



gazette

SEPTEMBER 2025

Where Fanciers
Gather



Follow the
GAZETTE on
Facebook!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2025

Volume 142, Number 9



FEATURE

Where Fanciers Gather

Our breed columnists weigh in on essential concerns of the show ring.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SECRETARY'S PAGES

MASTHEAD

AKC Museum Covers
New York

UPDATES

Canine College breeding webinars; AKC.tv summer show wrap-up; Jacot promoted to VP; Judges: ramp/table updates

RINGSIDE

Vizsla Club of America national specialty

SLIDESHOW

Classic Ludwig win shots

VIDEOS

Bichons in Maryland; Master breeders: Kari Hill, Guy Mauldin, and Sandi Lyon; Berner history project

TIMES PAST

Peggy Newcombe: Breeding the Pennyworth Way

DOG PEOPLE

Gabriel Rangel

AKC PARENT CLUBS

BREED COLUMNS

Toy

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

Non-Sporting

Bichons Frises
Boston Terriers
Bulldogs
Chinese Shar-Pei
Chow Chows
Dalmatians
French Bulldogs
Lhasa Apsos
Norwegian Lundehunds
Poodles
Schipperkes
Shiba Inu
Tibetan Spaniels
Tibetan Terriers



Herding

Bearded Collies
Belgian Malinois
Belgian Sheepdogs
Belgian Tervuren
Bouvier des Flandres
Briards
Cardigan Welsh Corgis
Collies
Finnish Lapphunds
Icelandic Sheepdogs
Norwegian Buhunds
Old English Sheepdogs
Pembroke Welsh Corgis
Pulik
Shetland Sheepdogs
Swedish Vallhunds

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

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

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

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



BUTTER
Small Dog Agility Winner
IDC Eastern Regional



BOO
Medium Dog Agility Winner
IDC Eastern Regional

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE IDC EASTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Pro Plan is proud to fuel agility champions like Butter, Boo and so many more. See why winners trust the power of fine-tuned nutrition in their brightest moments.

CHAMPIONS CHOOSE PRO PLAN.

SEE WHY >

These owners may have received compensation and coupons for Purina® Pro Plan®.
Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A. Any other marks are property of their respective owners.



Your Pet, Our Passion.®



FUEL THE CHAMPION IN YOUR DOG



OPTIMIZES OXYGEN
METABOLISM
(VO₂ MAX) FOR
INCREASED ENDURANCE



30% PROTEIN AND
20% FAT TO FUEL
METABOLIC NEEDS AND
MAINTAIN LEAN MUSCLE



OMEGA-6
FATTY ACIDS AND
VITAMIN A TO
NOURISH SKIN & COAT

ProPlanSport.com



EXCLUSIVELY AT PET SPECIALTY AND ONLINE RETAILERS

Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.



Your Pet, Our Passion.®

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AKC at 141

This month, we celebrate 141 years of the American Kennel Club—a legacy rooted in passion, built on dedication to our dogs, and driven by a commitment to their health, well-being, and future.

On September 17, 1884, twelve devoted sportsmen from local dog clubs came together to form the AKC, united by their commitment to the sport of dogs. From those early days, when conformation was our sole focus, we have grown into the world's largest not-for-profit purebred dog registry and the second-oldest amateur sport-governing body in the United States. Today, with over 25 recognized sports—many open to all dogs—the AKC continues to honor its rich history while creating new opportunities, fostering community, and being

a valuable part of the dog ownership journey.

For more than a century, the AKC has been the premier destination for all things dog—promoting canine health and well-being, advocating for responsible dog ownership, advancing canine health research, and protecting the rights of dog owners. Through public education, legislative and advocacy efforts, and the support of more than 4,900 clubs and affiliated organizations across the nation, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve and protect dogs and the people who love them.

As members of the AKC community, we are united by a shared love for dogs, a deep respect for the breeds we protect, and a commitment to the traditions that define our sport. We have both the opportunity and



the responsibility to lead with integrity, kindness, and respect. Our sport is more than competition—it is a legacy built by the dedicated generations who came before us, and now it is our turn to preserve that legacy while helping it grow.

That said, I am proud to share the launch of our updated AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility—a code that honors our traditions while reflecting where the sport is today. This new code asks for more than excellence in our competitions; it calls for character, humility, and

AKC PHOTO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The NOHS turns 15 this year.

a genuine commitment to uplift and inspire one another. It places the welfare of the dog at the center of all we do, challenges us to mentor with openness rather than guard knowledge, and reminds us that respect, fairness, and inclusion must be the foundation of every interaction—both in person and online.

Together, we can use our influence to inspire, educate, and connect, ensuring our breeds and the sport we love thrives for generations to come. You can read the updated Code of Sportsmanship and Civility [here](#).

