by testing your dogs and reporting all scores, pass or fail.

Look beyond the top-winning dogs, into the statistics, before choosing a sire. Finally, honestly assess the quality of your dog or bitch before using them in a breeding program.

—Laura Kiedaisch,
Director

[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.

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Website www.akc.org

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ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**, beginning no earlier than 9:00 a.m. There will not be a Delegate Forum.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Rat Terrier Club of America

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Terry R. Bridges, Athens, IL, Illinois Capitol Kennel Club

Dennis N. Corash, PhD, Penrose, CO, Terry-All Kennel Club

Sharon A. LeVan, Amelia, OH, Clermont County Kennel Club

Joao Machado, Humble, TX, Oakland Dog Training Club

Dr. Michelle R. Rowland, Washington, IL, Illinois Valley Kennel Club of Peoria

Lori Sage, Beaver Creek, OR, Sherwood Dog Obedience Club

Sharon Tracy, Pocatello, ID, Pocatello Kennel Club

Linda C. Wozniak, Chapel Hill, NC, Durham Kennel Club



gazette

Click here to read the March 2026 issue!



SECRETARY'S PAGES

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fine imposed on Superintendent for failure to distribute ribbons within 60 days *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 5, Section 12.

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC\$1500

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendent for failure to enforce all AKC rules and regulations *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 9, Section 10.

MB-F, Inc.Reprimand

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendent for publication of conflicting information *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 7, Section 12.

Foy Trent Dog ShowsReprimand

Notification of Fines Imposed on a club for late submission of event application *AKC Rally Regulations*, Chapter 1, Section 1.

Obedience Club of San Diego County.....
.....\$100

NOTICE

Mr. Jon R Cole (Nashville, TN), an AKC approved judge, was reprimanded and imposed a \$100 fine for *Failure to Follow Procedures/Rule/Guidelines*. This action was taken by the AKC Board of Directors at is February 5, 2026 meeting.

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

- Ms. A'ishah Jackson (Little Rock, AR)
- Ms. Janyce Selkin (Rhinebeck, NY)
- Mr. Joseph Williams (Lebanon, MO)

NOTICE

Ms. Catlin Cahill (Riverside, CA). Action was taken by the Richmond Dog Fanciers Club for conduct at its November 22, 2025 event. Ms. Cahill was charged with unsportsmanlike conduct during an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (English Setters, Dachshunds)

NOTICE

Ms. Olivia Huston (Anderson, IN). Action was taken by the Ann Arbor Kennel Club for conduct at its July 26, 2025 event. Ms. Huston was charged with neglect at or in connection with an event by individual. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month suspen-

sion of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective August 26, 2025. Ms. Huston appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Dr. Amanda Rizner (Shapleigh, ME). Action was taken by the LEAP Agility Club of Central Massachusetts for conduct at its November 22, 2025 event. Dr. Rizner was failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective January 19, 2026. (Pembroke Welsh Corgis)

NOTICE

Ms. Lisa Sutliff (Fort Pierce, FL). Action was taken by the Decatur Alabama Kennel Club for conduct at its November 9, 2025 event. Ms. Sutliff was charged with impairing a club's ability to retain site. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective December 22, 2025. (Redbone Coonhound)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary

Committee has suspended Ms. Sonya Freize (Huntington, WV) from all AKC privileges for six months and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make her dogs and records available for inspection when requested, effective January 20, 2026. (Boxers, All American Dogs)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Joanna Perkins (Dallas, TX) from all AKC privileges six months and imposed a \$500 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements, effective January 20, 2026. (Bloodhounds, Rottweilers)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Diego Jaimes Angel (Bixby, OK) for life of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$10,000 fine, for violating AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment policy, effective January 20, 2026. (Bulldogs, French Bulldogs)

NOTICE

There are three vacancies for the Board of Directors Class of 2030. Pursuant to Article VIII of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, the following Delegates have either been nominated by

the Nominating Committee appointed by the Board of Directors or have been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as additional candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next Annual Meeting of the Club on March 10, 2026:

Class of 2030

Carl C. Ashby III

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.

Karen J. Burgess

Greater Clark County Kennel Club, Inc.

Dominic Palleschi Carota

Pharaoh Hound Club of America

Patricia M. Cruz

Heart of the Plains Kennel Club

Sue Goldberg

Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.

Jason Hoke

Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club

Laurie Maulucci

South Windsor Kennel Club

Lisa Peterson

Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.

Thomas S. Powers

Kennel Club of Beverly Hills

OFFICIAL STANDARD OF THE BIEWER TERRIER

General Appearance: The Biewer Terrier is an elegant, longhaired, tri-colored toy terrier with a distinctive, breed signature ponytail. The coat parts down the middle, hanging straight and evenly on both sides of the body. The back is level, with the height at the withers equal to the height at the croup. The body length is slightly longer than tall, although square is acceptable. The tail is set high and carried well-arched over the body, covered with a long, flowing plume. The Biewer Terrier is alert and eager.

Size, Proportion, Substance: The height at the withers is equal to the height at the croup, measuring 8 to 10 inches. The body length, measured from the prosternum to the ischium, is slightly longer than the height, although a square proportion is acceptable. The body is fine to medium-boned with a level topline. Serious fault – Height over 11 inches.

Head: The *expression* is engaging, bright and intelligent. The *eyes* are medium sized, dark, and expressive, with the iris as dark as possible, showing no flecks of blue. The *ears* are small, erect, V-shaped, set high and moderately wide, covered with hair except for the tips which are shaved. The *skull* is slightly rounded, and the *muzzle* is one-third the length of the head. The skull and muzzle are on parallel planes and meet at a moderate stop. The eye rims,

nose, or lips are all completely black. The ideal *bite* is scissor, although a level bite is also acceptable. Serious fault - Incomplete pigment on the eye rims, nose, or lips; ears not standing erect. Disqualifications - Blue eye(s) or blue flecks in the iris; liver pigmentation of eye rims or nose.

