



gazette

OCTOBER 2025

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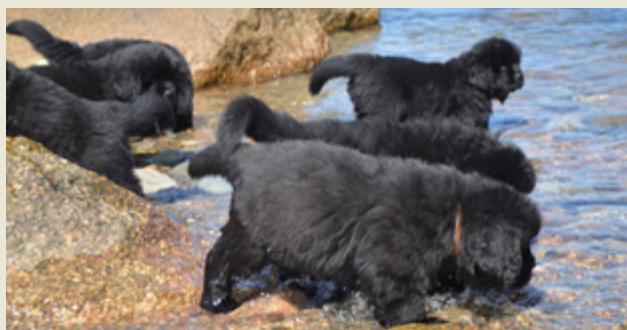
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English Setters
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Cumber Spaniels
Cocker Spaniels
English Cocker Spaniels
English Springer Spaniels
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Irish Water Spaniels
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Spinoni Italiani
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Working

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



FROM OUT OF THE MOUTH OF DOGS THE MOST UNDERTREATED CANINE HEALTH PROBLEM

If your dog's bad breath knocked you off your feet, you may have been prompted to look inside his mouth. Bloody spots in your dog's food bowl or on his chew toys may have sent you on an explorative journey into his mouth to find the problem.

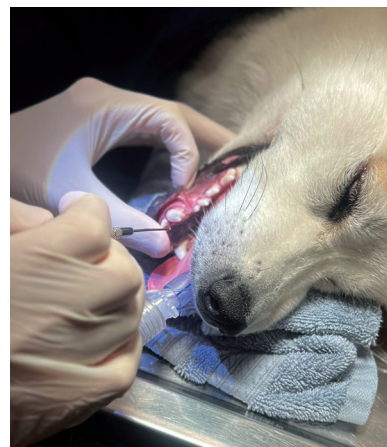
If you discovered swollen, bleeding gums, a sign of gingivitis, you witnessed firsthand periodontal disease. On closer inspection, you may have seen yellow to brown tartar on your dog's teeth, an indicator that plaque, the clear biofilm on the tooth's surface, has hardened on the teeth, another sign of periodontal disease.

"More than 80 percent of dogs over 3 years of age have dental disease affecting the teeth, gums and structures that support their teeth," says Christopher Smithson, DVM, DAVDC, who practices at The Pet Dentist at Tampa Bay in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

"Few dogs show signs of dental disease; thus, it progresses uninhibitedly making it the most undertreated canine health condition," Dr. Smithson says.

Periodontal disease begins when plaque hardens into tartar below the gum line causing inflammation in the tissues that support the teeth and jawbone. One of the most common clinical conditions in dogs, periodontal disease may progress to a harmful systemic bacterial infection.

"After 72 hours, plaque that is not removed from the tooth surface begins to harden into tartar, or calculus, that is not easily removed by brushing or using other dental products," Dr. Smithson explains.



A dental cleaning under general anesthesia allows for a thorough oral examination including under the gum line. Above, photos taken before and after periodontal treatment show the results when plaque is removed during a cleaning.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. CHRISTOPHER SMITHSON/THE PET DENTIST AT TAMPA BAY

The good news is that veterinary dentistry for dogs has come of age.

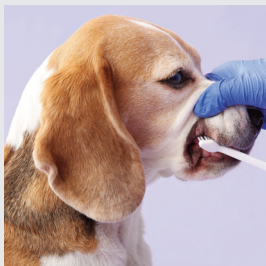
"There has been a shift from recommending extractions when periodontal disease becomes advanced to a preventive approach that starts with periodontal cleanings at a younger age," Dr. Smithson says. "Dental cleanings and treatments have become a staple of veterinary care."

DENTAL CARE BASICS

At-home dental care is essentially a 72-hour race to beat plaque from turning into tartar.

"Brushing the teeth with a veterinary approved toothpaste and a soft-bristled toothbrush is the best way to prevent plaque and tartar formation on the teeth and from eventual periodontal disease," Dr. Smithson says.

"Ideally, tooth brushing should be performed daily, though every other day can also be effective," he says.



"Anything less than every other day is not effective."

Training dogs to accept tooth brushing should start early.

"Dogs should receive dental home care as early as possible after the permanent teeth erupt, usually between 4 and 6 months of age," Dr. Smithson advises. "Beginning earlier when puppies have their deciduous 'puppy' teeth can help train them to allow brushing."

"Dental care performed at home combined with regular periodontal treatments can help slow the progression of periodontal disease and tooth loss over time."

BENEFIT-BASED DENTAL TREATS AND DIETS FOR DOGS

Proactive dental care for dogs may include food, treats and chews developed to help battle dental disease.

"I recommend selecting chew toys that can bend and are soft enough that you can imprint your thumbnail," Dr. Smithson says. "Hard plastic toys and chews are typically too hard for their teeth and puts pets at high risk for fractures."

Dog owners should look for dental products that have the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) Seal of Approval indicating they meet the standards of effectiveness in dental plaque control approved in partnership with the American Veterinary Dental College.



Purina offers a dental dry dog food and chew and oral treats that have the VOHC Seal of Approval endorsing their effectiveness at controlling dental plaque.

The American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC), which certifies veterinary dental specialists, is celebrating its 30-year anniversary in 2025 since gaining full recognition by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). In 2020, AVMA began requiring veterinary schools to include dentistry in their curricula.

"An increased awareness about oral health in dogs along with more education and training for veterinarians has helped primary doctors to begin oral health education during new puppy exams and throughout their patients' lives," says Dr. Smithson, one of about 230 board-certified veterinary dental specialists across the U.S.

"In addition, pet health plans offered by larger corporations that include dental cleanings have become a tool for prevention and early detection of oral diseases," he says. "Many pet owners are now also enrolling in pet insurance plans that allow for the treatment of oral disease."

The AVDC recommends professional dental cleanings with radiographs under general anesthesia for small-breed dogs as early as 1 year of age and then every six to 12 months and for large breeds starting at 3 years of age followed by every 12 to 24 months based on the findings at a dog's annual physical exam.

"These are general guidelines," Dr. Smithson says. "A patient should be treated on an individual basis. A dog's dental health can be impacted by genetics, nutrition and environment. Even a dog's breed, age and bloodline can contribute."

An abundance of canine dental products on the market reflects the attention focused on dental health.

"More and more people are choosing treats for their dogs that offer functional benefits, such as preventive dental care," says Purina Senior Veterinarian RuthAnn Lobos, DVM, CCRT, CVAT. "Dental is the top benefit owners seek in value-added treats."

"Dental chews, treats and diets are very effective at preventing plaque and tartar formation on the teeth, though they are not as effective as daily tooth brushing," Dr. Smithson says.

Beyond bad breath, gingivitis, tooth loss and agonizing pain, periodontal disease carries the danger of dental plaque bacteria spreading to the bloodstream.

"Periodontal disease is a known risk factor for heart disease, liver disease and kidney disease in dogs," Dr. Smithson says. "In people, periodontal disease can even contribute to diabetes. There is evidence that the same is true in dogs."

Dog breeders especially have reason not to skip dental health care.

"The current research in human medicine suggests that poor periodontal health in women contributes to lower birth weight, preterm labor and increased neonatal mortality," Dr. Smithson says. "While there is not a large data set to suggest this in dogs, we highly recommend keeping dams in good oral health and overall health before, during and after gestation."

Dental disease in dogs includes inherited conditions. In his dental practice, Dr. Smithson commonly treats these genetic disorders:

- Persistent, or retained, deciduous ("baby") teeth in toy breeds
 - Malocclusion, or misaligned teeth, causing mandibular prognathism (an underbite) or mandibular distocclusion (an overbite)
 - Malocclusion in brachycephalic breeds, causing crowding of teeth or impacted mandibular first premolar teeth with painful fluid-filled odontogenic cysts
 - Mesioverted maxillary canine teeth ("Lance" canines) in Shetland Sheepdogs, resulting in the upper canine teeth angling further forward than normal
- "Affected dogs and breeding pairs that produce malocclusion should not be bred," Dr. Smithson says. "In Shelties, there has been success selecting against Lance canines."

Despite the complex cases he sometimes treats, the veterinary specialty dentist finds his work gratifying.

"I love getting feedback from owners about how much better their dogs feel after their procedures. That never gets old," Dr. Smithson says. ■

ANC: The First 25 Years

This December, the American Kennel Club proudly celebrates a milestone: the 25th anniversary of the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. Entries are now open for this world-class event, which returns to Orlando's Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) North/South Concourse on December 13 and 14.

Entries are also open for the AKC/Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes, taking place Friday, December 12, as well as the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, happening December 13 and 14 at the OCCC. Complete premium lists and event updates can be found by visiting the Championship event page.

The AKC National

Championship remains one of the premier dog events in the world. It is the largest dog show in the United States and the only conformation show hosted by the American Kennel Club—annually crowning America's National Champion. Surrounding the Championship are many spectacular events: the AKC Agility Invitational, the AKC Obedience Classic, the AKC RACH Invitational, Junior Handler competitions in Conformation, Agility, Obedience, and Rally, as well as exciting diving-dog attractions. Earlier in the week, the OCCC will also host specialties, group shows, and the Space Coast KC of Palm Bay, Brevard KC, and Central Florida KC shows.

If you cannot attend, you can catch all of the action on AKC.tv for full event coverage. Available 24/7



on the web and the AKC.tv app, the channel brings the excitement straight to your living room and is accessible on most streaming platforms.

In addition to celebrating our flagship event, I would like to draw your attention to two important opportunities to recognize and support excellence within our community.

First, nominations are open for the inaugural AKC President's Sportsman Award. This honor will be presented annually to an adult and a junior who embody the very best of our sport—integrity, sportsmanship, and respect for others. The winners will be awarded at the National

AKC PHOTO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Championship in Orlando. If you know someone deserving of this honor, please take a moment to submit your nomination and help us highlight those whose character uplifts us all, here. Nominations close November 1.

Second, October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Statistics show that one in three domestic violence victims will not leave their abuser for fear that their pet will be harmed. No one should ever have to choose between their own safety and the well-being of a beloved companion. The AKC Humane Fund's grant program provides funding to domestic violence shelters so they can accept pets and keep families—both two- and four-legged—together during times of crisis. I encourage you to learn more and consider supporting this essential initiative by visiting www.akchumanefund.org.

Finally, AKC Meet the Breeds is returning to New



York City's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on February 7 and 8, 2026. This flagship public outreach event provides an unparalleled opportunity to showcase your breeds, educate thousands of attendees, and connect with the next generation of dog lovers. Sign-ups are well underway, and we encourage clubs to sign up to make sure your breed is represented. Your presence makes a difference in how everyone learns about our treasured breeds, and I hope you'll join us in creating a welcoming, inspiring experience for all who attend. Should you need the sign-up information, please write to meetthebreeds@akc.org.

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2025, I am reminded of the strength and vitality of our community. From celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our National Championship, to recognizing those who exemplify true sportsmanship, to standing with families in need, the American Kennel Club continues to honor its legacy while embracing its responsibility to lead. I am grateful for your continued contributions to dogs, to our sport, and to the people whose lives are enriched by them.

Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club

COURTESY HOTDOG PHOTO



Do you know a dog sports participant who goes above and beyond in exhibiting the core values of AKC's Code of Sportsmanship and Civility?

Nominate them for the AKC President's Sportsman Award. Nominations are open now through November 1st, 2025. Fill out the nomination form [**HERE**](#) or contact [**communications@akc.org**](mailto:communications@akc.org) for the application.

The American Kennel Club will also present the President's Sportsman Award to a Junior who exemplifies the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility across any AKC sport or event.

You can nominate a recipient [**HERE**](#).

An independent selection committee will choose one Junior recipient, who will be honored at the AKC National Championship this December in Orlando, Florida.

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

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Montgomery County
KC, 1990: Best Veteran
Ch. Braeburn's Close
Encounter with Elaine
Rigden, George Ward,
and Terry Stacy (Ashbey
photo);
Morris & Essex, 1951
(Shafer photo)

As Good *as It Gets*

Once every five years, two of our sport's all-time legacy events are held within days of each other.

On October 1, the [Morris & Essex KC](#) show will rise again at the hallowed grounds of Giralda Farms in Madison, New Jersey, home of a million cherished memories.

And then, 1,416 of the nation's top

terriers will gather at Macungie, Pennsylvania, on October 5 to strut and spar their way to glory at [Montgomery County KC](#).

In homage to both these magical events that somehow exist in the past and present at the same time, we have created for this issue several special pages. We hope you enjoy them. For veteran dog people,

and for those of us fortunate enough to cover their exploits in the AKC GAZETTE, this October is as good as it gets.

On Our Cover
Rhodesian
Ridgeback, Alton
Anderson photo



COVER: AKC ARCHIVES; SHOW PHOTOS: AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION



CHF Parent Club Conference

Strong turnout for “Healthy, Vibrant Dogs”

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA —The [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) held its 15th biennial National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, August 7 to 9, at the Washington Duke Inn. The conference was sponsored by Purina.

Hundreds of canine-health researchers, breeders, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary students, and dog lovers gathered under the banner “Science for Healthy, Vibrant Dogs.”

Attendance at this year’s event was among the highest in conference history, reflecting steady growth over the years and underscoring

its reputation as a premier gathering for leaders and advocates invested in the health of dogs. Attending were nearly 50 veterinary students and residents, representing more than 20 universities.

“It is extraordinary to have so many dog enthusiasts—breeders, veterinarians, researchers—come together to explore the latest in canine health and learn from one another,” CHF Chief Executive Officer Dr. Stephanie Montgomery said. “Engaging with this community, which is driving progress for dogs, reinforces the power of our mission in action.”

Dr. Jason Stull, of the

University of Prince Edward Island, received the Asa Mays Excellence in Canine Health Research Award. The award honors investigators who have significantly advanced knowledge, improved practices, and driven progress in canine-health research.

In accepting the award Stull said, “It is a tremendous honor to receive this recognition from the AKC Canine Health Foundation and my colleagues. The Foundation has been instrumental in my success as a researcher in working toward improvements in canine health.”

AKC.tv Viewer’s Guide

Enjoy livestreamed coverage of this month’s featured shows at [AKC.tv](#).

Morris & Essex KC

October 1, 3:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. ET

Montgomery County KC

October 5, 3:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. ET

UPDATES

Howl-O-Ween at Museum

NEW YORK CITY—The AKC Museum of the Dog's *Bark After Dark* is an after-hours meet-up where art, dogs, and community come together for a lively, themed evening, with music, special activities, and playful surprises designed for people and their dogs—all set against the backdrop of the museum's one-of-a-kind collection.

On October 24, the museum will hold a special edition of *Bark After Dark*: a family-friendly “Howl-O-Ween” event for little ghouls and goblins of all ages.

[Tickets/Information](#)



AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION



HOME LIFE

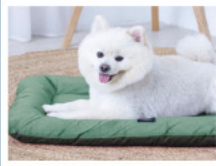
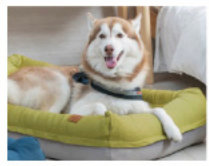
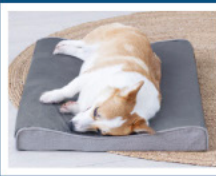
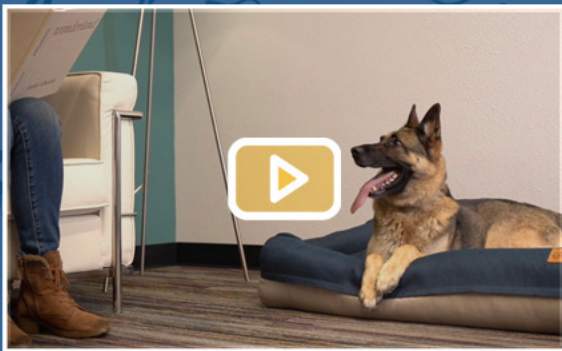
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UPDATES



AKC Accepts Pedigrees from Nigerian Registry

The AKC Foreign Registration program will now accept pedigrees from the [Canine Owners and Breeders Association \(COBA\) of Nigeria](#). Dogs born in Nigeria will be eligible to participate in AKC events given all other requirements are met, including AKC Foreign Registration.

AKC President/CEO Gina M. DiNardo says, “The American Kennel Club is proud to accept pedigrees from COBA. Collaborating with respected registries around the world strengthens our shared mission and ensures

a bright future for all dogs.”

Founded in 2019, COBA serves as the official registry of all purebred and non-purebred dogs and is the internationally recognized national kennel club of Nigeria. The organization boasts over 5,000 members

AKC Executive Secretary Shiela Goffe, Dr. Oluwafemi Obagbemiro (Rottweiler Breeders Society, Nigeria), Gina DiNardo, and Dr. Olakunle Sowunmi

and licenses dog sports across the country. COBA hosts 10 shows annually, which includes six breed specialty shows, three regional shows, and a national show.

“We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from the American Kennel Club,” Dr. Olakunle Sowunmi, COBA president, says. “This milestone is a proud moment for our entire canine community and reflects our shared commitment to preserving, protecting, and promoting the excellence of purebred dogs worldwide.”

Table-Ramp Reminder

The Basenji has been added to the list of breeds eligible to be judged optionally on the ramp at the discretion of the judge, effective October 1. The [Table-Ramp List](#) has been updated to reflect this information.



TOP: AKC PHOTO; BOTTOM: DAVID WOO ©AKC



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As an add-on to this month's coverage of the Beagle national specialty, we present this photogravure.

The Beagle is the only breed to rank in the top 10 in AKC registrations every decade since the turn of the 20th century. It is also one of only two hound breeds (the Dachshund is the other) to ever crack the top 10 in any decade.

Beagle imports began arriving in America during the years after the Civil War, and their popularity among rabbit hunters was immediate. The AKC registered its first Beagle, named Blunder, in 1885. To this day, beaglers in woodsy areas of North America still swear

by their breed's superb nose, mellifluous voice, and enthusiastic approach to the hunt.

The compact but sturdy Beagle is equally popular among pet owners. The Beagle became the AKC's number-one breed in the 1950s and spent the '60s in the number-two spot. This era coincides with Snoopy's heyday as pop culture's top dog, endearing Beagles to kids and parents.

The Beagle—with its big brown or hazel eyes set off by long, houndy ears set low on a broad head—is loving and lovable, happy, and companionable, all qualities of an excellent family dog. The breed's enduring popularity is remarkable but hardly surprising.



AMANA, IOWA—The [National Beagle Club of America](#) held its national specialty show in August at the Colonies Convention Center. Also featured during the week-long celebration of all things Beagle was a club-sponsored Hunting Performance Test. Barb Scherer judged in the conformation ring.

The intrepid Kathleen Riley visited the Cornhusker State to provide us with a fine set of photos.

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

RINGSIDE

National Beagle Club of America | August 21-27

Photos by *Kathleen Riley*



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

RINGSIDE

National Beagle Club of America | August 21-27

Photos by *Kathleen Riley*



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

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Dr. Robert Berndt judging
Dalmatians at Giralda



Morris & Essex: The Comeback

A generation of innovators gather in 2000 to celebrate a half century of excellence.

In 2000, the Morris & Essex Kennel Club Show resumed after a 43-year hiatus. In the weeks leading up to the event, dog-show old-timers didn't need much prodding to share their memories of Mrs. Dodge, box lunches, and a dog-show landscape without a Herding Group.

The 2000 M&E revival show was a twilight gathering

of the "young guns," the post-World War II generation of breeders, handlers, and judges who popularized and revolutionized the sport during the second half of the 20th century. By the time of the next meet-up at Madison, in 2005, some of them had died, others were retired from the ring. During every five-year interval since, their ranks have thinned further.

We fondly recall those who assembled in New Jersey on a cloudy Thursday to renew something historic, and who have since passed into the history they gathered to celebrate.

This month marks the 25th anniversary of that comeback show. We honor the occasion with the following reprint of the GAZETTE coverage from our November 2000 issue.

ALL PHOTOS CHET JEZIEWSKI ©AKC EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

FEATURE

MADISON, NEW JERSEY—History lives at Giralda Farms. As fanciers gathered at that fabled site on Thursday, October 5, for the first time since 1957, the morning mist was thick with spirits of halcyon days.

A palpable presence was the show's founder, Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, whose boundless passion and open purse made it the platinum event of a golden age. The shades

of long-gone champions frolicked on the manicured lawns, where their greatness was validated so many lifetimes ago. Even the stately white tents loomed like ghosts on the gray horizon, issuing a friendly summons into the past.

And yet nobody leaves a warm bed early on so dank a morning merely to stroll down memory lane. Thousands of fanciers converged on the site expecting

to see many of today's finest dogs, handlers, and judges in a unique showcase event, and show chair Wayne Ferguson and his distinguished committee did not disappoint. When you refer to the excellence of Morris & Essex, you may again do so in the present tense.

AROUND THE RINGS

Breed judging began under a sodden sky that



The once-in-a-generation 2000 judging panel immortalized by GAZETTE photographer Chet Jezierski.

FEATURE



The mighty Mick catches David Merriam's eye in the terrier ring.

would hang over most of the day. Despite the previous night's thunderstorms, the grounds were in excellent condition.

The morning session was a dog lover's delight: 20 rings of continuous, first-rate competition evaluated by an all-star panel of judges. Among the 61 aristocrats of the ring seen judging breeds were Sandra Goose Allen, Nigel Aubrey-Jones, Lou Auslander, Constance Barton, Dr. Josephine Deubler, Jane Forsyth, Jean Fournier, Roger Hartinger, Pat Laurans, Dorothy

MacDonald, and Ron Menaker.

A special favorite of the crowd was the Skye Terrier ring, where Walter F. Goodman judged what he called a "particularly good" entry. Spectators stood three-deep to watch Goodman run his ring with the virtuosity of Toscanini conducting an orchestra.

Of particular charm was the sight of judges and club members sporting vintage hats in honor of the show's genteel heyday. Space precludes a detailed review of the chapeaux on parade, but it should be noted that

Patricia Trotter cut an especially fine figure judging the large Whippet entry from beneath a delightful sample of the milliner's art.

In the grand spirit of the show's founder, elegant trophies were offered to all winners in breed competition, 150 in all.

The luncheon bell rung promptly at noon, and exhibitors had an hour to enjoy the amenities that have made Morris & Essex a name to conjure with since 1927. Many sat



Ring legend Jane Forsyth cuts a stylish figure in the Boxer ring.

FEATURE

ringside with their complimentary box lunches, swapping war stories as the sound of a string trio playing Mozart rose above the elegant clatter of crystal and fine china in the judges' dining tent.

BIG BLUE

The afternoon session proceeded smoothly, if deliberately, as the group judges faced some excruciatingly difficult choices. The final group, hounds, was judged at twilight.

A chilling mist crept in as the Best in Show ring received its finalists: German Shorthaired Pointer Homesteader's Summertime Reign, Basset Hound Ch. Topsfield Bumper Cars, Standard Schnauzer Ch. Charisma Jailhouse Rock, Kerry Blue Terrier Torums Scarf Michael, Brussels Griffon Ch. Hilltop's Special Zinger, Bichon Frise Ch. Special Times Just Right, and Pembroke Welsh Corgi Ch. Coventry Queue.



Scott Sommer with
Ch. Special Times
Just Right.

With daylight in fast retreat, judge Melbourne Downing must have been grateful, as were the spectators, that the show committee had the foresight to arrange for floodlights to cut through the gloaming.

After some deliberation and individually pulling out three of the group winners for a final evaluation,

Downing chose the Kerry Blue, known as Mick, as his Best in Show. Earlier in the day, Mick was put up in the group ring by that peerless terrier man David Merriam.

Photographers and well-wishers leapt the ring gates to surround the winner, and the spectators set down their champagne glasses long enough to

FEATURE

Bill McFadden with BIS Kerry Blue Terrier Torums Scarf Michael



offer enthusiastic applause. “This was the finest Best in Show lineup I’ve ever judged,” said Downing, a judge since 1938. “I usually

pull out only one runner-up, but the quality was so nice, I indicated two.”

Mick is a recent import with a sterling British

record. Earlier this year he took Best in Show at Crufts. With nothing left to win in England his breeders, Ron and Carol Ramsey, retired Mick in the United Kingdom and launched his show career in America. It was a difficult decision for the Ramseys, as Mick was their companion and much loved by their children. But the Kerry is enjoying his new home, and the Ramseys

Group Judges

Sporting: Robert Forsyth

Hound: Doug Holloway

Working: Ann Rogers
Clark

Terrier: Hon. David
Merriam

Toy: Michele Billings

Non-Sporting: Frank
Sabella

Herding: Chet Collier

Miscellaneous:
Marcia Foy

FEATURE

Annie on M&E 2000

From the January 2001 issue of Dogs in Review, Anne Rogers Clark delivers her verdict on the Morris & Essex revival.

What a wonderful rebirth of an old favorite of many dog show fanciers! I refer, of course, to the 5th of October 2000 dog show in Madison, New Jersey—the Morris & Essex classic!

The dream of the famous Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge was to have an exhibitor's dog show, one that catered to the enjoyment and comfort of man and beast. It was a show that I attended on many occasions as my mother exhibited there frequently, first with our Poodles and English Cockers. Finally, I as a professional handler attended every show from the '40s on to the final one in 1957.



Mrs. Dodge, "Mumsy" to her friends, welcomes VIP visitor Rin Tin Tin to Giralda.



Mrs. Clark, an M&E fixture, judges the 2000 Working Group.

"Mumsy" Dodge, as she was called by her close circle of friends, was a warm, caring person, a knowledgeable dog fancier, and an astute dog judge. A favorite memory of mine was seeing her drive her pony trap around the Giralda grounds with many dogs in attendance.

Many thought that the old show could not be reproduced. Much credit must go to the many who worked at producing a dog show that would be remembered as coming as close as possible as this M&E 2000 did. Everything that could be done was accomplished but not without in-depth planning and attention to detail. It was a team effort that worked.

I think "Mumsy" would have been pleased.—**A.R.C.**

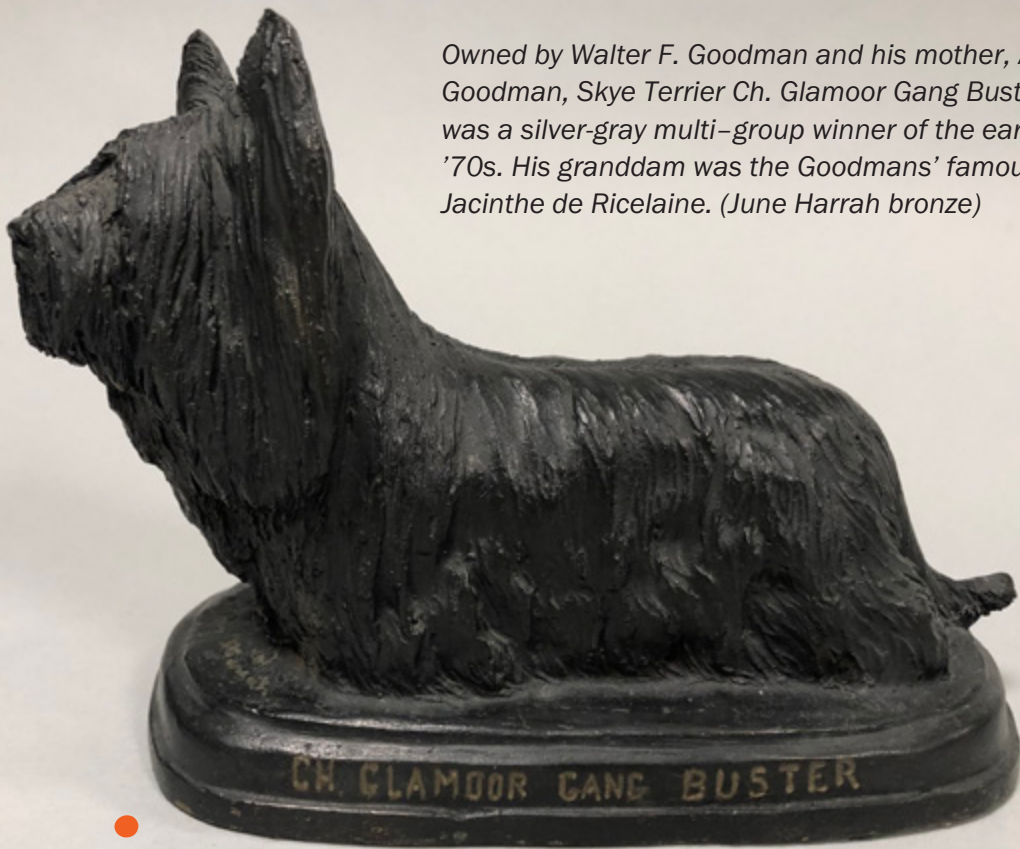
were on hand to enjoy his Morris & Essex triumph.

This was only the third event at which handler Bill McFadden had shown the charismatic Kerry. When asked what it was like to win

at so prestigious a venue, McFadden's one-word reply was, "Awesome."

Minutes after the top prize was awarded, the murky sky finally made good its threat of rain. The

parking lot emptied, the tenting was dismantled, and Giralda was returned to the care of its ghosts for another five years, when the Morris & Essex show will again rise from the mist.—**B.B.**



Owned by Walter F. Goodman and his mother, Adele Goodman, Skye Terrier Ch. Glamoor Gang Buster was a silver-gray multi-group winner of the early '70s. His granddam was the Goodmans' famous Ch. Jacinthe de Ricelaine. (June Harrah bronze)

Terrier Time

It's October, when a dog fancier's thoughts turn to terriers and the annual running of the [Montgomery County KC](#) all-terrier show in Macungie, Pennsylvania. We salute the grand traditions of terrierdom with a gallery of champions from times past.



Bedlington Terrier Ch. Rock Ridge Night Rocket, sire of 36 champions, is best remembered as a two-time BIS at Morris & Essex, and Westminster's BIS in 1948. (Marjorie Walker painting)

AKC COLLECTION

TIMES PAST



Airedale Terrier bitch Ch. Coppercrest Red Marvel, 1973, out of Coppercrest Kennels in Stanton, California, was co-owned by Gladys Brown Edwards, who painted this portrait.



This portrait of Dandie Dinmont Terrier Ch. Pennywise Gambit (Bitsy) was commissioned by the AKC on the occasion of breeder-owner Catherine Nelson's 2004 AKC Breeder of the Year Award. (Lise Casalegno Marro painting)

TIMES PAST

When Wire Fox Terrier Ch. Hetherington Model Rhythm went BIS at Westminster, 1946, judge William Wolcott told ringside reporters, “She showed like a queen and asked for the decision every minute she was in the ring.” (Clarence C. Fawcett drawing)



Smooth Fox Terrier Ch. Sabine Result, a product of F.H. Farwell's Sabine Kennels in Orange, Texas, was a kennelmate of breed legend Ch. Sabine Rarebit. (William Macarless bronze, c. 1910)

AKC COLLECTION



A Bluegrass Blast

Paula Nykiel judges the exciting finish at Kentuckiana; AKC.tv video. 15:09



Hound of the Month

As a companion to this month's Beagle slideshow, here's a National Beagle Club roundup of national specialty winners, 1970–2024. 3:44

VIDEOS



"The Beauty, the Grace, the Elegance, the Power"

From the Doberman Pinscher Club of America's "Road to the National" series, Katie Coe interviews An Tu. 18:52



Tiny Treasures

A new AKC breed video: Meet the Yorkshire Terrier. 2:33

VIDEOS



The Platinum Years

A Gazette Gallery: We look back at Morris & Essex in glorious black and white. 1:33



Classic Clark

From 1991, Anne Rogers Clark judges the Scottish Terrier national at Montgomery County KC. 52:56

Walter F. Goodman

When we think of the annual Montgomery County KC all-terrier affair, our thoughts turn to the late Walter Goodman, who served as club president for 28 years. From an appreciation by Deborah Wood:

“This is a man who loves dogs. He’ll talk just as long about his 13 year-old Norfolk Terrier who is his companion as he does

about the dog who won Westminster. He worries when a bitch is bred, and mourns the animals who died—even a half-century ago.

