



gazette

MAY 2026



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Canine Health Updates

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MAY 2026

Volume 143, Number 5



FEATURE

Breaking New Ground

AKC CHF funds new ways to cope with cognitive dysfunction.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SECRETARY'S PAGES

MASTHEAD

Our cherished rare breeds

UPDATES

AKC officers reelected; Meet the Legislator of the Year; New Biewer Terrier standard; Recent events on AKC.tv

FEATURE

AKC Museum's Alan Fausel finally reels in the one that got away.

SLIDESHOW

Gilbert Win Shots:
The Kodachrome Years

TIMES PAST

Annie on ... judging with the ramp

VIDEOS

Cavalier national; Blue Crab Cluster; Purebred Preservation Bank; chatting with Vicky Cook

DOG PEOPLE

Perry Payson

AKC PARENT CLUBS

BREED COLUMNS



Hounds

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

Terriers

Airedale Terriers

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

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

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

AT THE MIDNIGHT SUN CLUSTER

PRESENTED BY

COOK INLET KENNEL CLUB

JULY 23, 2026 - JULY 26, 2026

ALASKA STATE FAIRGROUNDS • PALMER, AK

PLANNED EVENTS:

3 All-Breed Conformation Events (Friday - Sunday) • AKC NOHS 2026 Regional Event (Saturday)
• NOHS (Friday & Sunday) • All-Breed Junior Showmanship • Brace • Obedience • Alaska Rally
Championship • Scentwork • Carting • Best Puppy in Show (Friday) • Best Bred-By in Show
(Saturday) • Best Veteran in Show (Sunday) • 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy (Sunday) • Peewee
Competition (Sunday) • Group shows for Hound, Toy, Non-Sporting, & Sporting (Thursday) • Meet
the Breeds (Saturday) • AKC Patch Program (Saturday)

Superintendent: Barayevents.com

NOHS Regional points are **doubled** for this event!



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Non-Sporting Dog Club of Alaska



COOK INLET
KENNEL CLUB



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The spirit of celebration

As we kick off the Month of May, we proudly celebrate May 1 as [National Purebred Dog Day](#), a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the rich history, purpose, and predictability that purebred dogs bring to our lives. This day serves as a reminder of the generations of thoughtful breeding, stewardship, and dedication that have preserved these breeds and their unique characteristics. It is a time to honor not only the dogs themselves, but also the passionate community of breeders, owners, and enthusiasts who work tirelessly to protect their legacy and ensure their future.

In keeping with the spirit of celebration, we are especially looking forward to our AKC Celebrates 250 event as we honor the United States' anniversary this June. This multi-day event will

take place June 5 through June 7 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. As part of the AKC on ESPN sports series, the event will showcase elite AKC competition across Diving Dogs and agility, bringing together top canine athletes and handlers from across the country to demonstrate their incredible athleticism.

Set in a beautiful open space, this patriotic celebration will transform the Navy Yard into a buzzing festival environment, featuring high-energy competition, a dedicated kids' zone, a mini-Meet the Breeds experience, and a variety of family-friendly activities.

We encourage those in the Philadelphia area to come out and join in the fun as we celebrate this remarkable milestone together. To learn more about the event including scheduling, click



[here](#). We hope to see you there.

Shifting gears, public education remains a vital part of our mission, and our clubs play an essential role in helping to create responsible dog owners in communities across the country. It is important that we recognize and highlight this work, and we are pleased to inform you that the American Kennel Club is now accepting applications for its annual [Public Education Award \(PEA\)](#), with submissions open through July 1. Clubs are encouraged to apply for recognition of outstanding public education efforts.

Presented each July by

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AKC Public Education, the award honors a club that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to educating its community about dogs, including AKC dog sports and events, purebred dogs, responsible dog ownership, and safety around dogs. The selected club will receive a \$500 monetary award, a commemorative plaque, and recognition across AKC Education social media channels.

Interested clubs are encouraged to apply by submitting documentation of public education outreach activities conducted within the past year, along with supporting photos and a brief essay outlining their impact. A committee of AKC employees will review all eligible applications and select the recipient based on established criteria. To encourage broader participation, clubs may receive the award once every two years, and consecutive-year winners will not be considered.

In closing this letter, I am



In June: AKC Celebrates 250

thrilled to extend my congratulations to the winners of the AKC Agility League's 2026 winter season. Now in its 12th season, the League continues to bring together talented canines and their dedicated owners nationwide in a dynamic and inclusive competition. With three seasons each year and multiple divisions and skill levels, it offers an engaging experience for participants at every stage, while showcasing the very best of teamwork, fun and the enduring bond between dogs and their handlers.

Well done to all!

As we move into these busy and vibrant months, I am continually inspired by the dedication of our clubs, exhibitors, and participants. Your commitment to education, competition, and your passion for our beloved breeds is what drives our mission forward.

Thank you for all that you do for dogs and for the American Kennel Club.

Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club



FCM Universal Championship

Four AKC International Dog Shows 2026

For AKC breeds Fully recognized.

FCM Universal Championship

Special Attraction Dog Shows

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



Expo Santa Fe. Mexico City



November 12-15, 2026

FOUR ALL - BREED DOG SHOWS

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

FCM - Panamerican Championship Title

(Thursday November 12th, 2026)

FCM - Continental Championship Title

(Friday November 13th, 2026)

FCM - Intercontinental Championship Title

(Saturday November 14th, 2026)

FCM -Universal Championship Title

(Sunday November 15th, 2026)

FCM - Mexican Championship Title

(All four days)

AKC - Championship Points

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

AKC - Grand Championship

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

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

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



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In April the AKC put out its 2025 list of the **20 rarest breeds**. AKC President Gina DiNardo says, “Choosing a rare breed is more than gaining a unique companion, it’s helping to preserve a living chapter of history.”

Topping the rare-breed list is the Norwegian Lundehund. There are fewer than 400 of them in the United States.

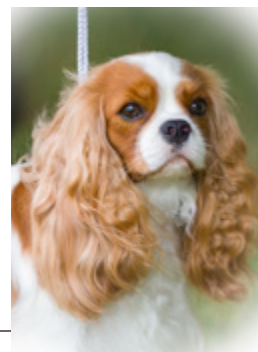
The Lundehund is truly unique. Bred to hunt puffins (now a protected species) on the cliffs of Norway’s Vaeroy island, it has feet with at least six fully functioning toes and extra paw pads, an “elastic neck” that can crane back so the head touches the spine, ears that fold shut, and flexible shoulders that allow forelegs to extend to the side, perpendicular

to the body, producing the breed’s distinctive “rotary” gait. They would climb sheer rock walls, worm their way into narrow passages, and snatch the nesting birds. Then they would skid down the cliffs, with the squawk-

ing, flapping prize in their mouth.

The Lundehund is among the AKC family’s fascinating rarities cherished by their parent clubs, breeders, and owners. “Knowledge empowers owners to make the right choice for their lifestyle,” DiNardo says. “Choosing to work with a responsible breeder to bring home one of these rare breeds is not just a personal joy, it helps to ensure these remarkable dogs continue to thrive for generations to come.”

On Our Cover
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, courtesy Lynda Beam



NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND/COURTESY ANNELI ROSENBERG



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AKC Officers Reelected

At the April Board of Directors Meeting, in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the Board reelected the following executive officers: President and Chief Executive Officer Gina M. DiNardo; Chief Financial Officer Theodore E. Phillips, CPA; and Executive Secretary Sheila Goffe.

- DiNardo brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the AKC, with over

50 years of experience in the sport of purebred dogs as both a breeder and owner-handler.

She has worked at the AKC for more than 30 years, having served as Executive Secretary for nine years before her election as CEO in April 2025.

- Goffe joined AKC in 2006 and was promoted to Vice President of Government Relations in 2016. She owns and breeds Siberian Huskies, having finished numerous champions

from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class. She is a member of the Siberian Husky Club of America and various specialty and all-breed kennel clubs. Goffe was first elected as Executive Secretary in April 2025.

- Phillips came to AKC in May 2020 with over 38 years of experience in financial leadership roles with Carnegie Hall, Merrill Lynch, and Deloitte. He is a committee member and lecturer for the New York State CPA Society and AICPA.

AKC.tv

Let's Go to the Video!

High-quality video coverage of these recent events is now available at AKC.tv. The archive contains dozens of shows going back to 2023.

[Atlanta KC](#)

[National Agility Championship](#)

[Evansville KC](#)



COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

UPDATES

Revised Biewer Standard

At its February meeting, the AKC Board of Directors approved revisions to the Biewer Terrier breed standard. The changes brought forth by the parent club were effective April 30.

As a result, all judges assigned to judge Biewer Terrier, the Toy Group, or Best in Show where the breed

may be present at AKC conformation events held after April 30, are required to judge in accordance with the respective newly-approved breed standard.

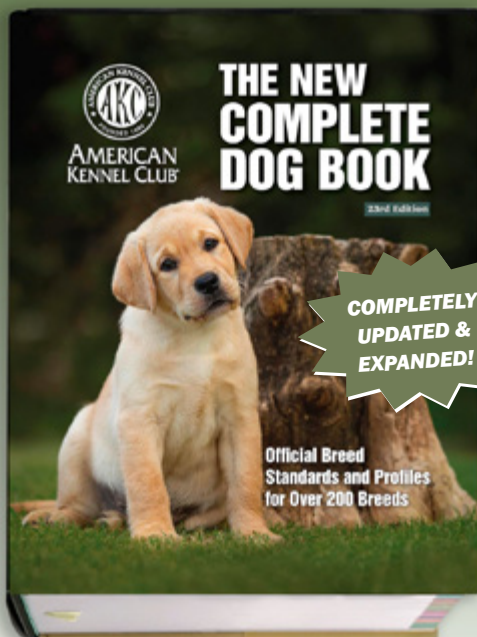
The revisions are extensive and affect most sections of the standard.

[Biewer Terrier revised breed standard](#)



COURTESY: LYNDA BEAM

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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

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- Over 800 exceptional color photographs of adults and puppies
- Spotlight on finding well-bred puppies, sports, and activities for dogs and owners

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Available at *Amazon* or in the AKC Shop at shop.akc.org

UPDATES



Fett *AKC Legislator of the Year*

DES MOINES, IOWA—The AKC has named Iowa State Representative Samantha Fett (Dist. 22—Warren County) as a recipient of its 2026 Legislator of the Year Award, recognizing her leadership and dedication to advancing effective, commonsense legislation for dogs and responsible owners in Iowa.

“I’m thrilled to receive the AKC Legislator of the Year Award for 2026,” Fett says. “This recognition reflects the hard work of many partners who helped shape meaningful, commonsense

dog-related legislation that passed the Iowa House this year, and I’m proud to have led those efforts.”

The award was presented by Kristina DeLisi (Iowa City KC) and Steve Exline (Des Moines KC and Samoyed Club of Iowa) in recognition of Fett’s work to strengthen Iowa’s dog-ownership laws and to promote responsible breeding practices.

“AKC is proud to present Representative Fett with the Legislator of the Year Award,” AKC Director of Legislative Outreach Jennifer Clark says. “Being a passion-

ate dog owner herself, she has a strong desire to work on meaningful and impactful policies that truly benefit dogs and responsible owners.”

The AKC recognizes Fett for her collaborative and solutions-oriented approach to policymaking, which balances animal-welfare priorities with support for responsible dog breeding and ownership across Iowa.

May Breeder Webinar

Join Dr. Joanna Koilpillai for “Neonates: The Critical Period” on Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 P.M. EST.

The webinar will offer guidance on assessing and managing newborn puppies. Information about puppy APGAR scores, resuscitation, and crucial details about early care will expand your preparedness for your next litter.

[Register](#)



familydog



THE 2026 AKC PHOTO CONTEST — NOW OPEN TO ALL!

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

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

Start snapping!



The AKC Canine Health Foundation funds new ways to cope with cognitive dysfunction.

Breaking New Ground

WEYO/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The guidelines will help us determine the best care for senior dogs.



On January 29, the [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) 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*, the guidelines provide veterinarians with a standard

FEATURE



Dogs share our environments, our lifestyles, and many age-related conditions.

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.

“We [the international working group] spent several months holding Zoom

meetings, but the funding from AKC/CHF allowed us to meet in person and really discuss and hammer out our final guidelines. The meeting was absolutely critical to the process,” says Dr. Olby, the Dr. Kady M. Gjessing and Rahna M. Davidson Distinguished Chair in Gerontology at NC State.

CHF is partnering with Dr. 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. By hosting the hub, CHF is

FEATURE

helping translate the latest canine-health advancements into real-world care. The hub will grow alongside the Working Group's groundbreaking efforts.

"Now that the guidelines are published, we are focusing on our next steps," Dr. Olby continues. "We want to be sure that dog owners and primary veterinarians are familiar with the guidelines and can access the information they need. AKC CHF has kindly agreed to host a website to help us in this endeavor and will be critical to getting our message out. We have several research projects underway and are currently building collaborations with veterinary researchers across the world.

"The outpouring of interest in our work has been amazing and we are now doing everything we can to advance the care of our beloved aging dogs."

Dr. Gary Landsberg, a now-retired veterinary behaviorist and member of the Working Group, which

Dr. Olby called pivotal to the field of CCDS, told CHF that the working group's consensus focused not only on guidelines that can be put in place immediately, but also on future priorities, such as the development and validation of improved diagnostic tests to improve veterinarians' accuracy and ability to treat the dogs.

More on this subject

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

Here are comments from two prominent members of the CCDS Working Group on the importance of the guidelines.

Dr. Holger Volk, head of the department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover: "For clinical practice, it is crucial that we now have standardized criteria that allow for earlier and more consistent diagnoses—resulting in direct benefits for animal welfare and for advising the pet parents.

"At the same time, we are

laying the foundation for robust studies, including future blood biomarkers and cognitive test batteries. In this way, we also strengthen the translational bridge to human medicine."

Dr. Eniko Kubinyi, professor and head of the department of Ethology at ELTE Eötvös Loránd University: "Dogs share our environments, our lifestyles, and many age-related conditions. These guidelines help veterinarians and owners better understand what they are seeing and how to respond. The international collaboration behind them ensured the recommendations are both scientifically sound and practical for everyday veterinary care.

"Moreover, systematic research on canine cognitive dysfunction can also help us better understand dementia more broadly, which makes these guidelines relevant beyond veterinary medicine." **GZ**

Upcoming CHF Webinars

May 19, 7:00 P.M. EST

Understanding Chronic Gut Disease in Dogs: New Molecular and Microbiome Findings

Albert Jergens, DVM, MS, Ph.D., DACVIM
 Chronic intestinal disease is a common cause of persistent diarrhea, vomiting, and weight loss in dogs. Research has shown that imbalances in the gut microbiome are linked to intestinal inflammation. Probiotics—live microbial cultures—are believed to help restore microbial balance, but the exact mechanisms by

which they improve gut health remain unclear.

[Register](#)

June 23, 7:00 P.M. EST

Studying Epilepsy in Dogs: Research Approaches and Insights

Karen Muñana, DVM, MS, DACVIM
 Epilepsy is the most common chronic neurological disorder in dogs. Idiopathic epilepsy—recurrent seizures with no identifiable cause but a presumed genetic basis—accounts for over half of cases.

[Register](#)

July 21, 7:00 P.M. EST

Inside Canine Sports Medicine: Research, Rehabilitation, and Performance

Christopher Frye, DVM, DACVSMR
[Register](#)

August 4, 7:00 P.M. EST

Advancing Pain Assessment in Dogs: Emotion & Cognitive Testing

Maggie Creamer, Ph.D.
 Osteoarthritis is a common cause of chronic pain in dogs, leading to impaired mobility and decreased quality of life. In humans, in addition to physical limitations, persistent osteoarthritis pain is known to cause affective, or emotional, and cognitive deficits that worsen the pain experience. Despite the similarities in physical signs, the impact in dogs has not been evaluated, leaving a critical gap in understanding and clinical care.

[Register](#)

Canine Sports Medicine:
 July 21





Rings of Color

William P. Gilbert, of Somerville, New Jersey, gave up his professional handler's license in 1964 to become a dog-show photographer.

His father, William J., was a Great Dane exhibitor who taught his son the handler's trade. At 12 years old, in his Boy Scout uniform, Gilbert the younger handled his first dog at Westminster.

In late 1964, William Brown eased into semiretirement after years as one of the busiest official photographers in the dog game. Gilbert was his successor, mentored by Evelyn Shafer.

Gilbert's territory encompassed shows in the Northeast and down the coast as far south as Virginia, shooting such high-profile assignments as Westminster and Montgomery County.

Gilbert made his name in the glossy black-and-white 1960s and was still going strong in the colorful Kodachrome '70s and '80s, as we see in this month's slideshow.

Conradijn Cunaeus (Dutch, 1828–1895) “A Leonberger in an Alpine Setting,” oil on canvas; promised gift from Mara Bovsun and Michael Santangelo



AKC Museum curator finally reels in the one that got away.

By Alan Fausel

The Dog that Followed Me Home

When I began in the art business, some 40 years ago, I marveled at the “old-timers” who would recall works of art that had returned to the art market decades earlier. This is a story of one special dog

PHOTO COURTESY OF BONHAM'S

FEATURE

painting that kept following me around throughout my career in the dog-art world.

Sometime in the summer of 2000, Allan Willemssen called me out to his home and farm located in Mendham, New Jersey. His mother, Connie, was a well-respected Bedlington Terrier breeder and AKC judge. She also initiated the [Constance M. Willemssen Breed Betterment Award](#) in 1992 through the Bedlington Terrier Club of America.

In addition to being active in the Bedlington world, she maintained a parttime concern as a dog-art dealer. It was about the second year of the “Dogs in Art” auction that I had initiated with the Doyle New York and Bonhams, then based in the U.K., when I received Allan’s call. His mother had passed away and he wanted to disperse the inventory from her collection.

THE ELUSIVE LEO

I went to meet Allan at his acreage in Mendham,



The author at the AKC Museum of the Dog with his two favorite Leonbergers: Emily von Alpensee, CD, BN, RM3, RAE2, RC, MXP, AJP, MFP, CGCA, TKA, FITG, and the elusive Cunaeus painting

where he maintained a home and ran a few head of cattle. We made our

selections for the coming auction, including a painting by the Belgian artist

AKC PHOTO

FEATURE

Conradijn Cunaeus of a Leonberger set against an Alpine landscape.

At the time, Allan and his wife had two Golden Retrievers. About a week before the auction, I received a call from Allan requesting the return of the painting. Apparently, in the months intervening my taking possession of the work, and the publication of the auction catalogue, the Willemsens had a chance encounter in a parking lot with a Leonberger breeder who had a pup in tow. They fell in love with the dog and proceeded to bring him home and wanted to have the painting back.

I normally would have charged withdrawal fees as per our contract, but he had other paintings which he had not yet consigned to auction that I coveted for future sales. I returned the painting and figured I may just see it again.

In 2014, I received another call from Allan

informing me that his beloved Leonberger had passed away and he and his wife were downsizing. The Cunaeus painting and others were being considered for auction. The painting was offered in Bonhams *Dogs in Show and Field* sale in February 2015. I did not recognize the winning bidder for the Leonberger and just figured it found a happy home.

Only later, in the summer of 2018, when I was hired by AKC to move the [Museum of the Dog](#) from St. Louis to New York, did I learn where the Cunaeus painting had landed.

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

At an AKC summer employee get-together, I had a lengthy conversation with Mara Bovsun, who was then the managing editor of *AKC Family Dog* magazine. Among other topics, she informed me that she had a Leonberger who she was training for agility. She

also noted that she was the happy owner of a painting that she acquired at auction. She was indeed the purchaser of the Cunaeus painting.

Several years later, Mara informed me that, sadly, her husband, Mike Santangelo, had died during the pandemic and she was giving up her New York City apartment. In an act of generosity, she agreed to loan the painting to the museum, and it is now a promised gift to the institution. To commemorate the gift, we posted a message on Instagram with Mara, the painting, and, of course, her incredible Leonberger, Emily.

I am pleased to say that as of this writing, the painting can be seen in the museum's third-floor gallery. It is extra special for me to welcome my old friend to a forever home within the AKC family.

Thank you, Connie, Allan, and Mara, for making this happen.—**A.F.**

FEATURE



“Scottish Deerhounds in an Interior,” Conradijn Cunaeus, oil on panel, AKC collection

About the Artist

Conradijn Cunaeus was born in Dendermonde, Belgium, in 1828. He trained at the Academy of Amsterdam and studied under Nicolaas Pieneman, a favored portraitist of the Dutch royal family. Cunaeus exhibited in Amsterdam and in The Hague between 1847 and 1884.

From the AKC art book *A Breed Apart*: “Cunaeus often included numerous decorative accessories in his dog paintings, sometimes referring to a breed’s country of origin. His canvases are well executed although his palette is rather flat, with more white added to the colors than that of his British contemporaries.”

AKC PHOTO



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“Examination is not judging; it is just that: examination.”

Annie on the Ramp

In our September 2002 issue, Anne Rogers Clark shared her thoughts on judging dogs on the ramp.

Way back in the beginning, even before I got involved in the sport of dogs, dog shows would have a raised square bench covered with rubber matting

placed in each ring. It was just about 10 inches off the ground. ...

When I started showing dogs, in the 1940s, benches had begun to fall from favor,

DAVID WOO ©AKC

TIMES PAST

and tables were provided for the toy breeds only. Recently, Edd Bivin mentioned that when he began to judge terriers his mentors taught him to examine the terriers, all of them, on the ground. “Tables are only for toy dogs and old judges,” he was admonished.

Eventually, however, the table came into use for many breeds. It is not clear whether this was because we began to have more older judges, or because we began seeing greater numbers of entries, along with the imperative to “keep on time in your ring.” The table did allow judges to use their time in the ring more effectively.

In recent times, the use of the ramp has come to the fore. I never gave any thought to this until my bout with surgery just a year ago. I had used the ramp for Basset Hounds and Bulldogs prior to my illness and found it very helpful. The dogs were trained to be calm and cooperative while being examined on it. You could



Edd Bivin was taught, “Tables are only for toy dogs and old judges.”

quickly view the whole dog in your initial assessment. You could check mouths and testicles without deep knee-bends, squatting, or bending double. With the ramp, the exhibitor also has things easier: no more kneeling in damp ground—in fact, no kneeling at all.

Due to the success that was achieved with the breeds that initially used the ramp, we may now also use it for such breeds as Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Clumber Spaniels, Sussex

Spaniels, and Whippets.

Further, in emergencies, the ramp may be used to judge any breed. In such situations, the exhibitor may have the exhibit scratched and the entry fee returned if he does not wish to show on the ramp. I have used the ramp to judge, using it extensively during my recovery period, and have had very few complaints from exhibitors. When I use it, I explain to all that I will examine the entry on the floor or the ground if there is an objection to the use of the ramp.

TIMES PAST



“With the ramp, the exhibitor has things easier: no more kneeling in damp ground.”

It is amusing that any dog that competes in agility will be willing and even happy to use the ramp, because getting up on a ramp is part of agility training. Also, of course, any dog that is a frequent winner will probably just think it is getting on the ramp to have another win photo taken.

It should not generally be necessary to use the ramp for the giant breeds, unless it is to check for the presence or absence of rear dewclaws. Otherwise, it would seem practical and reasonable to

allow the ramp to be used for all dogs up to the height of 20 or 22 inches, emergency or not.

It must be remembered that it is the examination of the dog—checking for all of the primary requirements of the standard; checking mouths, and when required, counting teeth; checking construction; measuring height if necessary; and so on—that takes the time in the ring. Examination is not judging, it is just that: examination. And it should be thorough.

The balance of the two minutes, which is the total amount of time generally allowed each exhibit, is then spent viewing movement, comparing specimens, and coming to a conclusion. All aspects of your evaluation, which includes breed temperament and free standing on the ground, is part of the comparison.

There is an old saying in the sport of dogs: “You buy from the table (bench) and sell from the floor.” In other words, on the table you thoroughly examine the dog for both its good points and its flaws. Then the real judging occurs when the dog is on the floor: You add up the sum of all the parts, when the dog is both standing and moving, and assess its worth and ultimate placement.

Let’s think about this saying and allow ourselves—whether exhibitor or judge—to use whatever is necessary to do our respective jobs accurately, effectively, and comfortably.—**A.R.C.**

COURTESY KATHLEEN REILLY



familydog™



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Cav National Best of Breed

KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE—Best of Breed at the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel national, judged by Michael Hagerty (Ireland). 3:50:25



Owner-Handled in the Old Line State

DOSWELL, VIRGINIA—Don Evans judges National Owner-Handled Series Non-Sporting Group at Southern Maryland KC, part of the Blue Crab Cluster. 5:17

VIDEOS



That's a Good Boy!

Indy, the Duck Toller star of the hit movie Good Boy, visits the AKC Library. 4:48



Show Photographer Shoots the Breeze

Longtime fixture of the Pacific Coast circuit Vicky Cook chats about judges, handlers, and owners. 31:56

VIDEOS



“A Really Cool Project”

Pure Dog Talk: *Laura discusses the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank with AKC Board member Dr. Charles Garvin. 37:18*



Gazette Gallery: A Perennial Favorite

A photo retrospective of the Beagle, long among the world’s most popular breeds. 1:13



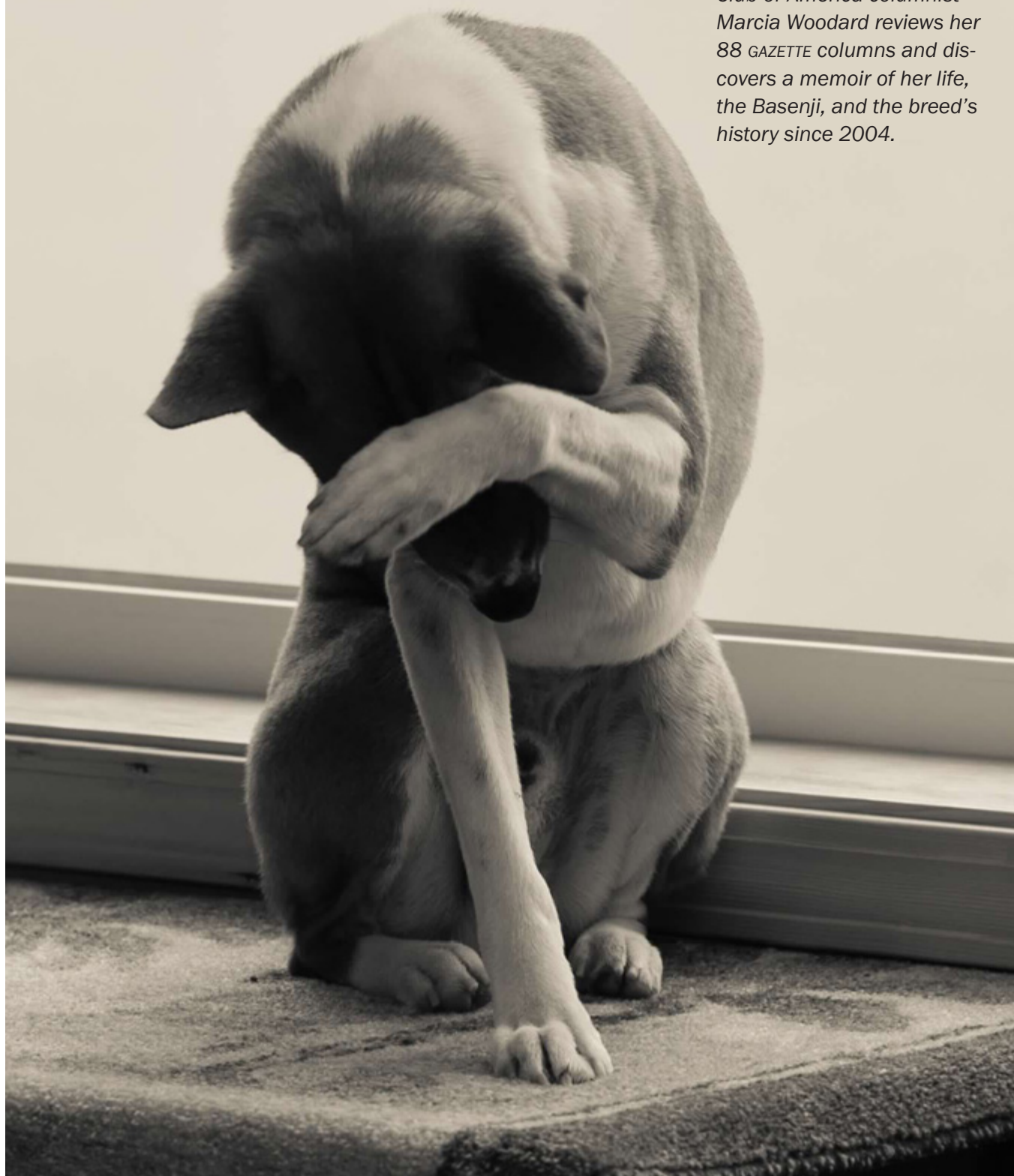
Perry Payson

In the sport since age 16, Payson found spectacular success first in Rottweilers, and then in French Bulldogs. He says, “What I love about showing and breeding dogs is the relationship you have with the dog. It’s that love, the bonding, the working with that dog. You must make that dog feel so comfortable and so happy and give your joy to that dog. And joy gives strength, and that strength and energy is so important in the show ring.”