Neck, Topline and Body: The *neck* is of moderate length. The backline is level. The *body* is slightly longer than tall, off square, although square is acceptable. The chest reaches the elbows, and the ribs are moderately sprung. The underline is slightly tucked up. The loin is well-developed and strong. The *tail* is set high when in motion, is carried in a well-arched position over the body, covered with a long, flowing plume. Serious faults - High in the front or rear, roach or rounded back.

Forequarters: The forelegs should be straight, with elbows neither in nor out, set close to the body. The shoulders are well angulated and laid back, the upper arm should be of equal length as the shoulder laid with good return, allowing for good reach and freedom of movement. The legs are straight and muscular, and the pasterns are upright and straight. Dewclaws may be removed. The feet are round, with toes well arched and covered in hair that is trimmed to neither impede movement nor obscure the shape of the foot. The pads can be black, flesh-colored, or a combination of both, while the nails can be black and/or white.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters are well-balanced with the forequarters, and the rear angulation matches the front. The hind legs are straight and muscular when viewed from behind with well-bent stifles. The hocks are short, well let down and straight when viewed from behind, neither turned in nor out. Dewclaws may be removed. The feet are round, with toes well arched and covered with hair that is trimmed to neither impede movement nor obscure the shape of the foot. The pads can be black, flesh-colored, or a combination of both, while the nails can be black and/or white.

Coat: The coat is long and flowing with a silky, smooth texture. It is straight, without an undercoat, and hangs close to the ground, if not touching it. The coat may be trimmed to floor length for ease of movement. The fall on the head is tied in a single fall, finished simply and adorned with a single bow. Excessive grooming on the head, such as rатting, teasing, or roll-overs common to other breeds, shall be so severely penalized as to be eliminated from competition. The feet are trimmed for a neat, clean appearance, and the hair around the anus is trimmed. Eliminating faults - Head falls that display rатting, teasing or roll overs common to other breeds.

Color: The Biewer Terrier is defined by the placement of tan on the head. The ideal head coloring is black or blue, tan, and white in good symmetry. However, any combi-

nation of the following two color patterns – Black or blue with tan, or tan and white – is acceptable. The chin and throat should be white. Disqualification – A head lacking tan. Body Coloring - Body coloring is black or blue and white; a solid dog of either color is undesirable. The chest, legs, and tip of the tail should be white. The white on the chest must extend up the neck to the chin. The legs must be white from the elbows and stifles to the feet. A small amount of tan hair may be found around the anus, and trace amounts of tan or black may appear at the elbow, stifle, or on the feet. Any deviation from this is undesirable. Disqualification – Any color other than the tri-colored pattern described above.

Gait: The Biewer Terrier moves confidently with a high head carriage. The movement should be graceful, smooth and straightforward. When viewed from the side, the backline remains level. The hind legs should track in line with the front legs, moving neither inward nor outward. The tail is carried in a well-arched position over the body while in motion. Serious Fault - Hackneyed gait.

Temperament: Intelligent and loyal, they are affectionate and playful, making them excellent companions and family dogs.

The foregoing description represents the ideal Biewer Terrier. Any deviation from the described standard should be penalized in proportion to the extent of the deviation.

Serious Faults: Height over 11 inches; High in front or rear; Incomplete pigment on the eye rims, nose or lips; ears not standing erect; Hackneyed gait.

Eliminating Faults: Head falls that display ratting, teasing, or roll overs common to other breeds.

Disqualifications: *A head without tan; any color other than the tri-colored pattern described above; Blue eye(s) or blue flecks in the iris; liver pigmentation of eye rims or nose.*

Approved February 5, 2026

Effective April 30, 2026

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations

Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails.

These changes are very important because they affect your judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified *but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.*

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Lindsay Bryson (118447) CA

(408)771-3836

lcbryson4@yahoo.com

Beagles, Dachshunds, JS - Limited

K. Suzanne Stephens (118473) CA

(720) 987-8444

kimzachi@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Bulldogs

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Sandy Bingham-Porter (94107)

IL

(217) 549-6664

sbinghamporter@eiu.edu

American English Coonhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Basset Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Sloughis

Mrs. Janet Bodin (101361) WI

(414) 614-7822

jbodin@wi.rr.com

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX

(281) 989-3130

touchstone0525@att.net

Bullmastiffs, Giant Schnauzers, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Newfoundlands

Ms. Anna May Fleischli Brown (6300) IL

(217) 412-5476

stedelweis@aol.com

Biewer Terriers, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Silky Terriers

Ms. Joanne Chaplek (97963) NY

(578) 796-1770

joanne.chaplek@gmail.com

Australian Shepherds

Mrs. Diane Collings (94897) CA

(415) 990-3317

dianecollings@verizon.net

Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd Dogs, Muddik, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mr. James M. Fankhauser (18843) MI

(269) 720-2861

nexusclumbers@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Coton de Tulear, Dalmatians, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintlin

Dr. Bev Sigl Felten (65674) WI

(414) 828-2449

beverlyfelten5@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Lagotti Romagnoli, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Vizslas), Greyhounds, Airedale Terriers, Irish Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Scottish Terriers

Bonita Fichtenbaum (105541) OH

(937) 620-6480

bnfichtenbaum@gmail.com

French Bulldogs

Ms. Denise Flaim (100561) NY

(516) 509-5214

denise@revodanapublishing.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, German Wirehaired Pointers, English Setters, Irish Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels

Ms. Cassie Frank (108441) NH

(702) 595-7607

tailwindcardis@gmail.com

Bearded Collies, Belgian Tervurens, Border Collies, Lancashire Heelers, Mudik

Ms Jane Gentzen (90165) AZ

(928) 910-3866

janegentzen@msn.com

Beagles, JS

Ms. Cheri Hollenback (71029) ID

(509) 993-4504

cascadesamoyeds@aol.com

Bullmastiffs, Dogo Argentinos

Mrs. Carol Lynn Johnson (108277) MI

(616) 490-5227

bellafleurcavaliers@outlook.com

English Toy Spaniels, Pekingese, Russian Toys, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki

Mr. David J. Kirkland (6340) NC

(919) 774-0989

rokirk@windstream.net

Barbets, Lagotti Romagnoli, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mrs. Rosalind Kramer (37191) NC

(703) 975-6260

Rlkramer1@gmail.com

Non-Sporting Group (American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Coton de Tulear, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintlin)

Ms. Janina Laurin (15650) CT

(203) 545-4837

janinalaurin1@gmail.com

Coton de Tulear, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen,

Poodles, Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels,
Tibetan Terriers

Mr. John S. Lucas (7444) TX

(512) 422-2625

john.lucas@zambar.net

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci
Italiani, Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse
Kooikerhondjes, Wirehaired Vizslas)

Ms. Kathryn Madden (92226) NY

(516) 885-4860

madterv@gmail.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, English
Cocker Spaniels

Ms. Robin Mathews (110537) NJ

(732) 501-9581

bisdogs@aol.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Siberian
Huskies, Berger Picards

Mrs. Chris Ann Moore (108927) AR

(479) 221-0555

bisacd@aol.com

Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos,
Icelandic Sheepdogs

Ms. Mary B. Napper (62737) TX

(817) 458-1442

mbnapper@gmail.com

Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Lowchen,
Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan
Terriers

Mr. Tim Peterson (92446) SD

(612) 396-3466

wynstonekennels@gmail.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Dogues de

Bordeaux, Great Pyrenees, Komon-
dorok, Samoyeds

Mrs. Marilyn Y. Pipes (29634) TX

(214) 208-4898

willmarpp1@gmail.com

Belgian Sheepdogs, Border Collies,
Bouvier des Flandres, Pembroke Welsh
Corgis

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch (106234) WI

(802) 238-0755

lgpodruch@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Pomeranians, Shih
Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. Inge Semenschin (27410) CA

(707) 639-7555

ingeakc@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (American
English Coonhounds, American Fox-
hounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes,
English Foxhounds, Sloughis)

Mrs. Nancy A. Tuthill (6729) MD

(240) 675-1560

cumbrian@myactv.net

English Cocker Spaniels, Borzois

Judy Wade (99715) OK

(214) 693-4447

wademanordogs@gmail.com

Akitas, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers,
Dogo Argentinos

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Brandy Barbour (115361) IN

(574) 300-4516
redhawkecanecorso@gmail.com

JS

Mrs. Jeanne Bertsch (117473) WA

(206) 295-8664
dbertsch51@comcast.net

JS

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They may now accept assignments* and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Jacquelyn Glenn (106335) MO

(816) 516-4720
cardigan@peoplepc.com
Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Mr. Kurt Kroemer (118275) AZ

kkroemer0308@gmail.com
Maltese

Mrs. Lani Kroemer (118274) AZ

(602) 471-1903
lani.kroemer@gmail.com
Maltese, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers,
Lhasa Apsos

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Susan Abraham (81989) NY

(716) 731-4974
kristercollies@roadrunner.com
Australian Shepherds

Mrs. Linda Berberich (38418) NJ

(201) 385-1626
vomvirus@aol.com
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, English Setters,
Gordon Setters, Irish Setters

Mr. John Constantine (26418) FL

(215) 527-0056
john@adamis.org
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated
Retrievers, Flat-Coated Retrievers,
Golden Retrievers

Mrs. Vicky Cook (103755) OR

(541) 601-5355
vickycook@mac.com
Dachshunds

Wendy A. Corr (104103) CA

(925) 381-1023
onakalmal@aol.com
Akitas, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Kuvaszok,
Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos,
Tibetan Terriers

Mrs. Shauna DeMoss (92470) CO

(970) 234-5512
demossakcjudge@gmail.com
Boerboels, Boxers, Dogues de Bordeaux,
Rottweilers

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) SC

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Biewer Terriers, Havanese, Manchester Terriers

Marcie Dobkin (6442) CA

(858) 212-1346

msdobkin@cox.net

Bracci Italiani, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Karen Dumke (7168) WI

(920) 279-4519

karenadumke@gmail.com

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

Mrs. Edy Dykstra-Blum (20342) FL

(352) 465-7142

bizzeebootsoes@gmail.com

Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki

Mr. Mustaph El khorchi (110865) FL

(561) 460-0461

musta@leongolden.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Cocker Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Weimaraners, Chihuahuas

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Bichons Frises, Coton de Tulear, Keeshonden, Shiba Inu

BEST IN SHOW

The following person, has successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Mrs. Peggy Browne (103759) TN

(770) 655-5757

peggybrowneakcjudge@gmail.com

CONFORMATION JUDGE: RESIGNED BREED

The judge below has notified AKC to resign their privileges for the following:

Sylvie McGee

Scottish Terriers

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Joan A. Lester

Diana D. Smiley

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGE

Donald Harfst

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.

NEW PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a Provisional basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. They may now accept assignments.