“He has an edgy wit without meanness. He’s got

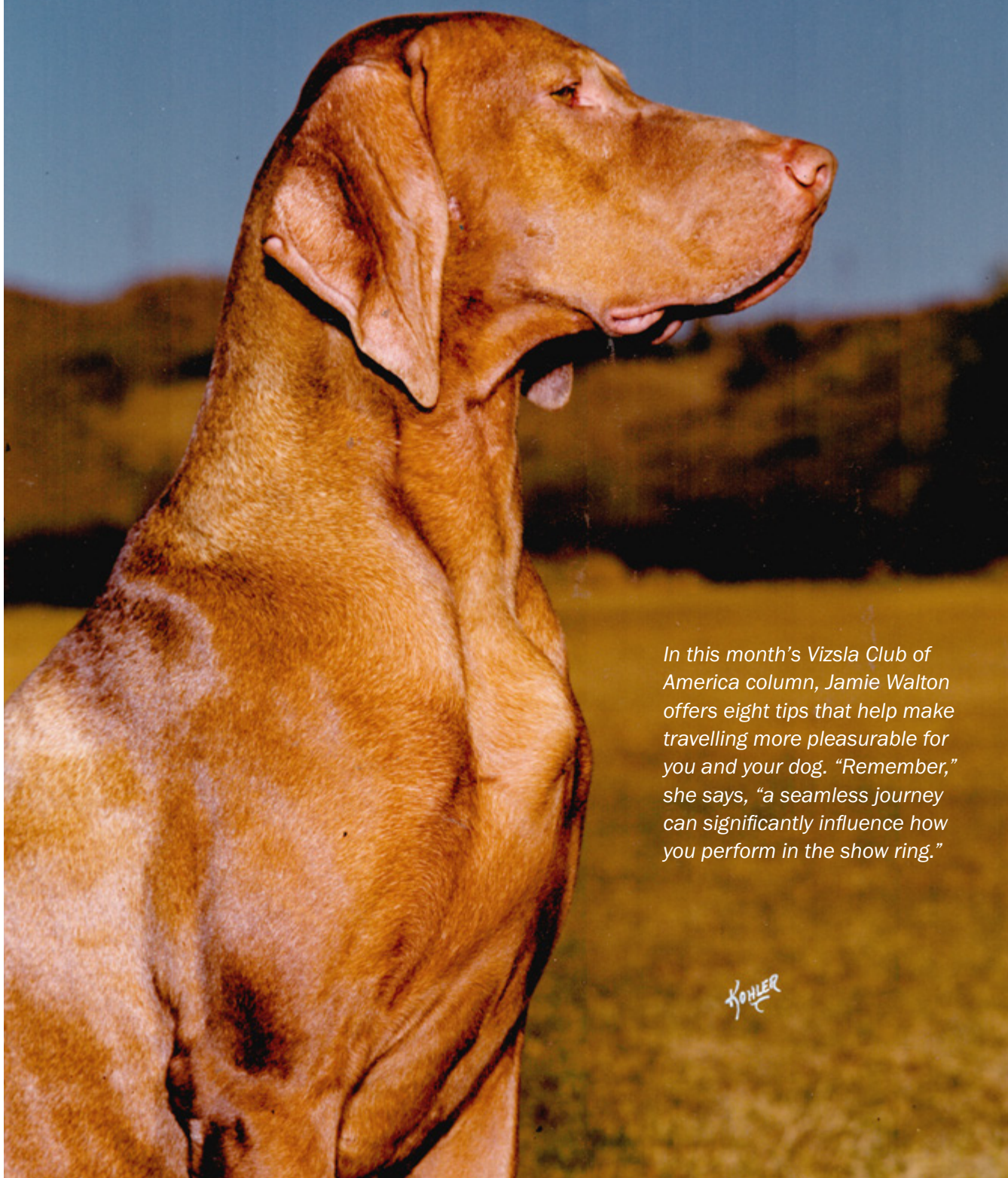
sophistication without smugness. He adores a beautiful dog—and he adores someone’s pet. He moves among prominent members of society, and will take the time to talk with a complete stranger.”



BREED COLUMNS



Edited by **Arliss Paddock**



In this month's Vizsla Club of America column, Jamie Walton offers eight tips that help make travelling more pleasurable for you and your dog. "Remember," she says, "a seamless journey can significantly influence how you perform in the show ring."

KOHLER

KOHLER PHOTO/AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

BREED COLUMNS



ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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



THIS MONTH

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Brittanys

IT'S ALL ABOUT PARKER

Let's set the stage. Parker is a Brittany who this past month of July became 9 years of age. One may ask, "Why write a piece about just a regular 'housedog' Brittany?"

As this story is being written on a computer, Parker lays on the floor next to the chair. She spends time sleeping or chewing on a rawhide bone. She follows everywhere; later this afternoon there will a baseball game to be watched. She will focus on the TV screen but I am sure she does not know the difference between a curve ball and a fast ball.

Once again, as the story continues, it is recalled as the "memory kicks-in-place" a comment that one of my mentors said many years ago about breeding and puppies. This individual and his wife, Dick and Esther Keenan, were longtime breeders and competitors in both field trials and the show arena. They owned and operated

a bird-shooting preserve for hunting and training dogs. The Brittany was their primary breed of interest. Esther was the show handler, and Dick did the field trials. When the AKC put in place the title of Amateur Field Champion (AFC) in 1966, their Brittany Beau'Pere was one of the first to achieve the AFC title. He also was number 98 (in 1969) on the American Brittany Club list of 738 Dual Champions (sure more to come) for the Brittany breed.

Now let's focus on those comments Dick Keenan made. "When we breed a litter of Flying Feather puppies, it is because we want to improve on the type of Brittany we already have, either and both field or show dog. We keep several from a litter, others are to be sold. Those other pups must be ones that will be excellent family dogs with a great temperament. Not all people who buy a Brittany want the dog for show and field competition or to hunt. They

want a Brittany who will be a great family pet." Dick's final comment was, "Keep that in mind when and if you decide to breed your Brittanys."

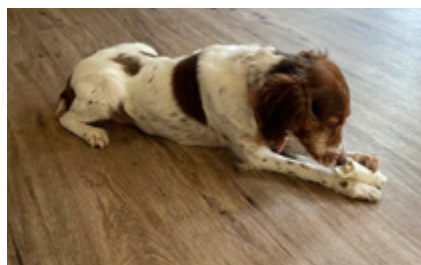
As I continue to put words on paper, Parker lies beside me chewing on a rawhide and then gets a drink of water. At 9 years of age she is a third-generation Flying Feather pup on her dam's side. I believed her to be unique as a tricolor pup, the reason for her to be kept from that litter. (Shame on me for selecting a pup based on color.)

Being naive about the show arena and the colors of a Brittany, I was to find that a significant number of dogs in show competition were orange/white or white/orange, and at the time there seemed to be a prejudice against all other colors. Then later I experienced it firsthand when a professional show handler was asked to handle our liver/roan Brittany. She found out in many show events that often judges would walk by and

BREED COLUMNS



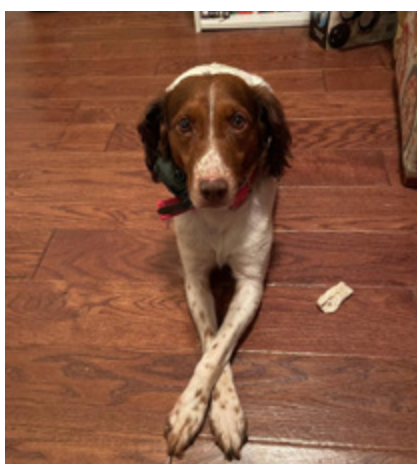
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Parker with a rawhide; hunting in winter; on point in summer; the ideal family pet and companion.

not even examine the dog. I have been told that this has changed now, and judges are being instructed to evaluate physically every dog that is competing.

Parker has been and will continue to be great family dog. She does fulfill Dick Keenan's thought about "other dogs in the litter." It's all about Parker; she is not a field trial (does not range out enough) or show dog (because of her being tricolor). She goes with



me everywhere, following around in the house, rides in the car, and sleeps in a kennel crate at night. Over the years Parker has been a good hunting dog. She finds birds, points, and holds for the gun. However, she will not retrieve. With out a doubt she is my "best bud." She has a "laid-back" temperament; in a way she defies the

standard's description of a Brittany, a breed that "must have lots of daily exercise."

When it's a normal day, Parker is outside three or four times a day to "do her business" and walking for about five minutes, then back in the house. She seems to love her people. Exercise is trips usually every other week to grounds where she can run for 30 to 40 minutes—with and without birds. With proper feeding, and snacks at a minimum, Parker maintains her weight at about 30 pounds. This Brittany is the ideal family pet, with lots of love going both ways.

—David Webb,
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[American Brittany Club](#)

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

TYPE AND THE CHESAPEAKE HEAD

Longtime columnist Janet Horn wrote:

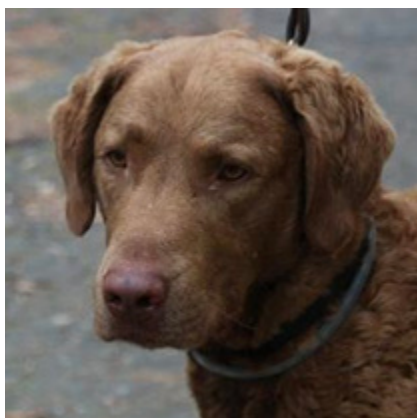
"In 1933, Anthony Bliss described the Chesapeake head 'with a round skull,

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB

BREED COLUMNS



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Female Chesapeake Bay Retriever head with correct rounded skull and medium stop, tapered/pointed muzzle, and small ears set well upon the head; male head in front view, showing ears set well up on head and broad, round skull with medium stop; female Chesapeake enjoying her 12th birthday; female head in profile, showing medium stop and approximate 50/50 proportions of muzzle to top-skull; another male head, front view; another male head in profile, muzzle approximately same length as the skull, tapered and pointed but not sharp.

broad between the eyes, shallow stop and a long deep muzzle, pointed but not sharp.’The length and depth of muzzle are desirable in a dog that must retrieve and carry game often as large and heavy as Canada goose

with an easy, tender hold.

“At the beginning of my personal acquaintance with Tony Bliss some 15 to 18 years later, he warned us to ‘keep away from the wedge-shaped heads.’ The wedge-shaped head is one

of several faulty head types to be found in this breed.

This broad, short head lacks the strength and ability to perform with efficiency the demanding tasks a retriever must face in his or her daily work.

COURTESY BETSY HORN HUMER

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“Breeding implies selection, and another head to keep away from in the Chesapeake is the blocky head, broad with a pronounced stop and a short muzzle squared off at the end. This head may remind us of another breed, most often one bred for guard work but not for retrieving game under arduous conditions. The square muzzle carries a greater risk of a mouth and teeth that are unsuited to a retriever and should be bred away from.

“The scenting power of the hound is enhanced by a longer muzzle with room for the olfactory nerves, and its length in cold weather protects the mucous membranes, warming the air that is breathed in. This is protection for the lungs as well as for the keenness of scent. In hot, dry weather, the moisture of the mucous membranes tempers the irritating dryness as the air is breathed in, and the delicate lung tissues as well as the olfactory organs are protected. These are reasons

to breed for and encourage the longer muzzle in the Chesapeake.

“McDowell Lyon wrote in *The Dog in Action*: ‘The head and neck together shift the center of gravity from side to side, raise and depress it, and give the major influence in maintaining equilibrium. When running or swimming the dog extends the head and neck forward to put more weight on the forehead and create instability, thus increasing speed.’

“When a dog is retrieving and carrying, the center of gravity moves forward because of the added weight, and the running and swimming dog must compensate for this. Therefore, a large, heavy head is undesirable in a retriever. The heavy, powerful hindquarters of the Chesapeake are also an aid in maintaining equilibrium by drawing the center of gravity toward the rear.

“The dog is to be well proportioned, and to be in proportion the head should be well-balanced, as defined

in *Canine Terminology*, by Harold Spira, with ‘approximately equal lengths of skull and foreface.’ Balance in these proportions is typical of almost all of the sporting breeds; the Chesapeake is a sporting dog and should look as if it belongs to the Sporting Group. Its appearance should not suggest a Working Group breed or a breed from the Hound Group.

“As bones shorten in one part of the animal, they tend to shorten in others, to follow some principle of balance decreed by nature, and so with the short head will be found a short neck—perhaps with a broad head, a thick neck—but the flexibility and easy reach to pick up a bird on land or in the water will be lost in this shortening and thickening. Often the dogs displaying these faults are seen to be short in leg. Particularly when these dogs are broad-chested, freedom of movement is lost and the whole dog is out of proportion.

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“Outline and coat are essentials of Chesapeake type, but the next most important type characteristic is the head. Years ago, a breeder who concentrated on producing hunting dogs in Delaware and seldom participated in competitive events told me, ‘People always want a good head on their dogs.’ And so he bred for heads to please the hunters who represented his principal market. They had to look like Chesa-peakes, as Chesa-peakes always should in shows, trials, hunting or at home.” —Janet Horn

Breeders of Chesapeake Bay Retrievers have worked very hard to maintain one “type” of Chesapeake that can “do it all.” We do not have an “obedience type,” or “field trial/hunt test type,” such as appear in Golden and Labrador Retrievers. Our breed can go from the show ring to the hunt test on the same weekend, or they can run in the agility ring or show in the obedience ring. We have more CH/MH (Master Hunter) –titled

dogs than any of the other retriever breeds. The heads as described above are an intrinsic part of our breed.

—Betsy Horn Humer,
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American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

BREAKING A RECORD

December 16, 2021, has turned out to be a game-changing date in Curly-Coated Retriever history. On that date, four puppies were born sired by GCh.B Flairfor Watermark With Pizzazz, CD, BN, RA, SH, DN (Marker), out of GCh.S Boyerie’s Storm Chaser @ Kurly Kreek, RN, CGC, TKN, ATT (Stormy).

The litter was whelped by co-breeder Iris Andre in California. This resulted in one of the two males in the litter being sent, virtually sight unseen (at least in person), to co-breeder Kathy Shifflett. As it later became apparent, either one of these

male puppies would have been the right choice. In any event, Pizzazz Kurly Kreek Raise a Ruckus (Raisin) went to live with Kathy and Scott Shifflett in Maryland. By the way, Raisin’s litter-mate, MBIS GCh. Pizzazz From the Top, RN (Intro), has also won multiple Best in Show awards.

Raisin finished his championship in early 2023 and went on to win the CCRCA national specialty in September 2023. He earned his first group placement in the fall a week before the national. In addition, Kathy and Raisin earned an Owner-Handled Best in Show in November of 2023. Quite a start to his career!

Raisin’s first Group 1 was in June 2024. Then, in September 2024, Raisin and his handler, Tristen Lawrence, racked up their first Reserve Best in Show on September 14 and, even better, their first Best in Show under judge David Kirkland on September 15.

The record for the most Best in Show wins, which

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Curly-Coated Retriever Raisin (GCh.S Pizzazz Kurly Kreek Raise a Ruckus) winning Best in Show

was five, was held by MBIS BISS Ch. Riverwatch Southern Cross, RN, CGC, bred by Gary and Mary Meek and John Mello and owned by Gary and Mary Meek and Ann and Conrad Clippert. This record stood for almost 20 years.

On June 8, 2025, Pizzazz Kurly Kreek Raise a Ruckus broke this longstanding record by going Best in Show at the Skyline Kennel Club under Judge Judith A. Brown. Since reaching that amazing milestone, Raisin

and Tristen have been awarded four more Best in Shows and four Reserve Best in Shows.

So, let's give our heartiest congratulations to breeders Iris Andre and Kathy Shifflett and owners Kathy and Scott Shifflett on the amazing accomplishments of MBIS MRBIS BISS NOHS GCh.G Pizzazz Kurly Kreek Raise a Ruckus.

—Ellen Manes,
jollycurl54@gmail.com
[Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America](#)

Golden Retrievers

THE SEARCH FOR A GOOD BREEDER AND A GOOD PEDIGREE

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

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

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

COURTESY OWNER

SPORTING GROUP



Golden Retriever (Alton Anderson photo)

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

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

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

Breeder participation in the sporting venue is key. A breeder may have a female with fancy titles and breed her to a popular stud dog, but if he or she does not personally compete in that venue, they may not understand dog work or know how to select pups with those special qualities. Pups bred from working parents should inherit the soundness, attitude, and trainability needed to reach the top of their game. However, while the field-bred dog could cross over

and excel at obedience or agility, the same could not be expected if reversed, as the obedience and agility dog may not have the marking ability or water attitude necessary for solid performance in the field. Thus breeder participation is even more relevant to selecting a pup who suits your individual goals.

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

Which leads us to one last note on the best breeders:

BREED COLUMNS

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They are always happy to help their clients succeed in their Golden journey.

—Nona Kilgore Bauer,
nona@nonabauer.com
 Golden Retriever Club of America

English Setters

CAN'T WE ALL GET ALONG?

For many years I honestly thought that everyone in the English Setter Association of America (ESAA) was friends, liked each other, and got along well. If someone didn't seem to like me, I tried not to take it personally or told myself I was being overly sensitive. As the years have gone on, it's become clear that there really are some people who don't like other members or who have had problems which haven't been addressed.

We all love our dogs, and we're deeply invested in them. "Investment" is especially true if you show or breed dogs. Recent figures show that you can easily spend \$1,000 just showing

one dog over a weekend away from home when you add up gas, motel, food, entry fees, and other costs. Finishing a typical dog to a championship is expensive. Add in the costs of health testing, stud fees, and other expenses associated with breeding, not to mention raising a litter for 10–12 weeks and producing a litter of puppies with show potential costs literally thousands of dollars. It's easy to see why people can become anxious and upset when there are problems with the other people involved.

We live in a divisive time. Maybe as humans we've always had very different views, but now every ill-conceived thought that passes through our minds seems to be tossed out on social media for praise or condemnation. You don't like someone's dog? Blurt it out. You've had a problem doing a breeding with another breeder in the past? Air it out on your Facebook page. Some puppies in a litter didn't pass an OFA



English Setter, September 2024
 (Lynda Beam photo)

test? Be sure to tell everyone online.

I'm not saying that as dog breeders and people who care about the health and future of our breed we need to keep everything a secret. That's not beneficial. However, that doesn't mean it's OK to publicly trash people or their dogs.

Most of you probably know how things should be handled in these cases. If an ESAA member, or even a non-member, has a problem with a member, they should contact ESAA. Every ESAA member agrees to

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follow the ESAA code of ethics when they become a member and renew their membership. The club's constitution and bylaws set out how matters are supposed to be handled in the case of one member wishing to file an accusation against another member.

In addition, the AKC has a code of sportsmanship along with rules and guidelines that cover conduct that is alleged to be prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs.

If someone has a problem that isn't important enough to take it to ESAA or the AKC, or they would rather whisper about it than bring it out in the open, draw your own conclusions.

Let's not forget the highly annoying practice of "vagueposting." "Someone (I won't say who) was a real b*tch at the show today. Her dog stinks!" It usually takes about two seconds to figure out those brilliant messages. Then the fight starts. Most of us don't care about your petty arguments.

Dog show people are forever asking why entry numbers and the registration numbers are falling. Maybe it has something to do with bickering and finger-pointing. When we have one of the sweetest, most beautiful breeds in the world, yet our numbers are still low year after year, maybe we should look at ourselves to see if we're the problem.

We all know how we should act. Life isn't always fair or nice, and problems do come up that no one can avoid. We need to try to work them out without embarrassing our dogs, each other, or our club.

There's a saying I like: "Be the person your dog thinks you are." With a little luck, a lot of us will be dealing with each other for decades in our chosen breeds, so we need to try to treat each other with respect and get along.

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

Gordon Setters

RETAINING HUNTING ABILITY: THE WORKING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

In 1982 the Gordon Setter Club implemented a working certificate program as a means to ensure that hunting ability was retained in the breed for those dogs who were bred primarily for show or companion purposes. It also served as a way for owners who were not involved in horseback field trials or true hunting to have an outlet for field work. The first titles were earned in the autumn of 1982.

The first two dogs to earn the Working Dog Retrieve title were both owned by Linda Sanders of Nevada. They were Ch. Chaparral Aces High, CD, MH, WDR, and Ch. Chaparral Dressed to Kill, WDR.

The first two to earn Working Dog titles were Gordon Hill Wee Bit O'Daylight, WD, owned by Susan DeSilver, of Connecticut, and Ch. Gordon Hill Zephyr, WD, owned by Ms. DeSilver and

SPORTING GROUP

the late Muriel Clement of Connecticut.

In 1987 the AKC began its Hunting Test programs, and Gordon Setter owners plunged into this program with enthusiasm. The first Gordons to earn Junior Hunter titles all did it on March 29, 1987. The list below is a testament to the hard work and dedication of one breeder and owner who should be quite proud of the accomplishments of her dogs in all parts of our sport.

The first titled Gordons were Ch. Chaparral Amaretta, CD, JH, WD, WDR, owned by Linda Sanders of Nevada, and three littermates Ch. Chaparral I'm Serious, JH, owned by Ms. Sanders and Karen Simmons, of California, Chaparral In Memree O'Iowa, JH, owned by Ms. Sanders and Maribeth Clark-Esslin, of California, and Dual Ch. Chaparral Instant Pride, CD, MH, owned by Dan McGinty of Nevada.

The first Gordon to earn a



Gordon Setter dual champion

Senior Hunter title was Ch. Chaparral Endora CD, MH, WDR, owned by Shelley LeBlanc and Dean Fries of Minnesota. Her title was also earned on March 29, 1987, making it a memorable day for Gordon Setters. All four Junior Hunter titles and the Senior Hunter title were earned in tests held at Lake Perris, California.

The first Master Hunter was Ch. Chaparral Aces High, CD, WDR, MH, owned by Linda Sanders. Ace earned the title on December 6, 1987, one month shy of his 10th birthday. He was also the first of the then three setter breeds

to earn the Master Hunter title.

And finally the first Master Hunter Advanced was GCh. Glenlea Hot in Cleveland, MHA, owned by Lynne Lavigne, who earned the title in April 2016 in Connecticut, at a test run by the Tartan Gordon Setter Club.

Thank you to all the breeders, owners, and handlers for all the hard work and dedication that went into these achievements. And thanks to all the folks who continue to keep the breed active in the field. The Gordon currently napping on my foot is overwhelmed

COURTESY JAMES THACKER

SPORTING GROUP

by all of this.

—James Thacker,
dumbargs@sbcglobal.net
Gordon Setter Club of
America

Irish Setters

This month we share a special report from Irish Setter Atticus—a dog with an unusual job as a “campground host” in the Boundary Waters wilderness area in northeastern Minnesota.

NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE!

ATTICUS, CAMPGROUND HOST

In my puppyhood, everyone I met would come up and say, “Oh, he’s so cute!” As I got older, though, all I would hear is “Hi, handsome!” “What a beautiful dog,” and “How playful and silly.” I must tell you, those remarks sort of hurt my feelings! No matter what I did, I never heard anyone except my human say, “He’s so smart,” “What a work ethic,” or “What a sensitive guy.” No one ever looked past my beautiful mahogany

coat and soft, brown eyes to see that I am so much more than just a pretty face. Sure, I flew around the show ring to earn my championship, ran agility, and played in rally and dock diving. I am a Trick Dog and a Canine Good Citizen, and I love going out in the field hunting and camping in the national parks. Throughout my life I have enjoyed all kinds of very cool things and had a lot of fun. However, all that fun took a lot of smarts, training, practice, and teamwork. We setters are quick learners with a work ethic and a sense of responsibility. Without all that training, combined with my inherited “setter skillset,” I could never have been a campground host.

Being a campground host in the Boundary Waters wilderness area is hard work! At dawn, I would head to the parking lot to make sure there were no bears trying to break into the dumpsters. (It really was a lot of fun chasing them away!) At all times I had to keep my eyes

open for the wolves, lynx, and bears who roam freely in the Boundary Waters and sometimes frequented my campground. Campers are happy for a heads-up when they might have wild visitors at their site. Each day I helped my human make sure the campfires were out, the pit toilets clean, and that the campsites were neat. I would spend some time in the outfitting store welcoming new paddlers and fishermen. In my spare time I would go for a swim or a paddle. Ruffed grouse were everywhere. As a hunting dog, it was exhausting pointing them a million times a day! But at the end of a long day, I would have a little time to snuggle by the campfire, listen to the call of the loons, gaze at the Northern lights, or howl with the wolves.

But I digress! The most important part of my job, what made it perfect, was meeting my campers and making sure they were happy. You see, they all missed their dogs. Dogs who

BREED COLUMNS



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Irish Setter Atticus made many friends and excelled in the role of “campground host” in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area in northeastern Minnesota.

hadn't had the opportunity to learn campground social skills, best behaviors, and teamwork had to stay home while their packs went on vacation. The most important part of my job was to make their humans a little less lonely. Sensitive to their needs, I would gently give

them soft kisses and comfort the liters of small children who would run to me with open arms for puppy hugs or a game of ball. Herds of campers, my new friends, would stop by my campfire and visit me at night. I know it sounds like every dog's dream, but I had to be understanding of tugged ears, endless pets, and greasy hands. (Although some of the little human's drips could be quite tasty!) I guess you could say that as campground host, I was

“everydog,” everybody's dog for a little while—a temporary best friend, kind of filling the hole left by their loved dogs who were left at home. And I loved it!

Sure, I was lucky! I found my special niche as a campground host, but, every Irish Setter has the ability, the desire, the intelligence, and the wherewithal to do something special. We are not just the gorgeous clown's people sometimes imagine us to be. Underneath all this beauty, my Irish friends from all over the country are therapy dogs, diabetes service dogs, epilepsy service dogs, reading companions, nursing home visitors, and travel companions. The list goes on and on. We are kind and caring, with an instinctive understanding of when to be gentle, quiet, and protective. My red friends won't hesitate to give puppy love to someone in a wheelchair, the elderly, or humans who might look or act a little different. We are so much more than just a pretty face. We are the ambassadors of

COURTESY SUSAN SULLIVAN

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the dog world!

—Susan Sullivan,

susansullivan@mac.com

Irish Setter Club of
America

Irish Red and White Setters

GROOMING YOUR IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER

Deb Peterson shared some thoughts on the Irish Red and White Setter coat and grooming.

Please tell me about IRWS coats.

Having owned all the setters, the IRWS is the easiest to care for and groom. The texture is silky. It is resilient to dirt and for the most part also resistant to matting. Basic care of brushing and bathing with a light shampoo and conditioner keeps the coat supple and in good texture.

For dogs shown in conformation, bathing weekly in lukewarm water with good-quality shampoo and conditioner is a must. I bathe mine every 10 days

and do nail trimming on a regular basis. For this I use a sharp guillotine-type trimmer to take off tips, then a Dremel grinding tool to shorten, smooth, and round out the nail.

I am often asked about whitening shampoo. While it has a place in bathing white dogs, if used for every bath it will quickly dry out the coat cuticle, which results in coarser or dry coat. With my first IRWS I was amazed by how the coat can shed dirt like silicone does. I have seen dogs covered in mud either shake or brush off easily. Nevertheless, be sure to immediately address any staining to the coat.

How is grooming the IRWS different from other setters?

Irish Setters need to be brushed daily, with a multitude of brushes! Bathing them from start to finish takes over three hours per dog *if* they do not have mats. Clippers are used on the top of the ears and neck. It took a long time to learn to use clippers along with

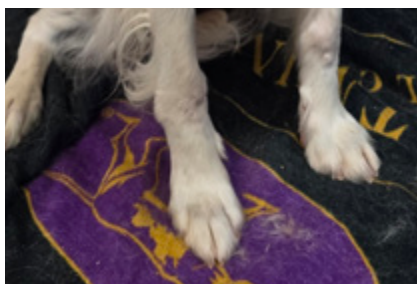
top thinning shears to blend the hair in so it finished looking smooth. Of course, more tools come into play: stripping knives, Coat King de-matters, and multiple different shears, with lots and lots of patience. Again, also coat-specific shampoo and conditioners. My one and only Gordon had a thicker, denser coat but was equally as much work as the Irish. With my English Setters I learned how to hand-strip, with tools that could be used on Irish, but never on their topcoats. Again, trimming ears and neck is similar, as much work in the English coat to groom as any Irish or Gordon.

The IRWS National Club Breed Standard and Grooming Guidelines are extremely specific, limiting trimming and disallowing shaving. Please share your thoughts.

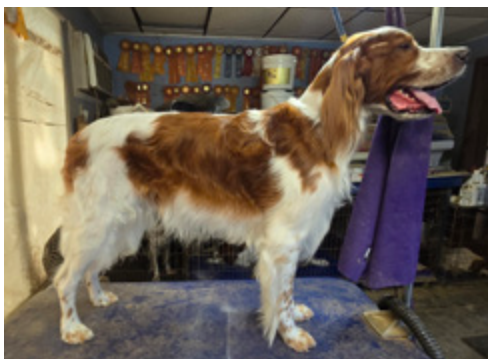
The IRWS is not clippered on the neck but can be “cleaned up” under the ears and throat area. That being said, my dogs are trimmed with 44- or

BREED COLUMNS

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Falone, age 11, on the grooming table at Westminster 2025; Tippy, age 6, and Sceolan, almost 6, being groomed at Westminster in 2025; Daric, almost 2; before paws trimmed for hunting; after paws trimmed for hunting; hind leg trim on adult male; close-up of hind leg trim; 11-year-old male with pet trim.



46-tooth thinning shears, curved small shears around their feet and pads, thinning shears to trim top of the feet, and occasionally straight shears to shorten hock hair.

If the feathering from the bib to groin is long and

uneven I will use thinning shears to blend for a clean outline underneath.

Overall, the beauty of the IRWS is much easier to keep and groom than other setters. They are of moderate coat. Excessive coat is a distraction than an enhancement.

COURTESY WENDY BOCKMAN

SPORTING GROUP

What is it like to groom for a dog show? How does it compare to non-show grooms?

A clean coat is a must! Grooming for showing is an ongoing process. Conditioning dogs is as important as outward appearance and texture. Trim every two weeks, never major groom while at a show. Neck hair is taken down close two weeks before, allowing it time to grow into a natural look.

When not showing, a clean coat is still best. And if the neck hair is grown out, in my opinion it is OK ... but I prefer that even my non-showing dogs are cleaned up a bit, so that I can see a collar. I have, after my show dogs retired, taken clippers to their neck, which causes the hair to grow with a different texture.

What changes have you seen?

I see a cleaner outline in the breed now. Still within the U.S. standard, owners learning to groom better over time.

*As a co-breeder/owner with an AKC judge with our Irish, she taught me to “look for the outline of the breed” when grooming and presenting our show dogs.

What else would you like owners to know

Practice. Practice. Practice. Ask questions. Do not be afraid to get out of your comfort zone. Never do your dogs’ nails *at a show!*

Wendy Bockman added that as far as grooming, show versus non show grooming are the same, except during hunting season. If the dog will not be showing for a while, trim the hocks and pasterns short to reduce burrs.

Grooming a spayed/neutered coat requires thinning the coat with a Mars Coat King and thinning blades (something we do not have to do with an intact dog or bitch).

—Cynthia Lancaster,
clclancaster@gmail.com
[Irish Red and White Setter Association of America](#)

Clumber Spaniels

The following observations regarding species seen ringside at dog shows appeared in the May 1983 GAZETTE courtesy of longtime Clumber Spaniel columnist Ronald E. Larsen. Oh, how people never change!

THE RINGSIDE SPECTATOR

We hear much about the various species seen at dog shows: breeders, exhibitors (especially the paid kind), and most of all, judges. But one species that seems to have escaped general observation is the ringside spectator. He or she comes in a variety of types, some of which we will attempt to define here. (We Clumber types claim to some sort of expertise in the matter, since with our breed it is usually a fast “in-and-out-of-the-ring,” leaving much time for patient observation elsewhere.)

The Critic. Two varieties, both all-knowing: The Clucker is identified by frowns, raised eyebrows,

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shaking head, and an assortment of non-words—*cluck*, *ugh*, *tsk*, and *harrumph*. The Dissector is more articulate, systematically analyzing each dog's flaws, often leading to generalizations concerning lines and breeding programs. Compulsion to malign is an inherent component. Comments are unavoidable by all within a 10-yard radius.

The Interrogator.

Characterized by an appetite for answers—not necessarily knowledge, just answers. Again, there are two varieties: one identified by questions such as “How’s come he has ’em run ’round like that?” and the other by comments like “Didn’t that dog’s littermate take Reserve at Podunk KC three years ago?”

The Stenographer. This species is usually in a frenzy, continually torn between observing what is going on in the ring and feverishly marking the catalogue. Copious notes are entered regarding each dog, each exhibitor, and most of



Clumber Spaniel

all the judge: likes, dislikes, eccentricities, and maybe even shoe size. The final “cut” is carefully recorded for posterity. Normally a harmless sort, except when missing a detail. Then all in the immediate vicinity are urgently and noisily badgered.

The Coach. Eager to help any hapless exhibitor deemed in urgent need of expert advice, which is delivered in a very audible stage whisper. The usual result is to distract or upset the unfortunate handler, shake his confidence, and cause handling to deteriorate.

Possibly heard: “But I was only trying to help.”

The Doter. Haunts most frequently the Toy and Non-Sporting Group rings but can rise to glory with any 6-to-12 class. Known for gushing with sweetness over the tiny darlings, often lapsing into baby talk. Type, soundness, gait ... to The Doter, these aspects are insignificant regarding such adorable little creatures.

The Entertainer. Sees ringside as his stage and fellow spectators as his audience. Usual fare of jokes and wisecracks, but on occasion a short story

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

SPORTING GROUP

may be launched into—especially just as the judge is about to pick Best of Breed. Overall aim: Be more interesting than what is going on in the ring.

The Picnicker. Emerges most often at outdoor shows, accompanied by spouse, noisy kids, and a loud device of some sort. Hot dogs, chips, and drinks are consumed as they all sit on a huge blanket spread out right next to the ring. Busy munching and guzzling, the Picknicker is totally oblivious to reaction from dogs in the ring.

The Watcher (AKA “The Sneaky Peeper”). Does only that—not just watching the dogs in the ring but also spying on your behavior for a column in the GAZETTE. —R.L.

Thanks, Ron, for these incisive observations!

Reminder: Some days you’re the dog; some days you’re the hydrant. —Bryant Freeman, Ph.D. (posthumously)

[Clumber Spaniel Club of America](#)

Cocker Spaniels

**INTERVIEW WITH A LONGTIME
COCKER SPANIEL FANCIER,
BREEDER-EXHIBITOR, AND
WORKING CLUB MEMBER**

We wanted to get the perspective of a person who has been and continues to be actively participating long-term in the evolution of the Cocker Spaniel breed and in the clubs that support and promote activities in the breed. Today this columnist is interviewing Beverly Schiely, of Ohio, to get her observations on the changes in the breed, as well as practical observations on the state of clubs organized to support and encourage activities with the breed. Some remarks have been edited.

What club memberships do you hold?

I am a life member of the American Spaniel Club and a life member of the Cocker Spaniel Club of Northern Ohio, in which I held board and officer positions.

I know you have actively participated in AKC conformation showing for many

years. Did you participate in obedience or other performance events? Approximately how many of your Cockers have attained their AKC Champion titles?