BREED COLUMNS

Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)

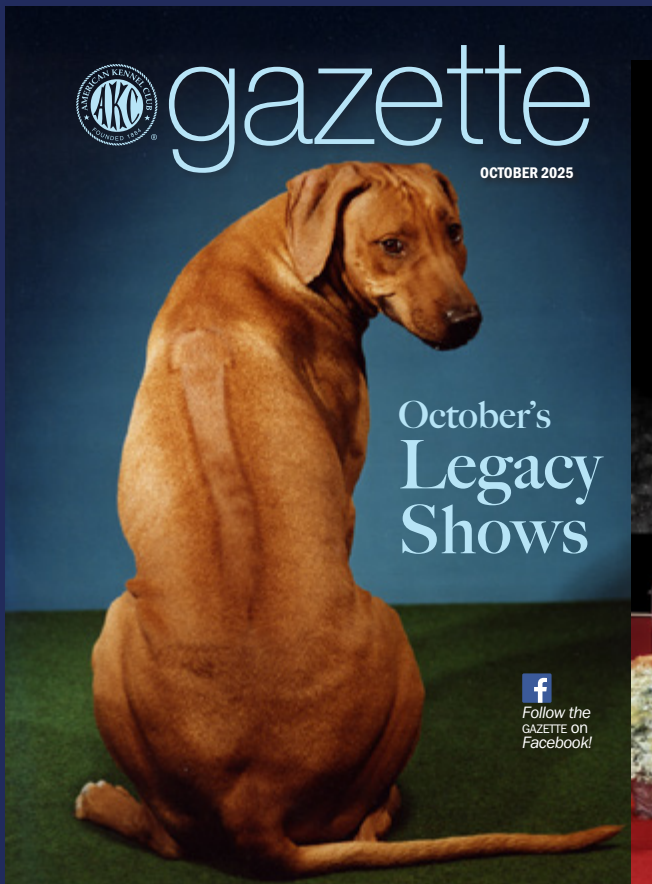
This month, longtime Basenji Club of America columnist Marcia Woodard reviews her 88 GAZETTE columns and discovers a memoir of her life, the Basenji, and the breed's history since 2004.



COURTESY MARCIA WOODARD

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BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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



THIS MONTH

Hound

- 35 Afghan Hounds
- 36 Basenjis
- 39 Bloodhounds
- 41 Borzoi
- 43 Dachshunds
- 45 Grands Bassets Griffons Vendéens
- 47 Greyhounds
- 49 Ibizan Hounds
- 51 Irish Wolfhounds
- 53 Norwegian Elkhounds
- 55 Otterhounds
- 59 Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens
- 61 Rhodesian Ridgebacks
- 63 Salukis
- 65 Scottish Deerhounds
- 67 Whippets

Terrier

- 70 Airedale Terriers

- 71 American Hairless Terriers
- 73 Australian Terriers
- 75 Bedlington Terriers
- 77 Border Terriers
- 80 Bull Terriers
- 81 Cairn Terriers
- 83 Dandie Dinmont Terriers
- 85 Smooth Fox Terriers
- 87 Wire Fox Terriers
- 89 Glen of Imaal Terriers
- 90 Irish Terriers
- 92 Kerry Blue Terriers
- 94 Lakeland Terriers
- 96 Manchester Terriers
- 98 Norfolk Terriers
- 100 Norwich Terriers
- 103 Scottish Terriers
- 105 Sealyham Terriers
- 107 Skye Terriers
- 109 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
- 111 Welsh Terriers

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

Afghan Hounds

SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON PACING

As we know, in the show ring dogs are judged at a trot. I have always been aware of the stigma associated with a dog's ability to pace. The incidence of pacing by an Afghan Hound isn't necessarily common but is more than occasional. I'd like to talk a little bit about pacing in this column.

My findings are not based on any appropriated scientific research, only my own experience especially handling hundreds (likely more) of Afghan Hounds in the show ring and in life, and several related breeds over a period of time spanning 56 years. As well my observations of cats, horses, and some other domesticated and wild animals contribute to this essay.

It is a natural ability that quadrupeds can pace. It is a gait that may be trained, but with show dogs it is undesirable. In general, it looks awkward, however some dogs do it better than others.



I have seen this in dogs of different proportions, structure, and balance. I have seen pacing at different speeds. Very often I have observed a mental association of a dog's negative consciousness of the lead and the triggering of its pacing.

I believe pacing looks awkward because we usually see it out of context. It is a much more useful gait traveling over ground that is uneven, that has more depth, and that offers more resistance: *sand*, especially

deep sand. Animals pacing over sand seem to exert less energy to travel. Here pacing appears rhythmic and smooth, *and* the best part is it actually diverts the hot sand away from the underbelly! In the desert this mode becomes desirable.

But yes, in the show ring dogs are judged at a trot. When we have a dog who we know has the capability to pace in the ring, often the first reaction is to utilize the collar, yanking the dog off his front "hoping" things

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

will fall into place on the move. I have found just the opposite! Rather, encourage and get that dog to take the first step on his own accord, with *no* pressure from the collar, and the dog moves directly into a trot. It may be easier said than done, but I have found this to be fool-proof. Unfortunately, many dogs have already formed an opinion about the misuse of their collar and won't take the initiative on their own. This may be overcome by practice and skill on the handler's part, so don't give up. You already know your Afghan Hound won't give up!

—Harry Bennett,
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Afghan Hound Club of America

Basenjis

As I recently revisited my tenure writing the Basenji column for the AKC GAZETTE, I decided—perhaps naively—to reread all 88 columns. I expected an easy stroll down memory lane. It was not. I had

forgotten far more than I imagined. I am 70 now; when I began, at 46, I was practically a baby. Those columns have become a memoir of sorts—of my life, of the Basenji, and of the breed's history since 2004. Time changes things. So do dogs.

From those pages, I began searching for the sentences that best capture the essence of the breed and its people. My criteria were simple but strict: one sentence only; it had to reveal a Basenji trait or a Basenji fancier's truth; it had to land without explanation—something you either get, or you don't; and it had to be my own words. Mostly funny. Sometimes sharp. Always honest.

The results ...

BASENJI ONE-LINERS: A COLLECTION FROM 22 YEARS OF THE AKC GAZETTE COLUMN

“You know who won the war.”

“Our first bitch Saintly would settle into licking me and then leave this universe for another.”

“It wasn't an emergency, just a pissed-off bitch in a box.”

“A Basenji dogsits you.”

“George would say later, ‘We can talk a big story, but once they get in the car and give you that look, all bets are off.’ ”

“I had, I thought, put those items out of her superhero-level reach radius.”

“Trimmed tail-hairs splinter my pants.”

“*B-A-S-E-N-J-I*.”

“She eased her separation anxiety by eating through the seat on our blue leather Stressless recliner.”

“In comparison, barking seems kind of one dimensional.”

“Basenji feet smell like: Ritz crackers ... Fritos ... potato chips (plain) ... bran muffins.”

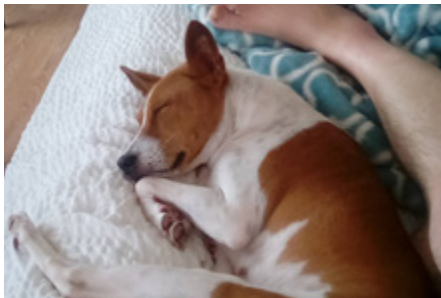
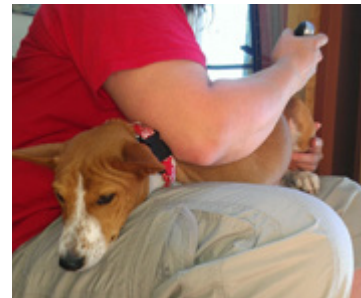
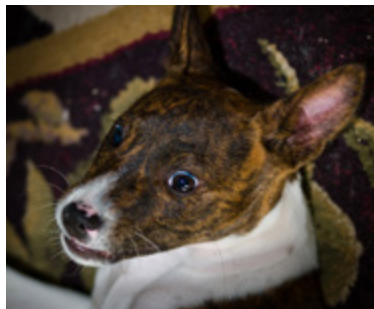
“My dogs' warmth gives me a peace I can't seem to find anywhere else.”

“‘Watch me’ is our creative shorthand for ‘Please glance at me out of the corner of your eye.’ ”

“I draw the line at five Basenjis—as if that qualifies

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



(1) Loki in orange box (“once they give you that look, all bets are off”); (2) puppy Zeke looking crazed; (3) Cool Whip wreaking destruction (“She eased her anxiety by chewing the furniture”); (4) Zelda and TP; (5) George Woodard with Kona winning Best Puppy in 2004; (6) Kona racing on the bed; (7) Lani getting her tail trimmed for her first show; (8) Lili on the bed with George (“that moment when my dogs curl tight against me and sigh”); (9) Chloe and Lani; (10) John relaxing with Basenjis (“If I couldn’t picture a man in my bed with me and my three Basenjis, he was out”); (11) Chloe being charming.

COURTESY MARCIA WOODARD

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

us for the ‘normal’ range, as if any more would be considered excessive.”

“We’ve got a lot of pukers in the Basenji world.”

“When I’m on the toilet and can’t immediately get up, I hear a new ripping sound in the bedroom, a material I can’t identify.”

“Timeline 2007: the first predictive test for Fanconi Syndrome, an often-fatal kidney disease in Basenjis.”

“Everybody gets a biscuit—pretty much all the time—for everything.”

“They create such a network around them that having a Basenji is like being a member of a rare society with a secret password.”

“When she was in a Vari Kennel in the car, she sounded like a 20-pound, squalling popcorn kernel ricocheting off the walls of a microwave.”

“I assumed my dominance would continue.”

“As a mom, she was a determined poop eater, but the litter pellets were the last straw: she looked at me like ‘Are you going to get that?’ ”

“Fanciers out walking their dogs can experience drive-by shoutings:

‘Basenjis!’ ”

“It may be that goats and pigs are more selective scavengers.”

“Scooping poop is like paging through a scrapbook: ‘Oh, I remember that turquoise pair,’ or ‘So that’s what happened to my favorite pink ones.’ ”

“My initial dating philosophy: If I couldn’t picture a man in my bed with me and my triple whammy of Basenjis, he was out.”

“Her dislike of crates is now so astronomical, we adhere to a restraining order of a one-foot distance for all objects.”

“We were managing a gated canine demilitarized zone.”

“Both the human and the door serve as a backstop in a repeating loop that’s a physical interpretation of ‘Someone’s here, someone’s here, someone’s here! Door, door, door!’ ”

“I wait while my three grazing cows chew,

retch, repeat.”

“Garbage day Wednesday and ‘Leave it!’ refrain—street licking, can peeing, soiled treasure hunting.”

“Your neck bends farther and farther, until there’s nothing but a headless cone-dog, nose touching the floor under there.”

“Their expressions: a breed standard of guilt, innocence, and wide-eyed shock.”

“I imagined that moment when my dogs would curl tight against me, reposition themselves, press tighter yet, and sigh.”

“Cool Whip greets with a tail that circles like a helicoptering maple-seed pod.”

“I’ve watched the development of my bored Basenji’s decision to ignore me: the glance at the ceiling, the 360-degree head-roll, and finally the fixed stare at anybody or anything.”

“On the walk, Chloe’s circling search for discarded chicken wings appears the same as her search for the perfect poop site.”

“No pain, no gain.”

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

“When I load the washer, I don’t notice the chewed underwear, so it’s only when I put the clean ones away that I realize I’ve got a two-sided loin flap—like the type I’ve seen on male hula dancers.”

“Kona and Zelda run racetracks on the bed fast enough to make pancake batter.”

“We had to let go of our original vision of Basenjis in paradise.”

“Is that a [Chihuahua, terrier, _____]?”

“It’s odd that most of the bitches have agreed to go into season together once a year.”

“Everyone could hear them howling in cargo for most of the flight.”

“Because any human visit to the bathroom is a group event and a toilet paper opportunity—and even 14-year-old Vixen snags bites of the roll from our hands in a basketball rebound move: leap, snatch, run with the ball—we invest in the Costco Charmin 48-pack.”

“Twenty-five years ago, I

never imagined that having a Basenji as a common denominator would create instant worldwide friendships.”

“If I were a Basenji, I wouldn’t want to go out in the rain either: an insult.”

“I couldn’t help but compare my Basenjis’ languorous poses on the living room sofa to famous paintings of nudes I’d seen on trips to Europe.”

“I believe the Bible issues a warning about the fleeting satisfaction of material possessions.”

“I needed a more visually arresting method for identifying Lili—like a yellow POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS tied in a bow around her neck.”

“We shall not see his like again in this life.”

“It’s my shoe obsession versus my Basenjis’, and I’m as guilty as they are of acting like it is my sole purpose in life.”

“In the morning, after several catlike leg thrusts during the night, I was hanging onto the side of the mattress like some bad

falling-off-a-cliff dream and freezing.”

“Emergency contact: If I die in the breed ring, with the right color of ribbon, and surrounded by friends, there’s no emergency.”

—Marcia Woodard,
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Basenji Club of America

Bloodhounds

GROOMING THE BLOODHOUND FOR BOTH THE RING AND THE COUCH

Although the initial impression is that they are a “wipe-’em-down-and-go” breed, it takes time to properly groom a Bloodhound for the show ring. They are not as trimmed as, say, a Beagle, but there are still tricks that can showcase your dog and make them look ready for their big day.

There are a variety of coats within the breed. (The standard makes no mention of coat length or texture.) A short, tight coat is fairly easy to handle, but the thicker coat with a dense undercoat,

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

although still correct, will require a lot more work, especially during shedding season. Whether your dog is competing in conformation or a couch cuddler, a well-groomed dog is simply nice to look at.

For the tighter coats, a light trim with a good pair of thinning shears on the rear, along the dust ruffle between the rear legs and the abdomen, and along any cowlicks or fringing on the neck will tidy them.

You want to simply even the hairs so that they lie flat rather than cut closely. It should still be a “natural” look rather, than a basic-training buzzcut.

The tip of the tail should be trimmed to remove any “pinwheels,” and any stray hairs on the tip of the penis should be trimmed and rounded. This should be followed by a good overall brush with a hound glove or a rubber grooming brush, which will polish the look and give a nice shine.

For any stray hairs, such as the base of the tail or



Bloodhound Ch. The Rectory's Micah, 1980

along the shoulders, a striping knife used lightly will smooth out anything that draws the eye away from the overall dog.

For the denser coats, to avoid the patchy and moulting look, you will need to pay attention to when the dog starts to “tuft” (usually the day after entries close!).

Start with a warm bath with both shampoo and conditioner. I don't normally use conditioner, but for getting the hair out, it's wonderful. Using a rubber brush

to work the shampoo and conditioner into the coat and then brushing with the rubber brush as you rinse will help to pull the hair out.

Using a force-dryer (or a shop-vac on blow) will get even more coat out. Twenty-four to 48 hours later, you will have a fluffy, fuzzy puffball of a Bloodhound.

At this point, repeat the procedure. I take a metal comb and work it through any area that is not smooth, particularly the backs of the legs and the shoulder and neck areas.

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

The amount of hair that a single 100-pound Bloodhound produces in a day is prodigious!! It will generally take between two and three baths, a few days apart, to get the main shed out.

Between baths, a fur-removing tool such as a Furminator or a stripping comb will pull out even more dead hair.

A week after the initial bath, a final bath will remove the rest. After that bath, you can trim them, but it's a waste of time to do it earlier.

Feet are an important part of a Bloodhound's working gear. Your hound's feet will look tighter if you trim any excess fur between the pads. Most hounds will object to this, so go slowly until they are used to the tickle. It will remove the appearance of loose feet. Make sure that the nails are short. This is a must.

Whiskers are optional. I leave the whiskers on my dogs, because they are also working mantrailers, and the whiskers help them gather scent. I will trim a whisker that is particularly large or

that "springs" the wrong direction, but for the most part I leave the face fairly natural. I know at the higher levels of competition removing the whiskers helps make a smoother outline, but it's not required. Certain judges find them offensive (Jackie Sinkinson once said it was like seeing hairy armpits on a top model), so take that into consideration if you are focusing on group wins. But for a working dog those whiskers are essential, and most judges won't fuss about them.

If you are just starting out with using thinning shears, I suggest that you practice trimming on a dog that you aren't showing. It's easy to take too much, so start slowly. Better to take your time and leave too much, than end up with your poor Bloodhound looking like one of the Three Stooges!

In essence, all you are doing is tidying up a lovely silhouette to showcase the dog. Best of luck, and remember that no matter who wins, you get to take the best dog home!

—Betsy Copeland,
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American Bloodhound
Club

Borzoi

LURE COURSING WITH BORZOI, PART 3: PERFORMANCE AND CONFORMATION

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

What are the most important conformation aspects that make a Borzoi fast and agile? Have you had dogs that succeeded in both lure coursing and conformation?

Sandra: We already talked about the importance of good fronts, shoulder laybacks, long upper arms, and good feet. You can have a dog with a great front but without a broad loin your dog will not be a good courser. Also, a broad loin with width across the hips is

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



(Photos 1-2) Ch. Teine Unstable Force, SC, coursing and receiving an AOM at the national; (3) Zoiboyz Jedawn Phoenix Rising, illustrating an extreme tuck enabled by his long loin vs. back; (4) Zoiboyz Jedawn Phoenix Rising illustrating the importance of a good front in a running sighthound.

usually attached to a wider dog with more lung space. Hopefully, such a dog will not bloat. I have bred many conformation and coursing champions. My very first litter of one in 1991 produced my first conformation champion, first ASFA champion, first Best in Field winner, and the 1992 Borzoi Club of America Triathlon winner.

Anne: I don't think I *know*. I did three different extensive research projects on this subject, which can be found at <http://user.nkstelco.net/teine/speed3.htm>. Tight skin, long loin, high-set ears, moderately sloping croup have been proven over and over again to be the main source of speed and agility. I have had many dogs that succeeded in both. I have bred

110 conformation champions, 45 field champions, and 40 dual champions.

Tom & KC: The most important aspects are the length and strength of loin, good feet, and thigh muscles. In Germany, our dog won the World Championship Oval Racing. In fact, our dog Ambassador won five oval-racing championships in Europe, came to the US

COURTESY OWNERS

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

as a seven-year-old, and won the Grand National, which is a one-mile run after three days of competing. Also, our dog won the Borzoi Blast-Off in Wyoming. We received the Borzoi Club of America Lifetime Achievement Award for performance.

Do you think it would be beneficial for conformation judges to attend and be mentored at lure trials to better understand breed function?

Sandra: Absolutely, it should be a requirement. If you watch dogs run, in time you realize which faults are important. Slight towing in or out does not affect things as much. Faults that are very important are flat or cat feet and upright pasterns. Dogs with these faults will not run well or fast. Tails make no difference; they are used as a counterbalance. But at the same time, if you wanted a perfect sighthound, you would cross Salukis with Greyhounds and maybe add some other breeds, but to have a Borzoi we need to

remember breed type.

Anne: Absolutely. Hunting would be even better, but much, much harder to arrange.

Tom & KC: Yes, unless judges see how Borzoi run, they cannot truly understand Borzoi movement.

Any other comments?

Sandra: It is unfortunate that getting a judging license as a breeder is difficult. I also would like to give a piece of advice. Get your Borzoi out and run them, even Fast CAT. You will learn a lot as an owner and breeder. It's like that T-shirt says: "Run your dogs, not your mouth!"

Anne: All breed standards describe dogs who did the job. Many breeds no longer resemble either their standard or the dogs of 100–200 years ago. I am proud to say that Borzoi do.

Tom & KC: Bonnie Dalzell said that top-winning coursing dogs may not win big at dog shows but we need to bring them out for judges to see athletic dogs."

—Kristina Terra,
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Borzoi Club of America

Dachshunds

WHEN THE CITY DOG MET THE COUNTRY RABBIT

It began decades ago on the terrace of the Konigstuhle Restaurant in Heidelberg, Germany, where we watched a dignified matron and her dignified Dachshund share Sunday afternoon coffee and cake. That was the dog for us!

Years later we finally had a Dachshund—and a copy of a book that told us how they loved to hunt. The only problem was that we lived in Brooklyn, New York—not exactly prime hunting grounds for badger, deer, and rabbits—and we had a dog whose idea of fun was to run as far as he could as fast as he could and watch us try to keep up.

What to do? We joined our local Dachshund club—it was only an hour away—and found out that it

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Handlers releasing dogs at a trial; a Dachshund at work; Vina with a rat; Willow, the city dog; a country rabbit (Eastern cottontail)

sponsored a field trial each year in the spring.

Now our next problem was how to get to the trial. After all, we lived in the city, hadn't owned a car in years, and had let our driver's licenses lapse—that's how citified we had become. Even our Dachsie was a city dog: he rode the subway

to his obedience classes in Manhattan!

So we got our driver's licenses again and explored the wonderful world of car rentals. We attended our first field trial with much curiosity and were relieved when our brace was drawn in the middle of the first series; at least we could watch the other entries to get an idea of what was done.

Our turn came. We

released our dog and absolutely swore that he indeed did slowly make his way, nose down, where the rabbit (Eastern cottontail, or *Sylvilagus floridanus*) had gone. Of course, the judges were less impressed than we were, but the day was warm and sunny, the people were friendly and helpful, and our dog had a great time.

Later in the day we took him to out-of-the-way

COURTESY OWNERS / DACHSHUND CLUB OF AMERICA / CITY WILDLIFE

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

corner and, keeping him on a long line, let him sight and follow a number of rabbits. Needless to say, we were hooked.

We and our dog needed to practice, but how to do so a half-block from the F train to Manhattan? We bought some rabbit scent by mail, and my husband made a sort of rabbit-shaped toy of fake fur that was liberally anointed. We then played “Find it” with the rabbit toy. My husband also laid “trails” of rabbit scent using a drop or two on a series of paper towels placed on imaginary tracks through the apartment. Later he added unscented towels to create false trails and make the dog follow his nose rather than his eyes. The reward at the end of the trail was the rabbit toy.

We rented another car, went to another trial, and got our first ribbon—an NBQ (Next Best Qualifier). It is equivalent to fifth place but brings no points with it. We lived near a large park with lots of “wild” areas and

even rabbits. We always kept our far-ranging Dachsie on a long line for his safety and that of the rabbits. In the winter, we scattered rabbit pellets under the briars where we found rabbit tracks. We wanted lots of healthy cottontails.

More trials brought a placing and points, and eventually a field championship—still with rented cars.

We then decided that our city dog needed a companion. One Dachshund is never enough.

Exploring the Dachshund’s desire to hunt lead us to den trials (go-to-grounds) first with the American Working Terrier Association, and to the AKC’s earthdog tests. And our city venue offered urban ridding at its finest.

A lot of time has passed since those early trials, and long the way I became and AKC field and den trial judge. We still live in Brooklyn, in a small house rather than an apartment, and near the R train instead of the F. Photos of our early field champions and their

offspring adorn one wall. We finally bought a car, because that city Dachsie needs to meet the country rabbit.

—Trudy Kawami,
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Dachshund Club of
America

Grands Bassets Griffons Vendéens

FROM RARITY TO RECOGNITION: THE GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN IN THE U.S.

The history of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (GBGV) in the U.S. is a story of patience, dedication, and gradual appreciation. Unlike many more immediately popular breeds, the GBGV’s journey has been measured—defined not by rapid expansion, but by careful stewardship and a commitment to preserving its authentic character.

The breed’s roots lie in France, where it was developed as a scent hound designed for hunting hare, roe deer, and wild boar over difficult terrain. Its longer

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



*Grand Basset
Griffon Vendéen
BIS MBISS GCh.S
Sidekicks Ice Queen
at RNB*

body, rough coat, and tenacious nose made it uniquely suited to dense underbrush and varied landscapes. For much of its history, however, the GBGV remained largely unknown outside Europe.

The first meaningful steps toward establishing the breed in the U.S. occurred in the late 20th century. A small number of dedicated enthusiasts began importing

foundation stock, recognizing the breed's distinctive qualities and its potential appeal to American hound fanciers. These early imports were limited in number, and breeding decisions were made conservatively, with an emphasis on maintaining the breed's type and working ability.

Through the 1990s and early 2000s, the GBGV

remained a rarity. It was seen occasionally at rare-breed exhibitions and informal gatherings, where it drew attention for its rustic charm and animated expression. At this stage, the focus was less on competition and more on education—introducing judges, breeders, and the public to a breed that differed in both form and function from more familiar hounds.

Organizational development played a key role during this period. A national breed club began to take shape, providing structure for record-keeping, breeder collaboration, and outreach. This was essential in a country as geographically large as the United States, where a small population can easily become fragmented. The establishment of a cohesive community helped ensure that the breed developed in a unified and responsible manner.

The next major milestone came with formal recognition within the American Kennel Club (AKC)

COURTESY OWNER / GBGVCA

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

system. The GBGV progressed through the AKC's Foundation Stock Service, then into the Miscellaneous Class—an intermediate step that allows breeds to gain visibility while still building population and consistency. During this time, the breed began appearing more regularly at conformation shows, offering judges the opportunity to become familiar with its correct structure, movement, and temperament.

Full recognition by the AKC in 2018 marked a turning point. With eligibility for regular competition, the GBGV entered the Hound Group and began to establish a modest but growing presence in the show ring. While it did not experience an immediate surge in numbers, recognition brought increased legitimacy and awareness. More breeders expressed interest, and a broader audience began to encounter the breed. Throughout the 2010s and into the 2020s, growth remained steady but controlled. This has been a

defining characteristic of the GBGV in the U.S.: expansion guided by preservation. Breeders have generally prioritized health, temperament, and adherence to the breed standard over rapid increases in registration numbers. As a result, the population has remained relatively small but consistent in quality.

Today, the GBGV occupies a unique position within the American dog world. It is still considered a rare breed, yet it enjoys a dedicated following among those who value its blend of function and form. It can be found in conformation rings, performance events, and, in some cases, still working in its traditional role as a scent hound.

The modern GBGV in the U.S. reflects both its French heritage and the careful efforts of its American stewards. Its future will likely continue along the same path that has defined its past: thoughtful growth, respect for history, and a commitment to preserving

the qualities that make the breed distinct.

—Breed Preservation Committee

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

Greyhounds

GREYHOUND WORLD

CONGRESS

This month we have a guest author reporting on the amazing week in Orlando.

The Greyhound Club of America (GCA) hosted the third Greyhound World Congress December 9–14, 2025, in Orlando, Florida. There were attendees from Norway, England, Italy, Germany, and Finland, to name just a few countries.

The Congress started with a welcome event on Tuesday night, where attendees could pick up their nametags and bags and then enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres while chatting with their fellow Greyhound fanciers.

On Wednesday the sessions started bright and early at 7:30 A.M. Our

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

moderator, Paul Lepiane, kept things moving smoothly between “Maintaining the Canine Athlete,” by Dr. Rob Gillette; “Passing Down the Vision of an Ideal Greyhound,” by Dani and Elizabeth Edgerton; “The Artistic Legacy of the Greyhound,” by Alan Fausel; and finally “Reproduction in the Greyhound,” with Dr. Robert Dove, all morning.

After a break for the GCA Futurity and the supported entry at the all-breed, we reconvened for two panel discussions on breeding and placing puppies and how to select breeding stock, including incorporating new lines, while developing your ideal Greyhound.

Thursday brought another 7:30 A.M. start, with “Prevention and Treatment of Allergies and Autoimmune Diseases,” by Dr. Lori Blankenship; “The AKC Purebred Preservation Bank,” by Dr. Charles Garvin; and “The Development of



the Greyhound as a Show Dog,” by Sue Lackey, before a short break.

The Congress resumed with more panel discussion. This time it was on maintaining the breed standard with exhibiting in conformation, judges’ education, conditioning, and the importance of specialties and all-breed shows, and exhibiting in performance, including how to evaluate and develop puppy potentials as well as the ability for the original purpose.

The sessions ended for

the Congress, and the Greyhound fanciers headed over to the convention center for the supported-entry judging at the all-breed, followed by the Top 10 judging.

Friday brought the 2025 national specialty that included puppy and veteran sweepstakes, Pee Wee handling, Junior Showmanship, and conformation. It was a record-breaking entry of over 100 between conformation and Junior Showmanship. There was a break in judging so exhibitors could show

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

in the AKC Royal Canin Puppy and Junior Stakes. The Congress officially concluded that evening with the combined Congress/GCA banquet.

Other events held by GCA during the week were the annual membership meeting and judges' education, including a hands-on segment. The weekend events included the AKC National Championship show on Saturday and a hound specialty, as well as the GCA lure coursing on Sunday. The coursing was held about an hour away at the Florida Classic Park in Brooksville, Florida.