Wilson Marcy (115817) GA

423-637-6500

rachdeka0531@gmail.com

Provisional Rally

Peter McCafferty (117569) FL

239-778-6678

petermccaff@gmail.com

Provisional Novice

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

Jeanne Thomas –Rally, MI

Delvyn Lunn - Obedience and Rally,
ON Canada

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:

4PEAKS – Miniature Schnauzers –
Dennis J. Scheffler

DARKFIRE – Harriers – Lori N. Sternola

ENDACHS – Dachshunds – Victoria L.
Lee

HAVIC – Norfolk Terriers – Victor C
Allen

HAVIC – Norwich Terriers – Victor C.
Allen & Alexa A. Kerns

HOUND RIDGE – Irish Wolfhounds &
Scottish Deerhounds – Joyce Weaver &
Donald Weaver

LA SENTINELLA – Cane Corso –
Andrea C. Angel

NOBLE SPIRIT – Cane Corso – Terri
Ellen Hanks

LIMITED EDITION – St. Bernards –
Amber L. Roberts

METEORA – Bullmastiffs – Andrea C.
Hesser, DVM

RIVERHOUSE – Golden Retrievers –
Sherry Waszak & John Waszak

SAHAILEY – Cavalier King Charles
Spaniels – Crystal Jones

SANDHILLS – Bullmastiffs – Erin I.
Mitchell

SILVERADO – Dachshunds – Janice L.
Warder

TARRYMORE – Nova Scotia Duck
Tolling Retrievers

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted

COPPERTHORNE – German Shorthaired
Pointers – Otis C. Batchelor & Christine A.
Kasmaul

RANTHORN – Border Terriers –
Elizabeth Crisp Blake

ROCKY TITAN – Cane Corso – Carter
W. Holmes

STINA – English Springer Spaniels –
Christina Thomas & Andrea Marsh



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NY
FEBRUARY 4-5, 2026**

The Board convened on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 12:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Present at the Meeting: Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Daniel Smyth, Mr. Robin Stansell, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Mr. Harold Tatro, and Ms. Ann Wallin. Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, and Ms. Sylvia Thomas joined via video conference.

The Chief Operating Officer (Mr. Gordon Comfort), Chief Financial Officer (Mr. Ted Phillips) and Executive Secretary (Ms. Sheila Goffe) were also present.

Copies of the January 12-13, 2026, Board Meeting minutes had previously been pro-

vided to all Directors for review. Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the minutes of January 2026 AKC Board Meeting.

PRESIDENT

Ms. DiNardo provided the Board with a positive update on efforts to identify and retain new consultants to help guide the modernization of AKC technology and processes, strengthening the organization's ability to grow and thrive for generations to come.

She shared that in the three weeks since the last Board meeting, a number of productive meetings have been held with international kennel clubs interested in expanding their alliances with AKC. These discussions are progressing well and continue to move forward.

Preparations for the AKC Meet the Breeds® event, taking place February 7-8, 2026 at the Javits Center in New York City, are well underway. The event is shaping up to be larger than in previous years, with 149 Parent Clubs expected to participate with breed booths, and ticket pre-sales running 35% ahead of last year.

The year ended December 31, 2025, saw a strong operational recovery in the second half, driven by cost containment measures and new sponsorship revenue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Legal Status Report

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Status update as of January 2026.

Updated Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures

Staff presented recommendations to update Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures, last amended July 9, 2012, to ensure accuracy and provide clarification and consistency with current Trial Board administration.

Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures (“Procedures”) are issued pursuant to AKC’s Charter and Bylaws and intended to assist Trial Board members and participants in AKC’s disciplinary process with respect to the functions and processes of AKC Trial Boards. The Procedures offer background on Trial Boards and their functions, address the preliminary, hearing, and decision processes of Trial Board proceedings, including the Appeal Trial Board, and provide guidance regarding Event Committee Appeals to the Trial Board.

Staff identified the need to update the current Procedures with respect to:

- (1) outdated information,
- (2) in response to questions raised by participants and Trial Board members which could be clarified with updates to the Procedures,
- (3) an opportunity for more cost and time-efficient proceedings, and
- (4) the recognized need to address participant conduct within the Procedures.

Staff recommended the Board update the Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures, as presented, effective immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Ms. Fineburg, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Mr. Tatro, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Wallin, and Mr. Fugiwara. Abstain: Dr. Battaglia) to approve the Trial Board and Appeal Trial Board Procedures, as presented, effective immediately.

Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines

At its November 2025 meeting, the Board requested that staff prepare guidelines surrounding the review, appointment, actions, term and removal of Trial Board members.

Pursuant to the AKC Charter and Bylaws, staff prepared the Trial Board Member

Requirements and Guidelines to address the Board's request and establish further written requirements and expectations for Trial Board members.

The proposed Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines presented by staff:

- (1) provide guidance regarding application, qualifications and requirements for Trial Board members,
- (2) establish term limits for members and reiterate the Board's power for at-will removal of Trial Board members under the AKC Charter and Bylaws,
- (3) offer best practices for Trial Board members to follow in their handling of AKC disciplinary matters, and
- (4) highlight actions and behaviors which AKC prohibits and would warrant the removal of a Trial Board member.

The Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines will assist the Board in their review and appointment of Trial Board members and provide education and instruction to Trial Board members on the expectations of the role.

The Board discussed the recommendations and offered an amendment to the language of the guidelines.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro, and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED

(unanimously) to adopt the Trial Board Member Requirements and Guidelines and accompanying Trial Board applications presented by staff with minor amendments, effective immediately. [\(See Appendix A.\)](#)

Communications, Social Media & Digital Content Q4 & Year End Report

Brandi Hunter Munden, VP, Public Relations & Communications, participated in this portion of the meeting. She briefed the Board on media coverage metrics and key activity highlights from the AKC Communications Department, as well as social media and digital content performance for the fourth quarter of 2025.

The quarterly report highlights the collective achievements of the Communications, Social Media, and Digital Content teams in advancing AKC's mission.