I was so busy through the years and participated strictly in conformation exhibiting. I have had over 150 AKC championship titles on my Cockers.

Tell us a bit about your first experiences with Cocker Spaniels.

My stepfather gave me a silver buff puppy from the famous breeder of buff Cockers under the Norbill prefix, Norma Warner, of Ohio.

Approximately when did you experience your first whelping of a Cocker litter?

That was back about 1954–55, while I was still in high school. My mother had to call me home from school when the litter started to be born. Sometime later my husband surprised me for Christmas with a wonderful black Cocker puppy I named Daphne.

I know that most of your

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Cocker Spaniel

work has been with parti-color Cockers. How did you first come to see and become involved with parti-colors?

I went to some shows in Ohio and saw parti-colors there. I fell in love with the beautiful red and whites that Dorothy Orient of Orient's Cockers had. Dorothy became a mentor and gave me a dog to socialize for her. Eventually she allowed me to breed to her dogs. Daphne was bred to one of Dorothy's dogs, and one of the resulting six puppies was a brown ("chocolate," as I

preferred to call the color, being more descriptive).

What were some of your early challenges in showing Cockers?

First, it was trying to win in the ring in that area. I had beat my first mentor, Dorothy Orient. It was difficult. She was tough. Dorothy said that (on the rare occasion when I did win over her dog) she was "happy for me," but (laughingly) I don't think she *really* was. My first champion was in 1976, Ch. Schiely's Bit of Licorice, a black and white.

At that time, I had my other mentor, Laura and the late Dr. Jim Duncan of Laurim Cockers in Ohio.

Besides successfully showing your Cockers in the conformation ring, what were your goals with the breed?

I wanted in particular to improve the quality of the brown and white (chocolate and white) Cocker, a color that came into my pedigrees sort of by accident and which intrigued me. When Ch. Schiely's Fudge Ripple (a brown and white) was born, his brown-colored spots were so dark and rich, I didn't realize until an hour later that his spots were brown, rather than black. I finished his championship myself.

In addition to Fudge Ripple, who were some of your most consequential and well-known Cockers?

There was Ch. Schiely's Go Browns (Cleaver), who moved beautifully, had the shorter back I was looking for, and was named for the Cleveland Browns football team. Cleaver sired

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many good champions. He was still siring champions recently from frozen semen stored 33 years!

Then there was Ch. Schiely's Tar 'N Feathers, a black and white who carried the brown (chocolate) gene. Among the most prominent of my dogs was Ch. Schiely's Chocolate Kiss, an open-marked chocolate and white female from 1984, sired by Ch. Rexpointe Ripe Banana and Ch. Schiely's Trifecta, a tricolor. It was a significant reward to me in this hobby that so many brown and white (chocolate and white) go back to Fudge Ripple, and that they had the improvements I wanted and sought, to his quality, such as shortened backs. Good temperament was always very important to me; it came first. I didn't want skittish dogs and so emphasized good temperament throughout the years in my selection of Cockers. Many owners with Cockers from me came back for another over the years.

You embraced technology, obviously, in securing the services of top veterinary experts in canine reproduction and using their services to obtain frozen semen to preserve bloodlines.

Yes, a litter of two was born recently from frozen semen that had been stored 33 years, and both puppies grew up to win their championships.

From what I understand, in addition to technology and testing, you always used your experience, "natural instincts" and sense about the timing of a female's readiness for breeding.

Yes.

Do you think there are more Cocker breeders doing health testing now? You have been doing health testing for many years, I understand.

Yes, it is my sense that more people coming into the breed are doing health testing.

You are still active in producing some outstanding specimens of the breed; recently a very successful female you call Sassy. She's

a young champion with outstanding wins and purchase offers from other breeders.

As you continue to participate in breeding and exhibiting all these years later, what do you think is taking place now in Cocker Spaniel specialty clubs, in contrast to prior years?

The clubs seem to generally have trouble getting workers to put on shows and to conduct the business of the club. The people who have taken on club responsibilities are getting older. I, and many other experienced breeders, handlers and club workers, would be willing to mentor new people wanting to come into the clubs and the breed.

What has been a particularly interesting experience you have had in the "Cocker world"?

Being invited to judge Cockers in Finland! It is a beautiful country, and I enjoyed the assignment.

What are your thoughts as we close this interview?

I wish I was 50 years younger again and could

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keep going to enjoy what I have learned over the years.

Thank you.

—Kristi L. Tukua,
columnist
[American Spaniel Club](#)

English Cocker Spaniels

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION, AND MORE!

By the time you read this in October, hopefully the heat of summer has passed. As I write this, the East Coast is in the grip of an absolutely brutal heat wave, with temperatures close to or exceeding 100 degrees F most of the week. The dogs and I will be spending most of our time in the air conditioning—probably until this is published!

Before the brutal heat set in, I spent my summer vacation in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, attending the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America's national specialty during the last week of May. Tuesday, May 27, was the first day of the conformation events, when I had the honor and the privilege



English Cocker Spaniel Ch. Comanche of Ranch Aero with Anne Rogers, 1950 (Shafer photo)

of judging sweepstakes and veteran sweepstakes!

For those of you unfamiliar with sweepstakes in conformation dog shows, this is a “non-regular” competition, in which no points are awarded but the winners get a portion of the entry

money (with percentages defined by the show-giving club.) Classes are for either younger dogs, 6 to 18 (sometimes 24) months old, or veterans, 7 years old and older.

The judge for this competition is voted on by the

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ECSCA membership and is usually a breeder-judge. It is the honor of a lifetime to have been voted in to adjudicate this competition, filling one of my “bucket list” items—or as I like to call it, “Make a Wish for old people.”

Initially my thought was to have the puppies do some unique ring patterns, just for fun. But when I saw the 6–9 Months puppy dog class, and those little boy dogs trying so hard to maintain some semblance of holding it together, I decided that I couldn’t torture the exhibitors that way!

The quality of the entry was deep. There were truly instances when I did not have enough ribbons to award. Overall, I saw good topline, pretty heads, and good temperaments. I would be happy to have any of the winners and my placements in my house. I would caution breeders to keep an eye on “long and low,” the drag of the breed, poor bites, and small testicles.

A word about the veterans.

It takes a lot to maintain an older dog in show condition. A huge shout-out to not only the owners, but also the breeders who produced these magnificent veterans who held up so well over time!

Speaking of shout-outs—kudos to the show committee, particularly show chairman Marc Johnson, who despite having been an ECSCA member only since 2022, stepped up to the occasion with calm and grace. And then there was Sue Licklider, the hospitality chair, who is not even an ECSCA member but did a fantastic job at making sure the judges had what we needed! And I cannot forget my stellar ring stewards, Mari-Beth O’Neill and Grace Wilkinson. They kept the ring (and me) under control.

Complete show results can be found on the show secretary’s, Pat Shaw’s, website, www.patriciashawsss.com. This includes all the performance events as well as conformation.

And I urge all of you to not only attend the national if you can, but to volunteer! There are positions where no dog show experience is needed—things like hospital-ity chair, catalog sales, raffle sales, or organizing raffle baskets ... lots of positions! It is fun, and very much needed and appreciated.

Next year’s national will be the first week of May at Purina Farms, in Gray Summit, Missouri. It’s never too early to plan ahead.

—Beth Hendrick,

bhendrick@verizon.net

English Cocker Spaniel
Club of America

English Springer Spaniels

RALLY ROUND THE SIGNS, DOGS

Have you ever said, “If only I could talk to my dog in the obedience ring”? Have you thought, “My dog would work more enthusiastically in the ring if only I could praise him when does great work”?

Rally obedience is a great

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English Springer Spaniel Ch. Ascot's Ajax, 1958, with handler Anne Rogers and judge Julia Gasow (Shafer photo)

place to begin a dog's competitive obedience career. In the Rally Novice ring, a trainer can talk and give encouragement every step of the course. The trainer can praise the dog and keep his tail wagging. You can even stop and redo an exercise. Talk to rally competitors, and you will hear the refrain, "We go in the ring and have fun!"

Trainer, breeder, and veterinarian Carol Rushing has

trained multiple Springers for rally competition. Her Carleigh, RAE, was awarded ESSFTA Rally Obedience Springer of the Year. Rushing told me that she most enjoys "feeling connected with my dog." The skill she and her dog work hardest to master is "focus." The rally dog needs a strong mastery of "heel position." She also teaches her dog to know "there will be a reward when we leave the ring."

The rally signs that she and her dog work hardest to master are "three steps backwards, all the stands, and the circling exercises."

Where does she lose the most points? "My dogs always get suckered by the food bowls in the ring, no matter how much I train them to ignore them! My biggest point losses are when I completely miss a sign (fail), and when I misread a sign and either do it wrong (10 points off) or bobble as I catch myself and get it right but lose a point."

Attention is the key to success. Rushing offers the following tips:

"Train cues that encourage the dog to watch you and expect good things. Smile. Make eye contact. Move briskly. I train my dogs to know we are dashing to the secret food stash when we leave the ring. Before the class begins, walk the course until you have it memorized. Move briskly. Practice your turns and rally footwork without your dog."

Springers thrive and learn

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best with lots of “positive reinforcement,” says Rushing. “Build duration and back chain skills so your dog doesn’t shut down when he doesn’t get a cookie. Train each specific exercise enthusiastically—don’t just drag through it.”

“Read the rules, and practice, practice, practice!” Those were the most important pieces of advice that AKC obedience judge and OTCH, ribbon-winning Springer trainer, Phyllis Broderick was quick to share when I asked her to tell me about judging and competing in the rally ring.

Broderick explained, “I enjoy teaching Wings something entirely new and the bonding that takes place during training. Rally, as designed and if done correctly, is like a dance; with both dog and handler totally in step with each other.”

Broderick stresses that the dog cannot be expected to give a precise and high-scoring performance before the trainer understands and knows all the rule of each

level of rally competition and the AKC general rules. She says, “You can’t play the game if you don’t know the rules.” She also recommends using the AKC rally signs, which can be downloaded from the AKC website (images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/ROR001.pdf).

Broderick finds *The AKC Rally Quick Guide*, from Snowy Pine Dog Training (<http://www.snowypinedog-training.com>), very helpful for learning the rally signs and positions.

Having judged years of rally competitors, Broderick advises:

“The ability to talk to your dog in rally is the best way to keep your dog’s attention. Keep in mind that you must have the dog’s attention during training and definitely before you ever enter the ring. However, there are some exhibitors who talk too much and others not enough. Praise at the right time is priceless. Rambling sometimes causes the dog to tune you out. I find that some rally handlers execute

the signs too slowly. They wait and wait for the dog to perform the exercise instead of re-doing the exercise. Make sure your Springer knows the exercise. Reward and praise should follow every correction, and if the exercise is done correctly, make sure you let your Springer know.”

Some exercises require hard work to master, especially all types of backing up, and the quick finishes to the right and to the left. Broderick says, “Some of the Master’s exercises are the hardest to perfect; especially the spins and back-ups. Upon speaking to my students, they feel the Novice ‘1, 2, 3 Steps Forward,’ the ‘1,2,3 Steps Backward,’ and the ‘Down & Stop’ positions are the hardest.”

Broderick teaches her students to “incorporate rally exercises into obedience training sessions. When I first started obedience, we practiced something called ‘doodling,’ and that is what rally is all about.”

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Print a set of rally cards from the AKC website and let the fun begin. Praise and practice your teamwork. Teamwork builds a bond with your dog that knows no bounds.

—Sarah A. Ferrell,
saf@abrohamneal.com
English Springer Field
Trial Association

Field Spaniels

ALL-BREED CLUBS, ALL-BREED FRIENDS

Field Spaniel fanciers are a small but diverse group, scattered about the country with pockets coastal and Midwest. We have alliances internationally as well, and we use online databases and groups to communicate and share information. (See <https://www.fleckenbase.de/db1/index.php> and <https://ofa.org>, as well as sites of specialty clubs.) In such a breed where we have smaller numbers and more of a “gene puddle” to keep in mind, it is necessary to make connections but not lose sight of dogdom’s larger resources.



All-breed dog clubs have been a staple since the beginning of the fancy necessitated geographical groups. Shows and trials are hosted by groups of purebred dog fanciers and community outlets for all things related to training, showing, and

public relations.

Many of us start out in dogs via family or wanting to train a pet, and then we are bitten by the bug as our eyes are opened to a whole world of canine love and opportunity. Recent years have only expanded that

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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universe with more activities and connectivity throughout planet canine. Haven't we all been exposed to "other" dog activities and breeds through study of beautiful dogs at shows or performing what they were bred to do? Who would have ever thought that terriers wouldn't be the only ones scenting vermin, or that sighthound fanciers would eventually see all dogs getting a chance at chasing a lure? In a lifetime we may never get to own and experience so many breeds and flavors of activities, but now there are more options than ever to try different things with our versatile dogs.

I still recommend being involved with other fanciers and activities. Admire other breeds, and learn from breeders and handlers what their unique angles lend to their chosen dogs. Some of the most valuable lessons in the fancy are to be gained from friendships that parallel our own path. Spending time ringside only improves one's knowledge of canine form and function, and we might

just learn a thing or two.

My own experience with all-breed clubs has helped me from a training and handling perspective immensely. Observing another dog person's tribulations and triumphs helps me to gain better understanding of our games on the whole, and I get to share in the same passion, despite having a different experience. Knowing all of us share the same love and desires opens us to a greater appreciation for dogs in breeds or groups we might otherwise never get to know. At each fancier's heart, we all work at raising and living with companions we adore. We all do kennel chores, we all concern ourselves with feeding, grooming, training, and caring for these creatures, and we lean on each other to help when needed. We discuss health topics and the issues of owning and showing dogs given various challenges.

Think back to times you've held dogs ringside for others and thought about their

breed's structure and movement. Chances are you've had good conversations about your particular love for your breed or breeds and what they do. We might enjoy a fellow dog person's dogs of another breed but couldn't imagine the grooming, or energy level, size, shape, or habits for our own lifestyle. That is the beauty of being involved in a club of many breeds and developing those friendships. Getting to experience and enjoy so many dogs without the actual commitment is enriching beyond comparison.

Knowing what is and is not a good fit for us is a very special part of owning dogs, and being able to experience a taste of that is a treat! I feel lucky to have been privy to so many different breeds because of shows and all-breed clubs. Getting to appreciate another breed because of a dog friend is one of the best and most rewarding things. We get to see and hear firsthand how those dogs are and share our own breed's peculiarities

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and chuckle. Isn't that what the fancy is all about?—the love of all the beautiful dogs and learning about them over life.

In a world where people are observed for their differences and similarities, it is only natural we would see the same in our beloved canine species and celebrate that diversity and inclusion. If humankind could celebrate each other in the same way, would we see more respect and understanding? If applied in such a context, it could only improve our world.

Dogs make us better as people, and perhaps it could be that same diversity—appreciation of all breeds—could help us to appreciate all humans as well.

Please support your all-breed clubs and all-breed friends. Without them, we wouldn't have such an amazing world!

—Shannon Rodgers,
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Field Spaniel Society of America

Irish Water Spaniels

FINDING AN IRISH WATER SPANIEL

When I graduated from college I began looking for an Irish Water Spaniel. I had never met one, but I was intrigued by the breed's quirky appearance and personality, and a statement I read in a book: "Once you have one, you will have no other breed."

In those days, finding an

Irish Water Spaniel was not easy. I obtained a list of breeders from the secretary of the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America (IWSCA), and I wrote a letter to each one and hoped they were expecting puppies and would sell one to me. It wasn't a given. Irish Water Spaniel breeders do not breed often, and they seek to place every puppy in a great home with the same care



Looking back: the author with her Irish Water Spaniel at Morris & Essex 2015.

COURTESY DANA LOUITT

SPORTING GROUP

as if they were finding new homes for their children. I still have the responses I received, typed or written in longhand on beautiful stationery with exquisite IWS kennel logos. I was fortunate to connect with a breeder with a litter who was three hours away.

Not much has changed in 40 years. We are still a rare breed. Over the last nine years, we have had an average of 18 litters registered each year. To get an Irish Water Spaniel, you need to be flexible and patient and contact as many breeders as you can and get your name on their lists as a prospective puppy owner. The breeders will keep in touch with you as their planned litters turn into reality. They will be happy to answer your questions about health testing, and parentage, and help you figure out if an Irish Water Spaniel is right for you.

Most people have to travel to obtain an IWS puppy. Up to about 10 weeks, they can fit in an under-seat carrier on an airplane. Alternatively,

some breeders are willing to ship. You can Facetime to see the puppies and the parents and even to select a pup.

Keep a record of whom you contact. The IWSCA connects people who are interested in bringing the breed into their lives with breeders who have puppies or are planning litters or have adult dogs to rehome. We have a wonderful breed, and they are worth waiting for.

—Dana Louttit

[Irish Water Spaniel Club of America](#)

Sussex Spaniels

WARNING

I recently had a litter of two beautiful little girl Sussex. What else did I get? After registering the litter, I got 12 spam requests for information on the puppies, puppies of both sexes, multiple puppies, and so on.

All the messages had a few things in common. They wanted a reply by text; they were almost all men; and they didn't give any specifics on why they wanted a

Sussex in particular. They wanted a puppy or puppies within three or four weeks—saying they wanted a puppy for a “birthday gift” for my “son/daughter/father.” They wanted to know the price—always price. Three of them had a “friend” who could pick up the puppy “next week.” Some wanted photos.

I did contact them, telling them to send me their email address and I would send them my questionnaire and that I would send them photos when I received their completed questionnaire. Only one did so, and after I sent the questionnaire they did not return it. Believe me—if you won't fill out a questionnaire, don't bother to contact me in the first place.

I did check the ones who provided phone numbers and found that the names and numbers did not match or the names didn't exist in that area code. (Yes, I did notify AKC.)

So—be careful! We don't need any more Sussex ending up in puppy mills. With more carefully bred Sussex

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puppies being born recently, we all need to use caution in placing our little treasures.

Microchips

I am a big fan of AKC Reunite microchips and pay for the lifetime ones for all my puppies before they go to their new homes. Now, I have no trouble chipping a grown dog, or really one 6 months old and up. However, I don't like doing baby puppies. So when I

took the two baby girls to have their health certificates and heart-checks at 8 weeks, I took my microchips along. I have done this many times, and vets will generally insert them for \$5 or \$10 each. This vet hospital had recently sold out to a conglomerate, which I was not told about until I got there. Their price to insert the AKC chip (which they do not carry) was \$100 each. I am sure my mouth

dropped open! I even asked them to repeat the price, as I was thinking I had perhaps heard them wrong. When the actual vet came in I even asked again. I declined, of course. When I got home and the girls were sleeping in their crates in the car, I gritted my teeth and did the microchips myself. They barely noticed.

How any vet can justify that kind of charge when shelters and chip clinics do microchips for little or nothing and it is such a "safety net" thing, I do not understand.

Another thing that I found when placing these puppies (my first litter in two years) is that airlines have really changed rules on allowing dogs to fly as a carry-on. Not only has the price gone up, but also the allowed size of travel bag has gone down. Luckily I found a transport company that is good, reasonably priced, and willing to do door-to-door service. The one I had used before had opened two grooming shops and stopped doing

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

SPORTING GROUP

transport. My advice is to check these things out for the future.

Hug those beautiful
Sussex!

—Marcia Deugan,
ZiyadahReg@aol.com
Sussex Spaniel Club of
America

Welsh Springer Spaniels

WSSCA TO THE RESCUE

Welsh Springers are a rare breed in the United States. Because of this, one of the challenges we don't often face in the governance of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America (WSSCA) is high numbers of dogs in rescue.

This was brought home to me recently when a work colleague asked me to be a reference for him and his husband who are looking to adopt an adult Golden Retriever. It's an oddity in my life that I end up being the dog "expert" wherever I work. A few months ago, the Air Force General I was working for at the time asked me if he could speak



Welsh Springer Spaniel Ch Trigger of Tregwillym, 1964 (Shafer photo)

to me in my office with the door closed. Well, that naturally made me think I was in trouble! Nope. He wanted my help in making the best case for why his family would be good adopters of a dog, also a Golden Retriever. After the successful adoption, he was back to ask for links to the best seat protectors for his car. As you can imagine, I immediately came up with three options in three different price ranges. I also advised

them to have plenty of balls in the house for their new family member.

Hey, it's nice to be considered an expert in something!

The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America (WSSCA) only occasionally learns of a Welsh Springer in a shelter or other all-breed rescue. Often these dogs are incorrectly identified as English Springers, but our amazing and dedicated head of WSSCA Rescue, Shannon Gandee, has a

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great relationship with English Springer Rescue and is made aware of the Welshie in need.

One recent rescue who looked very much like a Welsh in the photos and during a visit to the shelter turned out not to be a Welshie at all. No matter! He was taken into a loving foster family for evaluation.

The number of Welshies in rescue is also low simply because our dedicated breeders stay in touch with their puppy families and have contracts that require the return of their puppies if the family can't keep them—and live up to those contracts. The most likely way WSSCA will end up with multiple rescues is when a breeder or owner dies while still having dogs in their home.

That said, there has been an uptick of our lovely dogs needing to be re-homed. Whether or not the dog was bred by a WSSCA member, it's a Welsh Springer, and Shannon leaps into action to get the dog into foster care

for evaluation and eventual rehoming. Often these dogs are special needs, and our most recent foster is blind. It took a little longer to find the right living situation for a blind dog, but the right place was found.

WSSCA members are very generous with contributions to our Rescue Fund, so all the health and grooming needs can be met before dogs go to their new, permanent home.

Thanks to all the Welsh Springer lovers who help us meet the needs of each dog who comes into rescue.

—Wendy Jordan,

[Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America](#)

Spinoni Italiani

25 YEARS LATER AND STILL

MISUNDERSTOOD PART ONE

September 2025 marked 25 years that the Spinone Italiano was recognized by the American Kennel Club as a breed. Twenty-five years. And yet the breed is still misunderstood by the dog fancy—by most judges, by

professional handlers, and by most owner-breeder-handlers of other breeds.

Those of us in the breed have been and are still struggling to be heard, to be listened to about our breed. Our breed standard is one of the most detailed in the AKC—it is literally an instruction manual, guidebook, and blueprint. When we Spinone owners/breeders start to explain our breed, we almost instantly get the bored, glazed-eye look and/or the comment, “Your breed is just weird.”

This past summer there was a post on social media featuring this year's national breed winners of all breeds. The comments regarding the Spinone were astonishing—derogatory, mean, and *so* obviously representative of the ignorance towards our breed. And not just ignorance, but true unsportsmanlike conduct. Our national breed winner is a beautiful example of our breed and was judged by a breeder-judge with much experience in the breed, a

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judge from the U.K. who is required, like all judges in the U.K., to write a reason for why each dog was placed where they were. In essence, having to “walk their talk.” AKC shows would be drastically different if judges here were required to do that as well.

There were comments about our national-specialty

winner having “a terrible topline,” being “sway-backed,” and “so fat.” If anyone had bothered to read our breed standard, they would learn how wrong they are.

The AKC wants judges to learn “three to five points” about each breed they are judging. I will address a few hallmarks of the Spinone

Italiano that are most often misunderstood.

The Spinone is a robust dog—robust in bone and body, robust in depth of chest and spring of rib, and robust as in heavily built. They are not fat. That said, there is a misunderstanding going around about the Spinone underline and the very incorrect thinking that the breed should have a level, flat underline and no tuck-up. The Italian Spinone breed standard says: “*Almost horizontal in the sternal region, then ascends slightly towards the belly*”; the AKC Spinone breed standard says: “The underline is solid. It is *almost horizontal in the sternal region, then ascends only slightly towards the belly*; there is minimal tuck-up” (italics added).

The belly is not the sternal region. The tuck-up is minimal. A continuous flat, level underline from chest to belly would only occur if the Spinone were very pregnant or obese. Minimal tuck-up does not mean no tuck-up. If side-by-side with, say, a

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Weimaraner, it may seem like there is “no tuck-up” when, in fact, it is just minimal.

The same misunderstanding goes with the bend of stifle, which is moderate for the Spinone. They are not to be stretched out in an over-angulated stack per the “American show dog standard.”

Minimal and *moderate*—key words in understanding the Spinone.

Back to the underline. Because of this misunderstanding regarding the underline, there are some Spinone exhibitors who try to achieve that “completely flat level underline” look by growing out their Spinone’s belly fringe. They do this because it is impossible to have a truly flat, level underline unless, as stated, the Spinone is very pregnant or obese. I’ve seen belly fringe on some Spinone in the show ring that rivals that of any of the setters.

The build of a Spinone is square, or almost square. To be specific, a Spinone is as long as they are tall, from

point of sternum to point of buttocks and from the ground to the withers. The Italian standard states “Fits almost into a square.”

Part Two of our look at misunderstood aspects of the Spinone will continue in the January 2026 issue. Our breed standard is very detailed, and I truly wish people would read it before they jump to incorrect conclusions in their attempt to lump the Spinone in with the “American show dog breed standard.”

—Daina B. Hodges,
Missoula, Montana;
Spinone owner/breeder/
hunter/exhibitor since 2002
[Spinone Club of America](#)

Vizslas

FLY SMART, LAND HAPPY: A GUIDE TO TRAVELING WITH YOUR DOG

As the year draws to a close, many of us find ourselves preparing to make our annual pilgrimage to Orlando. For those of us living on the West Coast, this often means hopping

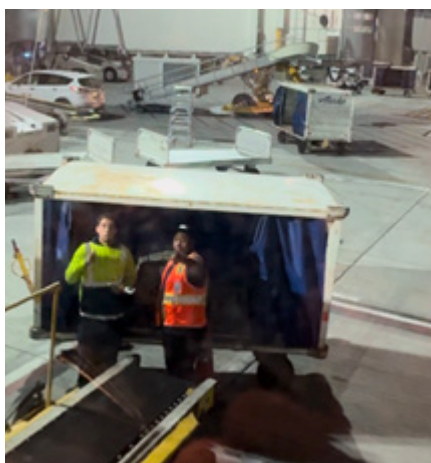
on a plane with our beloved Vizsla companions in tow, a necessity born from the wealth of competitions held on the East Coast.

Over the years, I have flown quite a bit with my dogs. I used to joke when campaigning my Vizslas in conformation that they have more frequent-flyer miles than most people. What I have learned through experience is that it’s really a privilege to fly our dogs across the country. My dogs are completely comfortable and relaxed in a crate, so it beats the alternative of bumping down the road for the four days it takes to drive to Orlando.

With their robust frames plus kennel nearing the airline’s 150-pound limit, my Vizslas usually find themselves in the belly of the plane. My boy Sloan flies in a Series 400 crate, which is canine first class, with lie-flat seats and comfy bedding. The airline requires that each dog be able to stand up fully without his ears touching the top of the crate. The

BREED COLUMNS

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dog must be able to turn around and lie down freely

Packed up and ready for the trip; cozy in the airline crate (the dog must be able to turn around and lie down freely); treats in bags, each with a laminated card with the dog's photo plus the owner's flight, seat, and cellphone numbers, help to ensure the dog has the best possible flight; after the crate is inspected, reinforce the closures with zip ties; baggage handlers who read the messages attached to the treats can count the airplane windows and give the owner a wave or thumbs-up.

in a comfortable position. The crate must also prevent the dog from pushing any body part outside the carrier. After a five-hour flight, both you and your dog can emerge fresh and ready to

take on the competition.

While flying with a dog may initially seem like a daunting task, it quickly becomes second nature once you have a general understanding of the process and

COURTESY JAMIE WALTON

SPORTING GROUP

apply a bit of careful planning and creativity.

Currently, Alaska Airlines stands out as the sole airline that accommodates our larger-than-life Vizslas. Once you have your reservation, keeping the following eight travel tips in mind will help pave the way for a smooth, enjoyable journey for you and your four-legged friend.

Travel Tip 1: With your own reservation in hand, call Alaska Airlines at 800-252-7522 to make a reservation for your dog. The cost is usually \$150 each way. Space for dogs in the belly of the plane is limited, so book early, especially on big weekends like Orlando or Westminster.

Travel Tip 2: Make an appointment with your veterinarian for a health certificate. Alaska Airlines requires a health certificate dated within 10 days of outbound travel and 30 days of return travel. Plan ahead to avoid last-minute scrambles!

Travel Tip 3: Keep your

dog's routine regular on the travel day. You and your dog rely on consistency. That includes feeding (a few hours before the flight) and finding a green space close to the airport for your dog to take a quick bathroom break before checking in. It's best if someone can drop you off curbside with all your gear. And remember, do not sedate or tranquilize your dog before air travel.

Travel Tip 4: Prepare the kennel (crate) before checking in. The kennel (or crate) is your dog's sanctuary during the flight, so make sure it's leakproof and airline-approved. If your dog doesn't regularly sleep in a kennel, acclimate him weeks before the flight to make the experience less stressful. Be sure to include a familiar towel, blanket, or piddle-pad for the flight. Confirm that the required stickers ("Live Animal" and "This Side Up") are secured and that the food/water bowls are attached to the door.

I always affix a laminated

photo with my dog's name, destination, and a brief message on top of the kennel.

Travel Tip 5: Arrive early at the oversized baggage check with cookies in hand. The paperwork takes time and sometimes flusters the agents. This is when patience and rewards come into play. A dozen cookies or more go a long way toward ensuring my dog has the best possible flight. I put each cookie in a zip-lock bag with a bow and a laminated card featuring my dog's photo, plus my flight, seat, and cell phone numbers. This simple gesture flips the script, fostering goodwill and my dog's comfort. Everyone gets a cookie, from the check-in agent to the TSA inspectors and flight attendants. Technically, airline personnel are discouraged from accepting items like cookies and texting photos of your dog's journey. This part of the process often takes extra time, so a little patience goes a long way. Sharing a

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cookie and expressing your appreciation to the check-in agents, TSA inspectors, and flight attendants not only builds goodwill but also helps ensure your pup's comfort throughout the journey.

Travel Tip 6: After your kennel has been inspected, reinforce its security with zip ties to prevent any accidental openings. Alaska Airlines provides a tagging system to confirm your pet is on board.

Often, the staff will send you updates or photos of your relaxing dog (sometimes accompanied by a new canine buddy) as they travel. I've enjoyed many heartwarming interactions with baggage handlers who stop to read the messages attached to the treats, sometimes counting the windows back, and give me a wave.

Travel Tip 7: Have a set of nail-clippers on hand to swiftly remove the zip ties once you land. Your dog might arrive at the oversized luggage area or the airline

office. After you have your dog in hand, take a moment for a brisk jog to a canine relief area outside.

Travel Tip 8: Be ready for anything by keeping cleaning supplies at your fingertips. Bring along paper towels, disinfectant spray, and rubber gloves in case of any accidents or airsickness. Being well-equipped can turn potential mishaps into minor inconveniences, making the experience far more manageable for both of you.

With thoughtful preparation and a positive attitude, you can ensure that traveling with your dog is an enjoyable experience for both of you. Remember, a seamless journey can significantly influence how you perform in the show ring.

As Ron Kaufman wisely said, "Preparation clears a pathway for success." So, buckle up, enjoy the flight, and let the adventures begin!

—Jamie Walton,
jamie@professionaldesign.org

[org](#)
[Vizsla Club of America](#)

Weimaraners

THE WEIMARANER OWNER-HANDLER

Since the AKC instituted the owner-handler competition, many of us have taken advantage of this and stepped into the realm. Having been there and currently training owners in conformation classes, I feel that there are a number of subjects that need to be addressed especially for those who are just beginning to compete on this level.

1. *Pay attention to your judge.* Is he or she a "looker-backer"? Some judges take a moment to glance back at those dogs who have already gaited. This may be especially true in a smaller class and in the OH group ring. Now is the time to be aware of how your dog is standing. Are you and your dog just schlepping around, talking to other exhibitors and allowing your dog to look like a backyard pet? While it is not necessary to have the dog stacked at attention all the while (they will get bored), when each

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Weimaraner



dog is finished gaiting be free-baiting or do a quick stack.

2. *Gaiting is crucial to winning in the ring.* In most cases, you only have one chance at a down and back and two on the go-round. The idea is to “dance” with your dog. In other words, be in complete sync. Your dog needs to understand what speed you want each time you gait. Too many times, we tend to rush our dogs on the down and back. This is the time to move a little slower and collected to show the judge the soundness of your dog. At the top of the ring, as you are turning

back toward the judge, take a moment to allow your dog to catch up with you. This only takes a second or two but will help to align your dog on the mat. The other trick is to slow down about three-quarters before stopping in front of the judge. This gives the dog time to come into a free-stack without, all of a sudden, putting on the brakes and maybe looking east-west. Then you should speed up on the go-round to the end of the line, but slow down there and free stack, especially if you notice the judge watching you. Dogs who tend to pace need the courtesy

turn to start off properly, but not everyone needs this. Sometimes, it is best if you set your lead and just take off. If you have a young dog or one who is not quite perfect in front but has a really good topline, you may want to come into the judge and turn sideways making the outline of the dog the focus.

3. *Setting up your dog properly is vitally important.* Too many times, we have the profile set-up on an angle. This is an easy mistake to make, especially for those of us who are not in the ring weekly. It might be a good idea to mark the floor where you practice.

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Use some painter's tape and a yardstick to make a straight line. This way, you do not have to think or take a step back to see the overall picture. If there is a mirror available, use it! Seeing the picture you have created is one of the best ways to perfect a stack. The speed at which you stack becomes important especially in the Group ring. You should have your dog stacked in 10 seconds or less. This may be tough with a youngster, but soon it becomes a muscle memory for both handler and dog.