This month also marks the 15th anniversary of the AKC National Owner-Handled Series, which celebrates the dedication and passion of owner-handlers and their dogs. This beloved competition continues to grow each year and is a testament to the partnership, teamwork, and shared dedication between owners and their dogs both inside and outside of the ring, as well as the enduring commitment to the preservation and exhibition of purebred dogs.

And the celebrations don't stop there. We are thrilled to announce the third annual AKC Agility League Championship and the 2025 North American Diving Dogs Fall Fling, taking place September 26–28 at the T. Ed Garrison Arena in Pendleton, South Carolina, sponsored by Purina Pro Plan. This exciting weekend will feature more than 500 dogs competing across every league level—from Elementary to Ph.D.—with top teams and individuals

crowned in each division.

The Agility League Championship will be held alongside the very first North American Diving Dogs Fall Fling, with competitions in Distance, Air Retrieve, and Hydrodash, plus “Try-Its” for newcomers eager to experience the thrill of dock diving.

As we celebrate 141 years of excellence, I'm continually reminded that it is our dedicated community—breeders, exhibitors, club members, volunteers, and dog lovers across the nation—who make the AKC's mission possible. Together, we proudly promote the sport of dogs and work to make the world a better place for all dogs and their owners.

It is, indeed, great to be AKC—and I look forward to sharing many more milestones with you as we shape the future together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina M. DiNardo".

Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club

Puppy & Mini Coachi®

NEW

Designed for little learners!

Perfect for puppies and small breeds, the range features engaging training aids to build confidence, encourage play and develop essential skills from day one!



Motivate



Train



Play



Reward

Find us



For more information please visit
www.companyofanimals.com



managing editor
BUD BOCCONE

senior editor
ARLISS PADDOCK

creative director
KATE MCCROARY

design projects manager
CHRIS ESPIRITU

publications coordinator
ALYSSA LELI

archivist-librarian
KIM ROSS

FREE
AKC GAZETTE
SUBSCRIPTION

publications business
manager

VENUS RODRIGUEZ
venus.rodriguez@akc.org
212-696-8260

Write to the editors
gazette@akc.org

AKC GAZETTE (ISSN 1086-0940), September 2025, Volume 142, No. 9, published monthly at 101 Park Ave., New York, NY 10178, USA, by The American Kennel Club, Inc. Copyright The American Kennel Club, Inc., 2025. No portion of this magazine may be reprinted without permission of the publisher. AKC is a registered trademark of The American Kennel Club, Inc.

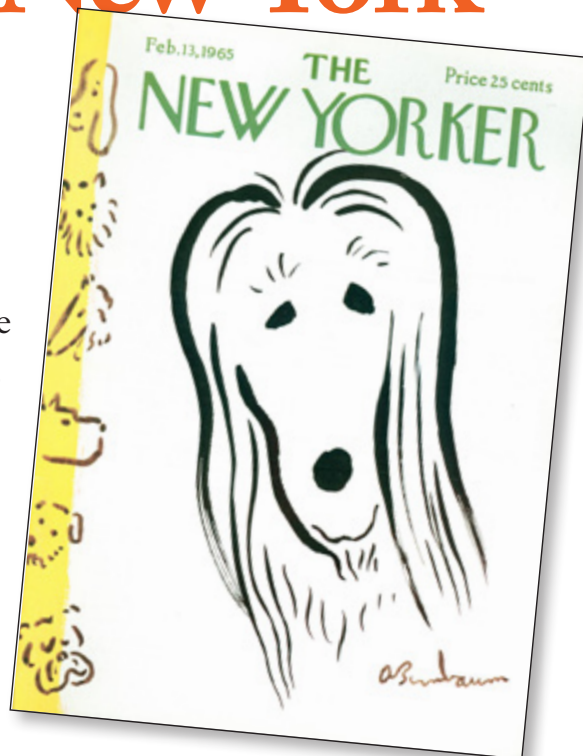
AKC Museum Covers New York

This month, a pair of milestone birthdays unites two cherished New York institutions. Westminster is celebrating its 150th anniversary, while *The New Yorker* magazine, a mere pup by comparison, has turned 100 this year.

The AKC Museum of the Dog's new exhibition, *The New Yorker in Dog Years*, presents 44 dog-themed *New Yorker* covers, including several related to Westminster.

The private collection of covers spans nearly the entire run of the magazine and features the work of such *New Yorker* mainstays as Peter Arno, James Thurber, Charles Addams, Saul Steinberg, and Mark Ulriksen. The exhibition will include commentary on the covers, with additional background material supplied by *New Yorker* staff and archives.