Unique Clips Evaluated in Q4: 13,777 (+28% from 10,756 in 2024)

Q4 Totals Comparison

Year	Clips Evaluated
2022	5,733
2023	7,233
2024	10,756
2025	13,777

*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Notified.

Social Media Followers by Platform:

2025 Through Q4:

Facebook: 4,434,452 followers

Instagram: 703,711 followers

X: 97,712 followers

TikTok: 542,284 followers

Pinterest: 74,626 followers

Threads: 79,187 followers

Bluesky: 1,016 followers

Total: 5,932,988 followers (not de-duplicated across platforms)

9.1% total follower increase vs. 2024

SOCIAL MEDIA AGGREGATE PERFORMANCE:

2025 Q4:

Impressions: 203,217,338 (+114.7% YoY)

Engagements: 7,664,322 (+74.4% YoY)

Link clicks: 350,820 (-49.3% YoY)

Net audience growth: 161,777 (+117.7% YoY)

Audience: 5,932,988 (+9.1% YoY)

2025 FULL YEAR:

Impressions: 529,520,205 (+86.1% YoY)

Engagements: 22,205,594 (+38.4% YoY)

Link clicks: 1,229,363 (-27.1% YoY)

Net audience growth: 430,996 (+65.4% YoY)

Audience: 5,932,988 (+9.1% YoY)

Marketing Social Media Activity

Highlights for AKC National Championship

Mrs. Munden provided a high-level

overview of the AKC Digital Communications Department's social media strategy and execution for the 2025 AKC National Championship, highlighting key initiatives designed to drive audience engagement, expand reach and support viewership of the event.

Key social media objectives for the 2025 AKC National Championship included 25th Anniversary pre-promotion of the ABC broadcast, a comprehensive tune-in campaign supporting both the livestream and televised broadcast, robust onsite real-time coverage throughout Championship Week events, and live social media engagement during the ABC broadcast debut.

Key metrics increased by double and triple digits year-over-year.

AKC Education 2025 Review

Ashley Jacot, VP of Education, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Ms. Jacot provided an overview of the activities and accomplishments by the Education Department in 2025.

AKC Canine College

The AKC Canine College (AKC CC) now has over 79,000 learner accounts, including more than 13,650 new learners added in 2025, a 64% increase from 2024. Jason Miller, the LMS Administrator, reports a total of 503 courses and exams comprising 1,505 modules, accessible to

breeders, judges, stewards, competitors, and the general public. In 2025 alone, there have been over 22,100 course and exam enrollments, with up to 35 LMS reports distributed monthly to internal stakeholders.

Breed Course and Exam Totals

In 2025, over 3,100 breed courses were ordered. Over the last 12 months, AKC CC has worked on creating breed-specific marketing materials for each course for breeders and judges. Over 3,600 breed exams were ordered, an increase of 20% from 2024.

Public Education

2025 was an exciting year for Public Education, with the release of several major new resources, the launch of AKC Pen Paws, and significant progress on the upcoming children's book *Bailey's Tales: A Dog Show to Save*.

Updates were also provided on:

- New Marketing Strategies
- AKC Public Education Logo Update
- Beginner's Guide to Dog Shows Brochure
- AKC Patch Program Revamp
- AKC Dog Adventures Kids Camp: Summer Camp Curriculum

AKC Library and Archives

Throughout 2025, the Library and Archives (L&A) maintained full operational

functions, including reference services, acquisitions and processing, collection management, technical services, vendor management, digitization, and support for museum exhibitions. Key accomplishments included upgrading and stabilizing the Digital Library, securing and migrating digital assets, consolidating offsite holdings to a permanent storage facility, and strengthening workflows while continuing to provide reliable service to a broad research community.

AKC Education Webinars

In 2025, AKC Education hosted 31 webinars for 6,040 participants. Webinars are edited and added to the AKC Canine College and/or AKC.org for future reference.

AKC Groomer Program

In Q3, the Education Department assumed responsibility for the AKC Dog Grooming program. Since this transition, the department has focused on streamlining digital grooming course delivery, enhancing the already popular AKC SAFE program, and providing an improved product for partners. With the support of AKC Canine College staff, the dog grooming program has implemented strategic changes to enhance customer experience across all channels and introduce a more cohesive and elevated brand image.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting. The year ending December 31, 2025, was marked by a significant operational recovery during the second half of the year due to cost containment and new sponsorship revenue. While mid-year projections suggested a severe downturn, the organization concluded the year with a narrowed NOI (Loss) of \$(1,350) million. This represents a \$5,086 million improvement (79%) over the mid-year forecast of \$(6,436) million principally due to the use of interest and dividends from the investment portfolio and a modest spend rate of 1%.

COO

Gordon Comfort, Chief Operating Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting. Kirsten Bahlke, VP of Marketing; Jill Zapadinsky, Senior Director, Call Center and Customer Registration Support; Keva Allen, Director of DNA Operations; and Seth Fera Schanes, Director of Project Management, also participated in this portion of the meeting. Tim Pursell, Senior Director, IT, and Keith Frazier, EVP, Business Support Services, participated via video conference.

DNA Operations

Ms. Zapadinsky and Ms. Allen presented an update on DNA Operations, including current program history, initiatives and staff, 2025 financial outcomes, projected

revenue for 2026, and updates on marketing strategy.

Formation of the AKC Project Management Office (PMO)

Mr. Fera Schanes provided the Board with a presentation on the establishment of a centralized Project Management Office (PMO) in 2025. The PMO is designed to break down departmental silos and strengthen coordination across the organization. Previously, project managers were embedded within individual departments and primarily focused on IT-related initiatives. The new PMO consolidates these individuals into a single, unified function to support project delivery for the entire AKC.