One other tip I learned years ago was to take time, go to a ring where the professional handlers are exhibiting. Sit and watch. Note their ways of setting a dog, how they gait, how they deal with an uncooperative dog. A lot can be learned from just observing.

The owner-handler competition is getting stiffer and stiffer, and we have to compete against the breeds with hair, which creates

more flash and makes it easier to hide faults. With a little know-how and practice, we can shine in the Sporting Group ring.

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

Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

FOX TALES: REAL STORIES OF GRIFFON OWNERS AND THEIR BATTLES WITH FOXTAILS

For many Griffon owners, outdoor adventures are at the heart of their bond with their canine companions. Hiking trails, hunting fields, and off-leash parks bring joy to dogs and owners alike. But hidden in the grasses of these places lies an often-overlooked hazard that has led to some harrowing experiences: foxtails.

In this collection of “Fox Tales,” several Griffon owners share their real-life encounters with foxtails—from close calls to costly vet visits—and the lessons they learned along the way.

Gwen's Story: Relentless Vigilance in Montana

“Never go to sleep without checking your dog.” —
Gwen Van der Zyppe

In the sweeping fields of Montana, Gwen Van Der Zyppe and her two active Griffis train at least twice a week. But the landscape comes with a hidden danger: not just foxtails, but cheatgrass and “needle and thread”—all capable of migrating into a dog's organs.

During one outing, Gwen removed over 100 foxtails from her dogs—more than 40 in the field, and another 60-plus under better lighting back home. She and her husband, Laurent, now spend over an hour thoroughly checking their dogs, using a grooming table to inspect their eyes, ears, paws, private areas, and every crevice.

“They are insidious,” Gwen says. “These grasses are everywhere. The light-colored areas in our field—that's foxtail or cheatgrass. We take every

BREED COLUMNS

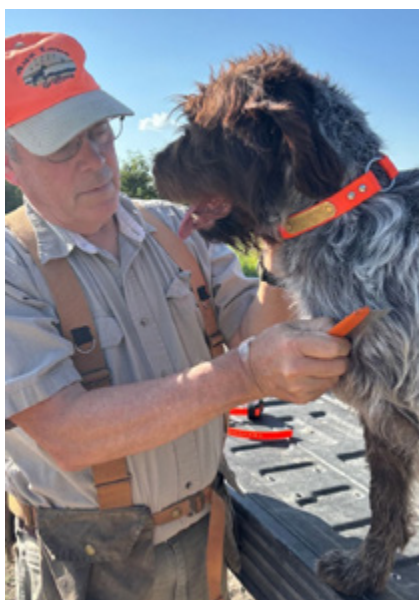


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"These grasses are everywhere. The light-colored areas in our field—that's foxtail or cheatgrass. We take every precaution, because it's just not worth the risk."
—Gwen Van der Zyppe

"After every outing, I inspect their nose, eyes, ears, and paws, then comb through the coat and run my hands across their body." —
Jerry Freeze, AWPGA Field Chair



precaution, because it's just not worth the risk."

Their discipline and routine demonstrate the level of commitment needed to stay ahead of this ever-present threat.



Daisy's Story: A Hidden Threat with a Heroic Recovery

"We had no idea anything was wrong until she started wheezing. Within hours, she was in the ICU at K-State. They had to

remove part of her lung." —
Paula Woodward, Aux Lake Kennels

In January 2020, Daisy (Aux Lake Duke's Daisy), a 6-year-old retired dam, began showing subtle signs of illness after several days of routine field runs. Within hours she developed labored breathing and a high fever. Her owners, Larry and Paula Woodward, rushed her to Kansas State University

COURTESY GWEN VAN DER ZYPPE AND JERRY FREEZE / AWPGA

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Veterinary Teaching Hospital, where scans and lab work revealed a grass awn that lodged in her chest cavity and created a severe infection. The infection quickly spread to one of her lungs.

Daisy underwent thoracic surgery to remove the fox-tail and a portion of her lung. She spent over a week in intensive care, including chest drains and 24/7 monitoring. The final vet bill totaled over \$8,000—but her recovery was full, and Daisy later found a second career as a certified therapy dog, visiting schools and libraries.

“People think breeders make money, but that one surgery wiped out the value of five or six puppies. You do it because they’re your dogs. They’re your family.”

Aux Lake Kennels has been breeding and training hunt dogs since 1969. After decades of successful breeding and fieldwork, Aux Lake faced their first foxtail-related emergency—underscoring that no matter how experienced you are, nature always has the upper

hand—and awareness is your best defense.

Matisse’s Story: Limping Leads to a Lesson

“My first foxtail ... I had no idea until it abscessed.” —Mary Margaret Sterling, Overton Gun Dogs

Matisse, a Griffon with no previous health issues, began limping and barely put any weight on her front leg. When her owner noticed the abscess, they initially assumed it had drained and the danger had passed. But on a recommendation, they took her to the vet—just in case. It turned out to be the right call.

At the clinic, the wound was flushed, and two more foxtails were found lodged deep within the tissue. It was a wake-up call: Foxtails can go unnoticed until they’ve already caused infection, and what looks like a small surface wound may be just the tip of a dangerous problem.

Lessons from the Field: What Every Griff Owner Should Know

“Before every hunt, I spray the dogs with Mane

& Tail or Cowboy Magic to help keep stickers and burrs from sticking. I do a tailgate exam before lunch and at the end of the day—combing them out, checking for burrs, foxtails, and ticks. Keeping the feet trimmed and running my hands over them is part of the routine.” —Jerry Freeze, AWPGA Field Chair

“Grooming, vigilance, and fast action are the keys to keeping your dog safe from foxtails.” —UC Davis Veterinary Team

“Oh, yes. Check those paws! Above the web and below the web in their paws. The area above the web is very tight and deep—the perfect hiding spot for a foxtail.” —Renee Mason Carter, Thrill of the Hunt Kennels

These true stories highlight a shared lesson: Awareness and prevention matter. Further tips:

Know the season. Foxtails are most dangerous when they dry out in late spring and summer.

Groom diligently. Keep fur trimmed around paws,

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ears, and underbellies.

Check after every outing.

A quick post-adventure inspection can save your dog from discomfort or worse. A grooming blow-dryer can really help find foxtails and ticks quickly. Make it part of the routine.

Seek help early. If you notice symptoms such as head-shaking, sneezing, limping, or unusual behavior after outdoor play, consult your veterinarian immediately.

Have you and your dog faced down the danger of foxtails? Share your story within your club to help raise awareness and protect other dogs from this common but often overlooked hazard. Together, through shared experiences, we can ensure more happy tails—and fewer fox tales.

One foxtail can change everything. Check your dog, share your story, and help others stay a step ahead.

—Carol Erdie, AWPGA member

[American Wirehaired
Pointing Griffon Association](#)

WORKING GROUP

Alaskan Malamutes

BECAUSE OF YOU: THE GIFT OF TRANSITION

Many years ago I visited a handler who, in retirement, simply could not bear to let go of all of the “stuff” that goes with a life in showing, grooming, breeding, and boarding dogs. Crates and equipment of every description filled a huge shed to the ceiling, with no plan in place to see these items put to good use in a trusted rescue organization or with someone new to the sport.

That day I vowed that when my time came, I would do my best to see my own “stuff” have a second life of benefit for good friends and worthy dogs. And so I embarked on this time of transition, to see the infrastructure of my life in dogs go “down the road” to help others.

I’ll admit, this has not been easy: It’s a process that is taking months and is as emotionally difficult as it is physically draining. But I am cheered by the knowledge

that it will enable good people to make a difference for wonderful dogs, and that is all the reassurance I need.

Dozens of kennel panels are being reborn as a new phase of a lovely boarding and grooming kennel to welcome treasured dogs, safe and secure. Stacks of stainless-steel food dishes and grooming equipment will help rescue dogs embark on a wonderful new life.

So if you, dear reader, have also reached a similar decision point in your doggy life, be brave! Take heart. Good people and deserving dogs will benefit greatly for years to come, and you made it happen! Just picture all of the wonderful ways they will benefit, and it’s all ... because of you:

Because of you, lovely new dog yards and kennel runs will help a young exhibitor realize their dreams for the future!

Because of you, the big, sturdy dog houses that housed generations of your champions will welcome new faces, eager to learn

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new skills in harness and our performance world.

Because of you, the quality grooming equipment you depended on will help a budding dog groomer launch a new career!

Because of you, your whelping boxes and puppy equipment will welcome precious new lives and keep them safe and thriving as they learn and grow.

Transition isn't easy, but once you begin, you will help build a wonderful future for deserving people

and of course, for every perfect dog. And so I've pared things down to one big dog yard, and just inside the walkout basement, two large indoor runs are at the ready. My dog van, with two big 5T crates, stands ready for a moment's need.

You see, I still cling to the possibility of finding a deserving rescue Malamute to be a buddy for Haida and to fill my heart with energy once more. There is something deeply important about this that speaks to

the bottom line of my life; perhaps this is illogical, yet hope remains.

And since I'm still on this flight, I will be ready.

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
Benchmark1946@gmail.com

[Alaskan Malamute Club of America](#)

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

According to online sources, dogs and hunter-gatherer people started associating with one another roughly 15,000 years ago. This business arrangement, that likely began rather inauspiciously with less fearful wolves looking for food, would evolve into one of the most life-altering, successful, long-term, interspecies relationships ever known.

Farming began roughly 11,000 years ago, when people became more settled and started giving up a peripatetic lifestyle. Sheep

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



Anatolian Shepherd Dog

were domesticated roughly 11,000 to 9,000 BCE, and goats were domesticated roughly 8,000 BCE. These two species are important for several reasons: They are small hoofstock (much smaller and more manageable than cattle, and also less particular in what they consume), and they provide meat, milk, hides, and fiber for the manufacture of garments and other textiles.

Most importantly for us, though, is that they are the animals that the landrace dogs kept by humans in Asia Minor were created to guard.

This very rough timeline of the rise of agriculture and the keeping of animals for food and fiber took place about 4,000 years after humans and dogs entered into their mutually beneficial association. No

one will ever know what fateful event precipitated the agreement, but it was likely something as simple as the realization that the wolves raiding the garbage middens got rid of things that attracted pests and predators to their campsites.

Along the way, someone discovered that these fore-runners of the domestic dog could assist in hunting and could help with alerting hunter-gatherers to the presence of game, predators, and other humans. They likely also did duty as beasts of burden, they may have kept people warm on cold nights, and they probably ended up in the stewpot during hard times, as much as that notion may upset the American mind.

The other thing that early keepers of small hoofstock likely realized was that their canine partners were uniquely situated to help them keep their sheep and goats safe from large, toothy predators that wanted to take advantage of a good meal with little cost to

WORKING GROUP

themselves. In a time that predated firearms, when the ability to strike at a threat was limited to how far you could throw a spear or shoot an arrow, having a dog by your side that had a particular way of behaving that calmed fractious stock, and was highly defensive in the presence of physical threats to you and your animals, was a huge technological leap forward.

This or something similar is the likely origin story of the landrace dogs that became our Anatolians. It is so integral to the breed that we, as stewards, must commit to keeping these working traits at the absolute center of every aspect of the breed—when choosing breeding animals, when choosing the dogs that we present to judges, and judges, we ask you to keep these traits at the forefront of your mind every single time you point and award the dogs we bring to you.

It is a sad truth that what wins, and often not what most closely resembles the

standard, is what gets bred. We as breeders must make certain that we include proven working lines in every generation of dogs we breed. Equally as importantly, we, as exhibitors, must take working dogs to judges, even knowing that working dogs often do not make the best show dogs. And judges, we ask that you help us in this endeavor by rewarding correct, calm temperament in the ring.

I'm waked up by the dogs outside barking, and I look at the clock, briefly wondering if my neighbors are bothered by the noise. It's after 11 P.M. and the bin men just picked up the trash at the end of the road, which is why my dogs are sounding off.

I doze off and wake up again sometime later. In the distance I hear coyotes singing—they are close to catching their quarry, and in typical coyote fashion, they feel we all need to know about it. I drift back to sleep. The last conscious thought I have is that I feel safe, that my sheep are safe. And this,

I think to myself as I change to a more comfortable position in my somewhat elusive pursuit of sleep, is why we have dogs, why I have Anatolians, so that the things that go bump in the night do not concern us overmuch.

—Jo Lynne York,

Eboracumk9@yahoo.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dog
Club of America

Bernese Mountain Dogs

AGILITY FOR BERNERS AND BRAIN HEALTH

Dog agility was first introduced in its current form in 1978 at the Crufts Dog Show in England, though key elements of the sport can be found in public exhibitions dating to the early 1970s at agricultural fairs and elsewhere.

Twenty years ago, through my kennel club I learned about agility training and trials with my first two Berners. I didn't do much, probably because I didn't have room in my life to train that precisely. When one of

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Working in agility has so many benefits for dog and owner—physically, mentally, and in terms of the human-canine relationship.

my dogs sustained an injury, I decided it wasn't worth the effort to train for trialing. Each of the subsequent Berners learned to do the obstacles for fun, because I liked the physical demands and training challenges the sport provided for the dogs.

Fast-forward to December 2024. My 14-month puppy needed a group class, and the one that matched my schedule was an agility class. I thought, that will work. It would be a group and different and distracting.

At 14 months we had

done work laying foundations such as crate games, platform work, and attention with distractions, albeit minor ones.

On the first day we did groundwork, circling jump wings. Bernese Genny (Deerpark Genesis) said, "I can do that." Then using a platform to help reinforce the "stay" concept, we did some recalls over a jump (8 inches). Genny again said, "I like to do that." Each exercise she did with joy and alertness.

The weeks passed, and

Genny's love for agility grew. Her excitement when we arrive at the practice barn shows in her excited brown eyes and wagging tail. Watching her have so much fun has made the sport fun for me.

We are still going to class. We have developed a whole new set of friends, and new skills. Training in agility gives a fun way to improve physical and mental fitness for you and your dog. Agility training is physical for both dog and human. It can involve

COURTESY MARJORIE GEIGER

WORKING GROUP

running, bending, stretching, and squatting. This can improve cardiovascular health, enhances flexibility and muscle strength, and promotes overall fitness. It certainly increases my motivation to increase my fitness. Consistent agility training can improve balance and body control. Body awareness that comes out of giving cues while running boosts natural reflexes. There will be improvements in coordination. That leads to injury prevention.

For instance, hand-eye coordination, endurance, and flexibility will be developed as your body moves and you give movement cues to your dog. As you and your dog move in unison, your relationship can become smoother and more coordinated. These are all benefits to doing agility.

“Mentally, dog agility offers numerous cognitive benefits. The sport requires handlers to think on their feet, strategizing and adjusting their movements in real time. This sharpens mental

acuity, improves focus, and strengthens decision-making skills. Handling a dog through a challenging course also requires patience and perseverance, which can reduce stress and boost mood” (News Editor, USDAA website, February 24, 2025).

More benefits can be realized by incorporating cross training. Cross-training is a valuable addition to keep everyone healthy.

A major goal of cross training is to increase mental and physical endurance and flexibility. Dogs and their people need a conditioning program that contains strength training with stretching. “It is essential to cross-train agility dogs at least weekly and daily, if possible,” Dr. Torraca said. “Cross-training promotes long-term health and wellness and improves performance. A physically and mentally stimulated dog is more likely to perform well.” (Courtesy of Purina.

com June 2024)

An article from Total Brain Health explores the benefits of cross-training the brain in workouts that use the different ways we process thoughts (<https://totalbrainhealth.com/why-cross-training-is-so-good-for-our-brains-and-how-to-do-it>; March 2022). Emphasized are the three important “S”s of brain health: skills, stretch, and strategies. These models maintain intellectual skills, “stretch” brains with thought-provoking activities, and develop strategies to help learn and retain information such as names and course maps.

Coming back to agility has given me a refreshed perspective on the sport. It has so many benefits physical, mentally, and relationally, I think we are in for the duration. The training challenges have piqued my interest. And besides, my dog loves it.

—Bernerly,

Marjorie Geiger, marggeiger@yahoo.com

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

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Boerboels

THE BOERBOEL AS A MODERN “WORKING FARM DOG”

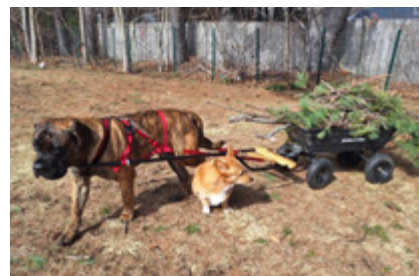
In previous articles I have covered topics such as showing your Boerboel, as well as some of the AKC sports, thus far including dock-diving and nose work, in which the Boerboel—one of the most athletic and agile of breeds—excel. Some of our American Boerboel Club (ABC) members suggested that I write about the Boerboel in its modern role as a working farm dog. Since the Boerboel *was* originally bred to protect farming families in South Africa and their livestock from predations of wild animals, I thought this was an excellent idea—as it should be noted that *Boerboel*, in fact, translates into “farm dog.”

Fortuitously, several ABC members have farms of various sorts, (or recommended friends with farms) who use their Boerboels as working dogs and were happy to discuss their experiences.

Perhaps a good place to begin is to look at the



kinds of roles the modern Boerboel plays in farm settings in the U.S., and the traits and characteristics that make the breed so well suited to the tasks. While they may not need to combat cheetahs or hyenas, their jobs are not dissimilar to the original work of the breed.



While the modern Boerboel in the U.S. may not need to combat cheetahs or hyenas, their jobs today are not dissimilar to the breed's original work.

The most common current roles mentioned include:

Guard dogs and protectors of families and property. This was, historically, and is still the primary purpose of the Boerboel. The Boerboel has been bred to be loving and very protective of their families, particularly children;

COURTESY KAREN L. CORNELIUS

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hence, it is important that they live with their families, versus out in the barn.

For most Boerboels, this “circle of protection” extends to family pets. For example, our Boerboel will bossily interfere if our cats start fighting; and he becomes very distressed and barks urgently to summon a family member if one of our two tortoises manages to get stuck upside down in their terrarium.

Similarly, Boerboels will view farm animals as their responsibility to safeguard. Depending upon in what part of the country a farm is located, Boerboels may be confronted with marauding wolves, coyotes, bears, trespassing dogs, cougars, and other challenges; and they must discriminate between these threats and the farm animals they guard.

Other farm dog roles. These include:

Accompanying, as both a companion, and protecting farmers and family members around

the farm—whether they are working, or simply surveilling their property on foot, or horseback or in a vehicle. Boerboels should be comfortable running alongside a horse, bicycle, and four-wheel drive or other vehicles.

Chasing away trespassing animals—particularly those that might prey on livestock.

Killing unwelcome vermin such as rats.

Tracking deer and other animals a farmer may be hunting, or finding livestock that may have escaped and wandered off.

Key Boerboel attributes to perform farm dog roles

Discernment. One of the people I interviewed for this article was ABC member Rosalyn Rombauer, a Boerboel breeder and competitor in conformation showing and many AKC competitions, as well as owning a timber farm. She offered some interesting perspectives on the Boerboel as a working Farm Dog. Her view is that one vital

attribute a Boerboel should bring to such a role is “discernment.” She explained: “They should innately know a puppy is a puppy (and won’t step on or harm them), but a coyote is not a domestic dog, which is not a raccoon. My ideal Boerboel uses only the amount of force necessary to make a problem go away—they are not ‘attack dogs.’ They shouldn’t seek out a fight! They are ‘defense guard dogs.’ If a bear charges, they should stand or step in—not starting the fight, but having the heart to hold their ground.”

One of my own experiences with my family’s Boerboel and a coyote demonstrates this discernment. I had taken our Boerboel out in our backyard as evening was falling. The back edge of our property has a line of trees and undergrowth. A coyote slipped through the hedge, stealthily approaching me across the lawn. Our Boerboel observed him and after one sharp bark ran at

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the coyote, who turned and fled. As soon as the coyote crossed the line of trees, our Boerboel stopped and ran back to me, adopting an alert, guarding posture in front of me until he was quite sure the coyote had gone for good.

Hardiness. Both Rosalyn and other people I spoke with (they preferred I not use their names) who use Boerboels as working farm dogs commented that they are a tough, hardy breed, able to be mobile for long periods of time when their duties call for it. They should be healthy, with strong immune systems, and tolerant of/able to work in hot or cold weather and rain or snow.

Acute sense of smell. Boerboels have excellent noses, an important attribute on farms and in tracking or hunting.

Ability to work in partnership with their farmers/family members. Boerboels form deep bonds with their families, and want to please them, as well as viewing

farm animals as under their protection, which creates a sound foundation for a successful working partnership on a farm.

Early preparation and socialization

In the life of a Farm Dog, basic obedience and early socialization are a must! Rosalyn advocates showing Boerboels for their first year—which accustoms the puppy to the often-chaotic environment of a dog show, performing in the ring with other dogs, and being handled by a judge. She adds, “I absolutely don’t think there should be a difference between a farm and show dog ... and I want high end working sporting dogs.” She advocates beginning with easy sports that any handler can do, such as nose work or Fast CAT, that are fun and usually positive experiences for the dogs as part of the socialization process. Others I spoke with mentioned dock diving and Barn Hunt and agreed that a good obedience foundation would

include teaching eye contact, “watch me,” “leave it,” and establishing a sound recall. In terms of performance events, the AKC offers a Farm Dog Certified test, which consists of a series of 12 exercises that “represent situations a farm dog would encounter in a typical farm environment.

Final thoughts for the future

Two people I spoke with mentioned concerns that the “working” Boerboel was beginning to diverge from the “show” Boerboel in terms of conformation and reactivity. Rosalyn expressed broader concerns about the possibility of the breed’s losing its “discernment,” hardiness, and aptitude for work, as these are not traits and attributes breeders actively seek to preserve. I thought her advice for the future was an apt place to end this article: “Most Boerboels have an aptitude to work ... and to maintain that, as well as their unique ‘discernment,’ we must breed for these, work and

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prove our dogs every generation!”

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

Boxers

NOT JUST ANOTHER PRETTY FACE!

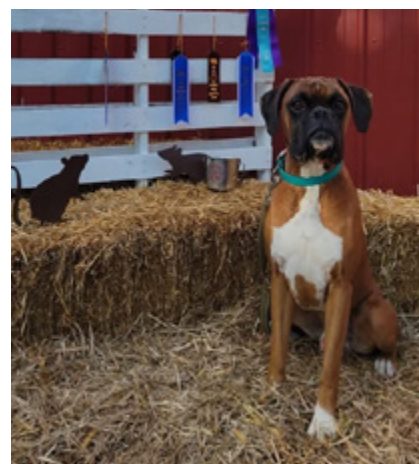
Too often the Boxer is presumed to be “just another pretty show dog,” or a “rough, tough working dog” ...but a look behind door number two shows the Boxer is a talented performance dog—who sometimes has a sense of humor in his adaptation of the activity.

With the increase of canine sports activities becoming so popular we find the Boxers have made a significant impact. Not only are they capable physically and mentally, but also they finally convinced you they really are *working dogs* (even if they prefer their work area be air conditioned).

All jesting aside, while Boxers have always had success in AKC obedience (some are aggressive in



More than “just another pretty show dog,” the Boxer is a talented athlete and performance competitor.



conquering their challenge, while others a bit more exacting to the task at hand), Boxers have now invaded—and conquered—many athletic endeavors.

Herding. While Boxers

have been working the fields for years, herding activities and competition for the Boxers only began in the past 20 years. It comes naturally. Think of your Boxer—she always keeps her “ducks in

COURTESY OWNERS / BOXER CLUB OF AMERICA

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a row,” be it her dollys, puppies, or your shoes. Boxers want their charges controlled.

Lure coursing. What fun to watch! The challenge and determination of the chase—and the occasional Boxer who has figured the prey will come again, and he needs to greet his “watching fans.”

Dock diving. Once the Boxer realizes he can fly (even if it’s just for seconds), the challenge of capture is compelling.

Nose Work. The nose ... knows. The challenge of discovering and identifying scents comes naturally to the curious Boxer.

Fast CAT. Speed is the word. It’s a short challenge with quick gratification!

Barn Hunt. Ahhh ... the smells in a barn! Boxer heaven to search and find, while being challenged by the odors of the environment.

Tracking. Curiosity is second nature to the Boxer, and the intense ability of scent discrimination makes them love to search.

There are so many opportunities and challenges

awaiting you and your Boxer. Contact your local all-breed or Boxer club for information on some of the activities in your area.

—Virginia Shames,
Arribatali@aol.com
[American Boxer Club](#)

Bullmastiffs

Thank you to Rebecca Huizenga-Galbreath of Balbrea Boxers and Bullmastiffs for this inspiring insight into her work with her two therapy Bullmastiffs, Dutch (GCh. BTrue’s Good Lookin’ Man) and his son, Ruben (GCh.B Galbrea’s Behold a Beloved Son). Therapy work is a topic of growing interest to so many in the fancy, and experiences like these encourage participation. Bullmastiffs make wonderful therapy dogs!

THE THERAPY DOGS: TWO GENERATIONS OF BULLMASTIFF LOVE!

By Rebecca Huizenga-Galbreath

In the summer of 2010, I

got my first Bullmastiff. He was the most mellow and easygoing puppy to this date that I have encountered.

The first two years of his life were focused primarily on socializing him with many outings to handling classes, obedience, nose works, tracking and dog shows. In addition, Dutch was our daughter’s 4-H dog.

As I became more engrossed into the dog sport world, I discovered Therapy Dog International and decided to look into getting him registered. To become registered, they have to go through a series of testing to make sure that they are going to be an ideal match for the tasks at hand.

Going through the testing with Dutch was a breeze, since working with him over the last two years he passed every single test without a hitch. Following passing the test the next step was to go visit a local retirement facility and ask their activity director if she would like to add Dutch to their schedule. She was very excited to

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Bullmastiffs Dutch (left) and his son, Ruben, have excelled in doing meaningful therapy work.

do just that!

We started making weekly visits immediately, and Dutch was a huge hit; they absolutely adored him! There was always a large group of residents gathered and excited for his visits. They loved to tell stories of their past pets and as the weeks turned into years of seeing the folks, Dutch and I got very attached to each and every one of them.

And so it began. Dutch was a calm and relaxed

Bullmastiff who was a perfect fit from the start to be a therapy dog. He spent the following seven years up until he passed away doing something that he loved and looking forward to every Tuesday.

After Dutch's sudden passing in 2019 due to hemangiosarcoma, devastated by the loss, I went a year without a dog ... then, when I felt ready, I contacted Dutch's breeder, and we co-bred a litter. Now I

have Dutch's son, Ruben! Ruben is so different from his sire. He was a wild puppy and kept me on my toes. He, too, is very loving and sensitive like his father.

When Ruben turned 1 year old in June 2021, I saw that Therapy Dogs International was offering Therapy Dog Testing at a local dog show in Sequim, Washington. I brought Ruben, and much like his father, he passed on his first attempt!

COURTESY REBECCA HUIZENGA-GALBREATH

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I went back to the same senior living facility and again discussed with their activity director adding a Bullmastiff to their schedule. She said absolutely. Ruben started making his weekly visits immediately. Ruben too was a huge hit with all the residents.

Now at 5 years old, he has been a Therapy Dog for roughly four years. The facility asked if we would come a second time during the week and visit with the folks in memory care. We now go twice a week.

If you've ever thought about or might consider taking your pet for therapy visits in your own community, I would highly recommend it. It is very rewarding to see how much it means to everyone. Make sure you research as there are many excellent therapy animal organizations out there and then visit some of your local senior living communities or hospitals or even local libraries and see if they would like visits with your therapy dog.

Thanks for letting me share my story of my two generations of Bullmastiffs spreading their love!

— Rebecca Huizenga-Galbreath

Thank you, Rebecca.

—Lindy Whyte,

Tryumphe@comcast.net
[American Bullmastiff Association](http://AmericanBullmastiffAssociation.com)

Doberman Pinschers

"A DOG OF MEDIUM SIZE ..."

The official AKC standard for the Doberman Pinscher is the blueprint for the breed. The standard defines and describes the structure, enabling the student to visualize the physical incarnation in which the "soul" of the animal resides.

Herr Dobermann, those hundred-plus years ago, imagined a dog. He thought of the traits he desired. As the local dogcatcher, he could find candidates who exhibited the characteristics he wanted and continue to fine-tune his goals. His eventual recipe, it is supposed, would include his

own muscular and powerful Rottweilers, the fearless and agile German Pinscher, and the Beauceron. Later, the alert and determined Black and Tan Terrier (today's Manchester Terrier), a pinch of Weimaraner, perhaps German Shorthaired Pointer, and a dash of blue Great Dane. Maybe some Greyhound tossed in for elegance and better sight. Read six books about the Doberman and get six different versions.

The bits and pieces of the Doberman's history are cobbled together by brilliant breeders. One of them, Otto Goeller, founded the first Dobermannpinscher Klub in Apolda, Germany, in 1899. In his book *The Doberman Pinscher*, published in 1939, Phillip Gruenig says, "The art of the breeder had found a suitable medium of expression ... well-planned selection increased the size of the dogs, improved their appearance and enhanced their nobility and stateliness (Adel)." Herr Dobermann's



*Doberman Pinscher
Ch. Royal Tudor's Wild
as the Wind, CD, 1989*

dog—bobtailed, coarse, and with light eyes and a thick, wooly undercoat—would evolve into a smooth-coated, dark-eyed breed born with a long tail.

The first standard written by the DPCA was approved by the AKC in August 1935. Prior standards were adap-

tations of the 1920 German standard. The DPCA would make changes and adopt them in 1942, 1948, and 1969—and in 1982, the current version, when dogs “Not of an allowed color” was added as a disqualifying fault.

The standard is vital in

understanding what makes a Doberman a Doberman. The skeletal structure of the canine is fundamentally the same in all breeds. The size, length, and weight differ between breeds, thus the size of the dog varies. But the “how” a dog is built is comprised of the same bones, and the same relationship exists for all breeds: The shoulder is connected to the upper arm; hip sockets provide the joint for the upper thigh; and so on.

Breeders should study anatomy. Angulation is determined by the bones and muscle formation, using certain rules. You will be able to recognize faults and virtues and why they occur in an individual animal.

Many Dobe people have horses, and the Doberman and the horse are similar in structure. There are variations; in the forequarters, for example, due to bone length and proportion, the Doberman’s shoulder and upper arm should be equal. The Doberman and the Dachshund standard are

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similar in describing the quarters. Check it out!

If you know how skeletal structure relates to muscle, muscle to skin—you will then have a better chance in understanding the “huh?” moments when that gorgeous dog (stacked) takes one step and falls apart. The musculature acts as the glue for the skeleton. That dip in the topline often begins at the junction where the solid thoracic vertebrae meet the flexible lumbar vertebrae and the overlying muscle is not strong enough to keep it together.

The standard defines the end result of the anatomy of a particular breed. It provides details on proportion, position, length of bones—balance. Each section flows to the next, much like connect the dots, and when you complete the task correctly, you will have the breed described. You’ll move from “huh?” to “aha!”

—Leslie Hall,

pajant@aol.com

Doberman Pinscher Club
of America

German Pinschers

THE DOG IS THE THING

There are at least as many reasons to get a dog as there are dog breeds recognized by the AKC. Lots of people get a dog because they want a family pet. Some because they want a dog to run or hike with them. Dogs work on farms, act as service animals, compete in sports, and keep geese off golf courses and airfields.

Once in a while in some online group I’m a member of someone asks the group to help them pick a breed. Sometimes they’re looking for a dog who suits their particular life-style—apartment dweller, active or not particularly active, good travel companion, and so on. Sometimes they’re looking for the best dog for a particular sport or a group of sports. Sometimes they’re looking for a dog that might be up for anything.

We choose dogs because they’re like the dogs we grew up with. Or they’re not like the dogs we grew up with.

We choose them because we think they’ll be easy, or we think they’ll be busy or calm or smart or were actually bred to be companions.

The best family dog I had as a kid was a Beagle who just showed up one day. We named him Gog because my youngest brother was a toddler at the time, and that was his word for “dog.” Gog was just a happy-go-lucky, decent dog. He was happy to hang out with us, and happy to go his own way.

We had lots of other dogs over the years, some of whom were good family dogs and some of whom were not, but Gog is often the one I think of when I think of a family dog.

Gog, that good family dog, would probably not have been a good sport dog. But maybe he would have, with the right training and the right trainer. Different sports require different skills and strengths, but there are some breeds that seem to excel, particularly at sports that require speed, precision, and teamwork.

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German Pinscher

The German Pinscher can be a good family dog, and it can be a good sport dog—though, like all dogs originally bred for a purpose, a German Pinscher may not fit every family or every sport. German Pinschers were originally bred as general-purpose farm dogs, primarily to be vermin-catchers and alert dogs. You can see this today in their ability to move quickly, to notice everything, and to go from a relaxed nap to fully alert in a fraction of a second. They're

smart, alert, and active. They're medium-sized dogs with short hair. They need regular exercise, but not excessive exercise. They need “sniffy walks,” yard time, and occasional enrichment activities.

I don't always say that a German Pinscher will be a great family dog or a great sport dog in response to a general question. I like to know more specifics—because in addition to the breed and the specific dog in the breed, it depends on the family and the sport and

the training. But German Pinschers can be and are good family dogs, and can be good sports dogs. The key is to both learn about the breed and be clear about what you want in a dog and what you want to bring to the relationship.

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

Giant Schnauzers

EARLY HISTORY OF THE GIANT SCHNAUZER BREED

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

Next came an influx of people to the southern part of Germany. The Bavarian farm dogs are now referred as Oberlanders, and the city

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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Giant Schnauzer

of Munich became the dogs' second home. The Munich dogs are also referred to as *Münchener schnauzer* (Munich Schnauzer) and *Russen schnauzer*, due to the Russian tribal decent of the

people, in addition to *bier-schnauzer* (Beer Schnauzer). References using these names are from 1890–1920.