GCA would like to thank everyone who attended. The club is pleased to turn it over to the Finnish Greyhound Club to organize next World Greyhound Congress. It will be held in Finland, August 7 and 8, 2027, in Vantaa, near Helsinki.

—By Kandice Kostic,
Tirreme Greyhounds and
Dollidachs Dachshunds

[Greyhound Club of America](#)

Ibizan Hounds

PUPPY-RAISING: MORE THAN JUST THE WHELPING BOX

As any breeder will tell you, breeding dogs in general is not for the faint of heart. Many a person's resolve has been tested not only in the ring but also in the whelping box. From the fragile first weeks of infancy to rambunctious young puppies testing out their world to adolescents finding their stride, it is always an inspiring experience to watch little Ibizan Hounds emerge.

Indeed, there are many puppy-raising methods breeders can use that will help young dogs navigate their world, grow their minds, and cope with stressors. However, raising a great dog doesn't end when a puppy goes home, and breeders must be ready to help and mentor their puppy owners during the transition to adolescence and into the ring.

Positive Stress

Ibizan Hounds are incredibly adventurous, and it is

the author's opinion that in order for puppies to learn to adapt to new situations, minor stressors or puzzles should be a regular part of their development. Changes in temperature, flooring surface, sounds, lighting, and smells are all things puppies need to become comfortable with from the formative first few weeks of life into adolescence.

Socializing and fear

For the adolescent Ibizan Hound, socializing is of the utmost importance. These dogs typically seem to know their people, but learning how to interact with other dogs properly is pivotal for them. Introductions can sometimes go quickly with Ibizans, but with other dogs, it may be necessary to hold your overly enthusiastic "Beezer" back to give the other dog time to adjust to his or her antics.

As with many breeds, young Ibizan Hounds can go through periods of regression ("fear periods"), which are normal but require an

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Ibizan Hound

owner's adaptability in order to see the dog to the other side of these temporary phases. One of the most important pieces of advice you can give a new dog owner is to build a relationship of mutual trust and respect with the dog. They will look to their people for guidance when and if a situation arises that they are unsure of—trusting their owner to help them see the positive (while refraining from coddling) on the other side of a stressor. This will help the dog's confidence in

every social and unfamiliar situation in the future.

Problems in the ring

Some common problems this author has observed in and around the ring could include backing up or posting for the exam, distraction in and around the ring, looking behind while gaiting, insecurity interacting with other dogs, boredom, and overexcitement. Some of these things can be rectified with a good handling class, and this author strongly

encourages owners become involved in their local club to help themselves and their dog with these issues.

For situations of boredom or overexcitement, an owner needs to look for the sweet spot between an enthusiastic dog and a dog who's lost the ability to put their feet down in a straight line. Many judges cannot (and should not) award a dog that they cannot observe using a proper gait.

Simple focus exercises (and a favorite treat) can be used to help a dog keep their head on straight. Learning a trick or two doesn't hurt either to pass the time in a large entry. Walking a young dog around the show and giving them a chance to socialize prior to ring time is also a great idea for both bored and overexcited dogs, as it is much more enjoyable for them.

In sum, raising a dog is not a process that ends when a puppy becomes an adolescent; it extends into the first few years of a young dog's life and even beyond.

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

Breeders, especially, should always be mindful of the mentoring methods they practice with their puppy owners —investing in a young dog’s life will always see a return.

—Meegan Pierotti-Tietje,
mpierottit@gmail.com

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

Irish Wolfhounds

EVERYTHING HANGS FROM THE TOPLINE

A flattened topline can turn a noble Gazehound hunter into a flagging runner. The topline is a signature that illustrates the Irish Wolfhound’s identity and purpose. More than just the back’s contour, it is the backbone of the breed’s silhouette and movement. As I noted in my February 2026 Irish Wolfhound GAZETTE column, the essential Greyhound-like form starts at the skull. Let’s continue as to what defines breed type and focus on the topline, as it is far more than just the hound’s back.

The Irish Wolfhound’s topline begins at the skull’s plane, flowing over a powerful, arched neck of great depth. It glides seamlessly across the shoulders and anticlinal vertebrae, then gently rises past the seventh floating rib over broad, arched loins. This elegant line sweeps over the coupling, dips across a wide, rounded croup, and traces the graceful curve of a long, sweeping tail. When fashioned to perfection, the topline is truly a thing of beauty.

Sharp angles and abrupt dips do not belong on the Wolfhound’s outline, save for the right angle at the hock. The ideal topline exudes both grace and strength. As the mightiest of the galloping hounds, the Irish Wolfhound depends on its topline as the crucial bridge uniting forequarters and hindquarters. Everything hangs from the topline.

When the topline loses its flowing, curvaceous form and the arch over

the loin disappears, the Wolfhound’s function suffers. A stiff, unyielding topline is akin to a locked suspension bridge, offering no flexibility and thus unable to absorb impacts or maintain stamina. Without that essential flexibility, the very idea of a galloper with an inflexible, rigid back becomes a contradiction in terms. Just as a bridge must have both strength and a degree of bend to carry its load efficiently, so does the Wolfhound need a limber back to meet the demands of a true galloping hound.

Some may claim that a Wolfhound with a flatter topline can still triumph as a lure coursing field champion. Yet, with all due respect, excelling at lure coursing—which involves chasing a plastic lure mimicking a hare’s flight over 600 to 1,000 yards—does not prove the presence of a flexible and enduring hunter fit to pursue and bring down wolves. In the land of *Mac Tíre*, Gaelic for “wolf” or “son of the land,” Ireland’s

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



(Images 1–4) Four historical Irish Wolfhound images—Hecla, Graham’s Brian II, Graham’s Garryowen, and Ch. Wargrave; (images 5–6) two historical Greyhound images; (7) a Scottish Deerhound in double-suspension gallop.

ancient sagas from the 15th and 16th centuries celebrate the Irish Wolfhound’s ideal form and legendary hunting skill. These historic accounts reinforce the need to preserve traditional anatomy: The arched loin and flowing topline are not mere aesthetics, but the very foundation of the breed’s legacy as a formidable hunter.

The arch over the loin is created by the length, shape, and curve of the Wolfhound’s vertebrae, and supported by powerful muscles. The loin, broad and rounded, above the flank, together with a strong pelvis and balanced thighs, equips the wolfhound for its signature attack—launching upward and forward to seize its prey’s neck and back with crushing force. Such power can cripple or stun in an instant.

Our breed is predicated on the hallmarks of the Greyhound, being Greyhound-like. The Greyhound standard communicates “Loins: good depth of muscle, well-arched, well-cut up in the flanks.” So why do we so frequently see Wolfhounds, Deerhounds, and Greyhounds today with flat toplines and no arched loins?

The trend toward flat toplines is troubling, echoing a similar pattern seen

BREED COLUMNS

HOUD GROUP

in Greyhounds during the 1840s. It may arise from neglecting the topline's importance or misunderstanding its anatomical roots. Some breeders may be unsure where the vertebral column should begin its ascent, or how bone and muscle unite to create the vital arch that flows into the croup.

To grasp the Wolfhound's topline, we must look to the Greyhound as a guiding model. One of my favorite reference materials is Stonehenge's *The Greyhound in 1864, The Descriptive Anatomy of the Dog*:

“But in order to unite the hind and fore-quarters, and to assist in fixing the pelvis from which the muscles composing the haunch take their fulcrum, a good back is required, and when of good form it has been compared to a beam ... The back ribs should be well spread and deep, for unless they are in this form a sufficient attachment cannot be afforded to the muscles of the loins, which constitute the chief moving

power in drawing the hind legs forward, and in fixing the pelvis. The loins must therefore be broad, strong, and deep, and the measure of their strength must be a circular one ...”

As with many things, balance is key. A well-coupled Wolfhound avoids the overly long loin seen in racing Greyhounds, which favors explosive speed but sacrifices endurance. When a Wolfhound has a long loin, it typically accompanies short ribbing and a short sternum. The underline matters as much as the topline: The ribs should reach well back, and the belly should be well-drawn up. Short ribbing and sternum create a sharp belly cut-up, which is not only unsightly but also weakens the hound, which does not empower a wolf-killer; instead, it robs the hound of space for a large heart and lungs, sapping stamina. Most importantly, a long rib-cage acts as armor, protecting vital organs and providing space for a powerful diaphragm to power every breath.

As I said, everything hangs from the topline. Breeders and aspiring judges must champion this trait to safeguard the breed's graceful build, swiftness, and ageless appeal.

—Lisa Dubé Forman,
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Irish Wolfhound Club of America

Norwegian Elkhounds

NATIONAL SPECIALTY YOUNGSTERS

The Norwegian Elkhound Association of America (NEAA) held its national specialty last month with youngsters both canine and human stepping into the spotlight. For the first time, NEAA offered 4–6 Months Beginner Puppy competition and set a recent record number of Junior Showmanship entries among the 100 dogs entered.

4–6 Months Beginner Puppy competition

I had the privilege of judging the bundles of joy as

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Fun with puppies! Young Elkhound entrants at the 2026 NEAA national with Lisa Peterson, who judged the 4–6 Months puppy competition.

they bounded around the ring. The total number of entries was eight puppies, which I felt was good for the first-ever event. However, there were three absentees.

When I walked into the ring to judge, I had one dog and four bitches to choose from. The Norwegian Elkhound is a newly ramp-optional breed, so I requested a ramp to give the puppies experience on the equipment.

Watching the youngsters navigate the ramp revealed a variety of approaches. Some walked right up, others zigzagged across the long approach, and one even

managed to float her right legs off the ramp as she strode up, but luckily, the handler guided her back to the rubber ramp matting. I let them take their time to get comfortable with it. The AKC rules for this class emphasize that it should be a good, fun experience for the pups.

As I whittled down my choices to two females for Best of Breed, they were very similar in type, structure, movement, and color. Later, I learned they were littermates. In the end, I selected Norwinds Designed on Her Time, owned and bred by Danielle Seitner, for

Best of Breed and for Best of Opposite Sex Vin-Melca's N Highpoints Chairman, owner Kathi Malloy and Patricia V. Trotter.

To mark the inaugural occasion with a fun ending, I gathered the class in the middle of the ring for a group photo. Kudos to the photographer for capturing the pups when all were somewhat still and looking in the same direction, kind of. Puppies will be puppies.

Puppy Numbers Analysis

After judging the young puppies and watching the puppy sweepstakes, I started looking at the numbers. Of the three absentees in my 4–6 Months class, two were from the same litter—the same litter that the two bitches I liked came from. That meant four of the eight puppies entered were from one litter. The other four represented four other separate litters. Five litters of the youngest puppies from the fancy that entered our national specialty represented our breed across

COURTESY LISA PETERSON

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

America. Just five litters.

Our puppy sweepstakes entries fared a bit better, with a total of 17 entries, including four juniors and 13 seniors. Of the 6–9 Months puppies, there were two dogs and no bitches. For the 9–12-Months class, there was one dog and one bitch. When adding the 4- to 6-month-olds and those under 12 months, we had just nine Norwegian Elkhound puppies under a year old at our national. The seniors in sweeps numbered 13.

There's been a steady decline in our breed over the years. Seeing the youngest of the breed as having the fewest entries is concerning. In fact, our club has not held a futurity/maturity for a few years now due to low interest and dwindling entries. Welcome to the realities of a low-entry breed. Our supply of puppies is drying up.

Junior Showmanship

One area that had increased significantly this year was our junior handlers. We had five, count them, five entries. Most years, we

have one or maybe two. We had entries in Novice Junior, Novice Intermediate, Open Intermediate, and Open Senior. Best Junior Handler had three entries to choose from, all wonderful handlers. Hopefully, these young ladies will grow up to be our much-needed next-generation breeders.

Breeders Showcase

One refrain I hear often is that we need to breed more dogs. Our club is doing a great job of promoting social media content to attract potential puppy buyers, which will increase demand for our breed. Marketing to the public is great, but we have also begun marketing to ourselves with the introduction of the Breeders Showcase at the national.

This casual event brings breeders with live dogs and a tableful of pedigrees and pictures into the ring for an hour and a half of discovery, highlighting our club members' breeding programs. Breeders looking for stud dogs, or maybe

adding a puppy bitch from another breeding program, can circulate among the tables gathering information and education. With juniors on the rise, and a breeders showcase at the national, I'm hopeful that more litters will start to come down the puppy pipeline soon.

—Lisa Peterson,

lisa.peterson@barngirlmedia.com

[Norwegian Elkhound Association of America](#)

Otterhounds

I'm very pleased to introduce our guest columnist, Suzanne Goodchild of Szzan kennels. She and her daughter Tayla Bodard reintroduced Otterhounds in Australia. She has graciously shared her story and the story of Otterhounds in Australia with us North Americans.

OTTERHOUNDS IN AUSTRALIA (AGAIN)

“There are *the* Otterhounds,” my young daughter Tayla would

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



Stevie in Calgary; puppies Munro, Lilith, and Tsvari; Stevie and her litter of five; Tsvari resting; Stevie, Monsta, and Lilith boating.

excitedly announce as we drove back to our home in Calgary, Canada. It was the 1990s. By chance, Beverly Biren of Avitar Otterhounds lived in our neighbourhood and would walk her rare dogs almost every

day. Occasionally Tayla would luck out and sight a rambunctious pup or two tugging away, nose to the ground, keeping Bev very busy.

Although born in Australia, my daughters spent their early school years in Calgary where my husband John had transferred. We took the opportunity to import several Australian Borzoi and Cavaliers and got actively involved in the showing community. The girls enjoyed making new

friends at shows, where they participated in junior handling and helped the professional handlers. On particularly cold and dark early show mornings, you could find Tayla snuggled in with a Borzoi keeping warm as puppies do.

The girls started senior school in Australia, and we got reinvented in the showing community here. I eventually became an Australian Hound, Toy, and Non-Sporting judge and would steward and judge

COURTESY OWNERS

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

in both countries and on occasion saw Bev at various events. One time I mentioned to her how Tayla when young had developed a fondness for Otterhounds, and Bev wanted to know more. She is very protective of the breed and despite many requests had yet to let one go overseas. Knowing that Australia had no Otterhounds, she would consider sending one with Tayla and me.

Australian records show that Varlet Whimsey was the first Otterhound in Australia, imported from New Zealand in 1983. Varlet Winrich, from the same parents as Whimsey, came to Australia in 1984. Both were bred by J. Varlet, who had imported Falconcrag Cloud (dam) and Falconcrag Tumult (sire) from Sylvia Marston in the U.K. Also in 1984, Pamela Bonos of Surfside Kennels (U.K.) sent Surfside Chesta and Surfside Charity (his sister) to R. Edwards and K. Watson of Savannah Dark Kennels Australia.

They would be our first Otterhound breeders.

Varlet Whimsey was the first Otterhound entered at a prestigious show in Australia, the 1983 Melbourne Royal. A litter was registered to Whimsey in 1984 and again in 1986, with the sire both times Surfside Chesta. In 1985, a litter was registered to Surfside Charity, with sire Varlet Winrich. These three litters (1984, 1985, and 1986) by Edwards and Watson were the foundation of the breed here.

Several years later, A.E. Dowton (Benchista Kennels) imported Geuron of Falconcrag from the U.K., and likely Falconcrag Wonder Moss, and Mr. and Ms. L.M. Hollis imported Boravin Sportsman from the U.K., bred by Jean Pretious. M. and L. Jennings (Houndtor Kennels) together with Dowton and Hollis had a number of litters. Between 1984 and 1996 there were 105 Otterhounds registered in Australia, including the

seven imports. The last four were registered in 1996. By 1998, Ch. Houndtor Clansman was the last Otterhound entered at the Melbourne Royal.

By the new millennium, very few purebred Otterhounds remained in Australia. Evidently, those remaining were thought too closely related for ethical husbandry. Through difficulty, cost, or just anhedonia, new stock wasn't imported, and the Otterhound here passed into history.

As with many of us, COVID-19 greatly disrupted my family. Once international air travel resumed in 2022 Tayla returned to Canada, where John remained. She had not forgotten "her" gregarious Otterhounds and soon after was interning with Bev and gaggle of dogs, washing, grooming, handling, walking, and doing other chores.

Circumstances were such that Bev had let a friend use one of her dogs at stud, for which she was to receive a

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

puppy. Bev most generously offered it to Tayla, and a few weeks later, they were off to the Bitterroot Valley of southwest Montana to see the new litter.

On 18 June 2022, Briarroots's Avitar Sarsaparilla (Stevie) was born to GCh. Conestoga Convallaria Montana, CGC, TKN, owned by Barbara Horrell and Lydia Hovanski, and Bev's GCh. Avitar's Sweet Sounding Jazz, RN. We are very fortunate that Bev, Barbara and Lydia picked this particularly gorgeous and special puppy.

It was autumn turning to winter as Tayla traveled back to Calgary with her new friend. Then it was back to Australia, leaving her beloved pup in John's untested hands. A long year would pass before she would see Stevie again.

Australia has perhaps the most restrictive quarantining in the world, with rigorous and exacting rules. Stevie (an approved breed) had to reside continuously

in Canada (an approved origin country) for at least six months; the rabies tests alone take months. There are multiple visits to approved clinics for assessment, sampling, and testing. Live-animal cargo must go directly to Melbourne, where bio-security authorities are available certain times only, and capacity is limited. There are climate and stopover limitations.

Most breeders will not keep a puppy almost into adulthood, nor do they accept the additional responsibility of obtaining permits and securing transportation. The logistics challenges and costs, and potential risks to the animal, are simply too much to overcome. Finding a commercial pet transporter to quote the job proved difficult. The few estimates we obtained were exorbitant.

John and Stevie knew nothing of the journey ahead. As winter turned to summer, Stevie grew from a playful pup to a strong, inquisitive 35-kg hound. She would

require a materials- and design-specific, custom-built crate that only certain airlines and certain aeroplanes could accommodate. One authority then another rejected three different crates, so John built one himself, making sure there was room for a few favourite toys. Midway through, Australia changed its rules, causing costly revisions and repeated steps.

At the time, only one airline offered the requisite capacity and routing, so Stevie had to take the long-route from Canada to Australia via Asia, doubling in-transit time. She required catered stopovers in Toronto and Dubai, between long, long legs in the air.

We anxiously tracked every step. It was very hard on Stevie, and after landing in Melbourne, it was to 30 days quarantine, no visitors allowed. She lost 5 kg, but not her spirit.

Finally, the day came, and Tayla made the 20-hour drive from Queensland. Stevie was hesitant at first;

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

it had been a long time for the once-little pup. Tayla was all tears, then straight to the beach and together ever since.

Some time passed before John and Stevie reunited. She ambled over, and with her big paw gently wacked him on the ear, as if to say “never do that to me again.”

Stevie has settled into her beach life in Australia and already has had a beautiful and healthy litter of five using imported semen (Am. GCh./Can. GCh.B Avitar’s All About That TJ Jazz). Our puppies have amazing owners. We excitedly watch them grow and work diligently to ensure Bev’s faith in us is well placed. The next step is to import more unrelated semen.

Meanwhile, again in Australia readers might see an Otterhound out for a stroll—their inquisitive gait, unbounded energy, bold colouring, and affectionate temperament a definite head-turner. —Suzanne Goodchild, April 2026

Thank you, Suzanne.
—Eibhlin Glennon,
[Otterhound Club of America](#)

Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens

Our guest author this month is Laura Liscum, Ph.D., president of the Health and Rescue Foundation of PBGVCA.

PBGVS BREAK OUT THE BUBBLY

The Health and Rescue Foundation of Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America is an independent 501(c)3 that supports canine health initiatives for the future of our breed. We are fortunate that the PBGV is a very healthy breed. A critical aspect of maintaining the breed’s health is to educate breeders and owners on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of health issues relevant to the PBGV. We fund health seminars and health clinics at National Specialties, supported by

our health conscious PBGV community.

Why are PBGVs breaking out the bubbly? Well, actually it is the PBGV people who are celebrating. We have three reasons.

First, the eye clinic at the 2026 PBGVCA national specialty is being fully funded by a generous donation from a member of the PBGV community, Gretchen Tanenbaum.

The sign-up sheets for this annual eye clinic is full, and it will be a busy morning for the veterinary ophthalmologist and helpers.

PBGV owners are always keen to have their dogs’ eyes examine because the one breed-specific health issue that PBGVs face is an inherited primary open angle glaucoma (POAG). This raises the awareness of eye health in the PBGV community. Fortunately, there is a cheek-swab kit that tests for the specific PBGV mutation. To stimulate POAG testing, the Foundation reimburses owners a portion of the test’s cost if they

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



(Left) Drs. Mary Smith, Laura Liscum, and Stephanie Montgomery at the AKC CHF Canines & Cocktails Gala in Orlando, December 2025; (right) Helen Ingher and Laura Liscum at the Canine Health High Tea.

make the results available on an open database. This critical information is needed to make breeding decisions and eliminate the disease from the breed.

Second, our partnership with the AKC Canine Health Foundation is thriving. The Foundation is conscious of the need to support research that will lead to future health advances. We examine the CHF research grant portfolio annually and select grants for sponsorship that are relevant to PBGV health or that support general canine health. More recently, we have funded an investigator through the

auspices of CHF to conduct PBGV-specific research in idiopathic epilepsy.

Dr. Karen Muñana (DVM, MS, DACVIM) is Professor of Veterinary Neurology at North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine. She has an outstanding track record of research into canine epilepsy and has conducted clinical trials to evaluate therapies.

Dr. Muñana submitted a proposal to the AKC CHF to study epilepsy in PBGVs, asking the following:

- How prevalent is idiopathic epilepsy in PBGVs?
- Do PBGVs with idiopathic epilepsy have

similar clinical signs?

- Does idiopathic epilepsy run in specific lines of PBGVs?

Dr. Muñana's research into epilepsy in PBGVs is fully funded by the Health and Rescue Foundation of PBGVCA. Her team has gathered clinical information, pedigrees, and blood samples from owners of affected PBGVs in North America. We eagerly await the results of her study.

Last, but definitely not least, the Health and Rescue Foundation of PBGVCA support of canine health research was recognized by the AKC Canine Health Foundation at the 2025

COURTESY DR. LAURA LISCUM

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

Canines & Cocktail Gala in Orlando, Florida. There we received the 2025 Distinguished Research Partner Award, which is given annually to clubs or organizations for their ongoing and outstanding commitment to support canine health research. Stephanie Montgomery, DVM, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the AKC CHF, stated the following:

“Your legacy of advocacy and generosity demonstrates that enduring impact comes not from size, but from vision and steady commitment. By supporting canine health year after year, your Foundation has become a powerful force for shaping a healthier future for PBGVs and all dogs.”

This was such an exciting event! Helen Ingher, Chair of the PBGVCA Health Committee and Foundation board member, and I were invited to the Canine Health High Tea and the Canines & Cocktails gala. The Distinguished Research

Partner Award was presented by Dr. Mary Smith, Chairman of the AKC CHF Board of Directors, and Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, Chief Executive Officer of the AKC CHF.

There was plenty of bubbly at the gala, where Helen and I raised our glasses in thanks to the PBGV community for their support. The future of our beloved hounds depends upon the health initiatives that we embrace today. —L.L.

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

Rhodesian Ridgebacks

WHAT FAULTS ARE MOST OBJECTIONABLE?

Last year I started questioning my Rhodesian Ridgeback colleagues about what faults they found the most objectionable in our breed. What faults would prevent them from showing a dog, or consider using it in a breeding program? What faults would prevent a breeder-judge from awarding an exhibit a ribbon?

Would these faults be the same ones that all-breed judges would object to?

I surveyed a group of breeders, breeder-judges, and all-breed judges about their preferences.

My initial approach was centered on the negative; however, I rearranged my logic and instead chose to highlight the positive. I asked participants to identify, in their own words, what three strengths a Ridgeback must possess.

It was interesting to see how the three groups identified their most desirable traits.

The survey was anonymous. There were five responders from each category, for a total of 15 participants. The numbers after each characteristic indicate the number of times a trait was listed by a group.

What top three strengths must a Ridgeback possess?

Survey responses: Breeders

- Breed type—1
- Movement—2
- Ridge—3

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

- Front assembly—3
- Feet—2
- Eye shape—1
- Length of body—1
- Topline—1
- Health/pedigree—1

Survey responses: Breeder-judges

- Breed type—2
- Balance—1
- Movement—1
- Ridge—2
- Feet—4
- Front-end assembly—3
- Size/weight—1
- Body length—1

Survey responses: All-breed judges

- Breed type—4
- Balance/symmetry—2
- Movement—1
- Temperament—2
- Length of body—1
- Size/weight—1
- Feet—1
- Bite—1
- Head/expression—1
- Front-end assembly—1

Five desired attributes appeared in all three groups:

- Breed type
- Movement



- Feet
- Front end assembly
- Body length

Three attributes were shared by two groups:

1. Ridge
2. Size/weight
3. Balance/symmetry

Three attributes were mentioned in only one group:

1. Head
2. Health/pedigree
3. Eye shape/size

The Rhodesian Ridgeback standard is one of the few utilizing a scale of points,

which follows.

- General appearance, size, symmetry and balance—15*
- Ridge—20*
- Head—15*
- Legs and feet—15*
- Neck and shoulders—10*
- Body, back, chest and loin—10*
- Gait—10*
- Coat color—3*
- Tail—2*

It was interesting to note that only the all-breed judges mentioned temperament and head/expression. A Rhodesian Ridgeback's head is high on the point scale, and to my mind very

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BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

important, as it is the key to survival. The eye, ears, nose, and mouth all provide all sensory input needed to cope with an often hostile and threatening environment. Mechanically, the mouth and jaw are also important tools in the job resume for the Rhodesian Ridgeback. Holding on to prey (not lions!) and guarding people and livestock require a strong maxilla and mandible. Dogs with a weak underjaw and a snipecy head couldn't perform their duties. Dogs with too heavy a head could not have the endurance to carry that weight all day.

Correct temperament is described in our standard and elaboration, but it is not mentioned in our point scale.

Feet appeared in all three groups. Form follows function; a Ridgeback with flat feet could not possibly do the job for which it was intended.

Length of body appeared in all three groups. The Rhodesian Ridgeback is

slightly longer than tall. Dogs that are too long in the body do not possess the agility needed to perform in the field.

Happily, movement appeared on all three lists. Correct front assembly was desired by all three groups but no one mentioned the hind end structure of our breed. Front end assembly has improved over the last few decades, but I feel that hind end structure has not received needed attention and is in need of repair.

The ridge is the hallmark of our breed and holds the highest value on our point scale. The ridge was identified as important by breeder and breeder-judge participants but was not listed as one of the three desired traits by any of the all-breed judges.

Ridgeback breeders across the country were concerned recently when two dogs with major ridge faults finished their championships. It is important for the Education Committee members and breed mentors to elucidate

which ridges are acceptable and which are unacceptable in the show ring.

This point system should act as an architectural plan of judging priorities when assessing our breed.

The Education Committee strives to emphasize and promote this list of priorities identified in our standard to our membership and to those who adjudicate the Rhodesian Ridgeback.

—Danielle Sand, VMD,
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The Rhodesian Ridgeback
Club of the United States

Salukis

THE 1977 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY SPECIALTY SHOW

With the 100th anniversary of AKC's recognition of the Saluki breed (and parent club) occurring next year, let's look back to the semi-centennial celebration.

The 1977 national was a designated specialty at the Stone City Kennel Club show and hosted by

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP



The July 1977 Saluki Club of America Newsletter—with 50th-anniversary critique, but only this one photo from the event.

Chicagoland Saluki Club (now defunct). Held on June 5 at the Balmoral Racetrack in Crete, Illinois, the show was open from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., and admission was \$2.00 (a ticket for the newly premiered *Star Wars* cost about the same). For the Saluki ring, a low-ceilinged, asphalt floored, dimly lit section under the grandstand was set aside. Not optimal, but Linda Scanlon (Aarakis) remembers the

welcome relief of air conditioning from the 97-degree temperature outdoors (and expected showers).

The week's schedule was jam-packed:

- June 2nd, Thursday:

At the Chicago Field Museum, a tour for Saluki fanciers of the “Treasures of Tutankhamun” was arranged by Lorraine Clarke (Hallmark Hills) and the Chicagoland folks for a \$1.50 ticket.

- Friday: American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) lure coursing trial, Sandwich, Illinois.

- Saturday: Chicagoland Saluki Club supported entry at the Fox River Valley KC show, Palatine, Illinois, and hosted dinner at the Balmoral Woods Inn—where food ran out, but Linda Scanlon was presented with the club's Award of Merit certificate for the achievement of Stickybeak Xanadu V Senui, U.D.—the first Saluki to earn an obedience title in the U.S. or Canada.

- Sunday, June 5: SCOA specialty. While there was no sweepstakes, there were classes for Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, and Brace, and two noncompetitive parades for veterans and champions. Post-judging was the annual SCOA meeting, then a “get-together” dinner and program at Lorraine Clarke's home.