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence

AKC is pursuing a focused and pragmatic artificial intelligence (AI) strategy in three high-impact areas:

- Customer Service (AI voice and chat agents)
- AKC.org Search (AI-powered search)
- Operational Efficiency in Registration and Sports & Events (AI-based document processing)

Management has chosen two enterprise-level AI platforms as AKC's foundational AI tools in these areas. These enable AKC to enhance customer experience, and increase throughput, while sustaining governance, cost discipline,

and contractual safeguards.

This initiative represents a deliberate, enterprise-grade approach to AI. It's focused on delivering real operational value, maintaining cost discipline, and improving the experience for AKC's customers and stakeholders.

AKC.org Website RFP Status Update

The AKC.org website redesign initiative continues to move forward through planning and preparation. Staff provided an overview of the project's goals, scope, budget, and current progress in working toward a new, modern, user-friendly, and future-ready AKC.org. The effort remains aligned with the approved budget and continues to focus on strengthening user experience, improving AKC's digital foundation, and supporting longterm organizational needs.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services, participated via video conference.

Bylaws Committee Recommendation to Require a Fee to File a Complaint (amended), AKC Bylaws Article XIV, Section 1

At its September 2024 Committee meeting, the Delegate Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to ask that the Board consid-

er requiring a fee to be submitted to the event-giving club when a complaint is filed at an AKC Event.

At the February 2025 Board meeting, the Board disapproved the proposed amendment to add verbiage to the AKC Bylaws Article XIV, Section 1 requiring that a fee be submitted to an event-giving club when a complaint is filed at an AKC event.

Pursuant to Article XX, Section 3 of the AKC Bylaws, the Delegate Bylaws Committee demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates for a vote. The matter was brought forward for consideration at the September 2025 Delegate meeting. At that meeting, Delegates voted to return the proposal to the Bylaws Committee for further discussion.

The Board considered a proposal by the Delegate Bylaws Committee for reconsideration of a revised proposal. The verbiage of the revised proposal is the same as considered by the Board in February 2025, except that it removes the word "annually" from the previously proposed amendment.

Upon a motion by Dr. Davies, and seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Tatro, and Ms. Wallin. Opposed: Dr. Knight. Absent: Ms. Thomas) to disapprove the recommendation by

the AKC Bylaws Committee to amend AKC Bylaws Article XIV, Section 1 to require a fee to file a complaint at an AKC event.

Foundation Stock Services Guidelines – Citizen Science Task Force Suggestions

The Citizen Science Task Force submitted suggested changes to the *Foundation Stock Service Guidelines*. Staff reviewed the recommendations and provided feedback as well as recommended revisions that can be implemented upon approval from the AKC Board.

The recommendation is to modify the *Foundation Stock Services Guidelines* –

1. 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.
2. One of the criteria for a breed to be considered for full recognition is that there must be minimum of ten Parent Club households owning dogs that have earned AKC titles.
3. 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 inter-

est, and raise public awareness for the breed, with AKC offering guidance and support to assist clubs.

These are modifications to the *Foundation Stock Service Guidelines* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, it would become effective May 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting.

Saluki Club of America Request for Open Registry Revision

AKC has received a request from the Saluki Club of America (SCOA) to transfer the registration of 1 and 2 generation dogs, with known parents, from the SCOA to the AKC. This memo includes the SCOA proposal as well as the letter from the SCOA President Diane Divine.

Staff Recommends that the Board approve the request submitted by SCOA to approve the amendment to the 2002 agreement to recognize the Society for the Perpetuation of Desert Bred Salukis (SPDBS) registry and now allow 1 and 2 generation dogs to be accepted for AKC registration.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting.

Government Relations Q4 2025 and Year-End Highlights

Ms. Goffe provided an update on current Government Relations activity, staffing, key legislative and regulatory matters im-

pacting dogs, and a general overview and analysis of fourth quarter 2025 activities along with highlights of significant legislative issues and accomplishments in 2025.

AKC GR is currently monitoring more than 1400 bills and more than 650 administrative regulatory matters at the federal, state and local level that could impact dogs, the wellbeing of dogs and the rights of responsible dog owners.

Discussions included legislative outreach and advocacy, issue engagement, policy expertise, policy trends and key issues, seminars and training events, and legislative successes.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events, and Douglas Hurley, Director of Agility, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Agility – Dual Pointed Obstacle in FAST Classes

Staff have recommended a change to *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* to allow, as an option, the ability for designers to use a second, dual pointed obstacle in the FAST class.

If approved by the Board, these changes will become effective June 1, 2026

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting.

Agility – Two Novice and Open Trials on the Same Day

Staff have recommended a change to *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* to allow all AKC licensed Agility clubs to hold two Novice and Open Agility trials on the same day at the same trial site.

The change would allow each trial to have a separate event number. Recording fees would be collected for each trial. Only Novice and Open (standard, JWW), T2B and FAST classes or a combination thereof could be offered. A limit of 350 runs per judge per day would be permitted.

This is a change to *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* and may be made by vote of the Board. If approved, these changes will be effective June 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting.

Agility – Moving Entries Laterally

Staff have recommended an amendment to *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* to allow exhibitors to move their entry laterally from Regular to Preferred classes and vice versa per the club's policy for move-ups. Clubs would still follow the regulations as detailed in Chapter 1, Section 20 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*.

This is a change to the *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change will become effective June 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Mark Desrosiers, Director, Event Programs; and Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Altered Dogs in Non-Regular Classes – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Section 12

Chapter 3, Section 12 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* establishes an event committee's ability to offer non-regular classes at Conformation dog shows. This memo provides a recommendation by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to codify into the rule, the interpretation/policy that event committees may not offer a competitive non-regular class with castration or spaying as a condition of the class adopted by the Board at its May 2025 meeting.