In 1909 *grosser Münchener schnauzers* (big Munich schnauzers) were officially

recognized at a show in Munich. A report from the 1909 show of 23 *Münchener Schnauzers* stated: "It was a medley of types, colors, coat varieties and sizes!" The 1910 edition of pincher studbook had the first registered litter of *Münchener Schnauzers*. As dog shows are based on appearance, it is during this time that the breeding shifted towards a unified physical appearance vs. breeding that focuses on working ability and the desired physical features needed and preferred by the breeder. In addition to dog fanciers now breeding these dogs, the Pincher-Klub wanted the exterior of the Munich Schnauzer to look as close as possible to the *rauhhaariger pinscher* (now called Standard Schnauzer).

Two breeding tendencies developed: (1) breeding Oberlanders (also referred to as Munich type); and (2) crossing oversized Standard Schnauzers with the Oberlanders (referred to as the central German type) to

LISA CROFT-ELLIOTT ©AKC

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try and unify type as quickly as possible. World War I put most things on hold until 1918.

The major kennels after the war were v. Kinzigtal (Dr. Calaminus), v. d. Pfingstweide (Dr. Priemel), v. Stichelsdorf (Mr. Baron), v. Wetterstein (Mr. Kluftringer), v. Alt-Worms (Mr. Oberle), and v. Schönaau.

Although the stud books only include Oberlanders and Standard Schnauzers, at the end of Dr. Calaminus's life, he admitted to three crosses to dogs of other breeds for a dominant black color, a well-crested neck, and overall correct coat. He never mentioned what these breeds were, and there is no documentation. People primarily speculate black Great Danes and Bouviers des Flandres.

Although possible that one of the outcrossed was to a Bouvier des Flandres, it is more likely the cross would have been to a Bouvier de Roulers, as this Bouvier was heavier in bone, stron-

ger than the des Flandres, black, 25½ to 27½ inches at the withers, and had a wiry coat with long eyebrows and beard. Additionally, the Bouvier de Roulers was closer in proximity to Germany. (It is also interesting to note that the Bouvier, which had several types, was struggling on a similar path as the Giant Schnauzer from farm to show ring in this turn of the century pre-war period.)

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

From 1918–1921, 567 Giant Schnauzers were registered. In 1922 unregistered dogs were banned from shows. In 1923 the Pincher-Schnauzer Klub (formally Pincher-Klub, name changed in 1921) Riesenschnauzer (Giant

Schnauzer) breed standard was established.

—*Material mainly from The World of Schnauzers, by Johan Gallant.*

—Bridgette Tuerler, 2015
[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Great Danes

CAVEAT EMPTOR

Fair warning to all families looking to obtain a dog: Buyer beware! The world in which we live too frequently evidences those who live by taking advantage of others. This is and has always been true of the world of dogs. The Great Dane is no exception. For those that are desirous of owning a member of this magnificent breed, please consider taking some advice from this article.

The Great Dane has, for as long as I can remember, been one of the AKC's top 20 breeds in popularity. Whenever a breed becomes popular, they are fair game for those wishing to take advantage of the public via

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backyard breeding programs and/or actual puppy mills. As an AKC dog judge I often see the degradation of quality in some wonderful breeds (including my beloved Danes) due to greed and nefarious activities of those that are profiteering from the novice puppy buyer.

There are several ways with which you can avoid such individuals and assure yourself that you are getting a puppy from a reputable and honest breeder. In most areas there is a local Great Dane club. The GDCA website also has these listed. They will usually be able to guide you to breeders of nice dogs that are members and may even have puppies available. Most of these clubs also have a rescue organization where Danes have fallen on hard times through no fault of their own and simply need a loving home.

Almost all of a club's breeders also exhibit their dogs at dog shows. If you have desires of possibly



Great Dane

showing a Dane, the breeder will have already selected those puppies that they feel are either show quality of pet quality.

The reputable breeder will probably be equally interested in your plans for how your puppy will be maintained as you are of how healthy the puppy is. They

probably will not want to hear that you are going to keep your dog outdoors in a doghouse. The Dane is a family member, and they will expect him or her to live with the family.

The breeder will be your source of information for what to feed your dog and if there is a local vet who is the

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

WORKING GROUP

most popular with the Dane community.

The GDCA website and the AKC website are also good sources of information. Please do not consider a newspaper ad that reads something along the lines of “AKC Dane puppies—\$350.” That is only an accident waiting to happen. If you go to look at Dane puppies, take your kids with you, and let them interact with the breeder’s dogs.

I leave you with two comments when getting your first Dane: Be mindful in your search, and enjoy what will be a lifelong pleasure with this magnificent breed.

—Bill Stebbins,

cherdane2@comcast.net

[Great Dane Club of America](#)

Great Pyrenees

BUCKET LIST

What would be on your Pyrenees bucket list? When I asked this question on social media, I figured answers would include winning the national specialty,



Great Pyrenees

Best in Show, High in Trial, or the Fath medallion. Variations would be to win these from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class, or to have bred a dog that did the winning. All of those are certainly on *my* bucket list. I was delighted with some of the other answers—some touching, some insightful, and all very much from the heart.

Several people wanted honesty in the breed—coming together with no agenda, furthering the breed, to encourage and support new members and owners. Leaving politics, egos,

and power trips behind. A big amen to that, sistas and brothers!

A number of folks touched on dealing with new puppy owners and those looking into the breed. They wanted all puppy owners to know that Pyrs are big-time barkers (as I write this, my two house dogs are barking at Something Very Important). Letting new owners know about their guarding habits, and that they are not easy to train. Think obedience. Don’t think you’re getting a Border Collie who lives to please you. Owners need to know that Pyrs shed, dig,

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

WORKING GROUP

and are ADD off leash. And they can drool. (I read that and thought, *wait, mine don't* ...—just as Elfie wandered over with a big dollop of slobber hanging from her mouth.) Hopefully having these items on our bucket list would result in another item: No more rescue! For every puppy to have a forever home with people who love them.

Health issues were mentioned—and are probably on everyone's list. No more hip dysplasia, luxating patellas, temperament problems, seizures, or cancer. That touched me deeply. This week I'll have to put my dearest Rogie down for osteosarcoma. I've been crying about this for a month.

Pyras are wonderful therapy dogs, and several breeders were working in that area or wanting to do more. Yes, yes, yes!

A couple of bucket-list items were very personal. One person wanted to see Pyrenees from at least 20 different countries, while another wanted a water-lov-

ing Pyr (and was assured by others reading the Facebook page that such dogs exist). And a Pyr who came when called *every single time*. (OK, that would be a miracle.)

One Pyr lover summed up this list with a beautiful sentiment. "My wish would be that every small child could experience the unconditional love, unflinching loyalty, and gentle affection of the Great Pyrenees and then pay it forward in all that they do in their life."

—Carrie Stuart Parks,
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[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

WHEN MISTAKES HAPPEN— TRUST THE TRIUNE

Picture this: you're at your longtime, trusted veterinary clinic for a routine appointment—the same as many times before. A friendly chat. A quick injection. A treat on the way out.

But today is different. The wrong medication is given,

and your Swissy is now at risk for an unexpected reaction. The technician is apologetic. Your regular vet wasn't there, but later that evening calls you personally. They express genuine regret, acknowledge the error, and offer to cover related costs.

And there you sit—with your dog at your feet and a storm of questions. What now? What next? Can trust be rebuilt?

We often speak of our dogs as our partners, companions and family. But quietly underpinning that relationship is a sacred triangle—dog, owner, *and* veterinarian. Each depends on the others. Without our veterinary team, we couldn't safely raise, treat, breed, or age our dogs. Without us, medical professionals don't have the context or long-term insights that a committed owner brings. And without the dog—well, none of us would be in this relationship in the first place.

When the triangle is strong, trust is implicit.

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Communication flows. Care is proactive. Mistakes are rare. But when something does go wrong, every angle is tested—and its strength revealed.

Years ago I lost a dog due to veterinary error. It was devastating. The shock, the grief, the persistent replay of what I could have done differently—it all lingered. And yet, through that loss, my compassion for veterinary professionals didn't diminish. In many ways, it deepened.

Veterinary medicine is a profession under immense strain. The suicide rate among veterinarians is one of the highest across all professions. Organizations like Not One More Vet have emerged in response, offering mental health support and suicide prevention for those who entered the veterinary field out of love for animals, and who now face overwhelming stress and burnout. Sometimes with life altering consequences.

How do we hold both truths? That veterinary



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

mistakes can be deeply painful—and, that those who make them are human beings, doing the best they can, often stretched to their limits?

Yes, malpractice insurance exists, but few clients pursue legal action. In most states, the law treats pets as property, not family, and outcomes rarely reflect the emotional loss. Most of us live in that difficult in-between—seeking accountability that's humane, and resolution that

respects relationship, loss and grief.

Ideally, a mistake is met with transparency. Your veterinarian acknowledges the error without defensiveness. They offer a path forward—medically, emotionally, and financially. They take responsibility. They treat the triune relationship with the same urgency they would in an emergency. And, hopefully, they also tend to self-care.

As clients, our role matters too. We aren't simply

COURTESY HOT DOG PHOTO

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bystanders. We are the daily observers of our dogs' lives. We notice subtle shifts. We ask questions. We advocate. And when things go wrong, we carry the emotional weight—sometimes heavier than expected. That's ok. It means we care.

The best outcomes—even after mistakes—happen when the dog remains as the center, and the humans on either side stay connected through trust, honest communication, shared purpose and kindness.

We owe it to our dogs to advocate for their care. We owe it to our veterinary team to be thoughtful, informed partners. And we owe it to ourselves to navigate these moments with clarity, grace, and compassion. And sometimes forgiveness.

Because mistakes will happen. And when they do, what matters most is how we respond—and whether, despite the strain, the triangle remains intact.

—Tracey Brant

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

Komondorok

THE TRADecraft OF SHOWING KOMONDORS

In my last column I talked about why we might decide to show. Once that choice is made it is more fun to do it right and to have success. Experienced exhibitors concentrate on the things that help success. You might call this the tradecraft of showing Komondors.

Judges, in general, are looking for three things: 1) They should be looking for a dog who fits the standard, standing and on the move; 2) inevitably they are going to judge the condition and quantity of coat (I don't agree with this, but we are stuck with it); and 3) they are looking for the dog who shows the best.

Our standard has clear descriptions of the Komondor on the move and standing. "Gait: Light, leisurely and balanced. The Komondor takes long strides, is very agile and light on his feet. The head is carried slightly forward when the dog trots." So, the trick

to meeting this vision is to train and encourage your dog to do this. Train your dog to move in a relaxed manner on a loose lead with his head in a natural position. For a dog with good shoulders and neck ("Shoulders well laid back, Neck: ... of medium length, moderately arched") that will place his head slightly forward, as described. Being relaxed will lengthen his stride. If your dog's shoulders are a little upright, being in a natural posture will still help.

Standing the Komondor is described as slightly rectangular, with a large head and "plenty of bone and substance." That is modified by the statement: "While large size is important, type, character, symmetry, movement and ruggedness are of the greatest importance and are on no account to be sacrificed for size alone." Show off the head and work to have your stack show off both symmetry and ruggedness. If the dog is uncomfortable during the

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Proper Komondor type is evident with both a young coat and a mature coat: Pictured are a 5-year-old and a 14-month-old puppy bitch.

exam it takes away from the impression of “imposing strength, dignity, courageous demeanor.” Since we know our Komondors are not afraid, they just need to be exposed to showing enough that they will be comfortable.

Our standard describes a “dense, protective coat” and at maturity the Komondor “is entirely covered with a heavy coat of these tassel-like cords.” While our standard clearly says “that the length of the Komondor’s coat is a function of age, that a younger

dog must never be penalized for having a shorter coat” and that the younger coat is “sometimes lumpy,” many judges mistake the adult coat as the most important feature on the Komondor. They are mistaking the coat for type.

Many years ago we asked expert dog judge Anne Rogers Clark what defined type in Komondors. After some thought she said it was the outline of the dog: a pleasing line coming off a strong head, down a moderately arched neck, over a strong level topline, to the

sloping rump and a well held tail. No matter how many times we repeat this vision in our club’s judges’ education, still many judges think the mature corded coat is our type.

How can we battle this misconception? At every age the coat should be presented to its best advantage. It must be clean. It should follow the outline of the dog, offering the picture of a proper shape and strength. Amazingly this can be done with both a young coat and a mature coat. The pictures shown here are of a

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES / KOMONDOR CLUB OF AMERICA

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14-month-old puppy bitch and a 5-year-old dog, both giving the impression of what Mrs. Clark so eloquently defined as our breed type.

As mentioned above, the dog must be comfortable in order to show well. Exposure to strangers and an understanding of what you are asking him to do facilitates this. I suggest obedience classes or training to achieve this. Komondors are not afraid. Stay means stay, stand means stand, gait means gait. If these are understood the dog will relax and do the job. If classes aren't available there are many good books on training. I recommend a classic: *Playtraining Your Dog*, by Patricia Gail Burnham. As an extra benefit, it includes some great Komondor pictures as examples. It is still available, new and used.

Good luck with your Komondors in the ring!

—Eric Liebes,
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Komondor Club of
America

Kuvaszok

This month, the Kuvasz Club of America is pleased to welcome Maria Arechaederra as the new columnist for the AKC GAZETTE. Maria previously served in this role and graciously agreed to step back in following the retirement of columnist Lynn Brady. A breeder, exhibitor, and AKC judge, Maria brings more than 40 years of experience with the Kuvasz breed. The KCA extends its gratitude to Lynn Brady for her many contributions and warmly welcomes Maria's return.

IS YOUR BREED A VICTIM OF "FAKE NEWS"?

In recent years, much has been said about "fake news." While the phrase is most often associated with politics, the reality is that misinformation spreads across every subject imaginable, including purebred dogs. Breed-specific "facts" found online are often misleading, exaggerated, or simply wrong. Some of this originates from Animal

Activist agendas, but just as often it is the result of well-meaning but uninformed sources. Sadly, both forms of misinformation can harm a breed's reputation and future. Ideally, a curious newcomer would begin their search at akc.org, where accurate information is linked to a breed's parent club. In practice, however, most people start with a search engine and are led instead to commercial sites that prioritize sales or referrals.

The Kuvasz is a low-entry breed with limited name recognition that has long been protected by dedicated breeders who value its integrity and heritage. Unfortunately, an unintended consequence of our vigilance is that we have not always promoted the Kuvasz's versatility and appeal to the broader public. Registration numbers continue to decline, and our popularity ranking continues to edge downward.

What is online often contrasts sharply with real-



ity. Nearly every major dog website describes the Kuvasz strictly as a farm dog and livestock guardian. While this may have been historically accurate, it overlooks today's reality, which is that most modern Kuvasz live in suburban homes, often with families, children, and other pets.

One site claimed the breed is “unsuitable” for anyone lacking prior Kuvasz experience. By that logic, no one could ever own their first

Kuvasz. Another warned the breed “cannot tolerate warm weather.” Yet summers in Hungary are frequently hot and dry, and like most dogs the Kuvasz manages just fine with proper shade and water.

Some of the other common misconceptions include:

“Not good with other dogs”: The Kuvasz may not welcome stray dogs on its property, but within its family it is steady, respectful, and

not inherently quarrelsome.

“Not suitable for children”: Having raised two children to adulthood among several generations of Kuvasz, I know first-hand that when children are taught to respect a dog as a sentient being, a Kuvasz thrives in their company. Many juniors have achieved remarkable success in the ring with them.

“Difficult to train”: The Kuvasz is in fact one of the most intelligent, quick-learning breeds I have known. They will resist rote repetition, but they are extremely intelligent and quick learners. Having owned 6 different breeds of dogs I can attest that the Kuvasz was the easiest to housebreak.

“Need extensive grooming”: Another myth is that they are high maintenance. In truth, they shed and need regular brushing, but frequent bathing is unnecessary. Ear and nail care are standard. The most puzzling claim? That Kuvasz are “moderate droolers.” With tight lips and no

COURTESY RHONDA CASSIDY

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excess flews, the Kuvasz does not drool. If you care about preserving your breed, I encourage you to sit at the computer as “John Q. Public” and search what others see. You may be shocked at how incomplete and inaccurate the portrait is.

If preservation is our goal, versatility must be our strategy. Breeders and owners must champion the Kuvasz not just for what it was bred to do, but for all it is capable of doing. We must encourage responsible homes to see the breed not as a historical artifact, but as a living, thinking, feeling partner. It is a breed that demands respect, structure, and understanding, but gives back loyalty in abundance.

The Kuvasz may never be a breed for everyone, and that’s perfectly fine. But its history rooted in service, courage, and adaptability should ensure that it still has a place in the modern world. The more we embrace and celebrate the many ways a Kuvasz can thrive, the better chance we have to preserve

not just its physical traits, but its enduring spirit.

—Maria Arechaederra
[Kuvasz Club of America](#)

Leonbergers

OWNER TO JUDGE

Every Leonberger owner has a story of how they came to be involved in the breed, and yet those stories all have their unique arc and content. I had the opportunity to chat with West Coast AKC Leonberger judge and owner Linda Sebastiani, about her history with the breed and her plans for the future. She graciously accepted all of my questions and willingly shared her journey.

Her connection with Leonbergers began innocently enough. She had Golden Retrievers and a street rescue dog prior to her first Leonberger. She stumbled onto Leonbergers while looking up a dog named Dreyfus in a TV sitcom. Dreyfus was a mix breed and not a Leonberger, but Sebastiani’s search into that

dog eventually led to her getting into Leonbergers. It was her second leo in 2002, Harmony (aka Harmony von Sanften Lowen) who got Sebastiani into showing her own dogs. Sebastiani shared a humorous memory of the moments before stepping into the various rings with Harmony, referring to Harmony as the “Queen” pausing at the gate, picking up her head, throwing out her chest, and striding into that ring to own it.

Harmony was bred to GCh. Quen Star Sagitta Habibi Nefertiti, RN, FDC, BCAT, SWN, SCA, SIA, SEA, CGCA, CGCU, TKE, FITB, in 2007, and Sebastiani kept a boy, Big Ben (aka Bellawood’s And the Beat Goes On) out of that litter. Ben went on to become Sebastiani’s first AKC champion after Leonbergers became recognized by AKC in 2010.

At the time of this interview, Sebastiani was awaiting the birth of her 18th litter, a singleton who is a granddaughter of Harmony.

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*Linda Sebastiani's
first AKC champion
Leonberger, Ben*

Sebastiani's eventual crossover into becoming a judge happened through a number of situations. Though she had considered becoming a professional handler, a bad knee pushed that option off the table. However, her knowledge of Leonbergers, and canine structure and movement, led her to consider becoming a judge. With her usual dedication to education and obsession with details, Sebastiani began pursuing the process. She traveled, studied, and followed the strict guidelines, and even-

tually became approved to judge Leonbergers in the AKC ring. Since then she has been studying to become approved to judge the other Working breeds as well. Sebastiani has judged at a number of large-entry Leonberger specialties, including the Mid-Atlantic Triple Crown event in Westminster, Maryland, in the fall of 2024.

When asked what aspects of the Leonberger stand out to her in the ring, she mentioned soft, dark eyes, as that is one of the characteristics of the breed. She also

loves to see a clean front and rear, as well as appropriate substance and bone that matches the size of the dog. Smooth effortless motion, as opposed to heavy plodding, is also important to her, as the Leonberger is an athletic breed despite its size.

Linda Sebastiani is thrilled to be a Leonberger judge, and she is looking forward to becoming approved for all working breeds as she continues along her journey.

—Shannon White,
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[Leonberger Club of America](#)

Mastiffs

THE HAIR OF THE DOG ...

“The hair of the dog” is a common expression as the suggested remedy for those who drink to excess, wake up with a biting hangover, and decide that a Bloody Mary for breakfast sounds like a good idea. In Mastiffs, while alcohol is generally not involved, the hair of the dog has its

COURTESY LINDA SEBASTIANI



Mastiff

own particular bite.

Long hair in the Mastiff breed has become a very controversial topic recently, as has the amount of white hair in the breed. Understanding these issues requires a little knowledge of breed history. There are two topics that must be consid-

ered: the origin of coat and color and the breed standard.

Where did long hair and excessive white in the breed originate?

History tells us that during World War II, with severe rationing on food and necessities, entire kennels of Mastiffs were put

down because each dog ate as much as a soldier. By war's end, there were only 15 Mastiffs left between Canada, the U.S. and Great Britain. Those 15 dogs were used to rebuild the breed.

Long coats and excessive white did not exist in the dogs remaining after that war, nor did they produce long coats or excessive white markings. The Mastiff Club of America website (mastiffclubofamerica.com) shows photographs from 1880 through 1950 in the "history.pdf," including many of the ancestors of these last 15 dogs. None demonstrate either characteristic, although all of the other faults listed in the AKC Mastiff breed standard are clearly displayed.

The long hair and white markings of today came from outcrosses to other breeds. Breeds known to have been used for outcrossing include the Saint Bernard, the Great Dane, the Bullmastiff, the Newfoundland, and others. Some, if not all, of the

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breeds used, were developed from Mastiffs or descended from the ancient dogs that were the progenitors of all Molossers. These outcrosses replicated the modern Mastiff's type as developed in England. Unfortunately, they also added other characteristics including long hair and increased white markings and other health problems that were prevalent in those breeds.

How does the AKC breed standard for the Mastiff address long hair and excessive white? Today's standard (1991) states: "Coat: Outer coat straight, coarse, and of moderately short length. Undercoat dense, short, and close lying. Coat should not be so long as to produce "fringe" on the belly, tail, or hind legs. Fault Long or wavy coat." A long coat in a Mastiff is a fault.

The standard does not list white as an approved color. It also says in part: "Color... Faults - Excessive white on the chest or white on any other part of the body." Any white that exceeds a small

patch on the chest is a fault.

The Mastiff developed primarily in England and is considered an English breed. The U.K. standard does not mention long hair or white patches. Albinism is stated as a disqualification.

Confusion among the fancy about white markings occurs for two reasons. Some artwork going back into the 1600s depicts Mastiff-type dogs with white markings. Renowned painter Edwin Landseer is famed for his depiction of the Alpine Mastiff, shown in his 1820 painting of two "mastiff" dogs that are marked like Saint Bernards rescuing a felled traveler in the snow. The rescue takes place in the Great Saint Bernard Pass of the Alps. In 1886, English Mastiff breeder and author M.B. Wynn published a book on the Mastiff including a standard that said white was acceptable. This is the only time that white is shown as acceptable in any standard, and the color was subsequently removed.

This concept of white markings culminates with the Wynn book and standard and has not been acceptable in either the U.K. or U.S. standards subsequently. Wynn did not accept long coats and wrote that the coat should be hard, short, and fine.

Faults are typically issues that affect the function of the breed. Most people consider color and coat as cosmetic, not affecting functionality. Coat does affect breed function because long coated dogs are less tolerant of some weather conditions, such as high temperatures,

These two faults are also concerning because they are not native to the modern breed. Moreover, they completely change the overall appearance of the dog. Mastiffs are judged in accordance with the breed's approved AKC standard. The Mastiff should be a Mastiff, should look like a Mastiff, and should function like a Mastiff. A dog that is marked like a Saint Bernard or has coat like a Saint

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Bernard, a Newfoundland, or a Leonburger no longer looks like a Mastiff from across the ring.

Today's world is full of justifications. Some justify breeding to Mastiffs with long coat factors or excessive white stating that the overall conformation of the dog is better. Given the genetic diversity in the Mastiff, there is little justification to breed in a fault in order to correct a different fault. Breeding faults intentionally does not improve the breed.

Some claim that large bone and long coat are somehow genetically linked. This was debunked many years ago. The genes responsible for coat length (RSPO2, FGF5 and KRT71) do not impact bone thickness. The gene that affects bone thickness is IGF1, an Insulin-like growth factor that has no correlation to coat length.

A long coat is produced by a simple recessive gene pairing. Two copies of the gene, one from each parent, will produce a long coat.

The long coat gene can be easily eliminated if breeders test for it and breed away from it. Genetic tests for white exist as well, but white includes multiple factors that current tests do not address so, for now, breeders cannot eliminate white with simple testing.

Owners make a serious investment of time, money, and care in a Mastiff. They deserve the joy of life with a much loved, healthy dog without structural or other genetic health problems shortening its lifespan.

Breeders have the responsibility to breed correct short-coated dogs in accordance with the standard, to eliminate faults, and hopefully to produce great dogs. They are the experts in and the preservationists of this magnificent breed. They hold the hope and the future in their hands.

Judges have tremendous influence on the dogs that perpetuate the breed. Overall appearance is the first paragraph of any breed standard and is crucial in

any breed. It describes what you should see when you look across the ring at an entry of Mastiffs. Mastiffs are a short-coated breed without excessive white markings. Any Mastiff that does not match the standard for overall appearance should be faulted accordingly.

All of you: Choose what you do wisely. Your choices speak volumes to the ignorant, the misinformed, the novice, the knowledgeable, and even to the experienced breeder. To all of you, the future of the Mastiff breed—and the hair of the dog—rests in your hands.

—Catherine Angus
(Zavoras),

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[Mastiff Club of America](#)

Neapolitan Mastiffs

The following is part three of a commentary by Mario Perricone, an FCI judge, author of many books and well-regarded Mastino expert. This was originally published in the ATIMANA handbook. The ATIMANA

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is the International Organization for lovers of the Neapolitan Mastiff.

CONSTRUCTION AND MOVEMENT

The dog should be massive and powerful with a heavy bone structure and full, solid muscles which, though covered at all times by thick, loose skin, should be visible when the dog is in action. To serve its purpose in supporting the head and in balancing the complex movements of the dog, the neck should be extremely powerful. To protect the throat, the lower part of the neck has a dewlap which is divided into two parts, beginning at the jawbone and finishing halfway down the neck. If this dewlap is too profuse and looks like a bib or ruff, it should be heavily penalized as a sign of lymphatism. The standard requires that the length of the trunk should be 10% greater than the height at the withers. What are we expected to do if it exceeds the height at the withers by 9% or 11% Throw



Neapolitan Mastiff

the dog away? As long as the thickness of the spinal discs gives the trunk the appearance of a compacted rectangle, this does not matter in the slightest.

Indeed, the thorax should be very broad and deep, with ribs that extend well back and a lumbar region that joins smoothly with the back and has a well-developed lateral musculature. The chest is ample and has full muscles. A chest that appears to be suspended between the upper sections of the forelimbs is a sign of constitutional weakness that should not be tolerated in

a dog that must have great explosive power. The top line is straight with exceptionally powerful layers of muscle and a slightly sloping rump. The withers should not be too elevated. Particular attention should be paid to this factor at the current stage of the breed's evolution, because many dogs, owing to a lack of good musculature, or to a hunched spine, seem to be camel backed. A dog, showing these defects, in my opinion, cannot be awarded a maximum rating, even if the form of the head is exceptional.

The limbs have an

LISA CROFT-ELLIOTT ©AKC

WORKING GROUP

extremely robust bone structure and should seem as straight and strong as granite columns. Unfortunately, today, short, narrow, or overly sloping rumps often lead to weak hindquarters, which lack suppleness and look like the thighs of a weak chicken. These should be heavily penalized, both by the judge in the ring, and by the breeder in selecting animals for breeding. The requisite angles for the limbs are well explained in the breed standard but are difficult to evaluate in a meaningful way. Indeed, owing to the looseness of the ligaments, which is a physiological characteristic of the Neapolitan Mastiff, they are very variable. Therefore, to accurately judge the dog's conformation, which is actually an assessment of its function, it is necessary to pay close attention to the dog's movement.

Movement

If the dog is walking at its slow and shuffling gait, it

appears indolent and lazy, incapable of the explosive power needed for a guard dog, which must be able to chase and bring down an intruder. As a breed, the Neapolitan Mastiff often paces, and this bear-like gait does not constitute a defect.

At the trot, especially in action such as patrolling the boundaries of its territory, the Neapolitan Mastiff becomes a different, more determined and agile dog. The hindquarters have ample power to propel its considerable weight and the forelimbs stretch well forward. The Mastino movement is fluid and flat, and the bones of articulating joints may be seen to undulate beneath the thick skin. It is more feline than canine. It seems to be a panther, capable of overcoming impossible obstacles to bear down its prey.

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,

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[United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club](#)

Newfoundlands

BIG MYTHS ABOUT BIG DOGS: ADVICE FROM AN EXPERT

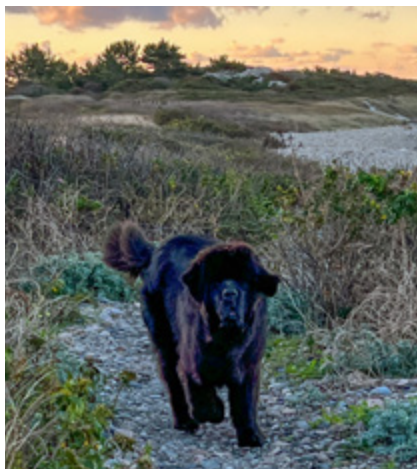
The Newfoundland Club of America national specialty in April featured an upbeat and insightful presentation entitled “Big Dogs Need Big Butts” by Dr. Debbie Torraca DPT, MSPT, CCMT, CCRP, CCAT, Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist Emeritus. Dr. Torraca, who has years of experience in both human and animal physical therapy and rehabilitation, offered suggestions on how to increase the longevity and health of our canine companions and described key myths associated with Newfoundlands and other big breeds.

Big Dogs Normally Limp Myth. Torraca told us about a 2-year-old Berner who came in limping, and the owners chalked the limp up to the dog being “big.” “No, no, no,” she said. “There’s a reason if a dog is limping. It drives me nuts when I hear this. Sometimes it is

BREED COLUMNS



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“Newfoundlands are working dogs and are not lazy. Indeed, appropriate strength is needed for water rescue, agility, carting, and conformation. ... Dogs, like athletes before a running race, need to be warmed up and ready for movement.”—Dr. Deb Torraca



confusing to tell where the limp is happening. It may be harder to diagnosis issues in a big dog because it is harder to manipulate their joints.” She added, “I always recommend keeping track of weight and taking photos of your dog and a quick video of them moving every three

months. You can track how they are doing and refer to these records if anything seems to change.”

Big Dogs are Lazy Myth. Newfoundlands are working dogs and are not lazy. Indeed, appropriate strength is needed for water rescue, agility, carting, and con-

formation. However, “ball playing should not be a source of exercise alone, and backyard play is not an activity on its own.” Dogs, like athletes before a running race, need to be warmed up and ready for movement.

Big Dogs Should be Super Big Myth. Referring to the Body Conditioning Scale, Torraca emphasized, “Weight is extremely important. They shouldn’t be fat—it is a myth that big dogs should weigh a lot.” Their large bones will support the appropriate amount

COURTESY DEB TORRACA / KATIE DOLAN

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of weight but will be stressed if by too much weight. With the Newfoundland proclivity towards elbow and hip dysplasia, it is critical to keep them fit.

Big Dogs Don't Need Exercise Myth. Big dogs should be active, but they require *controlled* exercise. Encourage your dog warm up dog before throwing a ball or doing strenuous exercise. The growth plates on Newfoundlands do not close until 24–36 months—their elbows and hips are the last to close. Too much jumping up and down can injure these joints. With the quick stops when chancing a ball, the biceps close down and, over time, soft-tissue injuries may develop. Because 60 to 70 percent of weight is on the front legs of the dog, it is important to include exercises that maintain leg strength. “I always ask how the dog feels four to six hours and 24 hours after exercise. Spring is the worst time for dog joint injuries in New England. After a long winter with less movement,

owners may take dogs for spring walks that are too long.”

She also suggested, “Know your dog and notice any changes. Do they no longer greet you at the door? If a dog normally stands up in a car and then stops, or they don't want to jump on the bed. If they suddenly become ‘poopers and movers’ a dog's back or hips might be hurting. Are females going down to the ground when they pee? How high are male dogs lifting their legs?”

Torraca recommended Snuffle mats for senior dogs, as it helps their respiratory capacity and makes them work a little bit. She encouraged owners to use the available tools: treat the pain as needed; give supplements (UC-2 has been found to improve pain and mobility in canines), use laser treatments, acupuncture; hydrology treatments, and physical rehabilitation to keep your older Newf active and comfortable.

She added, “Balance and

proprioception exercises are very important for dog's health, especially as they age. Walk your dog in figure eights; use balance boards, walk on floating docks or in the sand to challenge their balance. Teach your dog to walk backwards, if you can.” These exercises help maintain balance and proprioception.

Dr. Torraca concluded, “We have come so far in treatment advances. Newfoundlands and other breeds are living longer and so we must extend care for them. We especially need to think about preserving their joints.”

—Katie Dolan,

katie@katedolan.net

Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs

WATER DOGS?

In the world of Portuguese Water Dogs, we so often hear, “my Portie doesn't like water” or “my dog will only wade, not swim.” This is not uncommon for many breeds of dog, but people find it

WORKING GROUP

especially irksome that their “water” dog is really just a “wading” dog. Sometimes it is even more frustrating when the dog will jump off a kayak, paddle board, or boat, but not go into a pond, lake, or ocean from the beach.

The real problem with these dogs is that they do not know what to do when their paws no longer touch bottom. At this point, the dog will stop dead in the water and go no further, staying at wading depth. What you need to do is to teach the dog that he or she can jump at that point and be at swimming depth.

So how do you teach this? For some dogs, going into the water with them and luring them to follow you might work, especially if the dog has a strong desire to stay with you. If you are a breeder near a water access point, taking the dam and littermates may help get puppies into the water, especially if the dam loves to swim. If you don't live close to a water body, you

can also use a baby pool and have the dam play with the puppies in that pool to encourage the love of water.