The New Yorker in Dog



Cover art: Afghan Hound by Abe Birnbaum, February 13, 1965

Years runs from September 4 to December 7.

[Tickets/Info](#)

On Our Cover

Irish Water
Spaniel Am./
Can./Bda. Ch.
Oaktrees
Irishtocrat, CD
(Dugan), c.1979; Ashbey
photo/AKC GAZETTE collection





Upcoming Breeder Webinars

Virtual education created by breeders for breeders

This fall, the AKC will present two new instalments of its Breeder Webinar series.

WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS? FOCUSING ON MALE BREEDING SOUNDNESS

Tuesday, October 14,
7:00 P.M. EST

Gail McRae, DVM, MS,
DACT

Discover what good overall and reproductive health looks like for your stud dogs. McRae will share information on those things you need to incorporate for good maintenance of your males.

You will also learn about cryopreservation and the important role it can play in your breeding program.

Dr. McRae is a board-certified theriogenologist (specialist in animal reproduction).

[Sign Up](#)

CANINE C-SECTIONS AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Wednesday, November
19, 7:00 P.M. EST

Marty Greer, DVM, JD
Whether scheduled or an emergency, canine C-sections are a part of

breeding when natural birth is not possible or safe. Greer will provide information on managing mom and puppies in this scenario, as well as on making the decision that a C-section is the appropriate way to proceed.

Greer established the Brownsville Small Animal Clinic in 1982 and has a special interest in pediatrics and reproduction. She raises and exhibits Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Danish-Swedish Farmdogs.

[Sign Up](#)

Questions? Write to breederdev@akc.org.

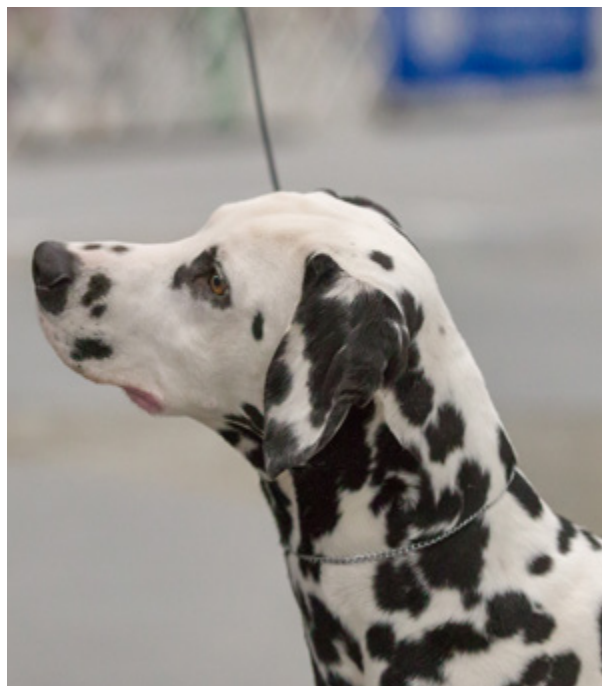
IRINA ORLOVA / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

UPDATES

AKC.tv Summer Wrap-up

AKC.tv went coast to coast to bring you full livestreamed coverage of dog shows all summer long. Click on the links below for archived shows of the 2025 summer season.

- [Greeley KC](#)
- [Waukesha KC](#)
- [Lone Star State Classic](#)
- [Dalmatian Club of America](#)
- [Woofstock](#)
- [Irish Setter Club of America](#)



DALMATIAN/ COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



INTRODUCING OUR AMAZING
DOGS BEDS

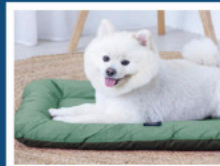
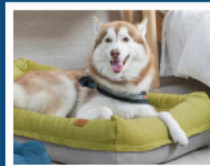
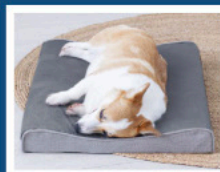
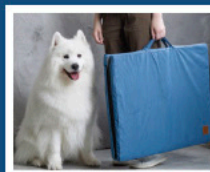
[HOMELIFEPET.COM](https://homelifepet.com)



GIVE YOUR FURRY FRIEND THE LUXURY THEY DESERVE!

The ultimate blend of comfort and practicality.

Combining innovation and durability, our beds are made with washable, breathable materials



UPDATES

Jacot Promoted to VP



The AKC has promoted Ashley Jacot to vice president of [Education](#).

In her new role, Jacot will oversee public-education initiatives that promote responsible dog ownership; develop and expand online education for groomers, breeders, trainers, judges, and the general dog-owning public; and manage the [AKC Library and Archives](#).