The staff recommends the Board approve the Dog Show Rules Committee's proposal to amend **Chapter 3, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which shall

codify the clarification to this rule adopted by the Board at its May 2025 meeting that a non-regular class may not be offered for which castration or spaying is a condition of the class.

If approved by the Board at its February 2026 meeting, the proposal will be read at the March 2026 Delegate meeting and voted at the June 2026 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be July 1, 2026.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro, and seconded by Mr. Stansell, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to adopt the staff recommendation to codify into the rule that a non-regular class may not be offered for which castration or spaying is a condition of the class.

Bred-By-Exhibitor Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Section 8

This is a recommendation by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to modify **Chapter 3, Section 8** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which if adopted, would allow clubs who exercise the option to divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor class by age, to further divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class to divisions of six months of age and under nine months, and nine months of age and under twelve months.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting.

If the Board approves this proposal, it will be read at the June 2026 Delegate meeting and voted at the September 2026 Delegate meeting.

Pacemakers – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11, Section 8

Pursuant to **Chapter 11, Section 8** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* a judge is to disqualify a dog which has been changed in appearance by artificial means. Staff offered a recommendation to amend the list of procedures considered a change in appearance by artificial means provided in italics to include the insertion of a pacemaker due to a congenital or hereditary abnormality.

As italicized text in the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* indicates Board policy and/or clarification, approval of this proposal does not require a vote of the Delegate Body and may be approved by the Board.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting. If approved at that time, the effective will be April 29, 2026.

International Dog Shows

The Federación Canófila Mexicana (“FCM”) has inquired about holding licensed specialty shows for several popular breeds in conjunction with its inaugural FCM Universal Championship shows, scheduled for November 12–15, 2026, in Mexico City, Mexico. Because the AKC International Dog Show Regu-

lations currently include no provisions for specialty shows and would require modification to permit them, staff presented a request to the Board to determine whether it is amenable to allow FCM to offer independent, single-breed specialty shows alongside its licensed all-breed events. The Board agreed that staff should provide recommendations at the April Board meeting.

Fines & Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

(Fines and reprimands are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Events & Entries

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events, and Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Judge's Misconduct Policy

The Judge's Misconduct Policy outlines the procedures for staff to follow when addressing complaints concerning judges or judging at AKC sanctioned events. There was a recommendation to modify

the options available to judges who elect to appeal a decision by the Board to impose discipline to affect one's judging privileges.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting. If approved at that time, the effective date will be April 22, 2026.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America (SCWTCA) has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for the examination of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier through all levels of Conformation competition. Currently, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

This will be discussed further at the April 2026 Board meeting. If the Board approves SCWTCA's request at that time, the effective date will be August 5, 2026, to ensure sufficient notice to superintendents to ensure inclusion in all premium lists.

Conformation Dog Show Judges Annual Report

Staff provided the Board with data related to judges and judging applications as well as an overview of activities of the Judging Operations Department in the 2025 calendar year.

2026 Low Entry Breed List

Staff provided the Board with data related

to the Low Entry Breed List. This impacts educational requirements for those seeking judging approval of the breeds that appear on it, as well as the requirements for permit status judges to advance to regular status in a breed. A Low Entry Breed is defined as one whose total number of dogs in competition from the previous year were fewer than 3,500. The Low Entry Breed list is produced annually by Judging Operations and published on the AKC website no later than February 1, 2026, with an effective date of March 1, 2026, for reference by current and prospective Conformation judges.

In 2025, 106 breeds appeared on the Low Entry Breed List. For 2026, one breed on the 2025 Low Entry List moved off: Belgian Sheepdogs; and nine breeds were added: AKC's three newly recognized breeds as of December 31, 2025 – Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Teddy Roosevelt Terriers; and Bull Terriers, Chow Chows, Fox Terriers (Smooth), Leonbergers, St. Bernards, and Toy Fox Terriers; resulting in 114 breeds on the 2026 Low Entry Breed List.

CLUBS

Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting. Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Centennial Clubs

Staff provided the Board with the list of Centennial Clubs being added in 2026.

1. English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association
2. Irish Wolfhound Club of America
3. United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

AKC provides a Centennial Banner for display at their upcoming club functions. With the addition of these three clubs, there are 133 AKC Centennial Clubs. The complete list is available on AKC.org: www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/clubs/centennial-clubs/.

Club Development 2025

Activity Report

Mr. Lycan provided a recap of the Club Development Department's 2025 activity to the Board. Club Development works one-on-one with clubs every day providing answers, options and data to assist in their decision-making process for holding events, finding partnership clubs, scheduling judges, increasing membership, finding and interpreting rules and policies, and many questions unique to their situation.

Club Relations 2025 Activity Report

Ms. Cecin provided a status report on key information and trends regarding AKC clubs. Club Relations is responsible for the accreditation, advancement, and licensing of AKC's 15 types of clubs.

Club Relations processes member club status requests, bylaw reviews, territory designations and expansions, sanctioned matches and mentored programs, and offers informal guidance to clubs with respect to internal club dispute resolution. Club Relations receives approximately 300 emails per month. It is the goal of Club Relations to make it as easy as possible for clubs to associate with the AKC within the rules and policies established by the Board.

In summary, there were **231** new clubs and **36** dissolved clubs in the past five years, yielding a gain of **195** total clubs over a 5-year period up to December 2025.

The largest club category is local specialty clubs. Over the past 5 years, there were **104** new clubs and **23** dissolved, yielding a gain of **81** in a 5-year period up to December 2025.

Report on Member Club Bylaws Approved in December and January

Sandia Dog Obedience Club,
Albuquerque, NM (1960)

Report On Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in December and January

Basset Fauve de Bretagne Club of America, 32 total households (23 households in 12 states east of the Mississippi River; 9 households in 6 states west of the Mississippi River).