President Esther Bliss Knapp (Pine Paddocks) predicted this would be a “genuine Saluki gab-fest and party!” The club logo had been selected by Knapp in the colors of “gold of the desert sand and blue of the far horizon.” Notoriously thrifty, she began making the SCOA trophies months ahead. She solicited members' candid photos of “Salukis as we know them at home.” Those she made into decoupage plaques (a popular home-craft trend of the time). With the specialty deadline looming, she put out an “all hands on deck” call for a daylong trophy-production session at her Ohio home.

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BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

But there was a slight speedbump. The Chicagoland Saluki Club promised *multiple* prizes for top wins, and trophies for *every* placement. Apparently they didn't know about Knapp's policy to give token SCOA trophies so cash donations could go to the SCOA Humane Purse (to be donated to the Best of Breed owner's choice of dog charity). This kerfuffle was discovered in late April, and Knapp immediately appointed Bill Henry (Henrad) of the Galveston Bay Saluki Club to manage funding for the Purse.

Constance O. Miller was the judge. A sighthound authority from California, she was the co-author of *The Complete Afghan Hound* (1965) and, in 1985, *Gazehounds: Search for Truth*.

There were 158 Salukis entered (37 specials) from 21 states, coast to coast, and Canada as well. Miller noted she judged 130 exhibits, not counting special classes.

There was a second

speedbump: No one thought to ask for a written critique until midway through judging. Still, Miller was able to produce some impressions and insights. She declared the only problems were exhibitors who insisted on moving in "three curlicues and a flourish" instead of her requested triangle pattern.

Miller's Best of Breed was 20-month-old Ch. Temrock Malh wa fl fl Bahhar, "Pepper"—a feathered black and white parti-color girl. She moved beautifully in the breed ring but later wouldn't let the group judge touch her. Cindy Brown (Basra) remembers that Best of Breed win photo needed a piece of carpet to cover up the unsightly asphalt. Intriguingly, BB Pepper was owned by C. T. Frahmman, of Massachusetts, whose background was solidly in terriers. The Frahmman's got their first Saluki in 1969. With only two litters, they didn't consider themselves breeders, saying, "Two litters do not constitute an 'expert,' in spite of what

some newcomers think."

Sadly, soon after the specialty, two club members died suddenly: board member, breeder, and 1976 national judge, Marjorie Kemm (Anfa), and breeder Lorraine Clarke, who had been specialty hostess, as well as empresario for the Tutankhamun tour.

After the confetti and dust had settled, Knapp announced that the 1978 national (at an Ohio all-breed show) would offer decoupage trophies again. This time, the theme was "Sleeping Salukis" ...

Sources: Cindy Brown, Linda Scanlon, 1977 AKC GAZETTE issues, SCOA *Newsletters*, and Newspapers.com.

—Brian Patrick Duggan,
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[Saluki Club of America](#)

Scottish Deerhounds

NEW TIMES FOR AN OLD BREED!

For the last many months, a large group of Deerhounds have been

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

working on a project that brings our communication ability to a new level, and the culmination of this project is a new website that is hopefully going to be more comprehensive, more informative, and easier to navigate than the one we had in the past.

Our older website served us well and was painstakingly built by dedicated volunteers, for which we are very grateful, and it was time to move further in our desire to share our breed.

Our goal in creating this website has been to provide information and guidance for both club members and people interested in joining us in our love affair with the breed!

It is easily accessed at deerhound.org, where the first page introduces the Deerhound as “Grace in Motion, Celebrating one of the world’s most noble breeds—gentle, regal, and swift as the Highland wind”—words that of course those of us who love our hounds agree with



Scottish Deerhounds, James Hardy (1801–1879)

wholeheartedly!

Click on “Breed Information” and you’ll be taken to information on living with Deerhounds and to a welcome page that offers you the option to download an education booklet written by the club, and also the AKC flyer about the Scottish Deerhound.

Under “Breed Information” you will find much more information about specifics, such as the intriguing history of our wonderful breed, a

directory of breeders across the country, our club’s efforts regarding rescue and placement of Deerhounds who are in need of rehoming, health issues that can affect the breed, grooming your Scottish Deerhound, and the official breed standard.

Moving on, you’ll find information about our club, the Scottish Deerhound Club of America. This includes what the purpose of our club is, and all its parts. Our hope here is that

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

it will provide information about what our club is and what we try to accomplish through it. We also hope it will encourage you to either participate further, if you're already a club member, or, if not, to join us!

Our website wouldn't be complete without information about "Activities"! Under this heading are details on many activities that our hounds can participate in. The AKC has a complete list of them, but the most popular titled activities for Deerhounds and their owners are conformation, lure coursing, racing, obedience, versatility, AKC Therapy Dog, Junior Showmanship, All Around Hound, and Futurity. An explanation of each of these is here on our website, along with the rules for each and where to go to find more information about winning titles.

We wanted also to share the many events that take place during the year, with their locations, so that anyone interested could attend

and enjoy them! Results of the national specialties are listed from 2013 to the present, with photos where they were available, which is lots of fun and also a visual record of the outstanding dogs who won. The Futurity is an event held at the national specialty and is geared toward helping to predict the future of our breed. Explanations of the rules and how to enter are listed here.

Our new website has so much information for both current owners and members, and it aspires too, to help those whose interest has been sparked by the essence of our breed, so that they can discern whether a Scottish Deerhound is right for them. It is a new effort for us, and it isn't perfect yet (and may never achieve that exalted status), but it offers so much. We hope you'll come visit us there and enjoy what you learn!

—Frances Smith

[Scottish Deerhound Club of America](#)

Whippets

Our guest columnist is Karen Bowers Lee, a well-known and very successful second-generation breeder of top-quality multipurpose Whippets under the Surrey Hill prefix. Her words ring true.

WHEN IS ENOUGH?

When I was a child, my favorite question to ask on long road trips was "Are we there yet?" It was, perhaps, my longsuffering parents' least favorite question. But it is one I still find myself asking regarding the modern versions of show dogs in reference to the breed standard ideal, and particularly in my own breed, the Whippet. My parents would tell me we would be there when we pulled into my grandparents' driveway, or a motel parking lot. But with our breeds, there is no such obvious marker of having arrived "there"—"there" being most of our best winners and admired dogs fitting the standard as written. At that point, having attained

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

these desirable qualities preservation should become the goal, not further altering the look of the breed.

The “General Appearance” section of the Whippet standard is one of the best-written encapsulations of breed essence in my opinion, and it concludes with this sentence: “Symmetry of outline, muscular development and powerful gait are the main considerations; the dog being built for speed and work, all forms of exaggeration should be avoided.”

In reading this line, the exaggeration that should be avoided implies that such extremes would hinder the Whippet also being built for speed and work. To understand what sort of exaggerations those might be, it is useful to consider Whippets whose above average speed and athleticism show that they are demonstrably built for speed and work, and to the extent that certain show ring admired structural or gait extremes are not to be found in that



Whippet Sporting Fields Clansman, 1979 (Ashbey photo)

population, one may further infer that is what the standard is urging judges and breeders of conformation show Whippets to be wary of elevating and encouraging.

Performance-bred Whippets may have some extreme exaggerations from the breed standard themselves, but they are not the sort that show-ring judges would reward and therefore pose no threat to becoming rampant in the show Whippet gene pool. But there are many things that they do have in

common that are worth considering to keep the show Whippet an “Athletic, medium-sized sighthound.”

During the 2018 Whippet International Congress, this author gave a presentation on balance and proportion. Significant to balance and proportion is this line, also from our standard, regarding the ratio of height at the withers to length of body:

“Length from forechest to buttocks equal to or slightly greater than height at the withers.”

BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

A vertical analysis of admired winners from a kennel whose success spanned from the early 1960s to the 1980s was used to illustrate how the breed drifted in terms of what won and was admired during that very critical approximately 30-year period in the U.S. Whippets in general, and in this kennel as well, gradually became more and more likely to fit this critical proportion, as many older Whippets which were longer legged and taller at the withers in proportion to their length, and often with exaggerated arches to the loin, were improved through selective breeding practices and show ring rewards to be a dog that measured square or somewhat longer than square, with moderate arch over the loin, and improved return of upper arm that effectively lowered the height of the dog at the withers without any loss of bone, leg length, or depth of brisket.

So far, so good. The Whippet breeders were

doing a good job of breeding and exhibiting dogs that were ever closer to the wording of the standard, improving fronts, movement, topline, and balance and proportion.

The question then becomes, at what point does this drift towards longer bodies and lower-on-leg proportions need to stop before it becomes a “form of exaggeration” and should begin to be faulted, not rewarded? This is a question for not just our breed but probably every breed. In the quest to stand out from the crowd in a group of generally solid and correct examples, what will draw the judge’s eye if not something a tad more exaggerated?

And the drift continues as those incremental exaggerations now become the norm and more exaggeration is required to stand out. The eye may interpret the “moving rectangle” of a long-bodied Whippet with shorter front legs and more rear as having more impressive side movement

than a square Whippet with level, balanced equal reach and drive, but this is much more of a function of an exaggerated proportion, not better-moving quarters, in this author’s opinion. The measure-square Whippet is as correct per the standard as the somewhat-longer-than-square one, and we need them in our breeding programs and our gene pool to prevent drift into more exaggerated proportions.

Breeders and judges both need to hold the line and recognize when we are “there” as a breed and not continue to push forward past the balanced and functional aspects that make Whippets fit for their function. In this author’s opinion, we reached “there” as a breed several decades ago. Now it is up to us to preserve our elegant, athletic, but *moderate* breed and keep it strong and functional. —K.B.L.

Thank you, Karen.

—Phoebe Jordan Booth,
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BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Airedale Terriers

“BOOTS, BARKS, & BLUEBONNETS”: ATCA FLOATING NATIONAL SPECIALTY

In March I had the pleasure of joining fellow breeders and Airedale enthusiasts for the Airedale Terrier Club of America floating national specialty in Fort Worth, Texas. Held at the Will Rogers Memorial Center and co-hosted by the Lone Star Airedale Terrier Club, the setting was perfect for a weekend chock-full of rigorous examination of type, soundness, and temperament, and camaraderie amongst breeders. This convergence of breeders and dogs from across the nation created a broad field of philosophies and bloodlines that facilitated meaningful exchanges and comparative evaluation.

Over my years breeding and exhibiting Airedales, I have learned that true improvement reveals itself when diverse lines are brought into direct comparison. National floating

specialty shows are intended to allow members from different regions to attend and participate, and that is precisely what this floating specialty delivered. Under judge April Clyde’s stewardship, the entries presented a depth I found heartening. It was evident that judging decisions considered multiple factors. Among the many factors were structure, movement, and character—elements that matter most to those of us intent on preserving function as well as form.

Beyond the entry and the tremendous hospitality, what struck me most during conversations with fellow breeders throughout the weekend was a collective, deliberate return to fundamentals. I engaged in many conversations that included a renewed attention to correct front and rear assembly, level toplines in motion, and balanced angulation that yields efficient gait—attributes I recall breeders prioritizing in the 1970s, ‘80s, and ‘90s. Movement was discussed as functional

biomechanics rather than theatrical flourish: good forereach matched by propulsive rear drive, consistent rhythm, and stamina that speaks to the breed’s versatile working heritage. Coat texture, substance, and keen expression remained true markers of identity, and restraint against extremes—encouraging signs that preservation-focused stewardship, not fashion, is guiding breeder decisions and selection.

This focus on the core attributes of the Airedale was evident in the Best in Specialty Show winner, Ch. Terrydale HK Jet Aire Int’l Liaison. A lovely bitch whose effortless side gait, keen expression, and true type impressed all who watched from ringside. It is worth noting that Chica and her National Bowl win are representative of decades of thoughtful breeding, weaving together exceptional bloodlines, and a lifelong commitment and dedication to strengthening our breed by her breeders.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



MBISS Ch. Terrydale HK Jet Aire Int'l Liaison, shown winning the Lone Star Airedale specialty show the day before her National Bowl win; the specialty, in Fort Worth, Texas, featured “Boots, Barks, and Bluebonnets”—and leaps of joy.

The weekend’s atmosphere—summed up by the theme “Boots, Barks, & Bluebonnets”—married Texan conviviality with the thought-provoking professionalism a national specialty requires. The exceptional hosting of a seminar at the Mitchells’ lovely home in historic Fort Worth, the good old-fashioned BBQ banquet at the Woodshed, and the ringside conversations were fertile ground for mentorship and peer review.

Throughout these events, I



found myself in deep discussion with colleagues whose programs span generations, and with newer Airedale breeders who brought thoughtful questions and a willingness to learn. Those informal exchanges—often more instructive than any single seminar—are where institutional knowledge migrates and where breeding philosophies are refined.

Leaving Fort Worth, I felt a cautious optimism. The conversations, exchanges of

ideas, and critiques I observed will, I believe, have ripple effects in programs across the country. If breeders continue to emphasize structure that supports function, and if judges reward soundness and true type, the breed will continue its positive trajectory.

After decades of this work, I find such reinforcement gratifying; improvement is often incremental, but when it is consistent across a national entry, it becomes unmistakable. The floating national specialty provided that concentrated mirror—showing where we have advanced and where vigilance remains necessary to secure the Airedale’s future.

—Nancy A. Nykamp, Flint Hill, Virginia; meadowaire.terriers@gmail.com

[Airedale Terrier Club of America](#)

American Hairless Terriers

DOG PARKOUR!

Is your American Hairless Terrier (AHT) high energy and in need of a

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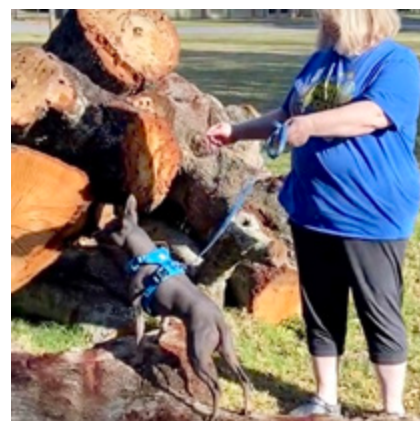
TERRIER GROUP

creative outlet? Are you looking for a fun, low-impact way to harness that characteristic AHT bounce and catlike agility? Do you want to earn titles without having to travel to an event?

Well, get out those video cameras or cell phones and start recording, because there is a fun activity seemingly made for our AHTs Dog Parkour! (For any fans of the television show *The Office*, you won't be able to hold back shouts of "Parkour!" as you delve into this sport—which just makes it more fun!)

Dog Parkour, sometimes referred to as Urban Agility, is believed to have been started in early 2011 by Karin Coyne and Abigail Curtis in Ohio, who were inspired by the benefits of their own parkour training and adapted the movements for their dogs. It originated from the human parkour movement that emerged in France in the late 1980s.

In both (human) parkour and canine parkour, participants overcome obstacles



An American Hairless Terrier does dog parkour—a low-impact activity that can be customized to suit the fitness level and abilities of both dogs and owners.

by interacting with various environmental features, including natural elements like trees and rocks, as well as manmade structures like benches, walls, and railings.

The International Dog Parkour Association (IDPKA) and All Dogs Parkour (ADP) are both dog parkour organizations that offer guidelines and



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BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

rules to follow that allow you to pursue the art of dog parkour, have fun with your dogs, and earn titles along the way. Note: IDPKA and ADP parkour titles can be used towards earning AKC Fit Dog titles too!

Both organizations have a beginner level (known as “Foundation” in ADP, and “Training” in IDPKA) to get you and your dog started safely. Then they move up through a host of different options, including advanced levels with more challenges and ways to highlight your dog’s athleticism.

Dog parkour is a low-impact activity that can be customized to suit the fitness level and abilities of both dogs and their owners, so everyone has a level to aim for and accomplish. The exercises mimic the natural activities of active dogs and include such actions as jumping onto or over an object, crawling under an obstacle, balance on a moving or narrow surface, and much more!

Safety controls are mandatory and include such things

as requiring a well-fitting, non-restrictive harness; handler assistance or spotting when navigating obstacles; and a minimum age for attempting higher impact levels. Most importantly, they encourage praise!

Creativity is key when doing parkour exercises. Depending on the level and title, you can use natural or manmade obstacles and perform them inside or outdoors.

There are options for everyone. All instructions and guidance are provided on their respective websites. You video your activities, upload them per the organization’s requirements, then send in the required fees and await review by the organization to determine if you have met all the necessary requirements. ADP gives you the option to create a compilation of each exercise into a single clip and upload to YouTube or Vimeo, or alternately, you can make a YouTube “playlist” containing individual videos. IDPKA allows you to upload videos onto their

electronic submission form. The fees are comparable to those for other related dog events, so it can be an affordable addition to a working dog’s resume.

So, c’mon, get out there and let these dogs shine!
Parkour!

For more information:

International Dog Parkour Association (IDPKA):

<https://www.dogparkour.org/>

All Dogs Parkour (ADP):

<https://www.alldogsparkour.com/>

AKC Fit Dog Titles:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/akc-fit-dog-titles/>

—Kathryn (Katie)

McKewen, Lakeland, Fla.;

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[American Hairless Terrier Club of America](#)

Australian Terriers

THE BEST KIND OF AMBASSADOR: PERFORMANCE AND CONFORMATION

When I first entered the dog world, my focus was on conformation and

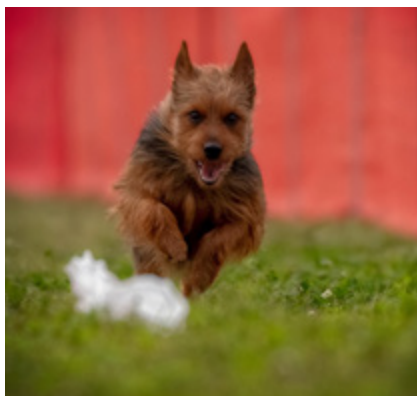
BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

breeding, with a clear goal: preserving the Australian Terrier. Over time, I came to understand that performance is not an “extra,” but an equally important measure of quality. Top performance dogs are just as valuable to the breed, to breeders, and to breed clubs as top dogs in conformation.

Conformation evaluates how closely a dog meets the breed standard, while performance proves how that structure functions in real life. Dogs who consistently succeed at the highest levels of performance demonstrate soundness, correct temperament, trainability, and mental resilience—traits that are fundamental to preservation breeding. In a working terrier breed, excellence in performance is not separate from breed type; it is evidence of it.

Seeing a small, correct Australian Terrier excel in rally, agility, Barn Hunt, or other performance venues showcases the breed’s versatility and purpose. A top performance dog represents



Australian Terriers excelling in Fast CAT, obedience, agility, and other performance venues showcase the breed’s versatility and purpose.

the breed just as powerfully as a Best in Show winner—and often to a broader and more diverse audience. These dogs spark interest, start conversations, and introduce the breed to people who may never attend a conformation show. That helps to preserve the breed!

Through training and competing in advanced performance venues, I’ve gained insights that cannot always

be seen in the show ring alone. Performance reveals how a dog handles pressure, solves problems, maintains focus, and recovers—physically and mentally. These qualities matter when making breeding decisions and should be valued alongside correct structure and movement.

For breed clubs, top performance dogs are invaluable ambassadors. Performance events bring visibility, rele-

COURTESY CONNIE FORE / C4 PET PHOTOGRAPHY / OWNERS / CAREN HOLTBY

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

vance, and new enthusiasts to the breed. Recognizing and celebrating high-achieving performance dogs reinforces that the breed standard is not just a written description, but a functional blueprint meant to produce capable, confident dogs.

Preservation depends on more than appearance. When breeders and breed clubs place equal value on top conformation dogs and top performance dogs, they strengthen the future of the breed. A truly great Australian Terrier is one who is correct in structure, sound in mind, and capable in work—exemplifying a truly excellent ambassador of the breed.

—Caren Holtby,
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[Australian Terrier Club of America](#)

Bedlington Terriers

HEALTH AND GENETICS: MANAGING RISK, NOT CHASING “CLEAR”

Today, Bedlington breeding exists in an

era of remarkable scientific advancement. DNA testing has given breeders tools previous generations could only imagine. Today we can identify specific mutations, predict risk, and make more informed decisions than ever before.

Yet with this progress comes a subtle danger: the temptation to reduce health to a simple checklist of “clear” results.

Experienced breeders understand that health cannot be simplified to a laboratory report. Genetic tests are invaluable tools—but they are tools, not absolutes. They do not replace thoughtful pedigree analysis, long-term observation, or the seasoned judgment that comes from living with a line for decades. A test result offers information; it does not offer wisdom.

It is also important to remember that genetics is not static science. What is accepted as fact today may be refined—or even revised—tomorrow. As research advances, we

gain deeper insight into gene interactions, modifier genes, epigenetics, and environmental influences. Responsible breeders stay current, attend seminars, read research, and remain open to adjusting their strategies. Relying solely on yesterday’s understanding can be just as limiting as ignoring science altogether.

Copper storage disease in the Bedlington Terrier provides a powerful example of why nuance matters. Early research identified a large deletion in the *COMMD1* gene as the primary cause. This discovery was groundbreaking and dramatically improved the breed’s health outlook. However, continued research has revealed a more complex reality. Modifier genes, environmental influences, dietary factors, and variable expression all play a role. Not every genetically affected dog develops clinical disease at the same age or severity. Some live long, symptom-free lives. And occasionally, outcomes do not follow the simple

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



*Bedlington Terrier
(Evelyn Shafer photo)*

expectations breeders once assumed.

This complexity reminds us of a fundamental truth: genetics informs risk—it does not dictate destiny.

A “clear” dog is not automatically superior in every respect, nor does a carrier lack value. When breeders stigmatize carriers or eliminate entire lines solely because risk exists, they may unintentionally create greater problems. Over-selection for a single genetic status narrows the gene pool. Narrow gene pools increase inbreeding coefficients, concentrate

hidden recessives, and may compromise fertility, longevity, immune strength, or breed type. History across many breeds shows that aggressive genetic purging often produces unintended consequences.

Effective breeders therefore practice risk management, not risk avoidance. They use DNA testing strategically avoiding affected-to-affected breedings, thoughtfully pairing carriers to clears when appropriate, and monitoring offspring carefully. They educate puppy buyers honestly. They

track outcomes over time. They keep what is valuable and manage what is risky.

This approach preserves genetic diversity while steadily reducing disease incidence. It protects not just individual litters, but the long-term health of the breed.

Health-focused breeding also extends beyond a single test. Longevity, fertility, temperament, structural soundness, maternal ability, and overall vitality rarely show up on a DNA report. These traits emerge from generations of careful selection and honest evaluation. Transparency, record-keeping, collaboration, and patience are essential. Sharing information—both successes and disappointments—strengthens the entire community.

Ultimately, the goal is not to produce a perfectly “clear” dog in one generation. The goal is to produce healthy, sound, typey Bedlington Terriers generation after generation. That requires balance. It

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

requires perspective. And above all, it requires breeders who understand that managing risk wisely is far more powerful than chasing the illusion of genetic perfection.

—Dennis N. Corash,
Ph.D., Breeder Education
Chair
[Bedlington Terrier Club of America](#)

Border Terriers

We are very grateful to guest columnist Dr. David C. Twedt for sharing his expertise. Dr. Twedt is known as one of the top specialists in liver/gallbladder disease in veterinary medicine. He is also a Border Terrier owner.

GALLBLADDER MUCOCELES IN BORDER TERRIERS

Gallbladder mucocele (GBM) is an emerging disease increasingly recognized over the last 15–20 years and is now regarded as one of the most common gallbladder disorders in dogs. The cause, risk factors, or genetics for a GBM

formation is yet unknown. It is likely an interplay of environmental, metabolic derangements, and genetic factors.

Border Terriers are predisposed to develop a gallbladder mucocele later in life. A retrospective study in 2018 in the United Kingdom found a strong predisposition for GBM formation in Border Terriers, reporting greatly increased odds of a Border Terrier being diagnosed with a GBM than any other breed presented to U.K. veterinary clinics. It is important to note that Border Terriers are in the top ten most popular breeds in the U.K., which likely influenced the calculations of such high odds.

What is a GBM?

The gallbladder is a muscular sac that stores bile produced by the liver. During meals it contracts, emptying bile into the intestine to aid in digestion and to remove the liver's waste products. A GBM

results from the abnormal accumulation of thick gelatinous mucus that becomes trapped within the gallbladder. Pressure increases from the abnormal mucus production that ultimately may result in gallbladder rupture and/or blockage of bile flow. GBMs are sometimes associated with other health issues that complicate the picture such as low thyroid, adrenal gland problems (Cushing's disease) or high blood lipids (cholesterol and triglycerides).

How is it diagnosed?

GBM affects older dogs (average age 10 years), is more prevalent in small breeds (average weight 8.5 kg), commonly observed in certain breeds, most notably Border Terriers and Shetland Sheepdogs, but is uncommon in mixed-breed dogs, and there is no sex predilection. Affected dogs early on will have no clinical signs. The progression of GBM remains unclear, as some cases may remain stable for years while others

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Recent photo of Dr. Twedt's dogs—Fergus, 15 months old (left), and Seamus, 12 years old (right); Dr. Twedt with his dogs.

progress rapidly to significant clinical disease. With GBM, liver enzymes will become abnormal on bloodwork and eventually signs including vomiting, loss of appetite, lethargy and/or abdominal pain occur. Some dogs can become icteric with yellow mucous membranes. Abdominal ultrasound is the primary diagnostic tool used to identify characteristic changes of a GBM. Occasionally asymptomatic GBMs are diagnosed incidentally when an abdominal ultrasound is performed for a different reason.

How are GBMs treated?

A cholecystectomy (removal of the gallbladder) is the definitive treatment and with successful surgery dogs will go on to live a normal life without their gallbladder. Underlying disease and the timing of surgery will affect the outcome. An elective surgery in a healthy asymptomatic dog has a good prognosis. Retrospective studies report sick dogs requiring nonelective surgery found that, on average, 17 to 23 percent of cases will die or be euthanized within 2 weeks of hospitalization due to complications.

Nonsurgical medical management of a GBM may be considered in asymptomatic dogs, dogs with only abnormal liver enzymes and no clinical signs, or when surgery is not an option. Therapies include feeding a fat restricted diet, ursodiol (a drug that increases bile secretion and bile flow), liver support drugs, and antibiotics if a secondary infection is suspected. There are limited reports confirming GBM resolution with medical management, but medical therapy may slow GBM progression. One report found median survival for

COURTESY DR. TWEDT

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

medically managed dogs to be significantly shorter than dogs surviving successful surgical cholecystectomy.

My personal experience

Rusty, my 16-year-old Border Terrier, was healthy and suddenly did not want to eat, began vomiting, and showed abdominal pain. An ultrasound exam diagnosed a GBM that had ruptured. He was taken to emergency surgery but died during postoperative recovery.

My 16-year-old Border Terrier Annie one day also decided not to eat. Annie vomited a few times and had elevated liver enzymes and a high white blood cell count. An ultrasound confirmed a GBM. Because she was a poor surgical candidate, having both partial rear-leg paralysis and cognitive decline, she was treated medically with antibiotics, ursodiol, and a low-fat diet. She did well but had to be euthanized a year and a half later because of further cognitive decline.

Strider is my one Border

Terrier who never developed a GBM, and he lived to be 13.

We adopted Blueberry at age 10 years, and at 12 a screening ultrasound identified a GBM. Her asymptomatic mucocele was surgically removed with laparoscopy. She died at 17 from unrelated causes.

We adopted Seamus at 2 years of age, and when he was 8, I did a screening ultrasound and identified an early GBM. He had an elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy and was released 20 hours following surgery, not missing a step.

Seamus remains healthy at 12. We recently adopted Fergus at 14 months of age, and I will begin screening ultrasound exams on him when he is older.

Final takeaway:

If I had a healthy Border Terrier around 8 years or older, I would begin screening ultrasound exams for a GBM. (You might be able to negotiate a reduced ultrasound cost if only

screening the gallbladder in an otherwise healthy dog.) Identifying bile sludge on ultrasound is common in older dogs, and whether sludge is a predisposing factor for GBM in at-risk breeds remains unknown.

If a healthy Border Terrier gets routine annual blood screening (which I recommend in older dogs) and is found to have abnormal liver enzymes, I would do an ultrasound examination looking for a GBM.

With the diagnosis of a GBM in an asymptomatic Border Terrier, performing an elective cholecystectomy has a good prognosis. Surgery is best managed at specialty practices having experience with this condition. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is a minimally invasive surgery using an endoscope and is now becoming more available and a good option for elective surgery. If surgery is not an option, I would institute medical management.

A symptomatic sick Border Terrier with a GBM

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

requires surgery. The prognosis is guarded, and recovery may be prolonged and complicated.

A GBM diagnosis should also include an evaluation for thyroid, adrenal, or lipid problems. Successful management of these conditions helps improve the long-term outcome. —David C. Twedt, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM, Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University

Thank you for this vital information, Dr. Twedt.

—Bobbie Kelley,

bobbie.e.kelley@gmail.com

Border Terrier Club of America

Bull Terriers

SHOWING THE BULL TERRIER

Most Bull Terrier exhibitors take great pride in being owner-handlers. Pass by a ring full of Bull Terriers, and you will see ring behaviors by handlers and dogs that run the gamut from expert to absolute beginner ... amusing to cringeworthy.