Jacot, a former teacher, joined the AKC in 2017 as Public Education manager

and was promoted to director of Education in 2018. She holds a Bachelor of Science in education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Master of Education from North Carolina State University, and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

“Ashley’s dedication to education and her ability to connect with diverse audiences make her an invaluable leader,” AKC President

Gina DiNardo says. “Under her leadership, our educational programs have grown in reach and impact.”

Jacot is a member of the [Raleigh KC](#) and the [American Chesapeake Club](#). She enjoys spending time with her husband, their three daughters, and their Chesapeake Bay Retriever.

Judges’ Table/Ramp Updates

Effective October 1, the Basenji will be judged optionally on the ramp or table at the discretion of the judge. The Basenji must continue to be judged on the table at all conformation events held before October 1.

In response to the [English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association](#), the AKC Board of Directors approved the request to no longer permit the ground as an option for English Springer Spaniel examination, at the discretion of the judge, effective January 1, 2026. At all shows held on or after January 1, the ramp will be required for English Springer Spaniel judging.

The [Table-Ramp List](#) will be updated to reflect these updates.



TOP: COURTESY SUBJECT

A DIFFERENT BREED

SIT. STAY. WIN.



STREAMING NOW ON
prime



Joan Ludwig was California's most respected and prolific dog-show photographer of the 20th century. From Bo Bengtson's 1994 AKC GAZETTE profile:

The prolific output and sustained length of Ludwig's career is an achievement in itself, but it is the quality of her work and the effect her photographs have had on budding exhibitors, breeders, and judges over the years that most clearly demonstrate

her unique place in the sport of dogs. ...

To say that she has become a fixture of the dog-show scene is to state the obvious, and it is a sign of her stature that she is held in high regard even in the notoriously competitive and highly specialized field of dog-show photography. You talk to Ludwig's peers and words such as *legend* are bandied about. Many of them owe much to her influence; one of them—Missy Yuhl—apprenticed

for Ludwig in the beginning of her career.

And Steve Eltinge offers this professional summary of Ludwig: "Joan's lifelong commitment to excellence in dog photography is unique. There are other photographers with as much technical expertise, even as fine an artistic eye, but I can think of no one else who combines the kind of energy, talent, and humor necessary to create images that are truly memorable."

Vizsla Club of America | South Sioux City, Nebraska | April 21-26

Photos by *Kathleen Riley*



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

RINGSIDE

Vizsla Club of America | South Sioux City, Nebraska | April 21–26

Photos by Kathleen Riley



RINGSIDE

Vizsla Club of America | South Sioux City, Nebraska | April 21–26

Photos by Kathleen Riley



RINGSIDE

Vizsla Club of America | South Sioux City, Nebraska | April 21–26

Photos by *Kathleen Riley*



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

AKC®

NOHS

REGIONAL EVENT



NOHS REGIONAL
Hosted by the Austin Kennel Club, Inc.
Saturday, September 30, 2025

CADENCE BANK CENTER
301 W Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513



JUDGING PANEL

SPORTING GROUP	- MRS MARY B NAPPER
HOUND GROUP	- MS AMY SORBIE
WORKING GROUP	- MR TIMOTHY S ROBBINS
TERRIER GROUP	- MRS MARY B NAPPER
TOY GROUP	- MR TIMOTHY S ROBBINS
NON-SPORTING GROUP	- MR TIMOTHY S ROBBINS
HERDING GROUP	- MRS CHRIS A LEVY
BEST IN SHOW	- MR JOHN F BOOTH

ENTRIES CLOSE SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Superintendent - ONOFRIO - <https://onofrio.com>

NOHS Points are **DOUBLED** for this event

This will be a stand-alone event at the same time as the All Breed Show



Where Fanciers Gather:

Around the Rings



In this installment of an occasional series, our breed columnists weigh in on essential concerns of the show ring.

In the mid-1920s, when the GAZETTE was transformed from a stark rundown of AKC business into a full-fledged magazine, the editors launched a new department called “Where Fanciers Gather.” This roundup of news from the show world,

contributed by AKC club members, soon evolved into what we now know as our “Breed Columns” section.

In the nearly hundred years since, parent-club correspondents have contributed thousands of columns of breed-specific and all-breed

interest touching upon all things canine—but most particularly the conformation dog show in all its many aspects. Over the decades, parent clubs have put forward accomplished and articulate members to represent their breeds in our pages.

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

FEATURE

The following is a sampler of excerpts from recent AKC GAZETTE breed columns of all-breed interest. It is hoped that as you read you might chuckle, nod in agreement, or even disagree. Disagreement, longtime breed columnist Dorothy Macdonald once told us, is what makes dog shows necessary: “If everyone agreed on what constitutes a good dog, we could all stay home and have a computer send out the ribbons.”