Borzoi Association of New England, Worcester, MA (including communities east to Boston, west to Becket Center, south to Andover, CT, and southeast to Woods Hole, north to Boston), 24 total households, 14 local.

Columbia River Herding Group Club, Portland, OR (including communities north to Kalama, WA; south to Salem, OR in proximity to Interstate 5), 32 total households, 12 local.

Green Ridge Beagle Club, Parkman, ME area (including communities north to Abbot, south to Harmon, west to Route 151, east to Corinth), 28 total households, 13 local.

Treasure Coast Gun Dog Club, Jupiter, FL (including communities north to Hutchinson, south to Palm Beach Gardens, along the east coast), 20 total households, 14 local.

Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka Club of America, 105 households (50 households in 15 states east of the Mississippi River; 55 households in 13 states west of the Mississippi River).

United Sunshine State Portuguese Water Dog Club, Ocala, FL (including all communities north to the Georgia state line, south to Route 60), 97 total households, 48 local.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance, and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Non-Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of preferred charges.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred – Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of preferred charges.

Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of January 20, 2026.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Compliance Status Report – Fourth Quarter 2025 & Year End Review

The Board received a report on Compliance Department activity in Q4 of 2025 and a year-end review. The Board received an update on statistics, highlights, Compliance and Inspections policies and procedures, and customer service.

Inspections Status Report – Fourth Quarter 2025

The Board received a report on Q4 inspections activity and outcomes.

MEDIA & SPONSORSHIPS

Ron Furman, VP Broadcasting, Sponsorship and Media; William Ellis, Senior Director, Broadcasting; and Daphna Straus, VP, Business Development, participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Media and Sales 2025 Yearly Recap

Staff provided the Board with an update on activities of the AKC Sponsorship, Media and Advertising Sales Department for 2025, with an emphasis on the accomplishments of the department in meeting revenue goals and concurrently advancing the mission of the American Kennel Club. Highlights included the AKC National Championship Broadcast, AKC.tv, AKC Good Dog TV, AKC on ESPN, and AKC Sponsorship and Licensing activities.

Broadcasting 2025 Year-In-Review

Staff provided an overview of key performance indicators for 2025. The AKC National Championship Broadcast secured a new time slot in 2025 and broadly expanded its reach and performance, with record viewership and a ranking as the #1 non-NFL broadcast program, despite industry declines.

AKC.tv generated 2.9 million videoplays and 140,000 hours watched.

Good Dog TV developed a 30-minute syndicated television series, expanding AKC's reach to a national broadcast audience of more than 10 million dog lovers annually.

AKC on ESPN achieved its highest rated cable broadcast with AKC Diving Dogs Challenge, averaging 390,000 viewers. Audience delivery increased more than 30% over the previous year.

AKC Sponsorship Advertising & Licensing 2025 Year in Review

Staff presented an update on performance highlights, challenges, strategic opportunities, and outlook for sponsorship, advertising and licensing.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following consent agenda items:

Dalmatians Request to Participate in Herding

The Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) submitted a request for Dalmatians to be allowed to participate in AKC Herding events. The purpose of the AKC Herding program is to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the Herding breeds and to demonstrate they can perform the useful functions for which they were originally bred.

Over their long history, there is some evidence of them being used as a multi-purpose farm dog, including for herding. The breed has demonstrated its herding skill in other organizations events.

The Board VOTED to approve the request from the DCA to allow Dalmatians to participate in Herding events, which will be effective when programming is completed, pertaining to the *AKC Herding Regulations*.

Biewer Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Biewer Terrier Club of America, Inc. (BTCA) submitted the results of its membership ballot for a proposed revision to the breed standard, based upon questions received from judges since the breed became recognized.

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed breed standard revision with a technical correction. The revision is

effective April 30, 2026. (See Appendix B.)

Cairn Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve that the Cairn Terrier Club of America (CTCA) ballot the membership following a proposed revision to the breed standard.

Frameless Tire

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed change to the *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* for the addition of the Frameless Tire as an optional piece of equipment in the International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) standalone events or similar FCI events only as an optional piece of equipment.

These changes are effective March 1, 2026.

Delegate Approvals

Debarah Billings

To represent Biewer Terrier Club of America
Published in *AKC Gazette*: December 2025, January 2026

Kate DeSanto

To represent American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association
Published in *AKC Gazette*: December 2025, January 2026

Crystal Messersmith

To represent Columbia Kennel Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: December 2025, January 2026

Isabel Ososki

To represent Collie Club of America
Published in *AKC Gazette*: December
2025, January 2026

Approval of Annual Fees

The *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc.* require that the Board of Directors set deposits annually for the submission of complaints pursuant to Article XII, Section 1; as well as deposits for appeals to an Appeal Trial Board pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7.

The current deposit to file a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, is \$625. The current deposit to file an appeal to an Appeal Trial Board is \$250.

The Board VOTED to approve the recommendation to change the deposits to \$675 for Article XII, Section 1 complaints and \$275 for an appeal to an Appeal Trial Board, Article XIII, Section 7, effective immediately.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

It was VOTED (unanimously) to adjourn on Thursday, February 5, at 4:07 pm Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



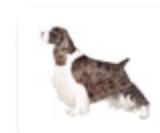
Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



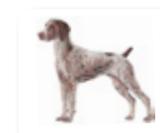
English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English Coonhound



American Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno



Redbone Coonhound



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



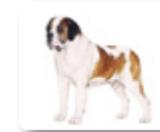
Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



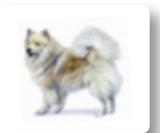
Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



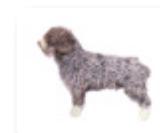
Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>