How does one prepare



Bull Terrier

for showing a dog who has exorbitant amounts of energy for play and who, when you put a show lead on him, is spinning, jumping, and carrying on like a whirling dervish? Then there's the bored dog who absolutely loathes the idea of wasting her time parading around like some silly showoff. Finally, there is that dog seemingly born to be in the ring. Perfect free-stacks every time. Works on a loose lead, attention never wavers.

Totally animated and in tune with her handler.

Is the latter a “natural show dog”? Probably not. As with all stellar performances, it may appear effortless but is likely the consequence of many hours of rehearsal.

The point is, the amount of time and energy required to channel raw Bull Terrier energy (or lack thereof) into a champion show partner requires a huge commitment. Let's face it: Bull Terriers

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BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

are not typical dogs in any sense of the word. They are “non-biddable.” This basically means they are inclined to do what they want when they want, and to hell with you!

Let us be reminded: We chose them, not the other way around!

There are a variety of training methods and styles one can employ, each with their benefits and hazards. Every dog is different; we all vary in levels of experience, and there is no one surefire method to present a dog that will guarantee your dog will show in the ring exactly the way you have taught her. That’s what we love about Bull Terriers!! There is never a shortage of surprises, in the ring or out. The challenge is to enter the show ring confident that we have invested sufficient training and practiced with our dog to give us a fighting chance. While there are no guarantees, the end can be a fun, pleasant, and enjoyable experience for both dog and handler.

Let us not ignore the fact

that it can also be stressful. In order to present our dogs’ virtues in the best possible way to judges, it benefits you to know your dog’s virtues and to know her flaws. Know the breed standard, employ various training activities and exercises at an early age, and choose a method of presentation that works best for you and your dog.

Even the most seasoned handlers take their puppies to handling classes to acclimate them. A puppy will come to understand—hopefully—through positive reinforcement, experience, and consequence that walking into a show ring means there are specific expectations of her. The handler’s job is to know how to show a dog to emphasize her virtues and minimize her flaws, to guide her dog through stacking and gaiting, and to facilitate the judge’s ability to see and examine the dog. Your dog’s job is to go into the ring, confidently, enthusiastically, and willingly.

Work with your dog at a young age. Use positive

reinforcement and fun to build attention and a good work ethic. Train incrementally; be patient; choose the method of presentation that works for your dog, and have fun with her in the show ring. Read. Listen. Watch accomplished handlers. And while you may be aiming for Silverwood instead of Carnegie Hall, *practice, practice, practice!*

—Victoria M. Sottile

[Bull Terrier Club of America](#)

Cairn Terriers

CAIRN TERRIER BREED

STANDARD: TIME WILL TELL

The Cairn Terrier Club of America (CTCA) membership is currently voting on a proposed revision to the breed standard—last updated in 1938. Developed over two years beginning in January 2024, the proposal clarifies descriptions and terminology and strengthens alignment with the breed’s historic function as a hardy working terrier. Following

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



The Cairn is a small, rugged working terrier.



AKC Board approval, it was published for comment in the November 2025 AKC GAZETTE. If adopted, it will provide clearer guidance for breeders, judges, and enthusiasts while preserving the breed's essential character.

Background

The Cairn Terrier was recognized in the United Kingdom in 1911. The CTCA, founded in 1917, adopted its first standard in 1921 and finalized the current version in 1938. Despite several attempts since 1987, no revisions have been approved to date.

This proposal reflects the

work of an eight-member committee, in collaboration with four first readers and more than 36 CTCA member contributors. It retains approximately 94–95 percent of the 1938 language while incorporating refinements aligned with AKC guidelines.

Key Revisions

General Appearance: As the most important paragraph in the breed standard, it provides overall picture of type, balance, and purpose summarizing form to function and emphasizing that the Cairn as a small, rugged working terrier. This sec-

tion adds: “Moderation in structure and presentation is essential.”

Proportion: Removed the phrase “short-legged class,” as it was inconsistent with the “medium length of leg” statement; clarifies “medium length” being approximately the same as length from elbow to withers, and overall length of back proportions consistent with the current Illustrated Guide.

Expression and eyes: Updates to “keen expression” in lieu of “foxy expression”; specifies oval eyes, dark hazel to dark brown.

Head: Clarifies head proportions, including the

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

form of a triangle, e.g. lines from nose through eyes to ears; and head possessing a 5:4 skull-to-muzzle ratio to allow for full, strong teeth.

Neck, topline, and tail: The 1938 standard does not include a description for the neck or topline. Defines a strong, well-balanced structure; tail is upright (12–2 o'clock), equal to height with ears, strong, thick, and carrot-shaped.

Coat and color: Reinforces harsh, hand-stripped coat and natural presentation; no preferred color; small white chest spot may occur; black-and-tan undesirable.

Size and proportion: Establishes 10–12 inches for both sexes (males slightly larger); no disqualifications; balance prioritized.

Gait and temperament: Expands functional movement; temperament described as inquisitive, independent, and confident.

Purpose

Using positive, descriptive language in line with AKC guidelines, the proposed

standard strengthens the connection between form and function while improving clarity and consistency. It honors the breed's heritage and provides a practical framework for its preservation.

The final decision now rests with the CTCA membership.

—Cathy Burleson, CTCA Vice President; Standard Review Committee, Facilitator; Judges Education Committee, Member

[Cairn Terrier Club of America](#)

Dandie Dinmont Terriers

ELEMENTS OF TYPE, PART ONE: BREED CHARACTER AND HEAD/EXPRESSION

It is no secret that the Dandie Dinmont Terrier is one of the so-called “vulnerable breeds.” Knowledgeable breeders and exhibitors in various countries have been part of a cycle wherein there are either no puppies anywhere within 1,000 miles, or the exact opposite happens, where

pet puppies are waiting for homes.

Unfortunately, the pool of breeders in the U.S. has been declining in recent years. Why? The Dandie Dinmont is one of the hardest breeds to groom correctly, making it difficult to attract new exhibitors and breeders.

Yet as owners know, the Dandie is one of the best breeds to welcome into your life. What does the future hold for this breed with an absolutely captivating head, and eyes that will melt your heart? What do you need to understand about the breed in order to become part of the solution to support the breed's survival?

There are a number of books featuring the Dandie Dinmont Terrier. However, a most important one that can prepare you to understand the essence of a Dandie Dinmont Terrier is Richard G. Beauchamp's book *Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type* (second edition). In the book Richard provides a concise yet

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Early Bellmead Dandie Dinmont Terriers, 1930s, from J.F. Gordon's *The Dandie Dinmont Terrier* (U.K., 1972); a Dandie today.

thoughtful approach to understanding the essential elements of “breed type”—perhaps one of the most often used and least understood phrases in the entire world of purebred dogs.

According to Richard, breed type can be boiled down into five essential elements (pgs. 113 and 114):

Breed character

Silhouette

Head/expression

Movement

Coat

Remember a very important point: While all dogs have these elements, the key to evaluating breed type is to learn to recognize how well the dog you are looking rep-

resents excellence in each element. Never forget: “No one should ever attempt to breed dogs or to award championship points until he or she is able to recognize the degree to which a given dog succeeds in those areas.” (p. 113)

In this and columns to follow this year, each of these elements will be presented.

This column will tackle two elements of type: breed character and head/expression, two of the most distinctive elements of what makes a Dandie a Dandie.

The Dandie Dinmont’s character can best be described through understanding the breed’s

origin in the Borders area of Scotland and England. The Dandie came into light through Sir Walter Scott’s description of the dogs in his book *Guy Mannering*. He writes about the main character’s six terriers, whose game focus included rats, weasels, foxes, and badgers. These dogs tackled that wide variety of game while also being part of the family, sleeping in front of the fireplace. They demonstrate a sincere devotion to their owner(s) while being courageous enough to tackle the game at hand. Thus, it should not come as a surprise that this breed excels in scent work and Barn

THE DANDIE DINMONT TERRIER, J.F. GORDON / PAMELA GELME

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Hunt events. (A bit of trivia: The Dandie was recognized by the AKC in 1886, making it one of the older breeds within AKC.)

The Dandie has been described as the gentleman of the terrier breeds; he is neither shy nor overbearing in character, unless something has aroused his “terrier.” Then his tenacity in pursuit of his mission is on full display. Thus, in the show ring, the Dandie is expected to be outgoing, fully aware of and focused on his surroundings, while happily interacting with his handler. At times, the wagging tail resembles a helicopter blade in action! He can stand his ground without being overbearing. The Dandie Dinmont is truly the breed that makes you smile at their antics and involvement with the task at hand.

Head and expression on a truly great dog demonstrate the ideal picture of a breed. For the Dandie, the head is large, but in proportion to the dog’s size. The distinc-

tive topknot conceals the actual size of the head; when judging a Dandie head, your hands need to confirm that the skull is broad between the ears and equal in length and width. Never fear—the Dandie handler will quickly regroom the topknot after your examination!

The words of the standard describing the Dandie’s expression are *great determination, intelligence, and dignity*.

Look into a Dandie’s eyes, and you will see the Dandie’s ability to focus. The eyes must be large, round, bright, and full, but not protruding, set wide apart and low and directly forward. The eyes are a rich dark hazel framed by dark rims.

The ears frame the head, wide apart, and typically three to four inches in length. Tassels of a length matching the beard blend into the overall picture of the head.

The muzzle is deep and strong; length proportions are the ratio of three (muzz-

le) to five (skull). Again, feel the skull to determine if the proportions are correct.

Moderately large describes the nose, and *large* describes the teeth found in the Dandie’s scissors bite. Large teeth come as no surprise when you consider the game this breed dispatched on the farm.

Within a given line of Dandies, it is not surprising to find similar head types, be it the dogs from the 1930s to dogs found in recent times.

—Sandra Wolfskill,
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Dandie Dinmont Terrier
Club of America

Smooth Fox Terriers

“THROUGH THE MISTS OF TIME”: THE QUINTESSENTIAL QUISSEX SMOOTH FOX TERRIERS

It is truly impossible to list all the accomplishments of Mrs. Winifred H. Stout in the Smooth Fox Terrier breed, her contributions to the progression and welfare of the breed, her educational

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

contributions, and her many kindnesses to fanciers in the breed, without writing a lengthy book. We were privileged, however, to talk with her in January 2026. Mrs. Stout is known worldwide for her Smooth Fox Terriers bred and exhibited under the Quissex name. She was named AKC Breeder of the Year in 2013.

This columnist has been closely familiar with the Quissex Smooths dating back nearly to the beginning of my time in Smooths, circa 1987. Mrs. Stout generously provided Ch. Quissex Never Fear (“Meg”), a white and tan, to my household around 1990. Even before that, in the 1960s, this columnist was aware of the Quissex Smooth Fox Terriers.

(Note: Comments are edited.)

“THROUGH THE MISTS OF TIME”: THE QUINTESSENTIAL QUISSEX SMOOTH FOX TERRIERS

[Columnist/interviewer:] I seem to remember that you had a Bloodhound before

your first Smooth.

[WHS:] Yes, I had Bloodhounds as companions. I grew up on my parents’ farm outside Philadelphia.

I recall that you went to New York City in the early years of your career.

I wanted to go to New York to work. My first job was writing for the magazine *The Ladies Home Journal*. While in New York, I got my first Smooth Fox Terrier (who was a couple years old) from the Andely kennel of Mrs. Fallass. I knew a man in Newport who had a dog from Andely breeding. I then submitted a poem which was published in *The Atlantic Monthly* and a new job at that publication sent me to Boston. [Always helpful, Mrs. Stout recommends a *New Yorker* article on the iconic Ch. Nornay Saddler.]

What were the most important qualities for you in the Smooths you decided to keep?

I wanted a lovely head, good ears, small, dark eyes,



Smooth Fox Terrier, May 2007

good expression, a high tail-set, and for the dog to be sound.

These were the characteristics you wanted conserved in your dogs?

Absolutely!

My “other breed” mentors over the years consistently said that finding a good “outcross,” or outside dog to breed, to was their most difficult challenge: For example, either the dog under consideration had a great pedigree but was not physically the ideal specimen, or an ideal, desirable specimen had problems in his pedigree.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Were there some “outside” dogs you used and incorporated into your Smooths that proved particularly successful?

I acquired and used Ch. Aimhi SWM, Register of Merit, Sire of Distinction, by Ch. Aimhi Type Cast ex Rapidan True Friend. He sired many good champions. More recently, I acquired and used GCh. Legacy Broxden Atticus of Quissex, with good results.

I know we look for the quintessential Smooth, the most pure essence and form of the animal, often used to describe its fundamental charm or spirit. As we move through time in the “evolution” of the Smooth Fox Terrier breed, what are your thoughts and hope for the breed to which you have devoted so many years?

It is a wonderful breed! I hope it continues to improve while keeping good bone, a high tail-set, soundness, and good head, expression, and ears, as I mentioned previously.

Thank you very much

for your time and valuable thoughts.

—Kristi L. Tukua, AKC GAZETTE Columnist for Smooth Fox Terriers
[American Fox Terrier Club](#)

Wire Fox Terriers

GETTING YOUR WIRE READY FOR THE SHOW AS AN OWNER-HANDLER

It is often said that the more things change the more they remain the same. A few weeks ago, in thinking about the topic for my next Wire Fox GAZETTE column, I accessed a favorite page of mine on the AKC website, the archives for the GAZETTE: https://library.akc.org/?product_cat=gazettes. Here you will find GAZETTES from 1889 to the present.

Earlier issues were a treasure trove for photos of show wins, which identified by name the dog, the handler, the judge, and sometimes the breeder. They remain as history of breeds, bloodlines, how dogs were presented throughout time. In several

issues they were commentary about proper attire for exhibitors; some fanciers might say the words are applicable to today. Then there are comments about grooming and how to improve entries. Sound familiar?

In a circa 1960 issue, the AFTC columnist comments about the “very great increase in the membership of The American Fox Terrier Club,” then says, “There should be an equally great increase in the number of Fox Terriers shown.” The writer, Mrs. C. Huntley Christman, of Danbury, Connecticut, called for more members to learn how to groom and show their own dogs. She especially noted “many will no doubt be forced to show their own for there are not too many handlers who can trim a Fox Terrier well ... and one man can only take so many to show to avoid a conflict.”

Mrs. Christman said that learning how to show your own dog also meant learning how to trim and proposed

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Wire Fox Terrier Ch. Hetherington Surprise Trust (art: Clarence T. Fawcett, 1940)

that clubs hold classes or lectures to teach the newcomer. A great recommendation 65 years ago as well as today. In 1982, a new all-terrier club established in New Jersey, the Garden State All Terrier Club, held its first of many “All Terrier Grooming Symposium/Clinics” for those owners of terriers that required trimming for the show ring, as well as pet grooming.

The coordinators of these annual grooming events were me and an Airedale fancier. Terrier owners brought their very hairy dogs, were treated to a full day of everything terrier. Registrants could attend as observers or full

participants. There was a modest registration fee; \$3 if pre-registered for admission only, with a dog for grooming \$10 to \$20 depending upon size of dog. A Fox Terrier owner would pay \$15, pre-registered. They were introduced to the general care of terrier coats and along with all the necessary tools. stripping tools (which were also offered for sale at the event) and were carefully guided by numerous terrier experts. Also available for purchase was the outstanding, clearly written brochure, “Grooming the Broken Haired Terrier,” a publication of the Airedale Terrier Club of America, jointly available with the American Fox Terrier Club. They were taught how to hold a stripping blade or use their own fingers; which way to pull hair and which hairs to pull and in what direction were explained and demonstrated, always recognizing that the “student” was a novice. It was quite common for a novice to learn the basics of trimming in one

year, then bring the same or another dog the next year to learn the final coat work that is necessary a month to weeks and days before the next dog show.

Many participants returned year after year. Others immediately entered dog shows and were quite competitive, often telling others that they learned trimming at the New Jersey grooming symposium. Occasionally a relatively new terrier exhibitor has suggested the return of this remarkably successful learning experience.

As Mrs. Christman wrote 65 years ago, regional Fox Terrier clubs should offer grooming events to promote owning and/or showing Wire Foxes. Many people are attracted to the flashy Wire Fox Terrier they see in a show ring in person or on TV but feel discouraged as they lack the expendable finances to hire a professional handler and are intimidated by the talent they believe they lack in trimming their own dog.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

I am available to provide free advice to any kennel club that might want to consider offering a terrier grooming clinic as a way of promoting Wire Fox Terriers.

—Joan Gordon Murko,
donohill@optimum.net,
Woodland Park, New Jersey
American Fox Terrier
Club

Glen of Imaal Terriers

WHAT DOES “WELL-BRED” MEAN?

Merriam-Webster defines *well-bred* as “having a good pedigree.”

A “good pedigree” means different things to different people, and certainly different things to different breeders. What does it mean in relation to Glen litters? Everyone wants a pup from a well-bred litter, right? First, have the pedigrees of the bitch and all potential stud dogs been carefully studied, and then compared in relation to their individual strengths and weaknesses? How do they complement



Glen of Imaal Terrier

each other? The best stud dog may be thousands of miles away, living in a different country or even deceased, but still available in frozen storage.

Glen breedings related to our small gene pool are often completed with the help of overnight deliveries and artificial insemination. Have coefficients of inbreeding been calculated? Have both sire and dam been health tested? (Here in the U.S., this means X-ray evaluations

of hips and elbows, genetic testing for *crd3*, and a dilated eye exam every two years from the age of 2.) Are the test results shared through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals website? Can the breeder provide you with CHIC ID numbers for both sire and dam? The Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America (GITCA) in its Code of Ethics requires these evaluations on all breeding stock and also requires that the test results be shared

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

publicly.

Is the breeder of the litter a member of the parent club? Working with a breeder who is a member of the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America means that he has agreed to follow its Code of Ethics, which can be viewed on the club's website, <http://www.Glens.org>. Are there proven champions and grand champions referred to as prefix titles in the pedigrees? The grand championship program wasn't introduced until 2010, so dogs who retired from showing prior to 2010 could not have that title. Have dogs in the pedigree taken top placements at important shows like our national specialties, Westminster, or the AKC National Championship? These shows tend to draw good entries of Glens due to their prestige.

A breeder who has met the AKC criteria (at least five years involvement in AKC events, titles on a minimum of four dogs they bred, member of an

AKC club, certification that health screens required by the parent club are done, and registering all pups with the AKC) can be given a Breeder of Merit designation by the AKC. There are Advanced Recognition levels within the Breeder of Merit program as well, Bronze through Platinum. At the Platinum level of recognition the breeder must have a minimum of 100 dogs earning AKC titles, with a minimum of 60 earning prefix titles.

Are there performance or suffix titles on Glens in the pedigree? Breeders are justifiably proud of their dogs who have earned "titles on both ends." Performance titles are an indication of the owner's participation and dedication—but more importantly of the dog's trainability and temperament.

If you are thinking about adding a Glen to your family, take your time and be careful in your research. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions and ask them of as many different breeders as

you can. Finding someone who will be responsive to your questions and concerns will be a valuable asset over the life of your dog.

—Jo Lynn,

irishglen@aol.com

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America

Irish Terriers

ONLY A DOG ...

In the chronicles of canine history you have the legends of Greyfriars Bobby, the Skye Terrier, and Hachiko, the Akita, who each famously spent their lives constantly devoted to their departed masters. Bobby spent 14 years watching over the grave of his owner, John Gray, while Hachiko spent 10 years going each day to the train station to wait for his owner, Professor Hidesaburo Ueno, to return from work—unaware the man had passed away.

There is an Irish Terrier who belongs in this pantheon. His name is Army, and the account of his life

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Illustration depicting Irish Terrier Army from *Only a Dog—A Story of the Great War*, by Bertha Whitridge Smith (1917).

can be found in the book *Only a Dog—A Story of the Great War*, by Bertha Whitridge Smith, published in 1917. (Spoiler alert! If you want to read the book first, don't go any further.)

In the book, Army, the

narrator, tells the story set in World War I as he lies on his “dear master’s breast” waiting for him to wake up. Army relates that he was born in France and lost his family when his village was destroyed in a German

attack. Emaciated and weak, he is found wandering the streets by a British soldier, Private Rice, who rescues the dog and has him nursed back to health. Once Army recovers, Private Rice takes him back to camp, and the dog becomes part of the unit, helping the soldier watch guard at night and protecting him from rats while he sleeps during the day.

One night their camp is attacked, and Army defends Rice from an enemy soldier who stabbed him with a knife. Army is able to get the unit’s attention, and his master is taken to hospital. Sadly, however, Private Rice does not make it. Although Army understood that the man has died, at the funeral he heard the chaplain say that Rice would one day rise. The dog resolved to stay with his master to be there and greet him when he rose. The soldiers could not coax Army to leave his post watching over the grave, so instead they brought him food each day and gave him Rice’s overcoat to rest upon

COURTESY AUTHOR

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

and stay warm.

As time passed, new soldiers would come and take up the task of caring for Army. In the end the elements became too much for the loyal dog to overcome. It was decided to give him military honors for his devotion to Rice. The company gathered around, and “they wrapped the little body in the Master’s cloak and laid it carefully in the small grave made as close as possible to the big one. Then when the spade had done its work with the very same sound we all know so well, the loud sharp command of ‘Shun!’ was heard, and the company stood rigid in honor of the little faithful soldier, until a bugle, clear and sweet, sounded the ‘Retreat.’ The call of the dying Day to the vanished Sun.”

In her author’s note, Ms. Whitridge Smith writes that this is a true story related to her by a Major Edgar who was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corp. She says, “It all happened near Armentieres in Flanders,

and it is there that anyone who cares to look may find the big grave with the little one beside it, both marked by the same cross, and on it the legend NO. 678962 — PRIVATE RICE AND ‘ARMY.’ ”

In the years following publication of the book, the gravesite became difficult and then impossible to find. Regardless, a century later the tale of Army movingly illustrates the unflinching devotion of the Irish Terrier, still evident in the breed today.

Source: *Only a Dog—A Story of the Great War*, by Bertha Whitridge Smith, Copyright 1917 by E. P. Dutton & Co.

—Michael A. Kowalczyk,
kowalczykm@charter.net
[Irish Terrier Club of America](#)

Kerry Blue Terriers

The United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club is celebrating 100 years of Kerry Blue Terriers in 2026. Recent breed statistics place the Kerry Blue in the

lower breed numbers these days, so it seemed fitting to remind us of the past when our breed was a bit more popular. Here is an article from the April 1946 AKC GAZETTE, written by George D. Proctor.

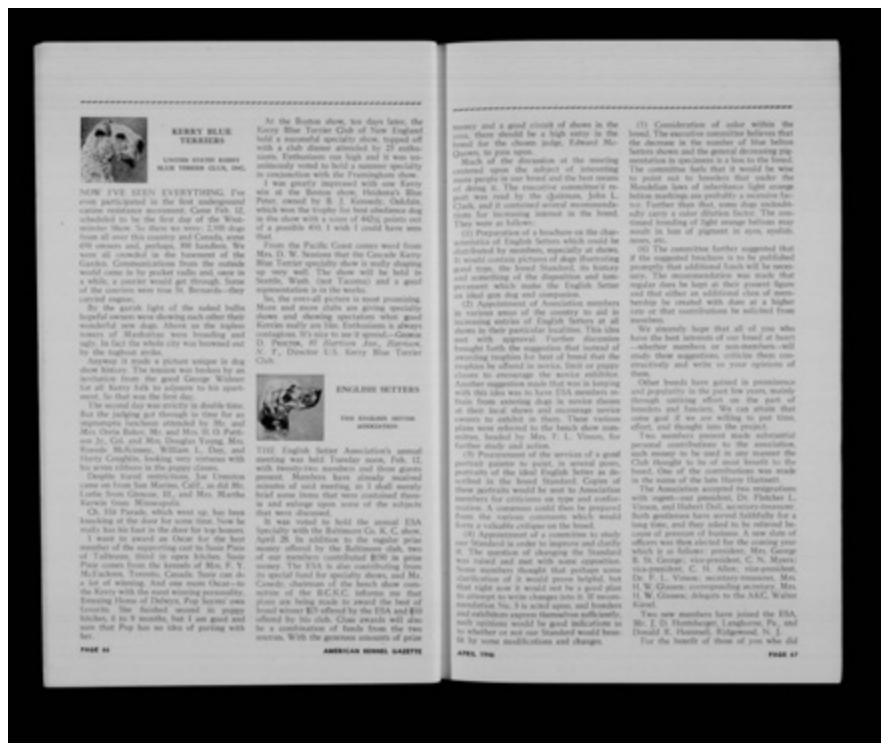
ARTICLE FROM THE APRIL 1946 AKC GAZETTE

Now I’ve seen everything. I’ve even participated in the first underground canine resistance movement. Came February 12, scheduled to be the first day of the Westminster Show. So there we were: 2,500 dogs from all over this country and Canada, some 650 owners and, perhaps, 300 handlers. We were all crowded in the basement of the Garden. Communications from the outside world came in by pocket radio and, once in a while, a courier would get through. Some of the couriers were true Saint Bernards—they carried cognac.

By the garish light of the naked bulbs hopeful owners were showing each other their wonderful new dogs.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Kerry Blue Terrier column in the April 1946 AKC GAZETTE; two photos from a 1948 AKC GAZETTE issue: Kerry with handler, and a view of the Terrier Group at Westminster.

Above us the toplest towers of Manhattan were brooding and ugly. In fact, the whole city was browned out by the tugboat strike.

Anyway, it made a picture unique in dog show history. The tension was broken by an invitation from the good George Widmer for the best Kerry folk to adjourn to his apartment. So that was the first day.

The second day was strictly in double time. But

the judging got through in time for an impromptu luncheon attended by Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Baker, Mr. and Mrs. H.O. Pattison Jr., Col. and Mrs. Douglas Young, Mrs. Roessle McKinney, William L. Day, and Larry Coughlin, looking very virtuous with his seven ribbons in the puppy classes.

Despite travel restrictions, Joe Urmston came on from San Marino, California, as did Mr. Loebe from



Glencoe, Illinois, and Mrs. Martha Kerwin from Minneapolis.

Ch. Hit Parade, which went up, has been knocking at the door for some time. Now he really has his foot in the door for top honors.

I want to award an Oscar for the best member of the supporting cast to Susie Pixie of Tailteann, third in open bitches. Susie Pixie comes from the kennels of Mrs. F.Y. McEachren,

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Toronto, Canada. Susie can do a lot of winning. And one more Oscar—to the Kerry with the most winning personality, Breezing Home of Delwyn, Pop Sayres' own favorite. She finished second in puppy bitches, 6 to 9 months, but I am good and sure that Pop has no idea of parting with her.

At the Boston show, ten days later, the Kerry Blue Terrier Club of New England held a successful specialty show, topped off with a club dinner attended by 23 enthusiasts. Enthusiasm ran high and it was unanimously voted to hold a summer specialty in conjunction with the Framingham show.

I was greatly impressed with one Kerry win at the Boston show, Heidesta's Blue Peter, owned by B. J. Kennedy, Oakdale, which won the trophy for best obedience dog in the show with a score of 442¾ points out of a possible 450. I wish I could have seen that.

From the Pacific Coast comes word from Mrs.

D.W. Sessions that the Cascade Kerry Blue Terrier specialty show is really shaping up very well. The show will be held in Seattle, Wash., (not Tacoma), and a good representation is in the works.

So, the over-all picture is most promising. More and more clubs are giving specialty shows and showing spectators what good Kerries really are like. Enthusiasm is always contagious. It's nice to see it spread! —George D. Proctor, 91 Harrison Ave., Harrison, N.Y., Director U.S. Kerry Blue Terrier Club [April 1946]

Respectfully resubmitted by Connie Hernandez Robbins, cjhrobbins@gmail.com

[United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club](#)

Lakeland Terriers

BEST FOOT FORWARD

What is the “best foot”? The first sentence of the standard *dictates* the feet needed by

Lakeland Terriers: “The Lakeland Terrier was bred to hunt vermin in the rugged shale mountains of the Lake District of northern England.” Later in the standard, the feet are *described*. The purpose of the breed determined the physical requirements.

The most destructive vermin species was the fell fox that came down out of the hills to the sheep farms, where newborn lambs were easy prey and could provide amply for nourishing the foxes' kits. Hunts would be arranged among neighboring farmers using hounds and terriers to pursue the fox on foot. Predictably, the fox would retreat to a lair in the rocky hills. The typical diameter of a fox den is approximately six inches, certainly too small for a hound to penetrate. Within the hills there were also ledges requiring the terriers to not only squeeze into tight places, but be able to leap as well. To a terrier holding quarry at bay, digging was often not possi-

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



ble due to the rocky terrain, so Lakeland Terriers needed to be “hard”—that is to say, willing and able to engage and draw or kill their fox.

If ever a breed epitomized “form follows function,” this is it! Sensible enough to hunt alongside other terriers and hounds without fighting, but wild and crazy enough to tackle a large fell fox, which range upwards to 20 pounds. Those individuals too wild and crazy were taken out of the gene pool by the foxes; the more clever dogs were highly prized for

breeding.