Here, then, is a virtual roundtable of recent contributors to our “Breed Columns” section, a place where fanciers still gather.

LEARNING THE GAME

Do you remember the first person to teach you in dogs? Hopefully we are still learning as techniques change and develop over the years. Will you “pay it forward” as new folks come in? How can we honor the ones who helped us?

I have been fortunate to have some great dog people help me learn the

ropes, and sadly, some have passed. What is their legacy, if not in their dogs? Passing the torch of knowledge helps one to burn more brightly.

Even though times have changed from days of large kennels and snail mail to cooperative hobby breeders communicating via the Internet, the focus of sharing bloodlines and information has not faltered. I do believe the spirit of sharing knowledge remains the same, and yet something is missing. The conscious decision to accept and respect what has come before can be difficult at best for some. I choose to embrace it, whether it be an old training technique that has since been replaced, a breeding decision that happened long ago, or a judgment that I had no control over. Any of these things can teach me if I let it and has shaped the reality that is today.—**Shannon**

Rodgers, Field Spaniel Society of America

Our lives are so busy today, many people do not seem to be taking the time to talk to the owner-handler showing their dog for the first time. To be available to answer a question or offer advice when approached by someone we do not know. We need to remember what it was like when we first ventured into this world and were welcomed by that person, or persons, willing to talk, educate, and console. We need to figure out how to recruit, engage, and enrich a new crop to go forward: To sustain and grow the sport of dogs.

The answer to “Where to now?” must come from those experienced in all phases of the sport. It is our responsibility to look ahead and help provide a map for the future.—**Leslie Hall**, Doberman Pinscher Club of America

I try to avoid “pining for

FEATURE

Field Spaniel



the good old days,” which many people in dogs for a long time seem to want to do. So rather than wallow

in bittersweet nostalgia, I will ask Siberian fanciers—particularly those relatively new to the breed—for

action: The next time you have a question about our breed, whether it has to do with movement, type,

FEATURE

Irish Wolfhound



or original function, resist the urge to google it. Resist the urge to ask an online forum. Instead, look for someone in the breed awhile—someone you know

and admire, ideally someone local that you can meet with face to face—and ask them to meet and discuss it (maybe over coffee, at a training class, or even

at a show!). You will find you learn more by sitting with someone and looking at dogs than you've ever learned from disembodied strangers of questionable

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

FEATURE

experience in a social media group.—**Jessica Breinholt**, Siberian Husky Club of America

IN THE RING

“Another day, another dog show.” This was told to me by the great handler and beloved all-rounder judge, Anne Rogers Clark. She was the first woman to go Best in Show at Westminster. I took this to mean each day is an opportunity to learn and do something great.

“Great things are accomplished only by the perfection of minor details” is the motto of my former boss, and master dog man, George Alston. I took this to mean the difference between good and great is hard work and dedication.

Plan to stay the day at the dog show. Watch judging of other breeds. Observe grooming. Go over dogs after ring time when everyone is more relaxed. Watch the groups where you can learn a lot about stack-

ing, gaiting, grooming, conditioning, and what to wear. Find a mentor in your breed.—**Susan Schneider** quoted by **Sarah A. Ferrell**, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Rachel Page Elliot made a video based on her book [*Dog Steps*]. The video does an excellent job explaining how and why a dog moves the way it moves, breaking down structure to show the action of the movement and function of the joints, helping you to understand the causes of incorrect movement.

To understand the structure and function of your breed does not have to be limited to your breed. In fact, you should never limit yourself to just “your breed.” Although different movement is expected for different breeds, after watching the video I sat ringside and watched a variety of breeds gaiting down and back.

I tried to look for the good

and the bad in the movement of the different dogs to try and visualize what I’d learned. For me, reading, seeing, and applying the information is the best way to fully comprehend what I’ve learned. I then watched my own breed and had a new appreciation for what judges might be looking for.—**Emily Fagan**, Black Russian Terrier Club of America

The signs of good sportsmanship are showing respect for yourself and your competitors, officials, and judges. Good sportsmanship takes courage and maturity. It is not easy to admit someone else has worked harder than you or has more skills or a better dog than you. Being a gracious and generous winner is one thing, but when it comes to losing, people who are good sports will immediately and willingly congratulate the winner. They accept the outcome of the class without com-

FEATURE

plaint and without excuses. Good sports know how to play fair and have fun while doing it. Good sports lead by example.—**Betsy Copeland**, American Bloodhound Club

Never say bad things about someone else's dog. That's just common sense. Nothing will lose you friends faster. You probably don't know everyone who likes that dog, who has bred to him, or who has one of his puppies. Besides, do you really want to be the person attacking a dog? He's someone's beloved pet. I guarantee you that he sleeps on someone's bed at night.