Another solution is to use platform training where eventually you have enough platforms to encourage “island-hopping.” This is simply a modification of the concept of “place” that one might use in the home to station your dog while preparing meals or answering knocks at the door. Obviously, this concept is most easily done with puppies when they are sponges and willing to explore their world, but it is also a very effective method for older dogs.

You start with a flat platform on the land and train the dog to go to that platform. High value treats are earned for getting on the platform, while low-level treats are tossed to the ground to get the dog off the platform. Your aim is to have the dog get off to get the low-level treat and immediately turn around to jump back onto the platform

for the high-level treats. Platforms can be made of wood or lattice on a PVC frame, or you can use a hunt dog water platform or a Klimb.

Once the dog is driving to the platform, you start scooting it to the beach edge where the dog has to step into a bit of water to get to the platform. Again you will use low-level treats tossed to the dry beach to get the dog off the platform. Incrementally you scoot the platform deeper and deeper into the water.

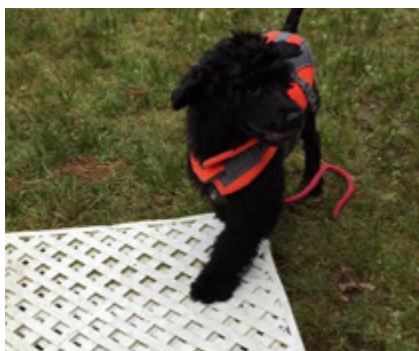
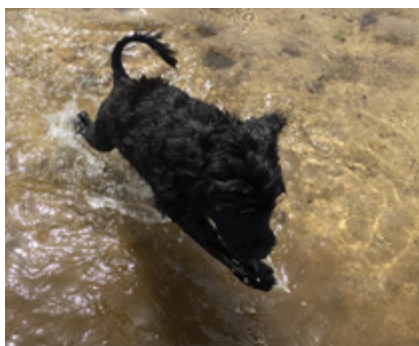
Once the flat platform is completely submerged, you will want to add in a second platform that has legs so that you can put it deeper into the water. Now you have two platforms (islands) that the dog can move between. The object is to get the dog to go from the shallow platform to the deeper platform, back and forth, and then back to shore.

As the deeper platform moves further away from the shallow platform, the dog is eventually going to

BREED COLUMNS



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A puppy who has learned to jump at the “no touch” point; puppies follow their dam to a platform in the water; a dam playing with her pup in a baby pool; teaching the platform on land to a puppy (using a float coat when teaching swimming can help the process, as it gives the pup buoyancy and confidence); flat platform moved into water, with puppy going on and off it; puppy moving to deeper platform while her dam looks on; the taller platform is scooted deeper and deeper into a depth where the puppy has to jump at the “no touch” point to get to it.

have to swim to it, but by this point, the dog should be so driven to get to platforms

because of reward history, that he or she won’t even think about not being able

to touch bottom anymore. Once you get to this point, the dog will be running out

COURTESY KARI LAVALLI AND PHYLLIS ZUSMAN

WORKING GROUP

and jumping at the point where their paws fail to touch bottom.

Teaching the love of water to a cautious dog or puppy requires lots of patience, but will pay off in a dog that comes to love water and finds joy in jumping right in.

All photos by Kari Lavalli and Phyllis Zusman taken while teaching their pups to swim.

Thank you, Kari.

—Kari L. Lavalli, Ph.D.

Portuguese Water Dog
Club of America



Saint Bernard

Saint Bernards

JUST A DOG

From time to time, people tell me, “lighten up, it’s just a dog,” or “That’s a lot of money for just a dog.” They just don’t understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for “just a dog.”

Some of my proudest moments have come about with “just a dog.” At times any hours pass and my only company is “just a dog,” but I do not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by the passing of “just a dog,” and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of “just a dog” gave me comfort and a reason to overcome the sorrow.

If you, too, think it’s “just a dog,” then you will probably understand phrases like “just a friend,” “just a sunrise,” or “just a promise.”

“Just a dog” brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. “Just a dog”

brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of “just a dog” I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it’s not “just a dog” but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. “Just a dog” brings out what’s good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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I hope that someday those folks can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a Woman/Man." So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog." Smile, because they "just don't understand."

This says it all.

The Saint Bernard Club of America with the Charitable Foundation along with the American Kennel Club has made great strides in the health and welfare of the this noble breed. Please donate if you can. It is tax deductible.

Please donate so your "Just a Dog" can have the chance to live a longer, healthier life. You can contact Vic Dingus at vdingus@gmail.com or Bill Hinchman at nightsky-saints@gmail.com. Please donate.

Until next time. Majors to all.

—Anna May Fleischli Brown,
www.edelweisskennel.com,
stedelweis@aol.com

Saint Bernard Club of America

Siberian Huskies

This issue's guest columnist is Sandy Weaver, longtime Siberian owner and exhibitor, author, consultant, professional speaker and AKC judge of the Working and Non-Sporting Groups, a toy breed, and Junior Showmanship. She also works with clubs and training centers across America, presenting seminars to help people win more in the conformation ring. When she's not traveling to consult, speak or to judge, she's spoiling her Siberian Husky and Standard Poodle.

DOES MUSCLE REALLY MATTER? CONDITIONING SIBERIANS FOR THE SHOW RING

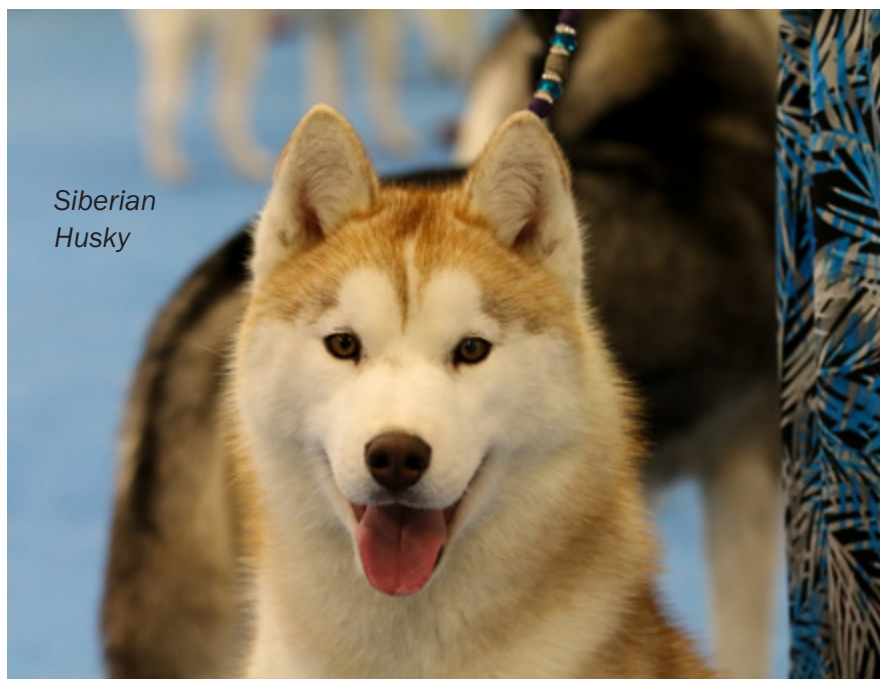
When most people talk about a "show conditioned" Siberian, they're talking about maturity and coat. Some do recognize the need for good muscle tone, so they use a treadmill or road-work their dogs. For most dogs in the ring, muscle condition seems to be an

afterthought on the part of their owners. Dogs go into the show ring with muscle tone that comes from lounging, not working, and the judge never really gets to see their full potential.

Muscle condition is the key to your dog being able to hold a beautiful show stack and gait to their maximum ability. If you want to showcase your Siberian to their best advantage, you need to create and stick to a plan to get them into condition and keep them in condition. It doesn't have to be the rock-hard condition of a dog that spent the winter putting in miles every day in front of a rig or sled. It does have to be condition that produces strong, flexible muscles, especially in the topline, abdomen and pelvic girdle, and you can achieve that condition in the comfort of your own home and yard.

Do you ever see your dog nail a perfect stack on their own? Built correctly, many dogs do—and it doesn't last very long when it happens, right? They get

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Siberian
Husky

excited about something—maybe a squirrel or a cat or a leaf blowing in the next county—and they pull themselves up into full alertness. Once the fascination fades, which nearly always happens before you can get a picture of it, the beautiful free stack is gone.

A show ring stack is a hard position for a dog to hold. Elbows under withers, rear pastern (hock) perpendicular to the ground is a position dogs use only briefly in real life, yet in the show ring we ask them to hold it for long periods of

time. Dogs being dogs, most of them will try. Because it's hard and because most dogs don't have the muscle condition to hold it, they often step out of the stack before you're ready for them to move. Then you get frustrated, which can have a negative effect on the dog's attitude, and now you're not having fun in the ring and neither is your dog.

Conditioning Siberians for the show ring, especially for the show stack, is as easy as playing specific fun games with them. You can create most of what you'll need

easily and inexpensively, and there are also companies that specialize in fitness equipment for dogs. Be sure you're starting with a dog in healthy physical condition—if they're overweight or have an injury, get them well and in proper weight before starting this conditioning work.

Here are some of the things you can use with your dog to “play” their way into better stacking and gaiting condition:

- Balance pad
- Bosu ball
- Donut ball
- Stacking blocks or stacking frame
- Klimb table

Here's how you can put together a home-made version of most of the above tools:

- High-density upholstery foam
- Wobble board

You're on your own for this one. The donut ball is a very specific, very useful tool that's tough to replicate.

Cinder blocks for big dogs, bricks for medium/small

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

WORKING GROUP

ones, and tuna cans for toys. Get some peel-and-stick carpet squares and apply to whatever you're using so the dogs get good footing, and then place the items on a surface where they won't slide. The idea is to elevate the dog slightly so they don't feel quite so secure in the stack.

An old end table or other small table, again with peel and stick carpet on top. Try to make it smaller than your grooming table, not large enough for them to feel comfortable turning around. Shorten the legs if the table is more than about a foot high.

Once you have your arsenal of fitness tools, here are three rules to remember:

Never let the dogs interact with your training tools unless you are there with them, actively training. Put them away or keep them in a room your dogs can't access.

Keep your training sessions short—stop before your dog gets bored.

Never train when you're feeling grumpy or out of sorts. If you're not ready for

fun, don't train your dog.

If your dog is a puppy, here's one additional rule: *Never* ask a puppy to hold a show stack for more than about seven seconds. Puppies are made of toothpicks, rubber bands, and dreams. Until their bones and muscles are full-grown, it's insanely difficult for your puppy to hold that position, even if they're willing to try.

Does your dog know any tricks? Use those and teach more. Tricks will be the basis for most of your conditioning work. Here are some good ones to use:

Puppy push-ups. This is random transitions between sit, down, and stand. Keep it random so you're working their muscles in a different order as you go. For instance, if your dog is laying on the kitchen floor, grab a handful of tiny treats and ask for a stand, sit, stand, down, sit, down, stand. Doing this quickly and paying for each change of position will keep your dog engaged and may just keep you laughing.

"Sit pretty," or the Lassie sit. This works abdominals, topline, and some of the pelvic girdle as they work to hold their balance. In the advanced version, transition from "sit pretty" to standing on hind legs—in other words, they push up into a two-legged stand directly from the "sit pretty." This will add pelvic girdle and thigh muscles into the workout. Not all dogs are built for this one; dogs with more than just a slight drop-off to the croup may not be able to do a sit pretty.

Spin and twist. Moving in a tight circle in both directions helps to tone and strengthen the back muscles while adding flexibility to the spine.

Leg weaves. Again, the dog is moving in a continuous curved line, which strengthens small hip flexors and the topline while building flexibility.

Foot touches. Teaching your dog to specifically reach out or back to touch something with their foot is the basis for using the

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elevated fitness equipment. Most dogs will easily learn to touch something with their front feet—the rear is a little harder. Use a towel or small rug as their target to start with, and once they have the idea, you can then introduce the equipment.

Back up. Moving backwards works very different muscles than moving forwards and has a focused, positive effect on the pelvic girdle muscles. The straighter the backwards movement the better, so start off against a wall or in a narrow space to help them learn to go straight backwards.

Lateral movement. Dogs rarely choose to step sideways, especially with their rears, and this is a great move for creating strength in the small muscles around the hip joints.

As you've probably already figured out, a lot of this doesn't need equipment, so if you don't have equipment or it doesn't fit your budget right now, no worries—just use tricks to give your dog short little workouts through-

out the day. You can do puppy push-ups, sit pretty, spins, twists, leg weaves, foot touches, backing up, and lateral movement moves with nothing but you, your dog, their favorite tiny training treat, and a little bit of time. Try to keep your workout sessions short and happy—five minutes is plenty—and mix up what you're working on.

Plan on doing two or three different exercises in each session. This keeps things fresh for both you and your dog.

When you're ready to add equipment, here are some ideas you can use:

Using a fitness mat, rigid upholstery foam, stacking blocks/frame or the home-made equivalent, ask your dog to stand on whatever you're using. Get them into a show stack, or as close as you can manage, and then use a training treat right in front of their nose to slowly lure their head from one side to the other. This will cause them to engage muscles in the back, abdomen, and hips to hold their balance. Go

slowly so they leave their feet in position.

Cavaletti or the home-made equivalent are raised bars parallel to the ground and evenly spaced that you will guide your dog to walk over. Ideally only one foot should touch the ground between each bar, so a set of four bars will get you a complete footfall rotation. Cavaletti help the dog learn where their back feet are, and in the process of lifting each foot, helps build back, abdominal, and pelvic muscles. Keep them just high enough that the dog is lifting, and not so high that they struggle to lift high enough.

Using a Bosu ball or a wobble board, ask your dog to put their rear feet on the center. To begin with, reward them for balancing on the equipment. You can slowly lengthen the time you ask them to balance before treating them. Once they understand how to use their muscles to hold their rear balance, slowly lure their head from side to side

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to engage more muscles and work the pelvic girdle muscles even more.

The donut ball is challenging for a dog to balance on because every surface curves in two directions. Ask them to put their front feet on it and achieve something approaching a show stack—elbows under withers, rear pasters perpendicular to the ground. Admire their beautiful face as they work to hold this and be ready to start over as often as they need to.

Using a Klimb or other small, elevated platform, ask for slow-motion tricks like “sit pretty,” spin, and twist. You want these to be slow and deliberate so the dog doesn’t fall off the platform.

Using a small block, table, or upside-down rigid rubber bowl, ask your dog to put their front feet on it. Using a training treat, you begin slowly stepping sideways around the platform, encouraging your dog to mirror your movement. They’ll be stepping with

their rear feet while balancing with their front, and this lateral movement will strengthen their pelvic girdle muscles.

When you accomplish at least one five-minute training session a day with your dog, you’ll be building up the muscles they need in order to shine in the show ring, both in a stack and on the move. And you’ll be building something even better: You’ll be building a great working relationship between the two of you that’ll last a lifetime. —S.W.

Thank you, Sandy!

—Karla Wall,

wallks@suddenlink.net

[Siberian Husky Club of America](#)

Standard Schnauzers

DOG-SAFE WINTER GARDENS

For all you Standard Schnauzer folks who make your homes in the milder climes of the U.S., winter probably doesn’t mean much, but those of us who suffer snow and winter storms can feel Jack Frost

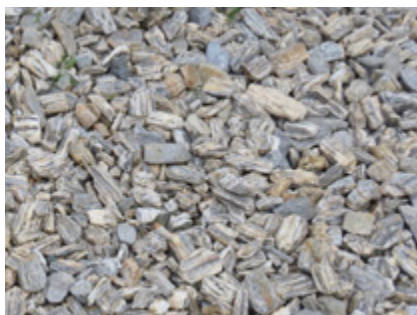
already nipping at noses and toes. Some parts of the western U.S. have already had snow, making travel for dog shows hazardous. Our own dog-show year ends in October, an iffy month for snow where we live at 7,500 feet in the northern New Mexico mountains. Ron won’t drive our RV on snow-packed mountain passes, which have been known around here to start as early as mid-September.

Regardless of where you live, with days getting shorter heading toward the Winter Solstice, it’s time to get your garden ready for winter. Keeping your Standard Schnauzers safe while you prep the garden should be foremost in your mind.

Mulch

Depending on the climate and microclimates where you have situated your garden, simply digging in compost will do wonders to keep plant roots healthy. But if you garden in an arid climate as I do, mulch

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Mixed organic mulch; rock mulch; rosebushes mulched with sawdust; woodchips mulch; rather than using rodent poisons, strong-smelling herbs like lavender can help to repel them.

is an absolute necessity to keep roots moist, especially if you grow roses, which must be protected against hard freezes. Pile mulch high over the bud union on grafted roses, and for own-root roses, pile mulch up to and around the first set of branches.

Make sure you use a dog-safe mulch mix—check to be sure there are no cocoa bean hulls, which are toxic to dogs! Mulching keeps the top layer of soil around the plant from drying out too rapidly and helps lower your water bill.

Safe mulch options—several types of mulch are considered safe for dogs, including:

Bark mulches: Many bark mulches, such as crabapple, dogwood, and Douglas fir, are naturally safe and resist compaction.

Pine, cedar, and cypress: These popular choices are generally considered dog-friendly, provided that the pieces are not too large and your dog isn't allergic to it. However, their needles may be sharp enough to injure your dog.

Fine pine bark: Also

known as “soft fall”, this is often used in playgrounds and is also an excellent choice for pet areas, as it's soft to lie down upon.

Tea tree mulch and cypress mulch: These are also considered safe and soft for dog areas.

Coconut fiber mulch, also called “coco mulch,” not to be confused with toxic cocoa bean mulch (see following list of unsafe mulch).

Smooth rocks or stones: Avoid sharp edges that could cut dog paws. Pea gravel, used frequently in dog runs, is usually dog-safe.

COURTESY SUZANNE SMITH

WORKING GROUP

Rubber mulch: Inorganic, non-toxic, easy to clean, environmentally friendly, and free of such pests as mice and bugs, modern rubber mulch is made from shredded recycled material; drawbacks are that it is pricey, retains heat from the sun, may be a fire hazard, may have toxic chemical residues, difficult to remove once installed, and may not have a desirable organic appearance.

It's worth noting that the safety of bark mulch is based on the type of wood. Certain types of bark are completely safe, while others might pose a risk if ingested. Research specific types of wood prior to purchasing it, just to be sure it will not harm your dog. (<https://enviroliteracy.org/what-is-the-most-dog-friendly-mulch/>)

Mulches to avoid: Four mulches that can be dangerous for dogs

Eucalyptus mulch has a pleasant smell and features natural insect-repelling properties, which wins over

many gardeners. Sadly, eucalyptus bark and leaves are toxic to dogs. Eucalyptus can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and other serious side effects if ingested. Eucalyptus isn't as long-lasting as other mulch options, nor is it as readily available stateside, making it pricier. Dog-safe solutions with a nose-pleasing scent and pest-repelling nature are cedar, pine bark, and coco mulch (see preceding list).

Dyed/chemically treated mulches to achieve rich color, prevent weed growth, and repel insects. While these additions benefit your garden's appearance, they also put your dog at risk because many of these ingredients are toxic. If you'd like rich color and natural insect protection in your garden, check out cedar mulch for a more dog-friendly solution.

Mulches containing salvaged wood are among the cheapest options available, but they contain too many unknowns for responsible dog parents. You don't know

what chemicals salvaged wood were subjected to during processing, potentially putting you and your dog at risk. Salvaged wood mulches don't offer the best water penetration either, potentially harming surrounding plants. Any of the dog-safe mulches discussed earlier will make better, safer alternatives.

Cocoa bean mulch—No, no! Featuring a cloyingly sweet smell and rich color, cocoa bean mulch is popular with gardeners, but this mulch derived from cocoa bean shells is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean mulch contains theobromine, the same poisonous ingredient found in chocolate. Thanks to that sweet smell we mentioned, it's tempting for dogs to eat, making it dangerous indeed. Comparable dog-safe mulches with pleasant aromas include cedar and pine bark. (<https://www.k9ofmine.com/best-dog-safe-mulch/>)

Even if you use the best dog-friendly mulch, your dog should never consume mulch. Every form poses

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a serious obstruction risk, regardless of ingredients. Not only does mulch risk blocking your dog's digestive tract, but jagged edges can cause oral injuries and internal damage if swallowed.

Other tips for keeping your dog safe in your garden

Store gardening tools and products such as fertilizers out of your dog's reach. An ounce of prevention saves you a load of grief and a pound of large vet bills later. We held the hands of our puppy people who left their beautiful SS in the garage while she ran errands; their dog got into things stored in the garage (fertilizer, anti-freeze) and died a gruesome death. I forced myself to be compassionate rather than pointing out their stupidity.

Check toxicity of all flowers, veggies, herbs trees, shrubs, mulches, fertilizers, and nut and fruit trees (and their dead fall) before adding them to your garden to be sure they're safe for your dog.

Avoid weed killers: If it kills weeds, it could kill your

dog, your garden, and you. It's safer for all simply to pull weeds by hand and put them in the trash, not your compost pile where you could inadvertently reintroduce the weeds into your garden.

Avoid rodent-killing chemicals: If they kill the rodent, they could kill you or your dog or your charming songbirds if they eat parts of rodent corpses. Plant strong-smelling herbs instead—the odor confuses the rodents (squirrels, rats, mice, and more). Sprinkle ground versions of these herbs around plants that rodents target because the odor gets on their feet and body parts, leading their predators to them. It's safer to let the predators be the executioners.

Block your dog's access to such dangerous plants and substances as onions, garlic, and grapes. Investing in fencing will prevent your tears and expensive veterinary costs.

Block doggy access to composting areas. Compost piles

invite curious canines (and rodents) to investigate the smells of rotting compost.

Compost only with vegetable matter—no fats, bones, animal matter, animal carcasses, dog poop, animal droppings, or human poop from water-treatment facilities. Don't put weeds or lawn clippings treated with weed killers, pesticides, or other poisons in your compost (this shouldn't require a reminder, but...).

Clean up garden debris, fruit and nut deadfall, garden clippings, and dog poop regularly. This prevents your dog from eating things he shouldn't.

This is our last column for 2025, so Ron and I and the Wüstefuchs Standard Schnauzers wish you and yours a safe, happy holiday season!

—Suzanne T. Smith
(Los Alamos, New Mexico), WustefuchsSS@aol.com, <https://GoodFoodGreatDogs.com>
[Standard Schnauzer Club of America](https://StandardSchnauzerClubofAmerica.com)

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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 Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL on **Friday, December 12, 2025**, beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Donald M. Bright, Elberon, VA,
Tidewater Kennel Club of Virginia

Prof. Tom K. Lewellen, PhD,
Port Ludlow, WA,
Gig Harbor Kennel Club

Pamela B. Peat, Scottsdale, AZ,
Affenpinscher Club of America

Dawn Sealy, St. Augustine, FL,
Tri-City Kennel Club

NOTICE REPRIMANDS AND FINES

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:



gazette

Click here to read the
October 2025 issue!

Mr. Michael Gokey (West Linn, OR)

Ms. Olivia Huston (Anderson, IN)

Ms. Kathleen Knoles (Springfield, IL)

Ms. Cindy Zavala (Santa Barbara, CA)

NOTICE

Ms. Sue Collands (Painesville, OH).

Action was taken by the Beaver County Kennel Club for conduct at its August 3, 2025 event. Ms. Collands 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 August 13, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Nikki Harris (Royce City, TX).

Action was taken by the Bexar County Kennel Club for conduct at its July 11, 2025 event. Ms. Harris was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$200 fine. (Newfoundlands)

NOTICE

Ms. Robin LaFrance (Attica, MI). Action was taken by the Dachshund Club of America for conduct at its May 3, 2025 event. Ms. LaFrance was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating a lack of

sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and imposed a \$200 fine, effective July 18, 2025. (German Shorthaired Pointers, Dachshunds)

NOTICE

Ms. Anne O'Neill (Elbert, CO). Action was taken by the Central Wyoming Kennel Club for conduct at its July 26, 2025 event. Ms. O'Neill was charged with misconduct by or directed against a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Mr. Quentin White (Angwin, CA). Action was taken by the Del Monte Kennel Club for conduct at its July 12, 2025 event. Mr. White 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 July 12, 2025. (Labrador Retriever, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR RETRIEVERS

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 14**,

Section 2 of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, proposed by the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee. This will be voted on at the December 12, 2025 Delegate Meeting.

RULES FOR RETRIEVER FIELD TRIALS

CHAPTER 14

SECTION 2.

DQ by Judges. A dog is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any licensed or member retriever field trial or hunt test if the dog has on three occasions been made the subject of the following report: If a dog, while under judgment, attacks another dog, and if the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that such attack was without reasonable cause, the Judges shall identify the offending dog on the judging sheet, and the name of the offending dog shall be listed in the report of the trial sent to The American Kennel Club. A disqualification received in a retriever field trial counts as one disqualification in both field trials and hunting tests.

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

Julie Babcock (116033) NV

(702) 496-3761

bubbysbulldogs@gmail.com

Bulldogs

Ms. Jennifer Flowers Foster (117941) CA

(805)379-1480

starringcavaliers@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Cavalier King

Charles Spaniels

Mr. Peter Holson (118002) NM

(415) 290-0910

peterhinsf@comcast.net

Border Terriers

Ms. Joan Scott (116663) GA

(302) 521-5986

manky97@aol.com

Pointers, Briards, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Ricki Silveria (118044) SC

(843) 810-7080

Ricki.silveria@comcast.net

Siberian Huskies

Mr. Alex Wheeler (113371) MA

(508) 287-9115

alexwheeler.dogs@gmail.com

Dachshunds, Giant Schnauzers, Airedale Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Welsh Terriers, Affenpinschers, Brussel Griffons

**ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING
APPLICANTS**

Ms. Joyce Adams-Taylor (99787) NY

(845) 658-8197

jkaatskill@gmail.com

Irish Terriers

Ms. Nancy Amburgey (42492) OH

(614) 264-7524

lopat@aol.com

Chinese Shar-Pei, Finnish Spitz, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers

Mrs. Terrie Breen (65930) CT

(860) 539-6222

brenta@aol.com

Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds, Cotons du Tulear, Poodles

Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX

(281) 989-3130

touchstone0525@att.net

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Komondorok, Portuguese Water Dogs, Tibetan Mastiffs

Bridget J. Brown (102665) AL

(205) 515-8753

jackeye@bellsouth.net

Lagotti Romagnoli, German Wirehaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Gordon Setters, American Water Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels

Mrs. Robin Casey (92447) WY

sgborzoi@aol.com

Balance Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendéens, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds)

Ms. Janet Cherne (7256) CO

(303) 980-1970

cloud9k9s@comcast.net

Alaskan Malamutes, Siberian Huskies,
Miniature American Shepherds

Mrs. Linda Clark (94461) OK

(918) 625-8124

lclarkah@aol.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Mastiffs, Rottweilers

Mr. Todd Clyde (52861) DE

(302) 542-3416

tclyde002@msn.com

Affenpinschers, Italian Greyhounds,
Japanese Chins, Russian Toys, Yorkshire Terriers

Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins (107395) MI

(810) 919-2306

veritygoldens@me.com

Gordon Setter, Irish Setters

Ms. Helen Dorrance (19022) TX

(512) 964-3294

gdkdogs@gmail.com

Cirnechi dell'Etna, Scottish Deerhounds,
Bernese Mountain Dogs, Dogues de Bordeaux

Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS

(410) 829-2455

bethdowney539@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds, Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vend-

eens, Harriers, Otterhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Plott Hounds

Mr. Jerome A. Elliott (112895) PA

(717) 884-2297

hautek9@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, Pomeranians, Russian Toys,
Toy Fox Terriers

Mr. James M. Fankhauser (18843) MI

(269) 679-5095

nexusclumbers@gmail.com

Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos,
Lowchen

Dr. Bev Sigl Felten (65674) WI

(414) 828-2449

beverlyfelten5@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck
Tolling Retrievers

Ms. Denise Flaim (100561) NY

(516) 509-5214

denise@revodanpublishing.com

Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse
Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, German
Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers,
Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels,
Welsh Springer Spaniels

Mrs. Brandy Greenhagen (113965) CO

(970) 371-4261

brandygreenhagen@comcast.net

Bouviers des Flandres, Mudik

Mrs. Debra Long Gschwender (18252) ID

(208) 477-3925

dlgschwender@gmail.com

Brittanys, Flat Coated Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Gordon Setters, American Water Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Giant Schnauzers, Cairn Terriers

Ms. Judy A. Harrington (16665) MA

(413) 267-5236

jahyeesss@comcast.net

Australian Cattle Dogs, Border Collies, Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Lancashire Heelers, Mudik, Pumik

Ms. Kari Hill (80054) SC

(864) 616-8882

charthill@yahoo.com

Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers

Brenda Holmen (109522) MN

(612) 871-6970

medcitystaffs@gmail.com

Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Dr. Joseph E. Hug (91150) CO

(303) 717-1701

josephhug@gmail.com

Great Pyrenees

Mr. David L. Kittredge (7016) NY

(585) 279-9718

orangie@rochester.rr.com

Border Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Dr. Laura J. LaBounty (96455) NH

(603) 352-8597

specialcollies@msn.com

Norwegian Buhunds, Pyrenean Shepherds

Jessica Lewellen (106151) WA

(360) 390-8141

jessicalwellen@mac.com

Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Saint Bernards, Lhasa Apsos

Mrs. Molly Martin (6650) AL

(334) 546-0628

mollydmartin@gmail.com

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs

Ms. Robin Mathews (110537) NJ

(732) 501-9581

bisdogs@aol.com

Otterhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Bearded Collies, German Shepherd Dogs

Mrs. Chris Ann Moore (108927) AR

(479) 221-0555

bisacd@aol.com

Balance of Working Group (Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Mastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Siberian Huskies, Tibetan Mastiffs)

Mrs. Sandra K. Nadalin (104545) OH

(614) 877-3047

sknadalin@earthlink.com

Black Russian Terriers, Boxers, Great Pyrenees

Mrs. Sherry Patton (110239) TX

(315) 518-6542

4everbts@gmail.com

Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, English

Toy Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, Pomeranians

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA

(310) 991-0241

jrami68620@aol.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Collies, Pumik

Dr. Judi M. Roller (102261) WI

(608) 370-2679

judir7024@gmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Berger Picards, Cannaan Dogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Shetland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Ann H. Roth (63187) NC

(910) 232-5976

hametthounds@juno.com

Berger Picards, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Lancashire Heelers, Norwegian Buhunds, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pulik, Pumik

Dr. Stephen J. Schellenberg (42891) MN

(651) 338-9311

paradocskerries@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers

Mr. Channing Sheets (99781) CA

(415) 254-2582

cashe90@hotmail.com

Balance of Herding Group (Beaucerons, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs)

Mr. Scott Toney (110847) NC

(704) 968-4491

midwoodchin@gmail.com

Sussex Spaniels, Boston Terriers, Bull-

dogs, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers

ADJUNCT APPLICANTS

The following persons applications have been accepted for the breed(s) specified under the Adjunct System *but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments*

Mr. Richard Todd Jackson (94771) MD

(202) 491-5513

richardtoddjackson@yahoo.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes

Dr. Diane L. Price (18148) AL

(256) 601-1847

kingsfieldkennels@yahoo.com

Basset Fauve de Bretagnes

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Kate M. Holmes (117063) OH

(440) 412-6778

holmesgreen1@msn.com

Mrs. Sueannette Maniscalco (118041) CA

(619) 448-3098

suetskennel@cox.net

Ms. Samantha Peterson (118043) NC

(252) 876-3827

Sam.bullet.13@gmail.com

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They*



SECRETARY'S PAGES

may now accept assignments and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Adrian Agard (7581) HI

(920) 698-9583

adriankagard@gmail.com

Dachshunds, Chihuahuas, Pekingese, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers, Bichons Frises, Lhasa Apsos

Ms. Michelle Barlak (117675) NJ

(585) 329-4317

michelle@maximaldog.com

Manchester Terriers

Ms. Hunter Calvelage (111841) OH

(419) 204-7773

carmaque@yahoo.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, JS

Mr. Lukas Cohen (112803) TX

(314) 201-2339

lukascohen80@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds

Ms. Sonja Donaldson (117613) CA

sonjacdonaldson@gmail.com

Border Collies

Mr. Russell Dyke (117493) KS

(785) 221-4654

juellscollies@gmail.com

Collies

Mrs. Gary Whitmore-Kirschner (15305) WA

garydkirschner@gmail.com

Shetland Sheepdogs

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Richard D. Albee (57263) AL

(334) 821-7829

albeerd@charter.net

Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens, Canaan Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Lancashire Heelers, Swedish Vallhunds

Mr. John D. Arvin (57337) NJ

(609) 290-2056

ridgebacks@mysticrrs.com

Balance of Hound Group (Basset Fauve de Bretagnes, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Sloughi, Treeing Walker Coonhounds)

Dr. Barry M. Baum (105221) CA

(310) 476-9279

csahdogcat@aol.com

Bulldogs

Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter (94107) IL

(217) 549-6664

sbinghamporter@eiu.edu

Azawakhs, Beagles, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Dachshunds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Miss Kelly Kathlyn Boyd (101577) OR

(541) 905-3451

kkb101577@gmail.com

Portuguese Water Dogs

Mrs. Mary Faeth (101477) CA

(530) 210-7791

spinfandel@yahoo.com

Basset Hounds, Beagles

Mrs. Tami Rose Bradford (110125) TN

(865) 680-8264

sibemom2002@gmail.com

Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Samoyeds

Ms. Karen E. Fitzpatrick (108457) IL

(815) 932-0860

janerust@aol.com

Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers,
Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,
Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Soft
Coated Wheaten Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC

(803) 628-8323

dean@pawgate.com

Akitas, Leonbergers

Mrs. Brenda Fontanos (111809) OR

(541) 405-6896

cuddleums@gmail.com

Finnish Spitz

Mrs. Vicky Cook (103755) OR

(541) 601-5355

vickycook@mac.com

Harriers, Doberman Pinschers, Man-
chester Terriers

Ms. Grace Fritz (21887) KS

(913) 706-5365

fritzgm77@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Chinese
Cresteds, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Min-
iature Pinschers, Russian Toys, Russian
Tsvetnaya Bolonkas, Toy Fox Terriers,
Yorkshire Terriers)

Mr. Justin Dannenbring (46593) MT

(951) 733-1618

justin.dannenbring@gmail.com

Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Black and Tan
Coonhounds, Borzois, Scottish Deer-
hounds

Mr. Dennis J. Gallant (6675) TN

(615) 384-1315

breawynIW@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Maltese, Pugs

Ms. Marcie S. Dobkin (6442) CA

(858) 212-1346

msdobkin@cox.net

Barbets, Flat Coated Retrievers, Labra-
dor Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Toll-
ing Retrievers, English Cocker Spaniels,
Welsh Springer Spaniels

Amy Gau (90627) MN

(507) 254-7839

amy@anstechnicalventures.com

Balance of Toy Group (Japanese Chins,
Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas, Yorkshire
Terriers), Tibetan Terriers

Cathy Eke (101345) IN

(317) 695-2829

onlybdogs@aol.com

Boston Terriers

Mrs. Jan Ritchie Gladstone (96299) NC

(267) 251-4483

janritchiegladstone@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Dalmatians, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Norwegian Lundehunds

Ms. Karen Hynek (35536) MO

(636) 219-6991

jokareGS@aol.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American Hairless Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Rat Terriers, Skye Terriers, Teddy Roosevelt Terriers, Welsh Terriers)

Mr. Richard Todd Jackson (94771) MD

(202) 491-5513

richardtoddjackson@yahoo.com

Balance of Toy Group (Brussels Griffons, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers), American Foxhounds, Borzois, Harriers, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otterhounds

Mrs. Robette Johns (7134) IL

(704) 219-9277

robette1991@gmail.com

Icelandic Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pumik, Swedish Vallhunds

Ms. Karen Justin (64864) NY

(845) 282-4785

impyrial@aol.com

Alaskan Malamutes

Mr. Gregg G. Kantak (94772) MD

(202) 492-1876

greggkantak@yahoo.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Norwegian Lundehunds), Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas

Stephanie Kaul (110173) CA

(408) 242-7990

stephanie@kauls.com

Bracci Italiani, Brittanys, Lagotti Romagnoli, Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Gordon Setters, English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Diane Kepley (90370) SC

(301) 305-9986

dkk9judge@gmail.com

Miniature Schnauzers, West Highland White Terriers

Mr. Richard LeBeau (90760) PA

(412) 952-7425

beauprix@comcast.net

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Chinese Shar-Pei, Cotons du Tulear, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels, Xoloitzcuintli)

Mrs. Chris A. Levy (6368) OR

(503) 569-0147

chris@abiquadogs.com

Pulik

Mr. Dale R. Martenson (111413) OK

(817) 517-3304

castlemar3@hotmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Cotons du Tulear, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers

Ms. Susan M. Napady (95639) IN

(219) 762-5203

susan.napady@frontier.com

English Toy Spaniels, Japanese Chins, Poodles

Ms. Deirdre Petrie (63937) PA

(610) 763-8976

deirdrepetrie@yahoo.com

Boxers, Border Terriers, Russell Terriers

Laura Reeves (105393) OR

(451) 761-1867

scotiadaws@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Gordon Setters, Irish Red and White Setters), Basenjis

Mr. Joseph Reno (6407) NJ

(908) 561-7098

hicrest121@aol.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Poodles, Tibetan Spaniels)

Ms. Dani Rosenberry (104224) PA

(814) 943-3511

edanhill@aol.com

Gordon Setters, Brussels Griffons, Papillons

Mr. Jeffrey Ryman (93219) WA

(425) 876-2213

jeff_ryman@hotmail.com

Bearded Collies, Belgian Laekenois, Berger Picards, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds, Shetland Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Mr Gary Sackett (96555) NV

(702) 351-5566

gcsackett@yahoo.com

Wire Fox Terriers, Manchester Terriers

Ms. Barbara C. Scherer (58838) IL

(630) 388-8290

hiarologybk@gmail.com

English Cocker Spaniels, Vizslas

Ms. Joyce Siddall (98695) CO

(303) 548-1125

catalinakennels@yahoo.com

Bearded Collies, Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens, Bouviers des Flandres, Canaan Dogs, German Shepherd Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Shetland Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Mr. Walter J. Sommerfelt (4787) TN

(901) 355-1271

loracvizsl@aol.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear, Dalmatians, Lowchen, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels

Mrs. Darlene Steele (109821) VA
(815) 325-2429
927rossans@gmail.com
Gordon Setters, English Cocker Spaniels

Dr. Jerry Sulewski (93475) WI
(920) 327-9641
collieknutt@yahoo.com
Siberian Huskies, Australian Shepherds,
Berger Picards, Old English Sheepdogs,
Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

Ms. Susan Willumsen (52119) NH
(603) 475-1588
willcare@comcast.net
English Cocker Spaniels, Vizslas

ADJUNCT PERMIT JUDGE

The following person has been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval system. ***They may now accept assignments.***

Mr. Gregg G. Kantak (94772) MD
(202) 492-1876
greggkantak@yahoo.com
Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGE

Ms. Isabella Eaton (117031) MA
(978) 241-0420
ieaton25@yahoo.com

BEST IN SHOW

The following person, 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.

Mrs. Sally George (82793) CA
(707) 321-8567
sg.gypsy@gmail.com

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Dawn Hansen
Robert Stein

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.

Donna Meade (6982) CA
(571) 275-1226
meadedonna@ymail.com
Rally-All

Ken Kozak (106156) OK
(405) 602-0219
kennethkozak106156@gmail.com
Regular Open

Teresa Czaplinski
(317) 509-8473
gantski@gmail.com
Regular Novice

Samantha Williams
(661) 472-2617
mezzowithcorgis@gmail.com
Regular Utility

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.***

Laurie Rubin (97989) WA

(707) 890-2491
earthlaurie@sonic.net
Provisional Utility

Charlotte Mielziner (43992) MO

(314) 630-5325
sidebysidek9@yahoo.com
Provisional Utility

Walter O'Brien (98901) TX

(404) 788-7740
bristacorgi@yahoo.com
Provisional Novice

Marjorie Geiger (103767) WA

(928) 587-6387
marggeiger@yahoo.com
Provisional Rally

Ann Hussa (104113) MN

(910) 850-0442
trvlr905@yahoo.com
Provisional Rally

Shawn Nies (67663) IL

314-882-7929
shawndachs@sbcglobal.net
Provisional Variable Surface Tracking

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

Lynn Eggers – Obedience & Rally, TX
Besty Baird – Obedience & Rally, NJ
Judi James – Obedience & Rally, OR
Bob Amen – Obedience, CT
Suzi Bluford – Obedience & Rally, CA
James Merchant – Obedience, TX
Judy Brown – Obedience & Rally, TX
Richard Wood – Obedience & Rally, WI
Sue Cox – Obedience & Rally, WA

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:

B & B Bernese Mountain Dogs – Christine
E. Donnamiller & Bronson J. Frankart

BRIGHTMOOR – Pembroke Welsh
Corgis – Morgan A. Grizzle

BY DESIGN_ Australian Cattle Dogs –
Heather D. Ritchie

DEN-WOLF – German Shepherd Dogs –
Denese Wolfson

LA CHUPARROSA – Chihuahuas –
Kathy D. Wigal

LAKE ERIE – Wirehaired Pointing
Griffons – Jeremiah L. Georgia

OBERON – Papillons – Lori C. Ludke-
Borgen

RENAISSANCE – Whippets – Che M.
Rivera & Audrey M. Boyer

ROYALTON – Bearded Collies – Sarah
Burke

RUGER'S RIDGE – Labrador Retrievers
– Sydney Bagby & Ethan Bagby

SANDSTORM – Whippets – Alma J.
Jenkins & Don D. Jenkins

SMOKEY WATER – Chesapeake Bay
Retrievers – Derrick L. Sanderson

STATELINE – Australian Shepherds –
Sara J. Galinas

STONEWOOD GOLD – Golden
Retrievers – Maria W. Randell

TALLY-HO – Borzoi – Rebecca Pacheco

THISTLE HILL – Siberian Huskies –
Marceline Guyette

WILD RIVERS – Labrador Retrievers –
Kiira A. Parry & Chris Parry

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a
breed-specific Registered Name Prefix
have been granted

ARCANUM – Australian Shepherds –
Jessica L. Todd

B&G – French Bulldogs – Galyna Maier

BLUERAVERN – Giant Schnauzers
– Howard R. Postovit & Bonnie C.
Postovit

ELITEGSP – German Shorthaired
Pointers – Justin D. Delinsky

HARBOR HILL – Standard Schnauzers –
Marina Majic & Thea S. Prislin

IRONSTONE – American Staffordshire
Bull Terriers – Catherine A. Collins

MONTBLEAU – Yorkshire Terriers
– Samantha S. Montbleau & Jimi
Montbleau

NORTHERN SKY – Leonbergers –
Diana L. Moe & Richard A. Moe

ONEOAK – German Shepherd Dogs – P.
Ileene Strauss-

REINA DELNORTE – Portuguese Water
Dogs – Clemencia Rasquinha & Cindy
S. McQuinn

SEMPER FI – Standard Schnauzers –
Diana M. Greiner

SILVERCREST – Chines Cresteds-Cindy
B Jones

TRUEBLUE – Australian Cattle Dogs –
Gail A. Stuart-Bowles & John P. Bowles

VEEVEE – Biewer Terriers – Vanessa
Benditello



QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES

OF

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Gina M. DiNardo, President

PRESENT 314

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*

Airedale Terrier Club of America—*Aletta L. Moore*

Akita Club of America—*Ms. Nancy S. Amburgey*

Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—*Kate McCallum*

Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corey Heenan*

American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—*Teresa Nash*

American Bloodhound Club—*Mary Lou Olszewski*

American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.—*Patte Klecan*

American Boxer Club, Inc.—*Sharon Steckler*

American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terry Hilliard*

American Brussels Griffon Association—*Rhonda Peralta*

American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Howard Gussis*

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.—*Richard Alexander*

American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Mr. Brian P. Meindl*

American Chesapeake Club—*Heidi Henningson*

American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—*Neil Butterklee*

American Fox Terrier Club—*Connie Clark*

American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harry Miller*

American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter*

American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*

American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—*Barbara Donahue*

American Pointer Club, Inc.—*Mr. Danny D. Seymour*

American Pomeranian Club, Inc.—*Dr. Geno Sisneros*

American Sealyham Terrier Club—*Barbara Shapiro*

American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*

American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—*Mark Stempel*

American Spaniel Club, Inc.—*Dr. James R. Davis*

American Toy Fox Terrier Club—*Laura Johnson*

American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Karen B. Lee*

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America—*edward collins*

Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*

Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*

Arrowhead Kennel Club—*Deb Phillips*

Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*

Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A. LaBerge*

Augusta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Catherine Iacopelli*

Austin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Pam Whitley*

Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*

Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*William I. Christensen*

Baltimore County Kennel Club—*Lucy C. Campbell*

Barbet Club of America—*Stacy Able*

Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*

Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Robert M. Lamm*

Beaumont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carl Holder*

Beaver County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Phyllis Belcastro*

Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Howard Solomon*

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Lisa Leffingwell*

Bell Vernon Kennel Association, Inc.—*Mike Kriegel*

Berger Picard Club of America—*Jacqueline Carswell*

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Georgeann Reeve*

Bexar County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Jennifer Delmer*

Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mayno Blanding*

Big Apple Working Group Club—*Andrew I. Kalmanash*

Boca Raton Dog Club Inc—*James Conroy*

Border Collie Society of America—*Lisa M. Pruka*

Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Barbara S. Dalane*

Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*

Bracco Italiano Club of America—*Allison Schultz, M.D.*

Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*

Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*

Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*

Bryn Mawr Kennel Club—*Victoria Glickstein*

Bulldog Club of America—*Link Newcomb*

Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*

Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Ioia*

Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Wayne Gilpin*

Canaan Dog Club of America—*Pamela S. Rosman*

Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—*Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki*

Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*

Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—*David McDonald*

Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*

Carolina Working Group Association—*Matthew Townsend*

Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*

Catoctin Kennel Club—*Joseph Fitzgerald*

Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sue Meachem*

Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Rebecca Campbell*

Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Jason Hoke*

Charleston Kennel Club—*Terri Hallman*

Chicago Bulldog Club, Inc.—*Cathy Eke*

Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.—*Tracy J. Potts*

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*

Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*

Clarksville Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*

Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Kelly E. Lease*

Colorado Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*

Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nili Young*

Columbia Missouri Kennel Club—*Jefferson Sossamon*

Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—*Leslie A. Jaseph*

Conroe Kennel Club—*Jane Bates*

Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Dr. Yves Belmont*

Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America—*Leslie Puppo-Rogers*

Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John Brading*

Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Charles Garvin*

Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leah H. Schiller*

Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Mark J. Walsh*

Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—*Stephanie A. Crawford*

Detroit Kennel Club—*Lawrence A. Letsche, D.V.M.*

Devon Dog Show Association, Inc.—*Meg Weitz*

Doberman Pinscher Club of America—*Glen Lajeski*

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—*Patti L. Strand*

Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood, Inc.—*Alyson Casper*

Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland, Inc.—*Karen L. Keagle*

Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America—*Victor Smith*

Durango Kennel Club—*Donald E. Schwartz, V.M.D*

Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Mr. Jack E. Sappenfield, II*

Eastern Dog Club—*Frederick R. Vogel*

Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*

Elm City Kennel Club—*Dr. Gregory J. Paveza*

Elmira Kennel Club, Inc.—*Homer R. Hastings, III*

English Setter Association of America, Inc.—*Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.*

English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Cristy K. Joy*

Evansville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Heidi Kilgore*

Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*

Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Teresa M. Vila*

Field Spaniel Society of America—*Lori Carver*

Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret B. Pough*

First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—*Neal Goodwin*

Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*

French Bulldog Club of America—*Robin Stansell*

Furniture City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Merry J. Millner*

Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Richard L. Reynolds*

Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Virginia Denninger*

German Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—*June Johnston*

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—*Joan Payton*

Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—
Steven A. Sansone

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America—*Jo Lynn*

Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Bonnie Lapham*

Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia—
Debbie Hockaday

Golden Retriever Club of America—*Mrs. Ellen Hardin*

Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—
Nance O. Skoglund

Grand Rapids Kennel Club—*Mrs. Carol L. Johnson*

Grand River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Cindy Stansell*

Great Dane Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Dale Suzanne Tarbox*

Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—
Ms. Karen J. Burgess

Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Shazw*

Greater Lowell Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Patterson*

Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club, Inc.—
Gloria Askins

Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers
Association—*Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz*

Green Mountain Dog Club, Inc.—*Elizabeth Trail*

Greenville Kennel Club—*Robert L. Vandiver*

Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*

Greyhound Club of America—*Kathleen B. Whitaker*

Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandra L. Rolenaitis*

Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*

Havanese Club of America—*Vicki Gray*

Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia M. Cruz*

Hendersonville Kennel Club—*Elizabeth Ann Brown*

Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*

Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Nancy Nelson*

Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat*

Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—
Michelle Barlak

Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer*

Irish Terrier Club of America—*Thea F. Lahti*

Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—*Dan Sayers*

Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Eugenia Hunter*

Italian Greyhound Club of America, Inc.—
Jennifer Graves

Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Christine Cone*

Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Su*

Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc.—*Doreen Weintraub*

Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Mr. Thomas S. Powers*

Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Ms. Lisa J. Giannone*

Kennesaw Kennel Club—*Dominic Koon*

Kuvasz Club of America—*Agi Hejja*

Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—*Ms. Krista Beal*

Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Arna B. Margolies*

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, Inc.—*James Talbert*

Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski*

Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—*Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.*

Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—*Deborah L. Kreider*

Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carolyn M. Vack*

Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan Croft*

Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert N. LaBerge*

Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Meyer*

Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*

Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sue Goldberg*

Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michaelann Mako*

Los Encinos Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Desmond J. Murphy*

Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*

Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jessica Ricker*

Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*

Marion Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bobbie Norkus*

Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*

Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—*Mary L. Speer*

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.—*Mr. Marc Crews*

Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*

Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA, Inc.—*Cynthia Weight-Carter*

Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—*Dr. Marci Cook*

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen Bernardi*

Montgomery County Kennel Club—*Ms. Ida E. Weinstock*

Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*

Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—
Eleanor Campbell

Mount Ogden Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs.
Karen Park

Mount Vernon Dog Training Club
(MVDTC)—*Christopher Marston*

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F.
Ruthford*

Nashville Kennel Club—*Anne Gallant*

National Beagle Club—*Eddie Dziuk*

National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr.
Alfred J. Ferruggiaro

National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi
Strouse*

New England Dog Training Club, Inc.—
Lucy Grant-Ruane

Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—
Julie Poulin Siefert

Newton Kennel Club—*Cathy Murch*

Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan
Marucci*

Nisqually Kennel Club—*Sylvie McGee*

Norfolk Terrier Club—*Susan Schneider*

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Ann
M. Schultz*

Norwegian Elkhound Association of
America, Inc.—Mrs. *Lisa Peterson*

Norwich Terrier Club of America—
Marilyn Jacobs

Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—
Beverly H. Conroy

Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern
Virginia, Inc.—*Susan D. Sorbo*

Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tim Ufkes*

Onondaga Kennel Association, Inc.—*Glenn
E. Glass*

Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen
Gregory, D.V.M.*

Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—*Frank
Meister*

Parson Russell Terrier Association of
America—*Janine Rose*

Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—Mrs. *Betty
M. Winthers*

Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Renee L.
Popkey*

Pekingese Club of America—*Steven
Hamblin*

Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Wayne
Bond*

Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dennis J.
Gallant*

Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M.
Sterling*

Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic
P. Carota*

Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—
Larry Wilson

Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dean Burwell*

Plainfield Kennel Club—*Sheila Gallizzo*

Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—
Marlene Groves

Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Patti Jason*

Port Chester Obedience Training Club,
Inc.—*Kathy Gregory*

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of
America—*Diane Conyers*

Providence County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Kristen Burgoyne

Putnam Kennel Club, Inc.—*Berna H.
Welch*

Queensboro Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cameron
Capozzi*

Reno Kennel Club—*Jacquelyn Fogel*

Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Grace
Wilkinson*

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United
States, Inc.—*Mary L. Elliott*

Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Debra
Ferguson-Jones*

Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mary E.
Ferguson*

Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—
Barbara L. Burns

Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen
Cottingham*

Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—
Cathleen Rubens

Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*

Sammamish Kennel Club—*Cyndi Skinner*

Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Gary
Griffin*

San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club—*Dorinne
Waterman*

San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M.
Wooding*

Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita R.
O'Berg*

Santa Maria Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita
Forde*

Saratoga New York Kennel Club—
MaryLou Cuddy

Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mimi
Winkler*

Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of
Georgia—*Lynn Tyler*

Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—*Lee A.
Stusnick*

Scottish Deerhound Club of America,
Inc.—*Dr. Robert S. Dove, D.V.M.*

Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen A.
Prince*

Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—
Cheryl Maass

Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—
Sharyn Y. Hutchens

Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of
Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*

Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—
Ann M. Cook

Silky Terrier Club of America, Inc.—
Leeann Podruch, D.D.S.

Skokie Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kevin Dryman*

Skye Terrier Club of America—*Brice Wonders*

Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Shaver*

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—*Sally Sotirovich*

Somerset Hills Kennel Club—*Lois Tubbs*

South Jersey Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jean Edwards*

South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*

South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie Maulucci*

Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—*Dr. Troy C. Dargin*

Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—
John V. Ioia

Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—
Mrs. Glenda Stephenson

Spartanburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sheila T. Allen*

Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*

Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas M. Davies*

St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Susan Weigel*

St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Deborah J. Wilkins*

St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—*Isabel Ososki*

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America—*Toni M. Pawson*

Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Martorella*

Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan M. Napady*

Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Eisele*

Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—
Marcy L. Zingler

Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura Trainor*

Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*

Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*

Talbot Kennel Club—*Ann S. Wallace*

Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Richella M. Veatch*

Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*

Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—
Stacey La Forge

Topeka Kennel Club, Inc.—*Diana J. Komarek*

Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*

Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia C. Sarles*

Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T. Fugiwara*

United States Australian Shepherd Association—*Judy A. Harrington*

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*

United States Lakeland Terrier Club—*Maria Sacco*

Utah Valley Kennel Club—*Kelly D. Reimschiessel*

Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol Fisher*

Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy A. Rust*

Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Virginia T. Rowland*

Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christine Gonsalves*

Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan R. Gladstone*

Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marthina L. Greer*

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*

Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Bruce R. Schwartz*

West Highland White Terrier Club of America—*Rebecca Koester*

Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—*Peter J. Festa*

Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Ann F. Yuhasz*

Westminster Kennel Club—*Michael Faulkner*

Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Laura Myles*

Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bonnie Bieber*

Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nanette Prideaux*

Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Dewey*

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Pamela A. Langstein*



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DELEGATES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

Gina M. DiNardo, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. ET.

(National Anthem played.)

The first order of business was the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.

(Voting.)

The meeting recessed for the Delegate Forum. The topic was *Strategic Planning for Your Club's Sustainability and Vitality*: Discover how a clear five- and ten-year vision and associated strategic plan can re-energize your club, attract new engagement and build on what you've already accomplished. The Forum will be presented by Charles Ruthford, Strategic Planning Expert, Corporate Educator, and Vice President of the Olympic Kennel Club in Washington State.

The Chair called the meeting back in session at 10:30 a.m. ET.

The first order of business today is the vote for the Delegate Standing Commit-

tees. Please use the ballots that were given to you this morning at the registration desk. If you still need a ballot, members of AKC Staff have them.

As is our practice, the tabulation of ballots will be overseen by our accounting firm, KPMG. Remember that when marking your ballots, if you vote for more than the maximum number permitted for a committee, the ballot will be invalid. When you have marked your ballots, please proceed to the 6 polling stations. Please do not fold your ballots. If they're folded, please unfold your ballots. Please line up according to your last name and give the teller your name and club's name. The polls are now open.

(Voting.)

Are there any Delegates wishing to cast a ballot for the Standing Committees who have not yet had an opportunity to vote?

If all Delegates who wish to vote have done so, the Chair declares the polls closed until we reconvene the meeting.

The Meeting will now recess, and we will begin the Delegate Forum. Today's Forum topic is *Strategic Planning for Your Club's Sustainability and Vitality*: Discover how a clear five- and ten-year vision and associated strategic plan can re-energize your club, attract new engagement and build on what you've already accom-

plished. The Forum will be presented by Charles Ruthford, Strategic Planning Expert, Corporate Educator, and Vice President of the Olympic Kennel Club in Washington State.

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. When Staff prints the green-colored badge, the Delegate is automatically marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais: Chairman, Dr. Thomas M. Davies; Vice Chairman, Dr. Michael Knight; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary; Shari Cathey, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of recent passing of Harry Booker on September 2, 2025. He was the Delegate for the Kennel Club of Philadelphia from July 2015 until September 2025.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Stacy Able, Indianapolis, IN to represent Barbet Club of America

Richard Alexander, Palmer, MA, to represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Sheila Taylor Allen, Forest City, NC, to represent Spartanburg Kennel Club

James Conroy, Marietta, GA, to represent Boca Raton Dog Club

Dr. Troy Clifford Dargin, Esq., Neola, IA, to represent Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club

Jennifer Porter Delmer, San Antonio, TX, to represent Bexar County Kennel Club

Kathy Dorwart, La Plata, MD, to represent German Pinscher Club of America

Kevin Dryman, Buffalo Grove, IL, to represent Skokie Valley Kennel Club

Michael H. Faulkner, Center Cross, VA, to represent Westminster Kennel Club

Jacquelyn Fogel, Gardnerville, NV, to represent Reno Kennel Club

Sandie Friend, Glen Allen, VA, to represent Boston Terrier Club of America

Lisa Giannone, West Milford, NJ, to represent Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey

Jennifer H. Graves, Woodstock, IL, to represent Italian Greyhound Club of America

Mark Francis Jaeger, Mason, MI, to represent English Toy Spaniel Club of America

Karen Keagle, Elkridge, MD, to represent Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland

Erin Melissa Keen, Murrells Inlet, SC, to represent Myrtle Beach Kennel Club

Maribeth Krzesinski-Roush, Cheswick, PA, to represent Central Beagle Club

Lisa Leffingwell, Dallas, TX, to represent Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

Alejandro Lima, Miami, FL, to represent Fort Lauderdale Dog Club

Jennifer Martin, North East, MD, to represent Weimaraner Club of America

Linda A. McGrath, Vancouver, WA, to represent American Water Spaniel Club

Susan J. Patterson, Salem, MA, to represent Greater Lowell Kennel Club

Rhonda Peralta, Morganton, NC, to represent American Brussels Griffon Association

Tracy Potts, San Antonio, TX, to represent Chihuahua Club of America

Janine Rose, Bennington, VT, to represent Parson Russell Terrier Association of America

Rhonda Shifferd, Ocklawaha, FL, to represent Greater Ocala Dog Club

Cyndi L. Skinner, Longview, WA, to represent Sammamish Kennel Club

Bruce Van Deman, Newport Beach, CA, to represent Hawaiian Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since being officially seated, were introduced from the floor:

Stacy Able to represent Barbet Club of America

Richard Alexander to represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Sheila Taylor Allen to represent Spartanburg Kennel Club

James Conroy to represent Boca Raton Dog Club

Dr. Troy Clifford Dargin, Esq. to represent Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club

Jennifer Porter Delmer to represent Bexar County Kennel Club

Kevin Dryman to represent Skokie Valley Kennel Club

Michael H. Faulkner to represent Westminster Kennel Club

Lisa Giannone to represent Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey

Jennifer H. Graves to represent Italian Greyhound Club of America

Cristy Kay Joy to represent English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Karen Keagle to represent Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland

Dominic Koon to represent Kennesaw Kennel Club

Lisa Leffingwell to represent Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

Susan J. Patterson to represent Greater Lowell Kennel Club

Rhonda Peralta to represent American Brussels Griffon Association

Tracy Potts to represent Chihuahua Club of America

Georgeann Reeve to represent Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

Janine Rose to represent Parson Russell Terrier Association of America

The minutes of the June 10, 2025 Delegate Meeting were published in the online July 2025 *AKC Gazette*, and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections, and the minutes will stand approved as published.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning. As Chairman of the American Kennel Club, I have the privilege of speaking to you at a pivotal mo-

ment in our history. The AKC's legacy is unmatched, in fact, it is rooted in passion, built on dedication, and strengthened by our shared mission to preserve and protect our breeds while advancing the sport of dogs. With that proud history, comes the responsibility to adapt, evolve, and meet the realities of today's world and today's dog owners.

We are facing real economic challenges: registrations have declined by 17% from 2024, entries are shifting including a decline of 4.3% in Conformation entries, and broader economic pressures are impacting our sport. These realities have required difficult but necessary decisions to safeguard AKC's long-term sustainability. Through it all, our mission remains clear – to serve breeders, clubs, exhibitors, and dog owners with excellence and integrity. Though this period is not easy to navigate, the philosopher Seneca reminds us, “hard times can be softened, tight squeezes widened, and heavy loads made lighter for those who can apply the right pressure.” Together, we will rise to meet this moment and strengthen the foundation of the AKC for generations to come.

Modernization is central to our future, and our focus is direct: strengthening our technology, reenvisioning our registration process, and elevating our voice and authority through impactful content.

Technology underpins every part of our mission, and the IT Department is re-imagining a new AKC.org – one that easily articulates our authority and mission, highlights our good work and provides a valuable tool for dog owners, while prioritizing customer experience. We are replacing outdated systems, streamlining workflows, and improving data management to deliver faster, more reliable service.

During this process, we are building a seamless and intuitive registration experience that meets the expectations of today's breeders and dog owners, while emphasizing the benefits of AKC registration. At the same time, we are investing in original, high-impact content across AKC.org, AKC.tv, Canine College, and Public Education. These efforts will deepen public trust, expand engagement with dog owners, strengthen breeder education, and reinforce our leadership in the canine space.

Looking ahead, I am reminded of Helen Keller's words: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." The AKC's strength has always come from its community – breeders, clubs, exhibitors, staff, and dog lovers who bring our mission to life every day. By aligning prudent expense management with targeted strategic investment, and by working side by side with all of you, we will not only weather today's challenges but also build a stronger, more

vibrant future for the sport of dogs.

The work of the AKC has never been just about numbers. Behind every registration, every event, and every educational initiative is a breeder, an owner, a club, or a dog who depends on our expertise and leadership. That is why we must meet this moment with integrity, purpose, and care.

On behalf of the Board and the entire leadership team, I thank you for your continued commitment to the AKC. Your dedication is the foundation on which our mission endures – and it will be essential as we move forward into this next chapter.

Ms. DiNardo delivered the President's Report as follows:

Delegates, I speak to you today as fellow dog enthusiasts, mentors, sportspeople and stewards of our sport.

As sportspeople united by a shared love and responsibility for the dogs we cherish, the breeds we protect, and the traditions we uphold. In a time when division and disconnection seem louder than community and encouragement, we must remind ourselves: our strength lies in choosing to shine a light, not cast a shadow.

In the sport of dogs, we are part of something greater than ourselves. We are heirs to a legacy – one built by those who came before us with vision, integrity, and passion. Now, it is our turn. It is our re-

sponsibility to pay it forward, not only by preserving our breeds and protecting our rights, but by lifting up every person who chooses to walk this path with us. To that end I am proud to share that the Board of Directors has approved a new AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility. This updated code is one that honors our traditions while meeting the realities of today's world. This new Code reflects our evolving community, our commitment to equity and inclusion, and the importance of fostering a respectful environment both in and beyond the ring.

At its essence the new American Kennel Club Code of Sportsmanship and Civility asks not only for excellence but for character, humility, and a deep sense of duty to each other and our sport. It places the welfare of the dog above all else as our compass. It requires us to focus beyond ribbons or rankings, to be our dogs advocates, their stewards, their family.

It compels us to prioritize the long-term health, and preservation of our breeds, making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.

A sportsperson fosters community. That means being a welcoming face to the newcomer, a calm presence in the ring, and a supportive voice behind the scenes. We are called to create a culture where respect,

equity, and inclusion are not buzzwords but the foundation of every interaction. We must reject negativity, gossip, and unsportsmanlike conduct not just in person, but online. Social media has given us the power to influence far beyond the showgrounds. Let us use that power wisely: to educate, inspire, and connect.

A true sportsperson gives honest mentorship, not as a gatekeeper but as a guide. When we share what we know, when we uplift others, we preserve the integrity of the sport for generations to come. We are all human. We win. We lose. We do both with grace because we understand that strong competition and civility can, and must, coexist. It is not weakness to compliment a competitor. It is strength. It is not naiveté to believe in fairness. It is the bedrock of our sport. We are role models whether we realize it or not. Young eyes watch us in the ring. Future handlers listen to our words. Let them see integrity, sportsmanship, and humility – not because it's easy, but because it's right.

Let us never forget we are standing on the shoulders of those who built this world for us. Now, it is our job to build it for others. To pay it forward not just with knowledge or opportunity but with kindness, with fairness, and with the courage to make this sport better than we found it.

The AKC's Code of Sportsmanship and Civility is not just a document. It is a *promise* to our dogs, to each other, and to the future of this sport. Let us honor that promise. To that end, we want to recognize those who live it.

Today, I am honored to announce the creation of the President's Sportsman Award – a new annual recognition to celebrate individuals who embody the very best of our values. This award will honor those who are not just competitors, but *champions of sportsmanship, mentorship, and integrity*.

They are the people who lead quietly, help generously, and inspire consistently – not for recognition, but because it's simply who they are. This will be one of the highest honors in our community, bestowed on one individual each year from any of our sport disciplines. The recipient will be formally recognized at the AKC National Championship in Orlando.

Be on the lookout – nomination information will be sent out shortly. We encourage all clubs, participants, and members to take part in identifying those who truly elevate our sport.

Let us pay it forward together.

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:

Good morning, Delegates, and thank

you for attending today's meeting. As always, we appreciate your time and your support. We're going to dive into some challenging financial and non-financial mid-year results for AKC as a standalone entity. We're focusing on year-to-date results and some prior year comparisons through June 30, 2025. These results will be indicative of our financial forecast for the remainder of this year.

As of June 30, 2025, the result from operations is a net loss of \$3.1 million, primarily due to lower registration revenues. The prudent use of an annualized spend rate of 1 percent from the investment portfolio, plus current interest and dividends, reduced the loss from operations to \$1.5 million. The net loss from operations that I noted is on a total revenue basis of \$45 million, which is 6 percent below the same period in 2024. Expenses total \$48 million and exceed the same period in 2024 by 3 percent. Please note that the expense variance is less than the relative inflation rates, impacting our largest expenses which are staff and professional fees.

In summary, and based on our mid-year forecast, we expect total revenue will be lower for the remainder of 2025, resulting in a net loss from operations at year end.