But wait, there’s more! No carrying on horseback in saddlebags for this breed. After the day’s hunt there was still the trek back down from the hills to the home farm, often in cold, rainy weather.

Only the strongest, most athletic structure can take this kind of punishment. Lakeland Terrier conformation is a delicate balancing act. There must be bone heavy enough to have the strength to fight the fox, while stopping short of a

too-massive build that could not negotiate the dens, nor have enough stamina to make it home.

I once overheard someone refer to Lakelands as having a “Thoroughbred type” as opposed to a “Quarter Horse type.” Neither comparison describes the correct build of a Lakeland! If there is going to be an equine analogy, it would be more appropriate to compare the athletic prowess of the Lakeland to the equine sport of endurance racing, where the races can be 100 miles in a day. Endurance racing is totally dominated by the Arabian breed—with sound feet, more bone, and shorter back than Thoroughbreds, and lacking the bulky muscle of the Quarter Horse. Just as with the old saying “No foot, no horse,” poorly conformed feet are anathema to a canine athlete, too. The Lakeland standard explains: “The feet are round and point forward, the toes compact and strong. The pads are thick and black or dark gray, except

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

in liver-colored dogs where they are brown. The nails are strong and may be black or self-colored.”

Pay attention to feet when evaluating a Lakeland.

Compact, strong toes with thick pads are an essential component of breed type.

—Pat Rock,
hollybriar@zwidomaker.com
United States Lakeland
Terrier Club

Manchester Terriers

TANTALIZING TEMPTATIONS: HIGH-VALUE DOG TREATS

Manchesters are very food motivated, and it may seem like just any snack will do. However, they are also incredibly smart. If there is a choice between a simple dog biscuit and a delectable bit of chicken, they will head for the chicken-y goodness every time. Of course, the biscuit is a close second. Manchesters are not fooled by the plain and simple; they are driven to find the best and tastiest treat. National Dog Biscuit Day was February 23, and I

just knew we had to find out everyone’s favorite biscuits and treats.

Treats can be used as a reward while training your Manchester, as a way to convince them to come in or go outside, to supplement their meals, and even to persuade a Manchester that toenail trims are really not that bad.

We all know that finding the perfect high-value treats will stimulate our Manchesters positively and reward them for a job well done. Understanding that Manchesters do have a craving for treats of all shapes and sizes, I asked fellow Manchester lovers what their favorites treats are and why.

Many listed brands that are go-tos because they come in multiple flavors, are small, and their dogs just love them. Using smaller prepackaged treats makes it easy to keep them on hand. Since treats need to be given in moderation, smaller is usually better. Also, using a pre-prepared treat that is food based, like freeze-

dried raw dog food or food toppers, allows you to give goodies that can be part of their feeding regime without overdoing it nutritionally.

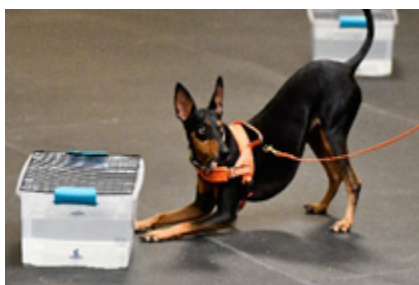
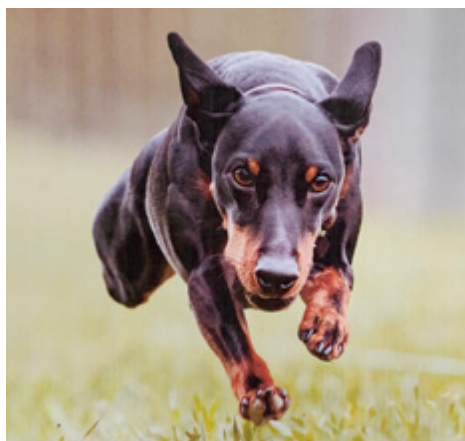
If you are feeling extra adventurous, you can even make treats at home using ingredients you have around the kitchen. These goodies can be as simple as a cooked single-ingredient proteins like chicken or beef bites.

Manchester breeder and owner Rachel Jonas recommends air-fried fish skins. She just slices the skins into thin strips and pops them in the air fryer to make them extra crispy.

There are simple biscuit recipes that have very few ingredients that are usually handy. One I have used is Peanut Butter Banana Treats, with only three ingredients: 2 cups oat flour, 2 ripe mashed bananas, and ½ cup peanut butter. Blend well, roll out the dough, and cut or roll into small treats. Bake at 300 degrees F until golden brown. These are crunchy and easy to make in large batches.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Kat Patrick's Manchesters, eager for chicken treats; Raven, owned by Caroline and Pattie O'Malley, running all out; Sprite and Raven, owned by Caroline and Pattie; Twiggie, owned by Stacie Adonis, doing scent work.

Here are some additional recipes submitted by fellow Manchester lovers.

Tuna Brownies

Submitted by Regina Allen, DVM

Ingredients:

2 cans tuna packed in water (you can also use canned salmon, mackerel, chicken, or a mixture of two different cans)

2 eggs

1½ cups flour (white or whole wheat)

A splash of water if needed

Step 1: Mix everything together, then press the dough flat into a cookie sheet lined with foil that's been sprayed with non-stick spray or lightly oiled. The dough should be about ¼-inch thick after pressing in the pan.

Step 2: Bake at 325 degrees F for 40 minutes (or longer if the dough is thicker than ¼-inch).

Step 3: Allow to cool, then use a pizza cutter to cut ¼-inch strips. These will need to be refrigerated, and store in a plastic bag and

freeze what you aren't going to use right away. These can be cut smaller or larger if you desire.

Regina uses these for training, and they are easy to make in large or small batches.

Dog Meatballs

Submitted by Caroline and Pattie O'Malley

These are taste tested and approved by Sprite and Raven.

Ingredients:

ground beef (usually 85 percent lean)

1 egg

Oatmeal to mix (about

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

½ cup, maybe a little more dependent on how lean the meat is)

Roll and bake on a cookie sheet at 375 degrees F for 17 minutes. Makes about 30 meatballs. I cool them and freeze them in bags of 3–6 so that we don't pull out too many at a time.

Three meatballs gets them through an hour-long training class, because these can be pulled apart slowly. These are also great when you need to trade a Manchester for something they shouldn't have. High-value treats are a great training and bribery tool.

Twiggie's Turkey Treats

Submitted by Stacie Adonis

Ingredients:

- 1 pound turkey or lamb
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup tapioca flour (rarely need the whole cup)
- Enough water/liquid to moisten

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Puree protein with egg in a food processor or mixer. Mix up tapioca flour

and a bit of water if needed.

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Spread mixture onto the parchment paper-lined cookie sheet.

Bake for 20 minutes. Quarter the dough (I use a pizza cutter) and flip each quarter. Bake for another 20 minutes. Cool and cut into small pieces. Treats are soft, but don't crumble.

These can be stored in the refrigerator and also bagged up and placed in the freezer.

Stacie and Twiggie use these at agility and scent work practices as a reward. Making a specific treat used only during training can provide a high-value goodie to a dog when they are really working and thinking.

Cooking at home ensures you know every ingredient that goes into your dog's treats. As with any food you give your Manchester, make sure all ingredients are dog safe and that you consider any allergies or intolerances. Also confirm that biscuits and treats are stored properly so they stay fresh

and your Manchester can enjoy every last crumb.

No matter what you choose as your Manchester's delicious delicacy, they will not argue if you keep several on hand and will happily taste test. Happy treating!

—Robin Gates,
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American Manchester
Terrier Club

Norfolk Terriers

HOW MUCH SHOULD MY NORFOLK WEIGH?

Norfolks are undeniably cute. Unfortunately, there's sometimes a temptation to baby them. And when combining a sedentary lifestyle with frequent snacks owners may be left to deal with an overweight dog carrying around excess pounds that are not good for its long-term well-being, particularly its heart health.

People often asked the question, "How much should my Norfolk weigh?" and that answer is easy: "It depends."

Our breed standard says:

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



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

Height at the withers 9 to 10 inches at maturity. Bitches tend to be smaller than dogs. Length of back from point of withers to base of tail should be slightly longer than the height at the withers. Good substance and bone. Weight 11 to 12 pounds or that which is suitable for each individual dog's structure and balance. Fit working condition is a prime consideration.

So this means one dog may weigh 12 pounds and another

may weigh 15 pounds, and each may be in fit working condition. You have to be able to honestly assess where on the weight continuum your dog should be.

People whose dogs are involved in formal activities, whether it's conformation, obedience, agility, earthdog, rally, tracking, or "whatever," usually have a good idea how to condition their dogs through a combination of diet and exercise. There's a built-in support group of

like-minded fanciers who are more than willing to share suggestions and ideas for achieving peak performance.

But what about the average owner who, for one reason or another, doesn't participate in active sports with their Norfolk, and other than yearly trips to the veterinarian, their dog never gets weighed?

Well, now ... that's where the AKC's Fit Dog program comes into play. Full details are on the AKC website, but in short, the program offers a way to keep dogs in peak condition. According to the AKC, Fit Dog is super for reducing injury risks and, equally important, it strengthens the bonds between dogs and owners through regular, guided activity. The titles earned are non-competitive, which means each dog/handler team progresses at its own level, doing things they like best.

Since much of this activity involves walking, hiking, and swimming, what is learned

COURTESY BARBARA MILLER

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

during the structured part of the course can become a lifetime habit that benefits both dog and owner. One of these benefits is knowledge of what constitutes the ideal weight for a particular dog.

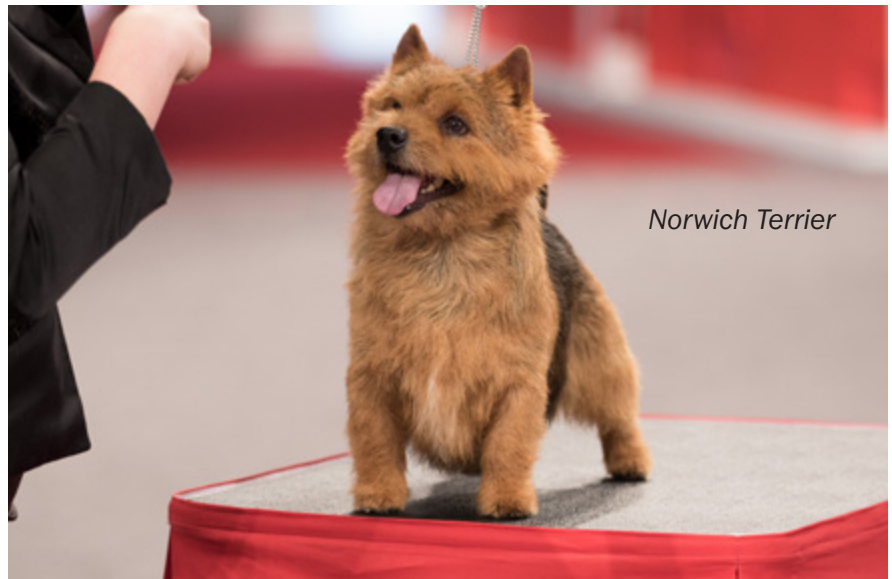
Much of the country experienced a tough winter. But since we're now fully into spring and headed towards more agreeable weather for the next several months, this is an ideal time to get your Norfolk fit for life. Go for it!

—Sheila Foran,
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Norfolk Terrier Club

Norwich Terriers

TEMPERAMENT AWARENESS

We all know that Norwich can be consummate escape artists—Houdini had *nothing* on a Norwich Terrier catching sight of a squirrel, not to mention the Norwich who can dig out of a fenced yard with six-inch concrete blocks around the perimeter and barbed wire buried beneath that! God forbid our Norwich escapes while our



back is turned and ends up in a shelter or running loose, afraid to go to a stranger in a strange environment.

Without some way to identify you as the owner, shelters assume control of your dog, and the hard truth is that some shelters are kill shelters, and some are no-kill. In both cases, a common practice in shelters now is temperament testing. In the kill shelter, those dogs failing the temperament test are either euthanized or required to stay longer in the shelter before adoption.

I consider my dogs well-adjusted, and certainly, they are all microchipped—

but then I learned that not all microchip scanners read the same chip, and I watched a TV piece on temperament tests commonly done at shelters. To my great surprise, the typical shelter temperament test was such that my dogs may or may not pass them.

The “umbrella test” (used at our local shelter) is a case in point. The tester points an umbrella at the dog to test its response, and if the dog charges the umbrella, it fails the test. Needless to say, I now teach my puppies how to deal with all the possible temperament tests they might encounter should the

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

unthinkable happen and they find their way to a shelter.

Not only because we expect our Norwich to become valued members of our family but also because of the prevalence of anti-dog legislation we need to be aware of our dogs' behavior at home and in public.

The darling baby puppy tests its place in the pack by growling and charging its littermates. This is an inborn instinct that the dam, if given the opportunity to remain with the litter through this life stage polices behaviorally. Watch as she intervenes in play that becomes too intense. You'll see the dam nose between the littermates engaged in the behavior, and in the case of the really stubborn puppy, she will definitively correct it. With the meek puppy, the dam will often encourage more robust behavior by playing tug-of-war.

Mental traits are both genetic and acquired as responses to a dog's environment. As a breeder you can exert a positive influ-

ence on your breed through directing a dog toward good behavior and redirecting unacceptable behavior.

Norwich are a stubborn, independent breed. They challenge us to meet them on an intellectual level that demands time and attention in the early phases of development if they are to mature into good citizens and family members.

From birth, you can begin to work with your puppies' instinctive response to stimuli. The brain has to have time to develop for the puppy to give thought to a given response or solve a given problem. If you begin in the first days of the puppy's life to expose the puppy to elemental stimuli, that stimulus becomes "old hat" to the puppy rather quickly. Eyes and ears are not open, but their sense of touch is developed.

Briefly putting the puppy on different surfaces, holding the puppy in different positions, cuddling the puppy in the crook of your neck, massaging the puppy

head to toe, tickling the inside of the pad of the foot with a Q-tip—all start the puppy off with stimulating events that encourage the brain cells to respond and the puppy to instinctively know he or she does not have to fear new situations.

As the puppy grows, there are many ways to properly channel their behavior patterns, and if you spend the time with them from birth, you have the opportunity to evaluate inherited behavior patterns that need to be redirected or encouraged.

Resources for temperament testing are readily available, from online testing materials to the AKC's Canine Good Citizen program. By evaluating your puppies' temperaments at an early age, you have the opportunity to alter their behavioral response to certain stimuli. What the puppy perceives as a threat, you can teach the puppy to think through and solve the problem, rather than allowing fear to drive the response.

You can teach the puppy

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

to think through each situation to differentiate neutral, friendly, and threatening situations they are confronted with in everyday life.

If you make problem solving a game for the puppy, they are drawn into the thinking process and start to think before they react. This is a slow process as the puppy matures and you need to allow each puppy the time to assess the new situation and think it through.

Never push a puppy into a situation it feels is threatening as you are interrupting an inborn survival response. Rather, allow the puppy the opportunity to think through the perceived threat and make a reasonable determination as to an appropriate, acceptable response. The trick here is in helping the puppy differentiate actual threats vs. acceptable new experiences.

Problem-solving skill sets begin with the early stimuli discussed above when the puppy is a newborn. Increasing the complexity

of these skills as the puppy grows can be as simple or elaborate as you have the time and resources to offer; but remember that the puppy has a very short attention and retention span.

Training “games” are very successful for Norwich, as they respond well to the enthusiasm usually associated with these games. Sessions should be short and should always end on a positive response—three positive responses in a session are sufficient to consider the session a success. Ending the session at that point keeps the puppy looking forward to playing the game again.

Rather than longer sessions over and over again for the same skill set, I prefer a diverse training plan for this breed. Norwich thrive on intellectual stimuli and become bored quite easily. Successful problem-solving skills build the foundation for a puppy to become a valued member of your household and community.

Should you have a

Norwich with a behavioral challenge outside your ability to alter, consider working with an animal behaviorist. People who work with pet behavior are applied animal behaviorists. These specialists are often concerned with promoting behavior change in animals by altering the human-animal relationship.

For example, an applied animal behaviorist may come to your home and observe your family’s interactions with a pet to determine why the pet is behaving badly and what changes the family can make in order to improve the pet’s behavior.

Resources:

[American Temperament Test Society *http://atts.org/pdf/ATTS_Testers_Guide.pdf*](http://atts.org/pdf/ATTS_Testers_Guide.pdf)

“Creativity and Critical Timing Are Key to Puppy Socialization”
<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeding/creativity-and-timing-key-to-puppy-socialization/>

Pfaffenberger CJ (1963). *The New Knowledge of Dog Behavior*. New York, NY:

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Howell Book House.

Scott J P, Fuller JL (1965). *Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog*. Chicago, IL: Univ of Chicago Press.

Also recommended: *Culture Clash*, by Jean Donaldson; *Don't Shoot the Dog*, by Karen Pryor; and *The Toolbox*, by Terry Ryan.

—Judi Hartell,
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The Norwich Terrier Club
of America

Scottish Terriers

EDUCATING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Let's face it, breeders and owners of purebred dogs have a public relations challenge. Recently, while reading the comments regarding an article in the *Washington Post* about the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, I noticed a distinct bias against what we do. In their eyes, all we do is breed for appearances and ignore the long-term health and well-being of the dogs we have in our care.

The comment writers ref-

erenced all the shelter dogs that are being euthanized each year as justification for their campaign to stigmatize the sport and those of us in the purebred dog world. They always seem to forget that all those shelter dogs were produced by someone with no ethics or concerns for the puppies they produced, yet those puppies are somehow our responsibility!

When I relocated after retirement, my new next-door neighbor saw that I arrived with five Scottish Terriers, and she later admitted that she thought I was one of "them." She assumed I produced multiple litters a year, thus contributing to the overpopulation of dogs in the U.S., with no thought of the consequences (she has always had rescue dogs with "issues"). Unfortunately, this is the general perception.

After living next to me for seven years and having many driveway discussions regarding the sport and my breeding program, she has come to see the other side

of this debate. She saw that I breed only after my dogs have finished their AKC conformation title, partake in health testing, carefully consider both health and temperament in my pairings, usually breed one litter per bitch, dote on those puppies, and very carefully screen potential buyers for the puppies I place. I also explained that my puppy contract includes a clause where I will take back any puppy I produce if needed. And yes, I have done that. She finally saw the full picture.

We also have a problem with many veterinarians. I can't tell you how many times I have heard the reply "Oh, you show people!"—and not in a good way—when talking to veterinarians. They should welcome us into their practice as we are probably their best clients—we really do care about our dog's health and come to the appointments with information they may not have. When we are grooming, we frequently have our hands on

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Scottish Terrier pup; a Scottie going to ground in earthdog.

our animals and can detect concerns early, rather than arriving at the practice hoping for a miracle cure once a neglected issue is identified and has gone too far.

So that brings up the issue that we in the sport need to take control of this narrative and become advocates for what we spend countless hours and dollars on as an integral part of our lives: our purebred dogs.

Come out of the shadows and find opportunities to talk with neighbors, community clubs, schools, 4-H, scouts, and so on. Take each opportunity to go to an event and talk about what we do, why we do it, and answer their questions; these are the perfect chances to further

erode these misconceptions.

Educate your veterinarian regarding what you know about your breed's health issues. The Scottish Terrier Club of America Health Trust Fund is actively funding research to eradicate the known diseases impacting our breed. This news needs to be disseminated as much as possible to show what purebred dog clubs are doing and that we do take the health of our breeds most seriously.

Join your breed's parent club and regional clubs to support their efforts. Breed clubs have been seeing declining membership. We need to figure out why and make their memberships meaningful. Most members

are companion dog owners, and while they may like seeing the show photos in the publications, what does your club do to address their interests? Devote a section of your publications to the companion dog. These members can become great advocates in this discussion.

Become active in your local all-breed and group clubs that host conformation, agility, obedience, and field work and trial events and use those opportunities to further educate the public about your breed's purpose and why they look and act the way they do. Many cities have events for dogs and their owners, and each club should be there representing the purebred dogs.

Participate in the Meet the Breeds (MTB) events at both all-breed and group shows. It's a chance to introduce the public to your dogs, talk with you about the sport, and explain why we are there. Print business cards, keep a supply in your tack box, and hand them out at your setup or at the

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

MTB sessions. Then take the time to answer their calls and emails to continue the discussion.

Keep the conversation focused on *why* purebred dogs exist, and not on *what* you have done in the sport; the general public won't understand those details and don't particularly care.

Most of us in this sport have a deep connection to our dogs and want them to have full, healthy lives. Yes, I have met some breeders and exhibitors over my 35 years in the sport who are only after the ribbons and bragging rights, but they are in the minority, as in any human activity. We need to counter that approach proactively by showing the public that our first and foremost concern is breeding and sharing our lives with healthy, happy purebred dogs who also happen to be great examples of their breed!

—Richard C. Bumstead,
glenclark6517@yahoo.com
Scottish Terrier Club of
America

Sealyham Terriers

SEALYHAM TERRIERS, TODDLERS, AND TEENS

I often get a question at performance trials—and this year at the Westminster Scent Work demos: “Are Sealyhams good with children?”

My answer is, “It’s their nature—yes! However, being nurtured as puppies with socializing and training them to be around children will help further the likelihood that the Sealyham temperament shines from puppyhood to adulthood.

Keep in mind the following with regard to children around Sealyham puppies:

- Always only with adult supervision—they’re not to be left alone together.
- Keep interaction calm—no aggressive rough housing or toy-tugging.
- Keep voices and movements calm—no screaming or running.
- Be careful around treats and toys—no quick movements toward either, as it encourages possessive and protective behaviors.
- No disturbing the puppy

while he/she is eating, sleeping, or crated. The crate is their safe space.

- Watch for signs of stress—stop if nonverbal signs are not welcoming the child, such as turning away (the most obvious) or showing teeth.

Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not like being petted on the head. My Sealyham, Goodspice Pip, teaches children when they approach by welcoming their touch anywhere but her head by angling her head away and giving access to her body.

Petting areas that are welcomed include the base of neck around the collar area; shoulders and chest; behind the ears; and the base of the tail.

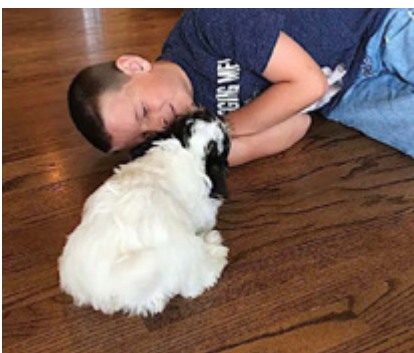
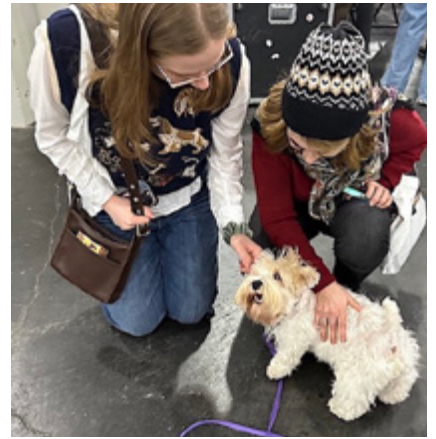
Petting on the tail and paws is not welcomed. The belly rub? Some like this, and some do not. If meeting a puppy for the first time, it’s best to avoid.

Breeder-educators

Many breeders take puppy training seriously when it

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Sealyham Terriers with kids: Goodspice Pip at Westminster 2026 at Javits Center; Goodspice Pip with a child at AKC Museum of the Dog; Goodspice Pip at Javits WKC 2026; Happy Sealy's Tatiana with Molly and Gucci; Happy Sealys Nastya and Dunya walking ahead, letting the Sealy lead in front; Thistle and Rock Sealys Austin and pup at eye level.

comes to socializing their puppies around children. “Exposing puppies to numerous safe, positive experiences is crucial for development.” encourages Lisa Wright, breeder and owner of her Thistle & Rock

Sealyhams. “Introductions to people of all ages, especially children is an imperative. Children offer quick, unpredictable movements, with high-pitched voices. Offering calm introductions in a supervised environment is paramount. Playtime happens on the

floor. A child is not allowed to pick up or carry a puppy. Even a few interactions early in the puppy’s life can make a profound difference in overall temperament.”

Anna Baranova is owner and breeder of Happy Sealyhams from Galatina, Italy. “The first rule is to

COURTESY OWNERS

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

protect puppies from children. The second rule? Supervise children so they will not be harmed,” she says. “Children run very quickly and they can step on a puppy. No biting or rough housing. Puppies must know they cannot bite even as puppies! Consistency with training children around Sealyham puppies is key.”

Baranova’s photos show her kids never interfering with two Sealys at play. They also let their Sealyhams “lead in front.” If they fall behind, they may have a tendency to chase after the person to catch up, which can encourage a prey-drive response.

Wright recommends approaching a Sealyham at eye level, which can be less threatening when positioning from the side and not from above. This can be accompanied with a down cue, while remaining still.”

Puppies don’t forget! Even one negative encounter can interfere with an otherwise calm and predictable Sealyham temperament.

More important reminders:

- Control and supervise all puppy and child interactions. If play becomes unwelcomed, remove both to avoid risk of harm.
- Maintain a distance with puppies in a new venue, around unfamiliar dogs or puppies. Introduce responsibly—don’t assume. They will engage and like sharing the same space.
- Avoid encounters around toys or treats, which can be taken by some pups as a threat, if approached while they are engaged. Dogs of all ages can “fall in love with their favorite toys.” They may not share well with others. Always ask the owner if you can approach pups when toys are nearby. (Note: pups who have been trained with toys to show tricks are often rewarded with treats—so best not to approach!)
- The key is consistency with Sealyham Terriers around children.

Train Sealyhams as puppies around children. They will have the best tem-

peraments as adults when nurtured.

—Bev Thompson,
thompscom@aol.com
American Sealyham
Terrier Club

Skype Terriers

MEGHAN TAYLOR: A PROFILE

Skype Terriers are lucky to have Meghan Taylor as one of the breed’s devotees. I asked her to tell me about the path that led her to Skyes.

“I grew up in Merrimac, Massachusetts, and lived with a Husky, Labrador Retriever, and a Toy Poodle. In my early twenties, I began working with local rescues, and I’ve fostered around 50 dogs over the years. I had a Dachshund and a West Highland White Terrier at this time. I started fostering with two regional Dachshund rescues, and while most of them were adopted out, a handful stayed with me. I still have three old rescue Dachshunds, all in their teens.

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Growing up, my mom and I always watched the Westminster Dog Show on TV. For Christmas of 2011, she got me tickets to see the show in person. We went to NYC in February of 2012, and that is where I saw a Skye Terrier for the first time. I was there as a spectator and saw one in the grooming area. I said to my mom “What is that and why don’t I have one?”

After that show, I researched the breed and found that they did fit my lifestyle. I think I was

first attracted to the breed because of the dogs’ looks. I know that you shouldn’t pick a breed based solely on looks. I’m lucky that the Skye’s temperament and energy level matched with my lifestyle.

I got my first Skye in 2018, and at that time, I had never even considered showing in conformation or my breeding dogs. At the breeder’s suggestion, I began to show my first Skye. We didn’t do a lot of winning, but I learned a lot with her and am grateful to her for being by my

Meghan Taylor and Amelia, GCh. Starry Night’s Here comes My Girl, BCAT, TKI; Amelia; Dolly, GCh. Royalist Fairy Mischief at Dunvegan, CGC; Perry, Ch. Starry Night’s Running Down a Dream, BCAT, TKI; Maude, Ch. Starry Night’s Dream a Little Dream of Me; Bowie, GCh. Starry Night’s Changes Naiad.

side during this stage of my life. I made a lot of mistakes, learned from them, and grew from them. I met a wonderful, welcoming, and encouraging breed community, which helped me along when it came time to get a more competitive dog. Karen Turnbull has been

COURTESY MEGHAN TAYLOR

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

a prime mentor, but there have been many others who have helped me too. I helped others learn about Skyes at Meet the Breeds in NYC in 2025. I never thought that I'd show dogs, and now, eight years later I am at Westminster with a dog that I was fortunate enough to have born in my first litter, which carried the name Starry Night Skyes. I chose that kennel name because that Van Gogh painting is one of my favorites, and it goes so well with the breed's name.

I asked Meghan to tell us what surprised her most and least.

What surprised me the most: How easy the coat care is. I just do a bath, brush, dry once a week and that's it. I think the coat scares a lot of people off.

What didn't surprise me: their temperament. They have a wicked sense of humor, as do most terrier breeds. They make me laugh every day, and they're incredibly smart.

How have Skyes changed

her life? "This breed has changed my life entirely. I have met some of my best friends, mentors, and boyfriend through the purebred dog community. I've learned so much and am thankful to everyone that has helped me along the way."

"I currently live in Amesbury, Massachusetts, and I have worked in the pet care industry since 2010. I have done pet sitting, dog walking, veterinary technician assistant, dog daycare, and grooming. I opened my own business in 2013. We do dog daycare, boarding, and grooming."

Thank you, Meghan!