It would be nice if we all try to play nicely together. I know that none of us is perfect, but we can all try to get along and be as nice as our dogs. With English Setters that's a high bar, because our dogs are so good. But we can do it.

—**Carlotta Cooper**, English Setter Association of America



JUDGES

There are many mysteries in this world: How do black holes originate, how many universes are there, where is that matching sock, and what are dog show judges thinking? Many try to explain, few find the answers.

In my experience there is one topic not often discussed by judges—the judge's evaluation and

placement of an entry. What is the thought process? How do they prioritize and get to their winners? What weight do they give faults and virtues? And what are their preferences; what do they want to reward?—

Marianne Sullivan, Collie Club of America

The Norwich Terrier Club of America requires judges for our national

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

FEATURE

specialty shows to provide written critiques of the dogs judged for both the regular classes and sweepstakes. These critiques are published in our club's newsletter. The AKC does not require or encourage written critiques, in contrast to some registries and countries where the dog show judge is required or expected to critique at least the top-placing entries. ... The competent judge evaluates the whole dog and is not fooled by clever trimming to flatten shoulders, raise a low tail-set, fill in a dippy topline, and so on. Nor is the competent judge fooled by the handler who races around the ring or applies a taut lead to conceal her exhibit's faulty structure. We are discouraged when a judge rewards the dog with obvious faults in favor of so-called "showmanship." A critique would compel a judge to be methodical and complete. He would need to apply the breed

standard (not just memorize it to pass a test) and recognize the Norwich Terrier that is most typical of the breed. ... How often do we wonder why a judge placed the dogs in a certain order? We should know the judge's rationale. After all, showing dogs is an expensive undertaking—time and money—and exhibitors deserve value.—**Jane Schubart**, Norwich Terrier Club of America

SOMETHING SPECIAL

The best specialties I have ever been to have an air of camaraderie among the participants. When everyone shares the joys of winning with the winners, supports those participating in performance events, helps with the cleanup, talks positively about all of the entries, and participates in the club sponsored events that is special. When chatter is lively and full of laughter, that is special. When people are able to look past the mistakes that are

bound to occur that makes the work worth doing for those who are running the event. These are the things that make a specialty and memorable for all.—**Patti Clark**, Greyhound Club of America

If we could silently transport ourselves above the show ring at the start of Best of Breed at the national, and gaze down as if upon a crystal plane to see the champions below, what would we see? A host of lovely dogs to be sure: some focused, some distracted, others happy just to be there in the moment. But as we look down the lineup, we will see others alert, keyed up, keenly aware and vibrating with presence. These are the ones we dream of and spend our lives and hearts to develop and bring into the winning career of a top special. All of the lovely dogs we finish to title deserve their wins. But some, graciously complying

FEATURE



Bedlington Terrier

and joyfully fulfilling our dreams in the ring, would (truth to tell) be just as happy at home. But our true specials rise above. They want to be here! They live to be here! They define themselves, and they define our lives, and the moments they grant us, and the achievements they give us, fire our hearts to the end of time.—**Phyllis I. Hamilton,** Alaskan Malamute Club of America

ACQUIRED WISDOM

Occasionally, breeders become overly focused on one or more attributes or faults, when we must instead look at the situation as a whole.

The capacity to look down the road is a gift. As a dog's bloodline serves as a record of its past and present, we look forward to contributing to its future. So, when considering a specific pairing or breeding, apart from the elementary

selection factors, naturally we should focus on the progeny's future offspring, which will be bred onward.—**Lisa Dubé Forman,** Irish Wolfhound Club of America