This slide breaks out our total revenue into three major program areas. These major areas total the \$45 million that I

mentioned in the last slide. Registration and event fees total \$30.5 million and represent 67.8 percent of total operating revenues. Within this program area, registration alone comprises 74 percent of the total of \$30.5 million. By comparison to the same period in 2024, registration and event revenues totaled \$32.6 million, which is \$2.1 million or 6 percent lower than 2024. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalty revenues comprise 19 percent of total revenues. These revenue lines versus 2024 are \$1.4 million or 14 percent lower than the prior year period. This is primarily due to lower advertising revenue, which tracks with registration activity. The last major program area is the e-commerce products and services revenue that totaled \$6.1 million or 13 percent of total revenues. This area increased by \$600,000 or 12 percent over 2024. Let's break registration down into its two major components. Dog registration being the primary driver of AKC's registration revenue totaled \$10.6 million and was \$1.8 million or 14 percent below the same prior year period. Litter registration revenue totaled \$6 million and was 12 percent or \$600,000 higher than 2024. But despite lower levels of registrations, which you will see shortly, the increase in litter registration revenue is due to price increases that were focused on the coupon program for high-volume breeders.

Let's look at a three-year comparison of some non-financial information. Each set of columns on the slide is a six-month period for the years 2025, 2024, and 2023. The total number of dog registrations as of June 30, 2025, was 232,868, which is lower than the same period in 2024 by 53,000 or 18 percent and 30 percent lower than 2023 by 101,000 registrations. The total number of litter registrations as of June 30, 2025 is 111,969, which is lower than the same period in 2024 by 17,000 or 13 percent and lower by the same period in 2023, by 44,000 or 28 percent. To round out our conversation on registration-related revenues, I wanted to add one of the large areas that has benefited AKC over the past few years which are pedigree sales – \$3.35 million comes from that area. The remaining, which you see on this slide, is a combination of purebred alternative listings, canine partners, and title recognition fees.

Let's look at a breakdown of sports and events categories by the major areas. Those first two columns combine Conformation and Companion revenues total \$5.6 million as of June 30, 2025, comparable with the prior year period. Performance events total \$1.8 million and are 7 percent higher than the prior period due to increased event applications and service fees. The Family Dog program revenues total \$1.26 million and is 2 percent lower

than 2024. Here's some entry and event information. Again, looking at a three-year comparison as of June 30, 2025, all entries for sports, for all sports, was 1.865 million, which is 2 percent higher than 2023. Events total 14,944 and are 13 percent higher than 2023. The last area of revenue we will focus on are sponsorships, advertising, and royalties. This slide further delineates the lower revenue of \$1.4 million that I mentioned earlier. While each of these categories report lower revenue than 2024, the largest decrease is in advertising revenue. As I mentioned earlier, this line principally follows the decline in registration activity. Year-to-date advertising revenue totaled \$2.1 million and is \$1 million or 33 percent lower than the same period in 2024.

Now we move on to operating expenses as of June 30, 2025. As mentioned earlier, the total operating expenses are \$48 million. 53 percent of that is staff and travel expenses totaling \$25.2 million. Professional fees and product fulfillment totals \$13.5 million or 28 percent of total expenses and are positive versus the prior year. I'd like to point out that the recent expense reductions provide lower expenses on an annual basis of 4 percent of budget. That's a \$4 million savings that we're expecting in next year's operating budget.

The non-operating expenses are on this slide and it's important to note that the

first column shows the impact of depreciation of internally developed software. That's the reason it's higher than 2024. Donations are lower than the prior year as the allocation of in-kind contributions to affiliates is lower. However, total donations to affiliates for the six months ending June 30, 2025, was \$2.4 million or 5 percent of total expenses.

As a general note, please remember our financial reports include expenses authorized by the Board of Directors in the annual operating budget. Here's our balance sheet as of June 30, 2025. Total assets of AKC as a standalone entity are \$262 million. The largest asset on the balance sheet is investments. As of July 31, 2025 – this is the one variation on dates – investment performance was positive for the year at 7.8 percent return exceeding the broker-defined benchmark by 1 percent. The asset allocation for investments follows the investment policy statement. The liability section of the balance sheet is primarily comprised of retirement plan and lease obligations and together these total \$75 million. Net assets were restricted by the Board in 2009, for the protection of retirement plan obligations, support of affiliates, and to sustain future business operations. Pension and retiree expense obligations will continue to be a long-term cash flow obligation to AKC. In closing, thank you for your time. These slides will be posted

on the Delegate Portal this week and I'm available to answer any questions at your convenience.

The first vote was on the proposed amendment to **Article IV, Section 5** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which reduces the requirement to publish CLUB candidate information in the *AKC Gazette* from twice to once before consideration by the AKC Board of Directors.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a motion and a second to send the amendment back to the committee.

There was a vote in the majority to send the amendment back to the committee.

The next vote is on the proposed amendment to **Article VI, Section 4** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which reduces the requirement to publish DELEGATE candidate information in the *AKC Gazette* from twice to once before consideration by the AKC Board of Directors.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a motion and a second to send

the amendment back to the committee.

There was a vote in the majority to send the amendment back to the committee.

The next vote was on the proposed amendment to **Article VII, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which changes the time period that a Board member must remain off the Board before being eligible to run again from one (1) year to four (4) years.

This amendment was proposed by the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and disapproved by the AKC Board at the May 2025 Board Meeting.

Pursuant to Article XX, Section 3 of the AKC Bylaws, the Doberman Pinscher Club of America demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates.

The Chair recognized Dr. John Ioia, Delegate from the Southern Adirondack Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

This took about three minutes to discuss at our Bylaws Committee meeting yesterday. It is about the fifth time we've dealt with the status of term limits. The committee, with one abstention, was unanimous in saying that this should not be passed.

The Chair recognized Dominic Palleschi Carota, Delegate from the Pharaoh Hound Club of America, who spoke as follows:

My club has advised me that we are voting against this amendment. They feel as though this Delegate Body on several occasions have affirmed the current by-law, which gives you a one-year off hiatus. They feel that this works, especially given the fact of our recent election, which resulted in three brand new Board members. I was directed to vote against this and to explain my club's position. Further, as someone who served on the board for two consecutive terms, and someone who is aware of the talent that exists on that Board, I was looking into the future, and we have three Board Members that are terming off next year. Red Tatro, Chris Sweetwood, and Ann Wallin, each one of those possesses a very unique and important challenge. They should have the right to come back in 2027, if they choose to run again. We, as the Delegate Body, should not be disenfranchised from that vote. We should have that opportunity to vote for them. Red Tatro is Chair of our Audit Committee. He works hand-in-hand with Ted Phillips, our CFO. Chris Sweetwood, instrumental in the Detection Dog Task Force, instrumental in the Adopt a K-9 Cop Grant Program. Ann Wallin, well-versed with a strong voice and strong guidance given to our pension plan. Please do not vote for this amendment. It disenfranchises us as Delegates, and it also disenfranchises those Board members that have the talent that can guide this organi-

zation into these challenging times. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Marge Calltharp, Delegate from the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I represent my opinion, not the club's opinion. Serving on the Nominating Committee three times in a row, twice as an alternate, once as a Nominating Committee member – I'm neither saying for nor against – and despite having a very talented Delegate Body, I was more or less appalled by the people that put their name forward to be a Board member. They were lacking time and service in breeding or showing dogs, lacking any business acumen, and probably did not have the ability to even read a spreadsheet. We, as the Nominating Committee, chose the people that were standing members of the Board, and that is one of the reasons why I cannot personally, and my club did not give me direction, vote for a four-year term limit. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Pat Cruz, Delegate from the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I have served two completed terms on the Board of Directors, and for the sixth time, this Delegate Body voted against removal of the one-year hiatus. When this proposal was presented to the Board, no offer of a compromise or suggestion to compromise

came about, number one. Number two, when three people term out, there are still nine or ten seasoned Delegates in that boardroom who can pick up and fill any empty seat. This Delegate Body is loaded with talent, with expertise. We've heard new Delegates come today that could run circle rings around some of us. I ask you to consider what I'm saying and consider voting in favor of the four-year term. Thank you very much.

The Chair recognized Eduardo Fugiwara, Delegate from the Two Cities Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I would like to remind everyone that you had the choice to put me, Sylvia, and Robin in there. Robin and I were running from the floor. The system works. We need the Delegates to have the right to choose who we want there. We should not have a rule that prevents us from having the best people that we believe should be there. I wanted to give my impression on that.

The Chair recognized Dr. Michael Knight, Delegate from the Texas Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I am your Investment Chairman, your Finance Chairman, I'm on the Compensation Committee and I serve on seven other committees. I sarcastically want to thank Dominic and Tom for that. However, if it had not been for the existing Board when I joined five and a half years ago, I would

have had no knowledge of how to do my job. When you join the Board, you don't know at that moment that you're going to be assigned committee work and assigned to a committee. What you bring to the table is what you know you can do, but what they're going to ask of you, you don't know at that moment. Once the dust settles and you realize what committees you've been placed on, you bring what you know and what the others around you can help teach you and guide you. Being on this Board is a tremendous amount of work. It takes a lot of time. It takes some of your own money. It's expensive to be on the Board, and we need very serious people who want to be, and I think we've done a good job every year finding those people. One thing that helps keep the Board strong and AKC strong is the guidance from the people that are there before you. They can help guide you with what they've done before you, the history of the American Kennel Club, the history of the committees, what made them strong, things that worked that you continue to do, all the things that didn't work that you don't want to try to do again unless you can find another way to do it. We lose all that in three years. We would have three original people on the Board. In my opinion, this is a plan that will set us back if we do not continue to re-elect people that want to come back to the Board after a year. After you go away for a year, if you would like to come back

and you have the time, we would like to keep that freedom within this organization. We'll be hurting ourselves and pushing ourselves backwards to vote for this amendment. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Steven Hamblin, Delegate from the Pekingese Club of America, who spoke as follows:

As a seated Board member who will term out in 2027 and has not decided if he will even want to continue to look for work on this Board when I'm eligible to do so because life happens, and there may not be a desire to move forward. More importantly, there's been a question that's been raised about the caliber or ability of people to come forward. I want to point out that from 2016 through the most recent election, I'm going to give you a list of names of people that actually ran by petition and were elected by the people in this room who decided that they were the strongest candidates, not necessarily the candidates that were put forward by the Nominating Committee. In 2016, Pat Cruz, Bill Feeney, and Karolynne McAteer ran by petition, and they were all elected. In 2017, Tom Powers was by petition. 2018, Ann Wallin was by petition. 2019, I was by petition. 2020, Carmen Battaglia won by petition. Most recently in 2025, Eduardo Fugiwara and Robin Stansell were by petition. We have a Nominating Committee that actually does vet the candidates that

are interested in running. They put forward who they want to endorse. They may not put forward the people that necessarily want to run, and those people can run by petition. We have a history of electing the people that the Delegates would like to see in those seats. To tie the hands of the Delegates to not be able to put people in the seats that they would like to have there is a disservice to this organization moving forward. Thank you.

Ms. DiNardo: Hearing no further discussion, the vote is on **Article VII, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*. Two thirds in the affirmative are required to adopt.

There was less than two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was not adopted.

The next vote is on the proposed amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds verbiage to address that a fee is required to be submitted to the event-giving club when a complaint is filed at an AKC event.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and disapproved by the AKC Board at the February 2025 Board Meeting.

Pursuant to Article XX, Section 3 of the AKC Bylaws, the Delegate Bylaws Com-

mittee demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates.

The Chair recognized Richard Rohrbacher, Delegate from the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I would like to see an amendment to this amendment to change the name of the deposit to “event hearing” deposit, which appears in two places in the third paragraph and two places in the fourth paragraph.

There was a motion to revise the wording of the amendment, but no second. It was reverted to the original language.

The Chair recognized Helen Prince, Delegate from the Scottish Terrier Club of America, who spoke as follows:

I wanted to bring up something that was discussed at our meeting of National Capital Kennel Club last week. There’s no indication that when we are now concerned with sexual abuse complaints, I don’t feel, and our club doesn’t feel that there should be a deposit required if that type of complaint is being given. I don’t know if it would go back to the committee to look at which types of complaints would require a deposit and which would not? I think it needs to be studied. I wouldn’t oppose amendment. I’d like to see it studied a little bit longer because there might be some other types of complaints that are

similar to that that we should not require a deposit.

There was a motion and a second to send the amendment back to the committee.

The Chair recognized Glenda Stephenson, Delegate from the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay, who spoke as follows:

Any sexual abuse allegations are police-related, have nothing to do with disciplinary.

The Chair recognized Sylvie McGee, Delegate from Nisqually Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

As President of the Basset Hound Club of America, I understand that the Delegate Body knows about “Basset-Gate”, where we identified an individual member of our club who was a tier-three offender and who was attending shows and actively grooming kids. That issue has been dealt with properly with the authorities and also within the club structure.

If I had to guess when that concern arose, had it involved an event hearing, which it did not in that case, there would have been at least 25 people willing to place a deposit on the spot in cash, no problem. The idea that somehow we have to continue to consider this matter because a survivor of a sexual abuse or harassment would be unwilling or unable to place the deposit to me is not realistic because I know how

many people would have stepped forward in a minute. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Matthew Townsend, Delegate from the Carolina Working Group Association, who spoke as follows:

I have a friend who is a retired field executive rep, and he called me up and I told him I thought this was a slam dunk. We have a real problem with capricious complaints. He talked about in his experience as a field rep, he actually had a lot of difficulty convincing people that were being picked on or were being bullied by people that were in power when they were bad actors to actually go through the process to get to the bench hearing. We might want to consider having a different approach to solving the same problem. We don't want to be in a situation where there is somebody who's new to the sport, who's had a really bad experience with a bad actor in our sport, and we do this one last little obstacle that's meant to solve another problem. Instead, we're creating a barrier to making sure those people change their behavior or that they are removed from our sport because of the way they're behaving. If this were to go back to committee, I wonder if there might be a path to where we can figure out a way to get these capricious complaints that are interpersonal, not entertained, but also not have an extra barrier to somebody who's been

wronged at one of our events. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Anne Gallant, Delegate from the Nashville Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Nashville in general is very much in favor of this amendment. However, Nashville is very opposed to the lack of specificity regarding the deposit. I've been instructed to put forward

an amendment to this amendment that we insert "not to exceed \$100" after the deposit.

Ms. DiNardo: Before we discuss that, we have to vote on sending the amendment back to the committee.

There was a vote in the majority to send the amendment back to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate from the Clarksville Kennel Club, who spoke as follows: I call for a division.

Ms. DiNardo: All those in favor of sending the amendment back to the committee, please stand.

Paula will conduct the standing count and point to you to be seated.

(Ms. Spector performed a standing count.)

Ms. Spector: 205 Delegates counted.

Ms. DiNardo: There are 205 Delegates in

the affirmative for sending the amendment back to the committee.

All those in opposed to sending it back to the committee, please stand. Paula will conduct the standing count and point to you to be seated.

(Ms. Spector performed a standing count.)

Ms. Spector: 47 Delegates counted.

Ms. DiNardo: 205 to 47. The Parliamentarian requests I reiterate that the Delegate Body voted in the majority to send the amendment back to the committee.

The Chair recognized Gretchen Bernardi, Delegate from the Mississippi Valley Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I'm speaking as Chair of the Bylaws Committee, and I wanted to say that when the Bylaws Committee first discussed this, we had one goal in mind, and that was to make it easier on the hard-working show committees at our All-Breed shows, who have a hard enough time with dwindling membership putting on a show without being constantly interrupted, and we had like five or six at our last show with all of them at the same time dealing with all the things that occur when you're trying to put on a dog show. If any of you have any suggestions on how we can improve this amendment, please send it to me. Thank you very much.

The next vote is on the proposed amendment to **Article XVIII, Section 2** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes the requirement that notice of meetings be made by postal mail, allowing for email notice in accord with New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation (NPC) Law §605.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The last vote is on the proposed amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries, which modifies the required information published in premium lists to when any specialty club chooses not to offer the three-point major to the Reserve Winners when the number of dogs competing in a sex is twice the number required for a five-point major.

This amendment was initiated by AKC Staff, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secre-

tary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 2** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*.

Ms. Goffe: This amendment is to **Chapter 14, Section 2** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*. It explains that a disqualification by a judge in hunting tests or field trials will count as a disqualification across both sports.

If approved, corresponding revisions will be made to the following rulebooks:

- *Beagle Field Trial Rules for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option* – **Chapter 5, Section 4**
- *Beagle Field Trial Rules for Large Pack Field Trials* – **Chapter 5, Section 4**
- *Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules* – **Chapter 14, Section 4B**
- *Spaniel Field Trial Rules* – **Chapter 5, Section 4**

This amendment was initiated by Staff, proposed by the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2025 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Dr. Norine

Noonan, Delegate from the Basset Hound Club of America, who spoke as follows:

On this amendment, I noticed that it is *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, but it also references the Beagle Field Trial Rules for Large and Small Pack and Small Pack Option, but it doesn't mention Basset Hound Field Trial Rules. Did the committee intend to, or did this amendment intend to include or exclude Basset Hounds? We're just not sure.

Ms. DiNardo: Thank you. Talk to Doug Ljungren, EVP Sports & Events.

The Chair called on Kirsten Bahlke, VP of Marketing, to provide updates on the Brand and Registration Campaigns who spoke as follows:

I'm here today to talk to you a little bit about our Brand and Registration Campaigns. For those of you who were at the December meeting, I had the pleasure of speaking there, and showed you a little bit about our process, as well as some of the rough cuts, as we call them, for the ads. We talked about then how we start with research to understand the consumer. Then we use that research with our agency to develop what we call the creative, what will go into the marketplace. We tested the creative, and that's where I was at last time I showed you in December. Today, I'm here to show you the final spots, some additional spots that we've

created since then, as well as give you some of our preliminary results, which we're very proud of. First, let's step back a moment and remind everybody who are we talking to with these campaigns, and why? We are very centered on research. About four times a year, we put a study out to the entire U.S. and get thousands of responses. One of the questions we ask is, how likely are you to bring a dog into your house in the next 12 months? Consistently, the group who says they are either very or extremely likely are racially diverse females, 18 to 44 years old. We need to reach them and talk to them about AKC. Unfortunately, guess which group also has the lowest awareness of AKC? This exact same group. So just to put some numbers to it, the group that we're speaking of here has about 17 percent of them say that they are somewhat or more aware of AKC. If I ask you to guess the number for those who are 65 plus, 77 percent of people who are 65 plus say they are somewhat or more very aware of AKC. The future of AKC is dependent, as we've heard multiple times today, dependent on a younger generation, and so we need to introduce ourselves to them, and that's the purpose of our brand awareness campaign. If only 17 percent of these people have any idea about us, we have to talk to them first and introduce ourselves before we even start talking about the real reason of why register. We do that as well, but first we have

to introduce AKC. I think about this as an example. I would bet most of us in this room have heard of Salvation Army, right? Take your goods there, you can donate them. What about if I asked you about Depop. Does essentially the exact same thing as Salvation Army, except online, for a younger generation, and it positions itself differently. Those younger folks are taking their goods to Depop to resell. That's why it's important for us to understand this consumer and introduce ourselves. I'm going to show you the awareness spots for our brand. Keep in mind that they ran digitally, and so that means you would have seen them if you were in the target group, you'd see them across the digital platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, Disney Plus. We created different versions. I'm going to show you the four different versions, a 60 second, 30 second, 15, and a six second. Here we go.

(Video played.)

A couple of things to point out before I go into the shorter versions. You'll notice that the actors and actresses that we chose fit into this demographic. We also, though, made a very good attempt, and I appreciate the applause, to make sure we're not alienating. We felt that it was very important to not only attract the younger generation but feel that all of us who are currently involved with AKC could be proud of seeing this spot. Finally, I want

to mention, we do have our new tagline, Everything We Do, We Do for Dogs. At the Delegate meeting in December, we passed out some badges and things like that, but you will see this come through in a lot of our different work that we're doing in 2025 and through 2026. Now I'm going to roll into the shorter ones.

(Video played.)

I also want to give a big shout out to our own constituents. Every dog you see in this spot was volunteered by a member of our community who showed up to bring their dog, to bring their beautiful animals, and help us with this spot. Thank you very much. We couldn't have done it without you. Those are what I was talking about when we were talking about awareness. We need that younger consumer to see those spots, understand them, and we're pushing them down what we in marketing like to call the marketing funnel. First, you have to become aware of something. Now that you're all aware of Depop, you might actually consider it for your next donations, and then after you learn more, you might actually convert. That's the process we're pushing consumers through here and what I'm demonstrating to you.

Here are the results: In the first 60 days, 30 million impressions, 30 million views of our campaign, 30 million eyeballs

seeing our good work. Translates to over 10 million video views. I just showed you those videos, and 8.4 million completions, which is a 78 percent completion rate. I tell you that it's very important because the benchmark is only 44 percent. If you are on YouTube and you're watching a commercial, the benchmark to beat is watching 44 percent of that ad. The fact that people are completing 78 percent of our ad tells us – it goes right into that objective that Dr. Davies was talking about in terms of engaging content. It's saying this is engaging content people want to watch to the end. The campaign was not only on YouTube and Disney Plus, but also on our social channels, and I just chose one example to show you the success that we're having with this very engaging content. On our Facebook ad, in the time period of about 60 days, we garnered 9.2 million impressions on Facebook. We set a goal for ourselves and we overachieved. We got 156 percent of our goal on Facebook, which allowed us to deliver those impressions at a lower cost. We're thinking about not only reaching that target, but how we can reach them in a very financially prudent way. We're extremely excited about engaging content. That's why we over delivered on impressions. The social channels will reward you for engaging content because that keeps you on that channel and that's what they want.

The next thing we wanted to do was start talking about registration. You're introduced to AKC, you understand what it's about, and now we need to start telling them about why to register. Same group, same people that we're talking to, but a slightly different, more concentrated message. Again, we had multiple executions.

(Video played.)

You see, we're starting to bring the message towards registration, starting to really emphasize again that not-for-profit, particularly with the target we're going after. This is a very important point to them that we need to make sure that they hear. That's why you see it coming through in our spots. Again, the specific choice of the actress. We also have to thank a lovely breeder who was able to bring her five golden puppies in order to be Luna and couldn't have done it without them. I'll show you some shorter versions.

(Video played.)

We think that the line "declare your love" is really symbolic of how we feel about our dogs, about registering, and that's why you hear it repeated over and over in these spots. What does this mean? Here's some results that I can share with you on what these campaigns have delivered. We are trying to drive clicks to our website. That's what a click means. Almost 700,000 clicks on the website where people are learning

more. Conversions – these are actual registrations from all of the work we're doing, and I'm just showing you a part of it. You know, I showed you the funnel. There are multiple things we are doing that are driving this, but we drove almost 30,000 registrations, and a conservative estimate would say that's about a million dollars' worth of registrations that we drove. Our estimated ROAS, which is return on ad spend, to be three times. What we were saying is we think for every dollar we spend, we're going to generate three. In fact, what we've seen is for every dollar we spend, we're generating four. The other important thing is to see, are we changing people's minds? How are these campaigns affecting them? The good news is they are. This chart shows you three important measures that we look at at least four times a year. Trusted and authoritative, understanding challenges and friendly and approachable. These are measures that we know drive interest in a brand and awareness. We have traditionally been, as you can see, very high on trusted and authoritative, and these show you the different time periods of the different blue colors. If you look at the final and darkest blue on the right of each grouping, you can see that friendly and approachable for the first time has shown a statistically significant increase. That's very important. We're starting to make headway with our target and with consumers in understanding

what AKC is about. Back to Ted's speech in being a financially, fiscally responsible marketer. The other thing we said is if we're bringing more people into the funnel, then what we're going to be is more efficient. We've actually seen an almost 26 percent decrease in the average cost per acquisition. When we're bringing someone to that click, bringing someone to that registration, it's 27 percent less expensive than we had originally budgeted because we've brought more people into the funnel and have engaging content.

What are we doing next? The registration campaign that I showed you is the newest in the market. We're continuing to optimize the placements and we're creating new spots for the brand campaign and the registration campaign. We are looking into research. Again, we love our research. We're uncovering registration barriers and motivations so that we can continue to talk to those. Finally, and very importantly, we're also working on another pillar of marketing communication directly to breeders to help them understand how to communicate the benefits of registration to their puppy buyers. Thank you very much.

Dr. Tom Davies recognized the AKC Delegates who served for 25 years:

- Florence Duggan, Sussex Hills Kennel Club

- John David Hughes, Des Moines Kennel Club
- Judy Rasmuson, Women's Field Trial Club
- Ann Wallin, Atlanta Kennel Club

(Awards presentation.)

Dr. Tom Davies recognized the clubs celebrating 100 years of membership with the American Kennel Club:

- Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.
- Santa Cruz Kennel Club, Inc.
- Standard Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.

(Awards presented.)

The Chair called on Ellen Hardin, Delegate from the Golden Retriever Club of America and Assistant Chair of the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee (DAAC) for a special presentation, who spoke as follows:

Good afternoon. I have been on DAAC for several years, and in the continuing work of DAAC, we would like to share the second video in a series of productions for Delegates. It is a seven-minute video. This video was created, produced, written, and filmed by DAAC member Jane Ruthford. AKC Staff, particularly Keith Frazier, liaison to DAAC, provided invaluable assistance. Please enjoy *AKC Delegates Building Strong Communities*.

(Video played.)

The Chair recognized Mary Lou Olszewski, Delegate from the American Bloodhound Club and Chair of Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee (DAAC) who spoke as follows:

Congratulations to the team from DAAC. We are very proud of what we have been able to do for the community, for the Delegates, clubs, and all the cooperative work within our organization. As Chair of the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee known as DAAC, we'd like to thank our member, Jane Ruthford, and recognize her hard work, dedication, insight, and especially for her contributions in producing impactful tools for our Delegates and their clubs. Trophy, please. (Award presented.) Congratulations on a job well done. So proud of you. There are two video presentations if you don't know about them. *AKC Delegates Open the Door*, is number one. This is the second one, *AKC Delegates Building Strong Communities*. Jane's been teased about having a trilogy. Hopefully, Jane will come back with a third video. Both of these presentations are on the Delegate Portal with links. We started out doing CDs on our first video, but there are links now which are shareable with your clubs or dog organizations that might not have the access to understand the kind of work that we do. We just don't sit here and we're not here just for

lunch. Thank you for your time and your support, it's most appreciated.

The Chair called on Chris Sweetwood, Delegate from Trap Falls Kennel Club, to provide an update on the AKC PAC, who spoke as follows:

Since the beginning of the year, bills to regulate hobby breeders have been introduced in over 20 states. AKC GR is working hard with a lot of success to push back on these bills, but we need your help. I am here doing the same speech, but it's really important. The PAC is crucial, especially at this time, because those funds give responsible breeders and advocates a direct access to lawmakers. We are significantly outspent every year by groups that are simply seeking to shut down what we do. Your PAC contributions last year totaled \$67,800. The AR folks spent \$1.35 million. The reality is, we use the money very wisely, and that's why we need your help. As an added bonus, this year's PAC raffle is a getaway to New York City for the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. It includes four nights in a nice hotel, tickets to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, plus other major social events, including the AKC Museum of the Dog Gala, and the Take the Lead Westminster Party. Tickets will be available outside at the GR table on your way out. I encourage you to help us out. If you'd like to set up a recurring donation, I'd really encourage

that. Again, please support the PAC, because without your help, we go nowhere. Thank you very much.

The Chair called on Ernest Obubah from KPMG to read the Teller's Report results on the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.

Mr. Obubah: Good afternoon. I'm here with the teller's report.

For the All-Breed Clubs Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Dr. Yves Belmont, DBA
- Patricia Cruz
- Linda C. Flynn
- Debbie Owen

For the Bylaws Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Dr. Robert Scott Dove, DVM
- Dr. John Ioia
- Thomas Powers
- Glenda Stephenson

Also, for the Bylaws Committee, the following candidate was elected for a one-year term:

- Frederick Vogel

For the Canine Health Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki

- Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser
- Donald E. Schwartz, VMD
- Sharon Steckler

For the Companion Events Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Dr. Joyce Dandridge
- Chris Marston
- Dr. Norine Noonan
- Betty M. Winthers

Also, for the Companion Events Committee, the following candidate was elected for a one-year term:

- Jack E. Sappenfield II

For the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Carl C. Ashby III
- Ellen Hardin
- Jane Ruthford
- Judy Seltrecht

For the Dog Show Rules Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Stacey La Forge
- Dr. Kenneth Levison
- Cindy Stansell
- Matthew Townsend.

For the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Blaine Grove
- Terry Hilliard
- Robert Rynkiewicz
- Allison Schultz, MD

For the Parent Clubs Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Connie Butherus
- Maggi Strouse
- Richard Su
- Harvey Wooding

Also, for the Parent Clubs Committee, the following two candidates were elected for two-year terms:

- Lisa Peterson
- Richard Rohrbacher

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the names of the Delegates who will serve on the Committees that did not require a vote.

Ms. Goffe: Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Herding, Earthdog, Coursing, and Scent Work Events Committee are:

- Stephanie Crawford
- Karen Lee
- Richard Reynolds
- Joyce Rowland

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the *Perspectives* Editorial Committee are:

- Alyson Casper
- Don James
- Heidi Kilgore

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to give an update from the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Goffe: At the July 2025 meeting, the Board of Directors appointed the following Delegates to the Nominating Committee to select three (3) candidates for the Class of 2030:

- Gail LaBerge, Chair – Atlanta Obedience Club
- Gretchen Bernardi – Mississippi Valley Kennel Club
- Ellen Hardin – Golden Retriever Club of America
- Barbara Shaw – Greater Collin Kennel Club
- Matthew Townsend – Carolina Working Group Association

Alternates:

- Robert (Bob) Rynkiewicz – Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club
- Monica Stoner – Saluki Club of America

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee must be submitted by October 15, 2025.

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club and Chair of the Nominating Committee who

spoke as follows:

Good afternoon, everyone. The first thing I want to do is thank the members of the Nominating Committee. They have been fantastic to work with. We also thank those who interviewed with us in the last few days. We are working on our final selection, and we will have it in to the Executive Secretary by the deadline. Thank you.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the December 12, 2025 Delegate Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Hotel information was previously emailed and is posted on the Delegate Portal. Other meeting details will be provided as they become available.

Lunch was served following the meeting's conclusion on the Terrace.

Delegates were not required to turn in badges. Delegates were given the option to recycle the badge holder and lanyard in the box provided.

The organizational meetings of the newly elected Delegate Standing Committees were scheduled to begin at 2:15 p.m. in the Salem-Warren Room.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Link Newcomb, Delegate from the Bulldog Club of America, emphasized the importance for breed clubs to broaden their

strategic objectives by including people interested in various dog sports, not just Conformation. He highlighted the need to attract and engage new participants in the community, stressing that local clubs should be less exclusive and more welcoming. Particularly when selling puppies, clubs should take responsibility for fostering new members to ensure the future of the sport.

Helen Prince, Delegate from the Scottish Terrier Club of America, reported for the Parent Clubs Committee on the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Awards for the quarter. The four honorees were Dorothy Collier, Mark Dunn, Eddie Dziuk and Sue Goldberg.

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Delegate from the Waterloo Kennel Club, requested that both the cost-cutting and revenue generation continue to be examined and reexamined and communicated with transparency for the future of breeders, exhibitors and dogs.

Ann Wallin, Delegate from the Atlanta Kennel Club, spoke as a member of the Board of Directors of AKC Reunite to provide an update on their charitable giving programs:

- AKC Reunite Pet Disaster Relief Trailers 117 delivered to date. Most recently delivered were St. Lawrence, New York, Monroe County,

Pennsylvania, and Barrow County, Georgia.

- AKC Reunite K-9 Cop Grant Program: 890 grants have been awarded to date representing \$6.6+ million in total grants; 135 were approved for 2025.
- Emergency Disaster Grants: 21 grants have been awarded so far in 2025, totaling over \$80,000.
- Search and Rescue Grants: 10 grants have been awarded so far in 2025, totaling over \$22,000.

Sally Sotirovich, Delegate from the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, read a statement from a letter that was sent from the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America Board to the AKC Board regarding their objection to a proposal in consideration to allow AKC limited registration dogs to be shown in Conformation events.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned. Thank you. (*One sharp rap of the gavel.*)

(Proceedings concluded at 12:59 p.m. ET.)

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



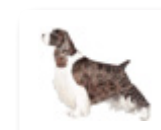
Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English
Coonhound



American
Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan
Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick
Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



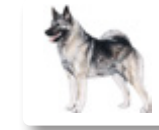
Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian
Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese
Podengo Pequeno



Redbone
Coonhound



Rhodesian
Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish
Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker
Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan
Malamute



Anatolian
Shepherd Dog



Bernese
Mountain Dog



Black Russian
Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman
Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de
Bordeaux



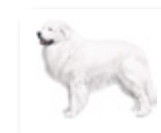
German
Pinscher



Giant
Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss
Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



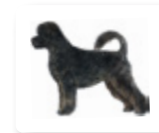
Mastiff



Neapolitan
Mastiff



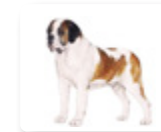
Newfoundland



Portuguese
Water Dog



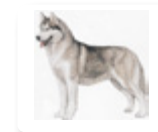
Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard
Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American
Hairless Terrier



American
Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



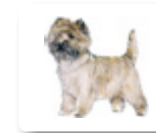
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont
Terrier



Fox Terrier
(Smooth)



Glen of
Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue
Terrier



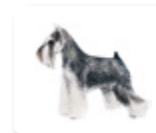
Lakeland Terrier



Manchester
Terrier



Miniature Bull
Terrier



Miniature
Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



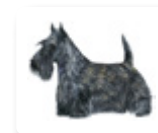
Parson Russell
Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



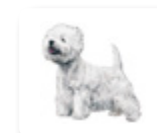
Soft Coated
Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire
Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland
White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



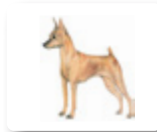
Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo
Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese
Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian
Lundehund



Poodle
(Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

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/>