—Judith Tabler,

JudithATabler@gmail.com

[Skye Terrier Club of](#)

[America](#)

Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME ...

It has been 30 years since I first became enamored with the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier—drawn into the world of conformation showing and

companion and performance events: agility, rally, obedience, tracking, scent work, Barn Hunt, and herding instinct. Yes, I've done it all—some things with more success than others.

Today I serve as president of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier club and find myself writing this article. Who would have thought? It all happened because someone "took a chance on me." In fact, many wonderful people have done just that. To each of you, I am deeply grateful. Thank you for your kindness, encouragement, support, education, patience, and mentorship. You have made a lasting impact, and I hope I have made you proud—and continue to do so.

After extensive research to find a medium-sized, non-shedding dog with a good temperament and strong companionship qualities, I chose the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier—despite never having seen one in person. My mother suggested I "just stop by"

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

a neighbor's home down the street to meet their two Wheatens. One evening, on my way home from work, I did just that.

Janice warmly introduced me to her dogs and sent me home with a typed list of Midwest breeders to contact. To my dismay, most never returned my calls, and those who did had no puppies available. I quickly learned that Missouri was widely considered the puppy-mill capital of the U.S.—and I lived in Kansas City.

The breeders who did respond required lengthy questionnaires, which I eagerly completed and returned. It felt more like applying to adopt a child than a puppy. Still, no puppy.

Then came a turning point. Renee Katoki and Pam Donahue not only returned my calls but also strongly encouraged me to attend the upcoming St. Louis Soft Coated Wheaten specialty. My cousin Martha agreed to join me on the road trip—with the promise of antiquing as an added incen-

tive. What was a specialty?

I was awestruck to see more than 30 Wheaten Terriers in one place. I came to observe the dogs, meet people, and learn about breeders. What I didn't realize was that Pam Donahue was quietly evaluating me as a potential home for a puppy from an upcoming litter. Five days later, she called to say she had a male puppy just for me. She took a chance on me.

I soon learned that Pam was the Recording Secretary of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America. She was deeply committed to the breed standard (which, at the time, I knew nothing about) and to raising healthy puppies, registering them with the AKC, using detailed contracts, and placing them only in carefully vetted homes.

In August 1996, my mom and I drove seven hours to pick up my boy—Clancy. He was absolutely darling. Pam insisted he be registered with the AKC under her kennel name and with a



Clancy, Grian Rockin' Robin; Susan McGee's mentor Bonnie Kanter showing Clancy

“bird name” as part of his official name. The AKC? A kennel name? A bird name? It was all new to me.

Although I had grown up with purebred dogs, the AKC world was unfamiliar. I soon learned that its mission was to maintain the integrity of its registry, promote the sport of purebred dogs, and preserve breeds for type and function. In gratitude for Pam taking a chance on me, Clancy became officially known as Grian Rockin' Robin. I dutifully completed his registration, as required by our contract.

Pam also encouraged me

COURTESY SUSAN MCGEE

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

to contact Bonnie Kanter, who owned another Grian dog, to discuss the possibility of “showing” Clancy. Showing? What was that? If only I had known the incredible journey that lay ahead ...

Stay tuned.

—Susan McGee

[Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America](#)

Welsh Terriers

KIND OF PERFECT

“Is that your dog? the woman asked. “Do you see what she is doing?”

Fear grabbed me. Those are not the words you want to hear at the dog park.

“Yes, it is,” I responded. Always eagle-eyed when my Welsh Terrier is off leash, I looked harder. Did I miss something?

She pointed across the park. A young girl was whimpering. “That’s my daughter,” the woman confided. “Her brother teased her and made her cry. Your dog ran over and sat next to her. So sweet ...”

Of course.

The Welsh Terrier is a breed most often described with typical terrier traits: loves to hunt, energetic, independent. But there is more to this breed, first recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1888. Let me list some of the traits you do not always hear about.

First, they love people. Yes, they are independent, but somewhere in their breeding, they realized they would rather be cozying up to the humans next to the fire than stuck in the barn killing vermin. They take all that terrier attention and zero in on you and your family. Working in the garden? Your terrier is sniffing right beside you. In the kitchen? Yum! Say no more and just leave the broom in the closet. Watching TV? Perfect! Snuggled at your feet, or preferably next to you on the couch, your dog will alert you to any animals on the screen. Mine is partial to horses.

Second, they are just the right size. A female is about 18 pounds; a male closer

to 23. Breed development started as early as the 1700s. No surprises. None of this: “I thought he was going to be 23 pounds, but he is 50 and still growing.” No. Not a Welsh Terrier. No, he will not fit in a pocket purse, but he also will not need two people to move him when he will not budge when a pretty Poodle walks by. Convenient.

Third. They do not complain. No whining, no anxiety. Welsh Terriers are remarkably even tempered. Happy to see you; happy to sleep while you are gone. Give them what they need: exercise, mental stimulation, yummy food, and love. Close him in a closet by mistake? Oh, well. Used to going to ground, he will wag his tail when it finally dawns on you to go look for him.

Fourth. You will feel like Taylor Swift. I promise you, you cannot take a Welsh Terrier anywhere without being approached by a curious stranger who becomes an instant friend. “Is that a mini Airedale?” You will

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Welsh Terrier Ch.
Syl Vons Super
Man, 1956
(William Brown
photo)



hear that a lot. If you are patient, you might explain that a Welsh Terrier is the older breed. Airedales were bred from a cross between a Welsh and an Otterhound. Caroline Kennedy. Ingrid Bergman. Yes, famous people have owned Welsh Terriers. Get some sunglasses. Your turn!

Last point. Welsh Terriers are fun. Ready to hike? Let's go! Like to kayak or paddleboard?

Get out the life preserver. Interested in dog activities like earthdog, agility, Barn Hunt? This is the breed. Need to keep the kids busy and active? You have a personal trainer ready to go for no more than the cost of a treat.

“There's nothing I like better than matching the new owner to the right puppy,” says breeder Charles Yorke, president of the Welsh Terrier Club of

America. “It's so satisfying to hear in cards and calls over the years all the joy their Welsh Terrier brings to the family.”

People lovers. Great size. Good-natured. Friend makers. Fun.

Welsh Terriers are kind of perfect, aren't they?

—Mary Nell Graham,
mngraham376@msn.com
Welsh Terrier 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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ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

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

Christian A. Morales Reyes, CPA,
Miami, FL, Greater Miami Dog Club

Sharon Smith, Greenville, SC,
Greenville Kennel Club

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

Barbara J. Wood, Cranford, NJ,
American Lhasa Apso Club

NOTICE REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendents for change of entries after closing, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 11, Section 6.

Rau Dog Shows, Ltd.Reprimand

MB-F, Inc.Reprimand



gazette

Click here to read the
May 2026 issue!



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendent for failure to list animals' complete name in catalog, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 12, Section 4.

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLCReprimand

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendent for failure to submit proper electronic results, *AKC Board Policy*.

Rau Dog Shows, Ltd.Reprimand

Notification of fine imposed on club for holding Obedience Trial without submitting an application, *Obedience Regulations*, Chapter 1, Section 1.

Janesville-Beloit Kennel Club.....\$100

Notification of fine imposed on club for cancellation of entries after closing, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 11, Section 6.

Collie Club of Southern Wisconsin\$400

Notification of Reprimand imposed on club for failure to follow all AKC rules and regulations, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 9, Section 9.

Progressive Dog ClubReprimand

Notification of Reprimand imposed on club for failure to properly divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor class, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 8.

Bulldog Club of Greater St. Louis.....Reprimand

Bulldog Club of AmericaReprimand

Notification of fine imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 17, Section 2.

Topline German Shepherd Dog Club of Illinois.....\$25

Richmond Dog Obedience Club\$50

Greater Louisville Training Club\$200

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 13, Section 3.

Irish Setter Club of Michigan\$50

Irish Setter Club of Greater Tulsa\$250

Sahuaro Brittany Club\$50

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 1, Section 18.

Southern New England Brittany Club...\$50

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results *Field Trial Rules and Standard*



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Procedure for Retrievers, Chapter 13.

Sagehen's Retriever Club.....	\$150
Michiana Retriever Club.....	\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Beagle Field Trials*, Chapter 8, Section 6.

Highland Beagle Club.....	\$50
Southeastern Indiana Beagle Club.....	\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results *AKC Herding Regulations, Farm Dog Certified (FDC) Test Regulations*, Chapter 1, Section 17.

Sooner State Kennel Club	\$100
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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. Jacqueline Caruso (Ridgefield, CT)
- Ms. Alice Casbeer (San Antonio, TX)
- Ms. Julie Covert (Mary Esther, FL)
- Ms. Carol Fellbaum (Houston, TX)

NOTICE

Ms. Constance Bartlett (Rohnert Park, CA). Action was taken by the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California for conduct at its September 20, 2025 event. Ms. Bartlett was charged with conduct characterized by the Staff Event Committee as inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. Ms. Bartlett appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty. (Border Terriers)

NOTICE

Ms. Michele Beatty (Middletown, MD). Action was taken by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America for conduct at its October 25, 2025 event. Ms. Beatty was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective March 3, 2026. (German Shepherd Dogs)

NOTICE

Ms. Kathy Doehler (Pueblo, CO). Action was taken by the Corpus Christi Kennel Club for conduct at its January 9, 2026 event. Ms. Doehler was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month suspension of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$300 fine, effective January 20, 2026. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Janyce Selkin (Rhinebeck, NY). Action was taken by the Mid-Hudson Kennel Association for conduct at its February 8, 2026 event. Ms. Selkin was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event

suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective February 18, 2026. (Border Collies, Briards)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Tatyana Stepanchenko (Snohomish, WA) 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 February 24, 2026. (Pomeranians, Poodles)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Alena Davis (Lutz, FL) from registration privileges for three-months and imposed a \$500 fine, for signing AKC documents on behalf of another without filing a properly completed Power of Attorney form, effective March 24, 2026. (Bulldogs)

PROPOSED POINTER STANDARD FOR COMMENT:

In accordance with the Guidelines for Breed Standard Revisions this is being published to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to:

Mari-Beth O'Neill
VP Sport Services
mbo@akc.org

General Appearance: The Pointer is bred primarily for sport afield; he should unmistakably look and act the part. The ideal specimen gives the immediate impression of compact power and agile grace; the head noble, proudly carried; the expression intelligent and alert; the muscular body bespeaking both staying power and dash. Here is an animal whose every movement shows him to be a wide-awake, hard-driving hunting dog possessing stamina, courage, and the desire to go. And in his expression are the loyalty and devotion of a true friend of man.

Balance and Size, Proportion, Substance: Balance and over-all symmetry are more important in the Pointer than size. A smooth, balanced dog is to be more desired than a dog with strongly contrasting good points and faults. The Pointer is square or slightly off square. The height measured from the ground to the highest point of the withers, equaling

the length measured from the fore chest to the rear projection of the buttocks.

~~Hound or terrier characteristics are most considered most undesirable are:~~ Long ears, thick ear leather, excessive flews or snipey muzzles, roached backs, lack of tuck-up, skirting on the loin, long, ropey tails carried with a curve or sickle, cat feet and straight pasterns. Because a sporting dog must have both endurance and power, great variations in size are undesirable, the desirable height and weight being within the following limits: Dogs: Height – 25 to 28 inches Weight – 55 to 75 pounds Bitches: Height – 23 to 26 inches Weight – 44 to 65 pounds

Head: The *skull* of medium width, approximately as wide as the length of the muzzle, resulting in an impression of length rather than width. Slight furrow between the eyes, cheeks cleanly chiseled. There should be a pronounced stop. From this point forward the *muzzle* is of good length, with the nasal bone so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop. Parallel planes of the skull and muzzle are equally acceptable. The muzzle should be deep without pendulous flews. Jaws ending square and level, ~~should bite evenly or as scissors~~ *bite* preferred, even bite acceptable. Undershot, overshot or wry to be faulted. Nostrils well developed and wide open. *Ears*-Set on at eye level. When hanging naturally, they should reach just below

the lower jaw, close to the head, with little or no folding. They should be somewhat pointed at the tip—never round—and soft and thin in leather. *Eyes* - Of ample size, rounded and intense. The eye color should be dark in contrast with the color of the markings, the darker the better.

Neck: Long, dry, muscular, and slightly arched, springing cleanly from the shoulders. **Shoulders:** Long, thin, and sloping. The top of blades close together.

Front: Elbows well let down, directly under the withers and truly parallel so as to work just clear of the body. Forelegs straight and with oval bone. Knee joint never to knuckle over. Pasterns of moderate length, perceptibly finer in bone than the leg, and slightly slanting. Chest, deep rather than wide, must not hinder free action of forelegs. The breastbone bold, without being unduly prominent. The ribs well sprung, descending as low as the elbow-point.

Back: Strong and solid with only a slight decline from top of shoulder to the croup. The loin is well muscled and slightly arched with the croup slightly rounded to the base of the tail. rise from croup to top of shoulders. Loin of moderate length, powerful and slightly arched. Croup falling only slightly to base of tail. Tuck-up should be apparent, but not exaggerated.

Tail: Heavier at the root, tapering to a fine point. Length no greater than to

hock. A tail longer than this or docked must be penalized. ~~Carried without curl, and not more than 20 degrees above the line of the back;~~ Carried straight and not more than 20 degrees above the level of the back; never carried between the legs.

Hindquarters: Muscular and powerful with great propelling leverage. Thighs long and well developed. Stifles well bent. The hocks clean; the legs straight as viewed from behind. Decided angulation is the mark of power and endurance. **Feet:** Oval, with long, closely-set, arched toes, well-padded, and deep. Catfoot is a fault. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed.

Coat: Short, dense, smooth with a sheen.

Color: Liver, lemon, black, orange; either in combination with white or solid-colored. A good Pointer cannot be a bad color. In the darker colors, the nose should be black or brown; in the lighter shades it may be lighter or flesh-colored. There should be no preference for previously described colors. The four stated colors remain the true colors without deviation. **Nose:** Liver and lemon dogs will have a self-colored nose and eye rims. Black and orange dogs will have a black nose and black eye rims.

Gait: Smooth, frictionless, with a powerful hindquarters' drive. The head should be carried high, the nostrils wide, the tail moving from side to side rhythmically with the pace, giving the impression of a

well-balanced, strongly-built hunting dog capable of top speed combined with great stamina. Hackney gait must be faulted.

~~**Balance and Size:** Balance and overall symmetry are more important in the Pointer than size. A smooth, balanced dog is to be more desired than a dog with strongly contrasting good points and faults. Hound or terrier characteristics are most undesirable. Because a sporting dog must have both endurance and power, great variations in size are undesirable, the desirable height and weight being within the following limits: Dogs: Height—25 to 28 inches Weight—55 to 75 pounds Bitches: Height—23 to 26 inches Weight—44 to 65 pounds~~

Temperament: The Pointer's even temperament and alert good sense make him a congenial companion both in the field and in the home. He should be dignified and should never show timidity toward man or dog.

PROPOSED PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN STANDARD FOR COMMENT:

In accordance with the Guidelines for Breed Standard Revisions this is being published to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to:

Mari-Beth O'Neill
VP Sport Services
mbo@akc.org

General Appearance: The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen is a French scent hound developed first and foremost to hunt small game over the rough and difficult terrain of the Vendéen region. To function efficiently, he must be equipped with certain characteristics. He is bold and vivacious in character; compact, tough and robust in construction. He has an alert outlook, lively bearing and a good voice freely and purposefully used. The most distinguishing characteristics of this bold hunter are: his rough, unrefined outlines; his proudly carried head displaying definitive long eyebrows, beard, and moustache; his strong, tapered tail carried like a saber, alert and in readiness. Important to breed type is the compact, casual, rather tousled appearance, with no feature exaggerated and his parts in balance. ~~Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard~~

should be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Structural faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the PBGV as in any other breed, regardless of whether they are specifically mentioned.

Size, Proportion, Substance: Size - PBGVs measure between 13 and 15 inches at the withers. Height over 15 inches is a disqualification. Height under 13 inches is a disqualification at one year of age or older. Proportion - When viewed in profile, the body is somewhat longer than tall when measured from point of shoulder to buttocks, as compared to the height from withers to ground. Substance - Strong bone with substance in proportion to overall dog.

Head: The head is carried proudly and, in size, must be in balance with the overall dog. ~~It is longer than its width in a ratio of approximately two to one. A~~ coarse or overly large head is to be penalized. *Expression* - Alert, friendly and intelligent. *Eyes* - Large and dark with ~~good pigmentation~~ fully pigmented eye rims; somewhat oval in shape, showing no white. Haw not visible. ~~The red of the lower eyelid should not show.~~ The eyes are surmounted by long eyebrows, standing forward, but not obscuring the eyes. *Ears* - Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair, folding inward and ending in an oval shape. The leathers reach almost to the end of the nose. They are set on low, below the line of the eyes.

An overly long or high-set ear should be penalized. *Skull* - Slightly domed, oval in shape when viewed from the front above. It is well cut away under the eyes and has a well-developed occipital protuberance. Stop clearly defined. *Muzzle* - The length of the muzzle from nose to stop is slightly shorter than the length from the stop to occiput. The underjaw is strong and well developed. *Nose* - Black and large, with wide nostrils. A somewhat lighter shading is acceptable in lighter colored dogs. A butterfly nose is a fault. *Lips* - The lips are covered by long hair forming a beard and moustache. *Bite* - It is preferable that the teeth meet in a scissors bite, but a level bite is acceptable. Wry or undershot bites are serious faults.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* - The neck is long and strong, without throatiness, and flows smoothly into the shoulders. *Topline* - The back is visibly level from withers to croup. There is a barely perceptible rise over a strong loin. Viewed in profile, the withers and the croup should be equidistant from the ground. Body muscular, ~~somewhat longer than tall~~ back of medium length and compact, ~~casual in appearance~~, with no feature exaggerated and his parts in balance. Chest rather deep, with prominent sternum. Ribs moderately rounded, extending well back. Loin short, strong, and muscular. There is but little tuck-up. *Tail* of medium length, set on high, it is strong at the base and

tapers regularly. It is well furnished with hair, has but a slight curve and is carried proudly like the blade of a saber; normally pointing at about two o'clock. In a curved downward position the tip of the tail bone should reach no further than the hock joint when lowered.

Forequarters: Shoulders clean and well laid back. Upper arm approximately equal in length to the shoulder blade. Elbows close to the body. *Legs* - The length of leg from elbow to ground should be slightly more than half the height from withers to ground. Viewed from the front, it is desirable that the forelegs be straight, but a slight crook is acceptable. In either case, the leg appears straight, is strong and well boned, but never coarse nor weedy. Improperly constructed front assemblies, including poor shoulder placement, short upper arms, out at elbows, lack of angulation and fiddle fronts, are all serious faults. Pasterns strong and slightly sloping. Any tendency to knuckle over is a serious fault. Dewclaws may, or may not, be removed. *Feet* - Not too long, between hare and cat foot, with hard, tight pads. The nails are strong and short.

Hindquarters: Strong and muscular with good bend of stifle. A well-defined second thigh. Hips wide, thighs well muscled. Hocks are short and well angulated, perpendicular from hock to ground. Hocks and Rear Pasterns- Hocks well let down, short, and firm. Rear pasterns

strong, short, and vertical. When viewed from the rear, the hind legs are straight and parallel, turning neither in nor out. Long, weak, loose, cow-hocked, or sickle-hocked rears are faults. Hocks are short and well angulated, perpendicular from hock to ground. Feet are as in front, except that they must point straight ahead.

Coat: The coat is rough, not too long and without exaggeration, and harsh to the touch, with a thick shorter undercoat. It is never silky or woolly. ~~The eyes are surmounted by long eyebrows, standing forward but not obscuring the eyes. The ears are covered by long hair. The lips are covered by long hair forming a beard and moustache. The tail is well furnished with hair. The overall appearance is casual and tousled. The rough, unrefined outline and tousled appearance of this rustic hunting hound is essential. Any sculpting, clipping, scissoring or shaping of the coat is contrary to PBGV breed type. The PBGV coat should be clean, neatened as necessary, but always remain casually disarrayed. Any deviation from the ideal described here and in the General Appearance Section of the official standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.~~ For show purposes the coat may be tidied but a natural appearance must be retained. Sculpting, clipping, or scissoring should be penalized.

Color: White with any combination of lemon, orange, black, sable, tricolor or

grizzle markings, providing easy visibility in the field.

Gait: The movement should be free at all speeds. Front action is straight and reaching well forward. Going away, the hind legs are parallel and have great drive. Convergence of the front and rear legs towards his center of gravity is proportional to the speed of his movement. Gives the appearance of an active hound, capable of a full day's hunting.

Temperament: Confident, happy, extroverted, independent yet willing to please, never timid nor aggressive.

Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Structural faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the PBGV as in any other breed, regardless of whether they are specifically mentioned.

Disqualification: Height over 15 inches is a disqualification. Height under 13 inches is a disqualification at one year of age or older.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 3, SECTION 12

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the June 9, 2026 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 3 DOG SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS SECTION 12

Event committees may provide such other classes of recognized breeds or recognized varieties of breeds as they may choose, provided they do not conflict with the conditions of the above-mentioned classes, and are judged before Best of Breed competition, and castration or spaying is not a condition of the class. Such additional classes shall be divided by sex.

No class may be given in which more than one breed or recognized variety of breed may be entered, except as provided in these rules and regulations.

No class may be given for which castration or spaying is a condition of class.

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

Mrs. Jeanne Bertsch (117473) WA

(206) 295-8664
dbertsch51@comcast.net
Boston Terriers

Ms. Christiana (Chris) Gaburri (112608) PA

(412) 559-9536
k9brusher@gmail.com
Old English Sheepdogs

Mrs. Rebecca T. Lycan (118729) NC

(919) 306-4591
rebeccalycan@gmail.com
German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, English Setters, Weimaraners, English Foxhounds, Salukis, Akitas, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers, Border Terriers, Shih Tzu, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Ms. Kimarie Wolf (116854) OR

(503) 858-4627
kimariewolf@yahoo.com
Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers

Dr. Travis Wright (118645) WI

(202) 210-5124
traviswright@yahoo.com
Dachshunds, JS - Limited

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Larry C. Abbott (20217) TX

(972) 740-4881

larry@abbottusa.com

Afghan Hounds, American English Coonhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Basset Hounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Maria Arechaederra (110565) CA

(949) 981-7646

ederrakuv@aol.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Cane Corso, Chinooks, Giant Schnauzers, Leonbergers, Standard Schnauzers

Mrs. Terrie Breen (65930) CT

(860) 539-6222

brenta@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Japanese Chin, Miniature Pinschers, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Yorkshire Terriers)

Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO

(303) 883-1610

ckathy219@gmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Canaan Dogs, Collies, German Shepherd Dogs)

Mr. Cesar Cortes (110553) NY

(917) 635-7128

cecordog@hotmail.com

Biewer Terriers, Chinese Cresteds, Japa-

nese Chin, Manchester Terriers, Poodles, Pugs, Yorkshire Terriers

Mrs. Dawn Cox (97685) PA

dawncox215@gmail.com

Komondorok, Samoyeds

Mrs. Cathy H. Daugherty (6219) AR

(203) 565-5496

bisgringo1@yahoo.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracchi Italiani, Golden Retrievers)

Mrs. Sara Dellorto (117193) FL

(863) 816-2080

sardione@aol.com

Dogo Argentinos, Great Pyrenees, Rottweilers, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Tibetan Terriers

Mrs. Terry Dennison (47424) AK

(907) 775-2913

katagnik@yahoo.com

Boxers, Great Pyrenees, Newfoundlands

Mr. John Dewing (114115) WA

(206) 371-9742

john_dewing@hotmail.com

Chinooks, Great Pyrenees, Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs, Saint Bernards, Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Edy Dykstra-Blum (20342) FL

(352) 208-6502

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Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chin, Russian Toys

**Mrs. Katherine Halton Berns (115217)
TN**

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Kerry Blue Terriers, Chow Chows, Australian Cattle Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Lancashire Heelers, Mudik, Pulik, Pumik

Mr. Steven Herman (6305) FL

(813) 435-8558
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Schipperkes

Mr. Ryan Lee Horvath (50283) CA

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Balance of Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, English Foxhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds)

Dr. M. Patricia Joyce (101483) GA

(770) 596-8665
patjoyce1@att.net
American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Xoloitzcuintlin

Mr. Dominic Koon (115351) GA

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dominic.koon@gmail.com
Bichons Frises, Chow Chows, Lhasa Apsos, Poodles

Mrs. Jodi Koon (115353) GA

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Bichons Frises, Chow Chows, Lhasa Apsos, Poodles

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Boxers, Doberman Pinschers

Ms. Tracey Luty (105151) CO

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Basenjis, Greyhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets

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Barbets, Pointers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Field Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Schipperkes

Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX

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Doberman Pinschers, Irish Terriers, Boston Terriers

Mr. Dale A. Meyer (6655) WI

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American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Redbone Coonhounds, Salukis

Mrs. Rebecca Myers (113529) FL

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Boxers, Great Danes, Australian Shepherds, German Shepherd Dogs

Mrs. Barbara Pessina (7372) NY

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Bernese Mountain Dogs, Great Danes, Komondorok, Leonbergers, Newfoundlands, Saint Bernards, Samoyeds

Diane L. Price (18148) AL

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kingsfieldkennels@yahoo.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pomeranians, Schipperkes

Mr. Stephen Regan (22219) NJ

(732) 814-8741

sregan@lesterglenn.com

Boston Terriers

Dr. Valeria Rickard (92450) VA

(703) 919-8753

vrickard@jovalairedales.com

Akitas, Black Russian Terriers, Bullmastiffs, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Dogues de Bordeaux, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Saint Bernards, Tibetan Mastiffs

Dr. Judi M. Roller (102261) WI

(608) 370-2679

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Beaucerons, Belgian Tervurens

Ms. Anna M. Vaughn (102565) OK

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American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

Mrs. Gwendolyn Wells (111049) NC

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Chihuahuas, Poodles, Pugs, Yorkshire Terriers

Mrs. Lisa Young (43070) AZ

(605) 390-1135

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Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Emelise Baughman (118629) NE

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JS

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JS

Lalaine Policar (113283) CA
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lalainepolicar@yahoo.com
JS – Limited

Mr. Joshua Lance Washnesky (118663) TX
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washneskyj@gmail.com
JS

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a Permit basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. ***They may now accept assignments*** and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Ryan Blanker (99063) MA
(413) 372-3399
ryanblanker1210@gmail.com
Siberian Huskies

Dr. Christine Boutwell Perry MD (118323) KS
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christine.boutwell@icloud.com
Irish Setters, JS-Limited

Ms. Leslee Cavanaugh (118383) VA
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Boston Terriers

Ms. Melissa Renee Hartley (118387) SC
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Weimaraners, JS

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Vicki Allenbrand (91374) KS
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American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Irish Wolfhounds

Mr. Kurt D. Anderson (18749) CT
(203) 640-6460
kurt@kmander.com
Belgian Laekenois, Canaan Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Miniature American Shepherds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pulik

Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter (94107) IL
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American English Coonhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Basset Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Sloughis

Mrs. Janet Bodin (101381) WI
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Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Louise M. Brady (67185) CA

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German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers

Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX

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Bullmastiffs, Giant Schnauzers, Newfoundlanders

Ms. Anna May Fleischli Brown (6300) IL

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Biewer Terriers, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Silky Terriers

Mrs. Diane Collings (94897) CA

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Mr. Justin Dannenbring (46593) MT

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Afghan Hounds, Salukis, Italian Greyhounds

Mr. Mark Darwish (115389) SC

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Alaskan Malamutes, Boerboels, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux, Neapolitan Mastiffs

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American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Otterhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. James M. Fankhauser (18843) MI

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American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Cotons de Tulear, Dalmatians, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintlin

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Lagotti Romagnoli, German Wirehaired Pointers, English Setters, Irish Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels

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Beagles, JS

Ms. Donna Gilbert (58963) CT

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Mrs. Jan Ritchie Gladstone (96299) NC

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Mrs. Carol Lynn Johnson (108277) MI

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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

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rlkramer1@gmail.com
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Cotons de Tulear, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintlin)

Ms. Janina K. Laurin (15650) CT

(203) 545-4837

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Cotons de Tulear, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Poodles, Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers

Mr. John S. Lucas (7444) TX

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Balance of Sporting Group (Bracchi Italiani, Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Wirehaired Vizslas)

Ms. Kathryn Madden (92226) NY

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Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, English Cocker Spaniels

Ms. Kimberly Anne Meredith (5978)

OR

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Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Border Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers

Ms. Mary B. Napper (62737) TX

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Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Lowchen, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers

Mr. Shawn Petersen (116127) NV

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targhee_gsp@hotmail.com

Australian Shepherds, Bouviers des Flandres, Collies, German Shepherd Dogs, JS

Mr. Tim Peterson (92446) SD

(612) 396-3466

wynstonekennels@gmail.com

Dogues de Bordeaux, Great Pyrenees

Mrs. Marilyn Y. Pipes (29634) TX

(214) 208-4898

willmarpp1@gmail.com

Belgian Sheepdogs, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch (106234) WI

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Golden Retrievers, Pomeranians, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. Adrian Quesada (96331) CA

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Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Beagles, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Mr. Michael L. Savage (111869) WA

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Beagles, Harriers, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds



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Great Pyrenees

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Balance of Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, English Foxhounds, Sloughis)

Mr. Gus C. Sinibaldi (103241) NC

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Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

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English Cocker Spaniels, Borzois

Mrs. Cindy J. Valko (110124) PA

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German Pinschers, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Kuvaszok

Ms. Michelle VeuCasovic (17767) OH

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Gordon Setters

Ms. Judy Wade (99715) OK

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Akitas, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos

Ms. Judith White (95513) OH

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American Staffordshire Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Jeanne Bertsch (117473) WA

(206) 295-8664
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JS

Mrs. Marcy Johnson (118351) WA

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JS

Mr. Ronald Morelos (45220) CA

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JS-Limited

Ms. Samantha Peterson (118043) NC

Sam.bullet.13@gmail.com
JS

Miss Artemis Tsagarakis (118157) MA

keonkennels@gmail.com
JS

BEST IN SHOW

The following persons, having successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Mr. Kevin M. Flynn (66204) MA

(781) 378-0293

lcflynn@comcast.net

Mrs. Linda C. Flynn (66205) MA

(781) 378-0293

lcflynn@comcast.net

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE

Ms. M. Sue Richey

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Ralph Del Deo

Dr. May Jacobson

Mrs. Annemarie Moore

Ms. Carol Reisman

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGE

Ms. Patricia M. Mullin

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.