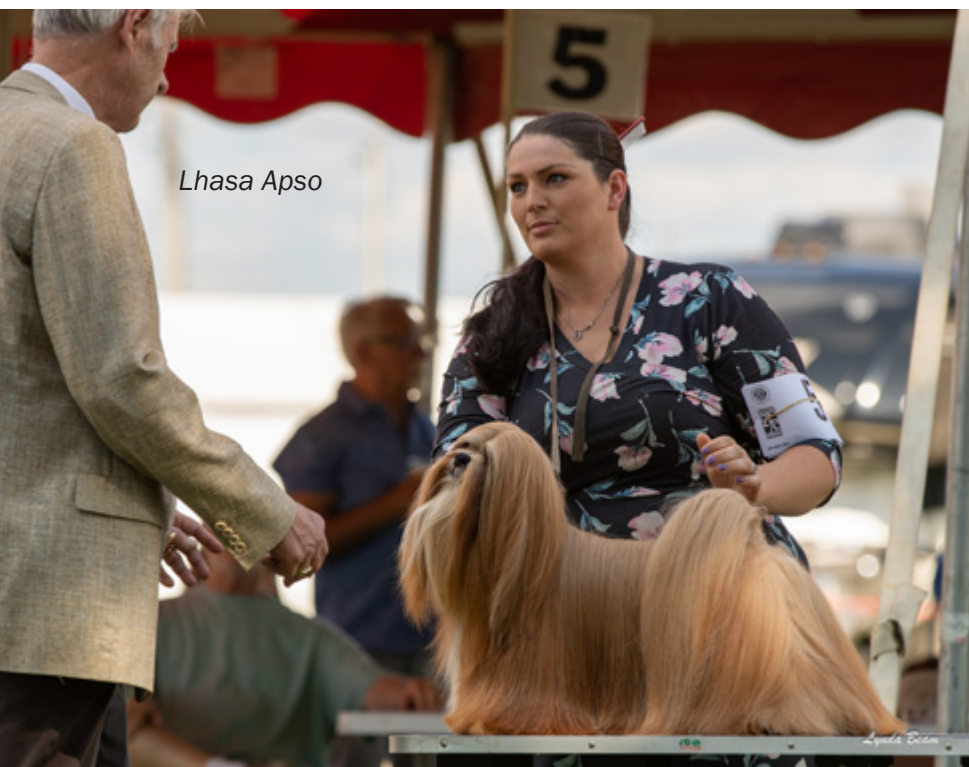
Truth be told, many exhibitors do not take the time to talk with spectators attending shows. The repetition of questions, the reaching of hands, and interference in the aisles can get annoying. We need to remember, however, that some of these people are future puppy owners, and we must be good ambassadors for our breed as well as for the fancy in general and the AKC.

As breeders, owners, and handlers, we enter conformation events to show our dogs and win ribbons, but we are also there to educate and promote the breeds we love so dearly.

I will never forget one young boy who stood wide-eyed with his family, eager to meet my Bedlington. He

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

FEATURE



Lhasa Apso

asked if he could pet my dog, and I said yes. His curiosity led to a series of questions about the breed.

As the family walked away, the boy said, “One day I am

going to have a Bedlington Terrier!”

Answering his questions took less than five minutes of my time but obviously made a lasting impression. Now

that’s what it is all about!—

Laurie Friesen, Bedlington Terrier Club of America

Most people turn to dog shows because they think it will be fun. And it is, most of the time. There is excitement, camaraderie, and the joy of becoming a team with your dog in the ring. Some folks are content to attend a limited number of shows as a past time, enjoy the social contact and occasional wins. Some give up and leave the sport or turn to performance events, where there is less emphasis on winning and more on mastering skills.

But the core of the fancy—those who devote decades and lifetimes—are those who make it their passion and their canvas. Passion captures us in different ways. To paraphrase Shakespeare: Some are born to it, some achieve it, and others have it thrust upon them.—**Cassandra de la Rosa**, American Lhasa Apso Club

Quarterly Breed Columns Schedule

Sporting/Working Groups

January, April, July, October

Hound/Terrier Groups

February, May, August, November

Toy/Non-Sporting/ Herding Groups

March, June, September, December

A DIFFERENT BREED

SIT. STAY. WIN.