Gail Katz (107964) CA

626-253-0060

smlact@aol.com

Regular Obedience Novice

Gina DeAlmeida (98607) NJ

908-963-9552

gina.dealmeida@gmail.com

Regular Tracking VST

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.

Susan Yonemura (111357) CO

970-988-8197

susan.yonemura@gmail.com

Provisional Tracking TDX

Mary Schacht (106715) WI

262-994-6798

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Provisional Rally

Kelly Winkie (118232) IL

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Provisional Rally

Maria Weber (111228) IL

815-353-3876

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Provisional Rally

Rachel Williams (112518) CA

217-621-2139

rawilli1@gmail.com

Provisional Rally

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

Susan M. King – Obed (CT)
Nancy D. Simmons – Obed & Rally (TX)

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:

D'AWSOME – Biewer Terriers – David H. Graber & Delores Ann Graber

FILUCY BAY – Bernese Mountain Dogs – W. Clark Powell & Margaret Heidal

FLY HIGH – Boykin Spaniels – Aaron Wilkinson

HAYSTAC'S – Old English Sheepdogs – Madeline J. Erickson

HEARTLINE'S – Giant Schnauzers – Danny M. Adams

REOLEG – German Shorthaired Pointers – Blake Daniel

SOLEIL – Norwich Terriers – Janet Christoff

Viz WHIZZ – Vizsla – Pamela J. Shearer

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted

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 – Madelaine A. Poppke



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NY
APRIL 13-14, 2026**

The Board convened on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 8:31 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present in the New York Office: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Dominic Carota, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Ms. Sue Goldberg, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Jason Hoke, Mr. Dan Smyth, and Ms. Sylvia Thomas.

The Executive Secretary and the Chief Financial Officer were also present.

Mr. Robin Stansell joined the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

February Minutes

Copies of the February 6-7, 2026 Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review.

Sheila Goffe presented an amendment to February 2026 minutes to clarify that, in the vote to disapprove the AKC Bylaws Committee's recommendation to amend

Article XIV, Section 1 of the AKC Bylaws (to require a fee to file a complaint at an AKC event), Mr. Tatro voted in opposition to the motion.

Upon a motion by Dr. Davies, and seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the amendment.

Upon a motion by Dr. Davies, and seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the February 2026 Board Meeting minutes as amended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. It was reported out of this session that the Executive Officers were re-elected.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Executive Officers of the American Kennel Club were reelected to the following positions:

President & Chief Executive Officer –
Gina M. DiNardo

Chief Financial Officer – Theodore E.
Phillips

Executive Secretary – Sheila H. Goffe

Board Committee Assignments

Upon the motion of Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Knight, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to affirm the following Board Committee Assignments and other Appointments.

Board Appeals: Mr. Smyth (Chairman),
Mr. Stansell, Ms. Fineburg

Audit: Dr. Garvin (Chairman),
Mr. Stansell, Mr. Carota

Retirement Plans Committee (Pension):
Dr. Garvin (Chairman), Mr. Hoke,
Ms. Thomas

Investment: Dr. Knight (Chairman),
Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara

Compensation: Dr. Davies (Chairman),
Mr. Carota, Dr. Knight

Finance: Dr. Knight (Chairman),
Mr. Carota, Ms. Goldberg

Communications (Ad Hoc Committee):
Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Hoke

The AKC Board Chairman and Vice
Chairman are ex-officio members of all
Board Committees.

Additional Board Appointments

AKC Reunite

Dr. Battaglia
Ms. Fineburg,
Mr. Smyth (Chair)
Ms. Thomas
Ms. Wallin (Vice Chair)

Detection Dog Task Force

Dr. Battaglia (Co-Chair)
Mr. Sweetwood (Co-Chair)
Mr. Stansell
Ms. Wallin

AKC Political Action Committee (PAC)

Dr. Battaglia (April 2026-2028)
Mr. Fugiwara (April 2025-2027)
Ms. LaBerge (April 2026-2028)
Ms. McAteer (April 2025-2027)
Mr. Smyth (April 2025-2027)
Mr. Sweetwood (April 2026-2028)

AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF)

Ms. Fineburg (April 2026-2029)
Dr. Garvin (April 2024-2027)
Mr. Hamblin (April 2025-2028)

AKC Purebred Preservation Bank

Dr. Garvin, Chair (2025-2028)
Mr. Carota (2024-2027)
Mr. Fugiwara (2026-2029)

Chairman's Update

Dr. Davies welcomed returning Board
member Dominic Palleschi Carota and
new Board members Sue Goldberg and
Jason Hoke and provided a general
overview of Board operations.

President's Update

Ms. DiNardo welcomed returning Board
member Dominic Palleschi Carota and
new Board members Sue Goldberg and
Jason Hoke.

She outlined numerous positive devel-
opments in expanding relationships and
agreements with kennel clubs around the
world, including those in Korea, China,
New Zealand, and Australia.

AKC is working with both external (BDO) and internal experts to conduct a comprehensive analysis and implement a strategy to modernize the organization, streamline business and technology processes, and better serve customer needs. Additional details will be provided to the Board and, subsequently, to the Delegates at upcoming meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Legal Update

Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of April 2026.

AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) Q1 2026 Report

Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, AKC CHF President and CEO, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference and presented CHF's Q1 2026 update.

At their March meeting, the CHF Board approved a new Director, Dr. Kris Alpi. The CHF Board also approved the following slate of 2026 Officers for the CHF Board of Directors: Dr. Mary Smith, Chair, Dr. Wayne Jensen, Vice Chair,

Steven Hamblin, Treasurer, Susan Hamil, Secretary.

Financial Status: The AKC Canine Health Foundation closed FY2025 with total assets reaching \$41.82M and a net surplus of \$3.44M, driven by strong investment performance and disciplined expense management.

Delegate Committee Assignments

Upon a motion by Mr. Hoke, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Board Liaisons to the Delegates Committees.

Delegate Committee Board Liaisons

Coordinating Committee: Dr. Knight, Dr. Davies

All-Breed Clubs: Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg

Bylaws: Ms. Goldberg, Ms. Thomas

Canine Health: Dr. Garvin

Companion Events: Mr. Hamblin

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement: Mr. Smyth

Dog Show Rules: Mr. Hoke

Field Trial and Hunting Tests Events: Ms. Fineburg

Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events: Mr. Fugiwara

Parent Clubs: Mr. Stansell, Dr. Battaglia

FINANCE

Preliminary Financial Statements (Unaudited) February 28, 2026

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the interim financial statements for the two months ending February 28, 2026. This period reported Net Operating Income of \$349 thousand after use of ratable investment allocation to the program of \$473 thousand. The two months were marked by reduced registration revenues and positive cost containment as compared to the same period in 2025.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and Vice President, Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services, also participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Upon the motion of Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to adopted the following resolutions.

Resolution Honoring Christopher L. Sweetwood

WHEREAS, Christopher L. Sweetwood first joined the Delegate Body as Delegate from the Trap Falls Kennel Club and was elected to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors on March thirteenth, two thousand and eighteen, serving until March tenth, two thousand and

twenty-six; and

WHEREAS, during his Board tenure, he served as Co-Chairman of the Detection Dog Task Force; and Board Liaison to the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee and the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee; and

WHEREAS, he served as Vice-Chairman of the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee; as a Member of the Board Investment Committee; and as Founder of AKC Reunites Adopt a K-9 Cop Matching Grant program; and

WHEREAS, as an AKC Board Member, he brought to bear the wisdom acquired during his experience in the military and law-enforcement; his lifelong devotion to Field Sports; his time as a Hunt Test Judge and Canine Good Citizen Evaluator/Temperament Tester; and his participation in Conformation, Obedience, Rally, and Therapy Work; and

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the substantial contributions he has made to the organization during his years on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished sportsman, gentleman, and friend.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend to him their most sincere

best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his past and continuing dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

Resolution Honoring Harold “Red” Tatro III

WHEREAS, Harold “Red” Tatro III First joined the Delegate Body as Delegate from the Fort Worth Kennel Club and was elected to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors on March thirteenth, two thousand and eighteen, serving until March tenth, two thousand and twenty-six; and

WHEREAS, during his Board tenure, he served as Chairman of the Board’s Audit Committee; and as a Member of the Board Finance Committee and the Board Approval Process Ad Hoc Committee; and

WHEREAS, he served as Board Liaison to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee; Board Liaison to the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee; and Board Liaison to the Delegate Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Committee; and

WHEREAS, as an AKC Board Member, his long experience as a breeder, owner, handler of Lakeland Terriers and Whip-pets; his terms as President of both of his breeds’ Parent Clubs; his time as a respected multigroup judge; his years handling in AKC Obedience, Rally, and Lure

Coursing; combined with business acumen acquired during his years as a Certified Public Accountant and Chief Financial Officer, made him uniquely qualified to help guide the American Kennel Club during his Board service; and

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the substantial contributions he has made to the organization during his years on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished sportsman, all-around fancier, gentleman, and friend.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend to him their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his past and continuing dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

Resolution Honoring Ann Wallin

WHEREAS, Ann Wallin First joined the Delegate Body as Delegate from the Atlanta Kennel Club and was elected to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors on March thirteenth, two thousand and eighteen, serving until March tenth, two thousand and twenty-six; and

WHEREAS, during her Board tenure, she served as Chairwoman of the Board Retirement Plans Committee and Board

Liaison to the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee; and

WHEREAS, she served as a Member of the Board Finance Committee; Board Investment Committee; Board Pension Committee; Communications Ad Hoc Committee; AKC Detection Dog Task Force; and an AKC Reunite Board Member; and

WHEREAS, as an AKC Board Member, her terms as Delegate, Board Member, and President of Atlanta Kennel Club, and her varied service on the club's show committee; her decades as a breeder-owner-exhibitor of Boxers and Rottweilers in Conformation and Obedience; her extensive Delegate committee work; and the business skills that made her an award-winning entrepreneur in real estate and pharmaceuticals, combined to make her an invaluable member of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the substantial contributions she has made to the organization during her years on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished sports-woman, executive, gentlewoman, and friend.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the Directors of The American Ken-

nel Club extend to her their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his past and continuing dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

Pointer Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The American Pointer Club has submitted proposed revisions to the Pointer standard impacting the following portions of the breed standard: size, proportion, substance; hound characteristics; head; back; and color. ([See Appendix A.](#))

Upon the motion of Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to publish the proposed revisions to the Pointer standard in the May 2026 Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette* for comment.

Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America, Inc. (PBGVCA), has submitted proposed revisions to the breed standard. ([See Appendix B.](#)) The PBGV Standard was approved April 22, 2014.

Upon the motion of Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Stansell, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to publish the proposed revisions to the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen standard in the May 2026 Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette* for comment.

Board Meeting Dates 2026-2027 and Co-Location Options

Staff provided information requested by the Board at the February meeting regarding options for co-locating Board meetings with Delegate meetings for the remainder of 2026 and for future scheduling. The purpose of this request is to explore opportunities to reduce the costs associated with holding eight stand-alone Board meetings in New York City each year.

Upon the motion of Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Stansell, The Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, and Ms. Thomas. Opposed: Mr. Hamblin, Dr. Knight) to hold a September 2026 Board meeting on September 15-16, in Newark New Jersey, in conjunction with the September Delegate meeting.

Parent Club Request to Retire Cutwater (Portuguese Water Dog)

The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America has requested the retirement of the kennel name “Cutwater” on behalf of the owners. Staff recommends that the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, request to retire “Cutwater” be granted.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Parent Club Request to Retire Damasyn (Doberman Pinscher)

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America has requested the retirement of the kennel name “Damasyn” on behalf of the owners. Staff recommends that the Doberman Pinscher Club of America, request to retire “Damasyn” be granted.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service – Old Danish Pointer

Staff reported that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS®) Committee has approved a petition for the Old Danish Pointer to be accepted into the FSS® Program. The breed is recognized by FCI countries, in Group 7 – Pointing Dogs.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service – Saarloos Wolfhound

Staff reported that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS®) Committee has approved a petition for the Saarloos Wolfhound to be accepted into the FSS® Program. The breed is recognized by FCI countries, in Group 1 – Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service – Silken Windhound

Staff reported that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS®) Committee has approved a petition for the Silken Windhound to be accepted into the FSS® Program. The breed is recognized by several FCI countries.

Citizen Science Task Force

Clarifications

The Citizen Science Task Force submitted a memo clarifying their recommendations regarding an introductory period for new breeds and recognition of new breeds, which were discussed at the February 2026 Board meeting. The Task Force believes that the Board may have misunderstood two of the Task Force's recommendations.

The Board discussed ways to improve the recognition process to help foster future success for new breeds.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to discuss the matter further at the May Board meeting.

Board Appeals Committee

The Board Appeals Committee presented an update on recent matters before the committee.

Companion & Performance

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events, Lisa Liggins, Administrative Director, Obedience, Rally, and Tracking, and Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Parent Club Request for Three-Quarter Jump Height in Obedience – Norfolk Terrier

The Norfolk Terrier Club has submit-

ted a request to have the regular jump height requirement in Obedience lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers. The club submitted extensive documentation in support of the request, which was reviewed by staff. The Staff is in support of the request.

This change would require an amendment to the *Obedience Regulations* and may be approved by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change would become effective June 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Redefine the meaning of “Fast” in the Obedience Regulations

The Companion Events Committee has requested redefinition of the “Fast” in the *Obedience Regulations*. The committee noted that many handlers, due to physical limitations and safety concerns, are not able to run.

Staff recommends that the words “must run” be removed from the current statement and replaced with “Fast”, which means that the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. ([See Appendix C.](#))

This change would require an amendment to the *Obedience Regulations* and may be approved by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change would become effective June 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Retriever Hunting Tests – New National Retriever Gun Dog Championship

The Board considered a proposal to allow the newly-formed AKC-licensed, National Retriever Gun Dog Championship Club, Inc. to host an annual national event within the AKC Retriever Hunting Test program called the National Retriever Gun Dog Championship. ([See Appendix D.](#))

These are changes made to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, these changes will become effective June 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Guy Fisher, Director, Club Development; and Mark Desrosiers, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Bred By Exhibitor Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Section 8

The Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (“DSRC”) has made a recommendation 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.

Due to current limitations associated with IT programming for new projects and collected data that indicates that this would not increase participation significantly; staff recommended that the Board not approve the DSRC’s proposal at this time.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hoke, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the recommendation of staff to not approve further division of the Bred-By-Exhibitor class at this time.

Alterations To Dogs – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11, Section 8 & 8-D

Chapter 11 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* addresses eligibility of entries at Conformation dog shows. **Sections 8 and 8-D** address matters such as castration, spaying, blindness, deafness, change of appearance, not having two normally descended testicles. The Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee proposed amendments to the rules to:

1. Insert “Conformation” where applicable in-front of “show” to clarify that

any impact on eligibility resulting from a disqualification for these conditions was specific to Conformation.

2. Remove all text related to cropping, docking, removal of dewclaws, and change of appearance from **Chapter 11, Section 8** and relocate into **Chapter 11, Section 8-D**.
3. Reformat and reorganize sections for greater clarity including the insertion of bulleted text.
4. Replace he with he/she to make gender neutral.
5. Inserts definition of blind (without useful vision) as found in *The Obedience Regulations*.

([See Appendix E.](#))

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Hoke, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the modifications to Chapter 11, Sections 8 and 8-D of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*.

The proposed modifications to **Chapter 11, Sections 8 and 8-D** will be read at the June 2026 Delegate meeting and voted at the September 2026 Delegate meeting. These proposals will be presented as a single vote. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be October 1, 2026.

International Dog Shows

The Federation Canófila Mexicana (“FCM”) has inquired about holding

AKC 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 Regulations currently do not allow for specialty shows and would require modification to permit them, staff presented FCM’s request to the Board at its February 2026 meeting, and provided a series of proposed amendments to the *Regulations for American Kennel Club International Dog Shows* to allow FCM to offer independent, single-breed specialty shows alongside its licensed all-breed events. ([See Appendix F.](#))

Upon a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedures and advance the measure immediately.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed amendments and allow FCM to offer AKC licensed independent, single-breed specialty shows alongside its AKC licensed All-Breed events.

The effective date is immediate.

Adding a NOHS Regional in Alaska

The Board considered a recommendation to add a NOHS Regional show in Alaska for the 2026-2027 period. The show would be hosted by Cook Inlet Kennel

Club on July 31, 2027, in Palmer, Alaska.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Ms. Goldberg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to waive standard procedures and advance the measure immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to add a NOHS regional show in Alaska.

NOHS Regional 2026- 2027 Host Clubs

The following clubs have been selected to host the 2026-2027 NOHS Regional shows:

The 2026 – 2027 Regional Host Clubs are:

Cornhusker Kennel Club	NE	10/2/2026
Skokie Valley Kennel Club	IL	11/20/2026
Corpus Christi Kennel Club	TX	1/16/2027
Birmingham Kennel Club	AL	4/9/2027
Los Encino's Kennel Club	CA	5/28/2027
Plainfield Kennel Club	NJ	5/29/2027
Clackamas Kennel Club	OR	6/26/2027
South Shore Kennel Club	MA	9/17/2027

Scheduling Conformation Events

At the request of the Board, staff provided a review of the *Scheduling Best Practices*, proposed enhancements to it, and further options for consideration that will require additional actions to pursue.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Administrative Access for Cluster Coordinators

At the January 2026 Board meeting, the staff was directed to pursue allowing access to cluster coordinators to complete process and/or administrative tasks that are currently required of each individual show chair in a cluster. Staff updated the Board on the background of the rules, policies, and procedures that outline who is permitted to complete administrative tasks for a club and its events, and options to permit a cluster coordinator to perform some or all tasks.

Staff will continue to explore options for streamlining AKC events when increased technology programming bandwidth becomes available.

Fines & Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

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.

Judging Applications and Pending Discipline Policy

The *Judging Applications and Pending Discipline Policy* states that when a judging applicant has been notified of an investigation or charged with alleged misconduct, the application is held pending resolution of the disciplinary matter. Staff provided a recommendation to amend the policy to clarify that applications held under this policy will be returned if the final resolution results in a suspension affecting judging privileges.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Approval of Newly Recognized Breeds

At the January 2026 Board meeting, staff was directed to study ways to improve efficiency with which judges may get approved for newly recognized breeds. Staff provided the Board with an overview of the current Board policy, options to modify, and a recommendation to amend the *Adjunct Application Process* by extending the period in which an adjunct breed is added to an application for the balance of the group to one year after the date of full recognition.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Use of Table and Ramp in Junior Showmanship Classes

Staff provided the Board with an overview

of the Judging Operations Department's direction concerning the use of the table and ramp in Junior Showmanship classes.

Pilot Program for Federation Canófila de Puerto Rico Judges

The Board considered a request by the Federation Canófila de Puerto Rico ("FCPR") to institute a pilot program to transition FCPR judges to AKC approved judges.

Conformation Judging Statistics

Judging Operations staff provided the Board with statistics related to Conformation judging applications considered by the Department for the preceding three months.

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services; Keva Allen, Director of DNA Operations; and Jill Zapadinsky, Sr. Director of Customer Service joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

AKC Purebred Preservation Bank Update

The AKC Purebred Preservation Bank (AKC PPB), provided an update including a brief review of PPB's history, structure, financial status, activities, and future plans.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, and seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the AKC Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the

appointment of the following individuals to the Board of Directors of the AKC PPB, for three-year terms in the Class of 2029:

- a. Eduardo Fugiwara as AKC Board Director
- b. Vanessa Skou as AKC Staff Director
- c. Dr. Jerold Bell as Community Director

Cloned Dogs

A recent inquiry has highlighted the need for additional clarity regarding the Board Policy on cloned dogs – specifically the phrase “under certain circumstances a cloned dog may obtain a Purebred Alternate Listing (PAL) enrollment.” The Board discussed implications for consideration of cloned dogs as part of the PAL program. Staff recommended a clarification that cloned dogs are eligible to be listed as PAL dogs provided they otherwise meet all the requirements of the PAL program, including spaying/neutering. Further, cloned dogs that are enrolled in the PAL program are eligible to participate in any event that a dog with a PAL listing can participate. This is a Board Policy and may be modified by a vote of the Board.

The Board agreed to reconvene an ad hoc committee of experts to update its scientific knowledge on the matter.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

CLUBS

Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, joined this portion of the meeting. Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Newly Accredited and Dissolved Local Specialty Clubs – 2021 through 2025

In response to discussion at the February Board meeting, Staff provided the Board with a report on new specialty clubs and those that dissolved in the past 5 years (2021-2025) and an analysis of recent specialty club gains and losses by breed group. Highlights include:

- 104 new local specialty clubs were accredited and 23 local specialty clubs dissolved.
- The 104 new local specialty clubs accredited represent 57 breeds and are spread across 29 states.
- The 23 clubs that dissolved represented 17 breeds and were spread across 16 states.
- The breed with the largest number of new specialty clubs accredited is the Beagle (18 clubs), most of which are field trial clubs.
- The breed with the largest number of new specialty clubs holding Conformation events is the Cane Corso (7 clubs).

**Report on Member Club Bylaws
Approved in February and March**

Asheville Kennel Club, Buncombe
County (1937)

Greater Hickory Kennel Club, Catawba
County, NC (2003)

Hendersonville Kennel Club, Henderson-
ville, NC (2016)

Menson Kennel Club, Santa Rosa, CA
(1973)

Yakima Valley County Kennel Club, Yaki-
ma County, WA (1956)

**Report On Newly Licensed Clubs
Approved in February and March**

Carolina Finnish Lapphund Club, greater
Charlotte, NC (including NC communities
east to Interstate 40, west to Interstate 26
and no further south than Spartanburg,
SC), 23 total households, 13 local.

Emerald Coast Retriever Club, greater
Vernon, FL (including communities north-
east to Cottonwood, AL and southwest to
Santa Rosa Beach in proximity to Interstate
331 and Interstate 231), 23 total households,
12 local.

Heartland Russian Toy Club of Wiscon-
sin, greater Milwaukee, WI (including
communities north to West Bend, south
to WI/IL state line, west to Route 73), 23
total households, 13 local.

North Florida Doberman Pinscher Club,
greater Tallahassee, FL (including com-
munities north to GA/AL state lines,
south to Panama City, east to Lake City
and west to Pensacola), 21 total house-
holds, 15 local.

Portuguese Water Dog Club of the Car-
olinas, state of North Carolina, 58 total
households, 39 local.

COMPLIANCE

Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel –
Litigation, participated in this portion
of the meeting. Bri Tesarz, Director of
Compliance, and Jessica Lopez, Compli-
ance Manager, participated in this portion
of the meeting via video conference.

**Bylaws/Discipline Study Committee
Report**

At the Board's May 2025 meeting, the
Board appointed a committee to examine
ways to make the AKC discipline process
easier to understand and make recommen-
dations for bylaw changes ("The Bylaws/
Discipline Study Committee"). The By-
laws/Discipline Study Committee has
been reviewing numerous documents that
pertain to AKC's disciplinary process, in-
cluding *AKC Charter and Bylaws*, *Dealing
with Misconduct at American Kennel Club
Events* booklet, AKC Discipline Guide-
lines, *Personal Conduct Policy*, *Judicial or
Administrative Determination of Inappropri-
ate Treatment Policy*, and Trial Board and

Appeal Trial Board Procedures pamphlet in order to simplify and modernize the AKC disciplinary requirements and processes.

The Board discussed committee recommended changes to AKC's *Personal Conduct Policy* and the AKC Discipline Guidelines based on their discussions. The Board will discuss this further at the May Board meeting.

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 as of March 17, 2026

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of March 17, 2026.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

CONSENT

The Board VOTED to remove the following item from the Consent agenda and to have it brought back for further discussion at the May Board meeting.

Foundation Stock Services Guidelines – AKC Citizen Science Task Force Suggestions

The Citizen Science Task Force submitted suggested changes to the Foundations Stock Service Guidelines. Staff has 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 interest, 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. The Board asked for more information from staff. Upon a motion by Mr. Smyth and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the board VOTED (unanimously) to discuss this further at the May Board meeting.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Consent agenda items listed to follow.

Dual Pointed Obstacle in FAST Classes

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to change to the Agility Regulations to allow a second dual pointed obstacle to be utilized in the FAST class. Specifically, it allows as an option, the ability for designers to use a second, dual pointed obstacle in the FAST class.

These changes will become effective June 1, 2026.

Two Novice and Open Trials on the Same Day

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to amend the *Agility Regu-*

lations to allow all AKC licensed Agility clubs to hold two trials on the same day on the same trial site. Each trial will have a separate event number and recording fees will be collected for each trial. Only Novice and Open (standard, JWW), T2B and FAST classes may be offered or a combination thereof. A limit of 350 runs per judge per day is permitted.

These changes are effective June 1, 2026.

Moving Entries Laterally

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to amend the *Agility Regulations* to allow the move of entries 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 *Agility Regulations*.

This change is effective June 1, 2026.

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.

The Board VOTED to approve the modification of acceptable options to judges who elect to appeal a decision by the Board to impose discipline affecting judging privileges, including video conference or written appeal, with an in-person appeal only available if the applicant cannot meet

via video conference.

This is effective April 22, 2026.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

The Board VOTED to approve the request from the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America to 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.

The effective date will be August 5, 2026, to provide sufficient notice to superintendents to ensure inclusion in all premium lists.

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.

The Board VOTED to approve an amendment to 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.

This is effective April 29, 2026.

Saluki Club of America Request to Revise the 2002 SPDBS Open Registry

The Board VOTED to approve the request from/of 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.

Delegate Approvals

Martha H. Goings

To represent Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: January, February 2026

Gregory Hastings

To represent Cheyenne Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: January, February 2026

Dr. Michelle R. Rowland

To represent Illinois Valley Kennel Club of Peoria

Published in *AKC Gazette*: February, March 2026

Lee Sohl

To represent First Company Governor's Foot Guard Athletic Association

Published in *AKC Gazette*: January, February 2026



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Sally N. Wynn

To represent Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Club of America

Published in *AKC Gazette*: January,
February 2026

Michael F. Zywicki

To represent American Cesky Terrier
Fanciers Association

Published in *AKC Gazette*: January,
February 2026

Re-Appointment of AKC PAC

Board Members

In April 2026, the two-year terms of four members of the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) Board of Directors (Ms. Gail LaBerge, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Dr. Carmen Battaglia, and Mr. Robert (Bob) Rynkiewicz) expire.

AKC Board approval is required for all AKC PAC Board appointments.

The AKC Board reappointed Dr. Battaglia, Ms. LaBerge, Mr. Sweetwood and Mr. Rynkiewicz for new, two-year terms on the AKC PAC Board.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



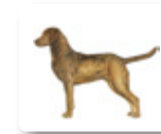
Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



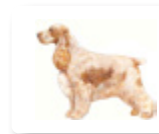
Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



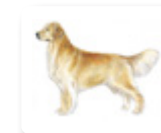
Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English Coonhound



American Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



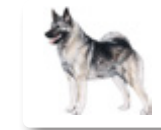
Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno



Redbone Coonhound



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



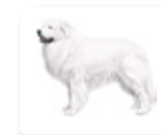
German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



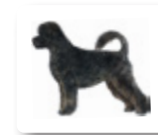
Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



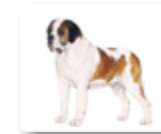
Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



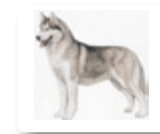
Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



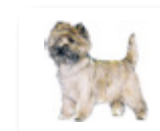
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester Terrier (Toy)



Miniature Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



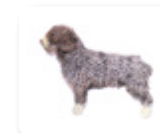
Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>