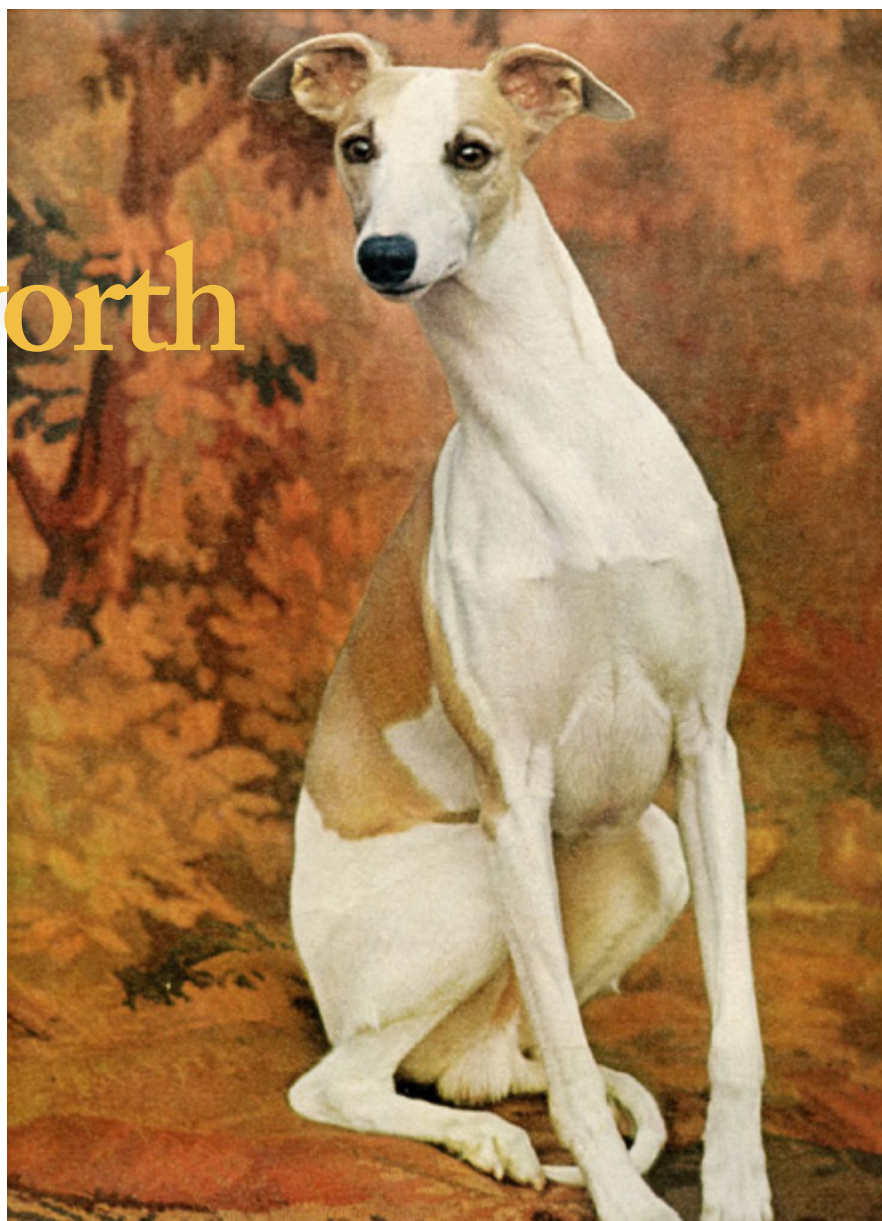
STREAMING NOW ON
prime

Breeding the Pennyworth Way

From our August 1995 issue, master breeder Peggy Newcombe (1927–2007) discusses her methods.

As a teenager, Peggy Newcombe met Marjorie Anderson of Mardormere Kennels. Anderson had been breeding, says Newcombe, “absolutely breathtaking” Whippets for 30 years. She entrusted Newcombe with a pair and helped her choose a stud; the resulting litter was the start of Pennyworth Whippets.

“From there I went to England to buy and bring back stock, because there was nothing here that was



Eng./Am. Ch. Courtenay Fleetfoot of Pennyworth, Westminster BIS 1964. (Nina Leen photo)

really outstanding. The American dogs were too big and too long and just too much dog for me.”

A breeder of Whippets for 52 years, Newcombe inherited her eye for a dog

from both her grandfather, who bred retrievers, and her mother, a successful terrier breeder. “I didn’t approve of all the noise the terriers made, and I thought they were very difficult to raise. I

TIMES PAST



Ch. Carefree of Mardormere (b.1944) was among the Pennyworth foundation stock acquired from Margaret Anderson. (Tauskey photo)

decided I was going to find something I liked better, and I found the Whippets. Of course, when I started, if you found two at one time, you were lucky.”

Newcombe says she’s from the old school: “Breeding is not done by rule of thumb. It’s an art, not a science, and it depends on what the artist’s picture is in his mind before he starts.” By the time she was 30, Newcombe had built her own kennel in New Hampshire, successfully combining the sturdiness,

steadfastness and balance of the English Whippets with the elegance of the American.

“A Whippet should not look like a baby Greyhound. My line is recognizable because I haven’t lost breadth of skull and length of muzzle. Breeders should be aware of how difficult it is to maintain symmetry, balance and a proper shoulder assembly. Once they are lost, they might never get them back.”

Newcombe does not consider Whippets line-breedable today because

of a serious monorchid and cryptorchid problem in the breed. “If I was sure there were four generations behind my breeding stock that had not produced a single monorchid or cryptorchid in the litters, then I would feel safe in linebreeding the fifth generation.”

Regarding inbreeding: “If inbreeding is going to help me, then I’ll do it, being very mindful of all the faults prior to stepping into the circle. I like to outcross better, but you can bring a lot of trash into your line when you do it. My favorite breeding is father to daughter, then outcrossing those puppies to a line that complements mine. I got some of my most gorgeous dogs that way,” says Newcombe, who has a simple way of evaluating her progress: “I will always judge myself by my dogs in the ring. And overall, when I look at my dogs up there with everyone else’s, I have to admit: I’ve got some pretty nice Whippets.”



familydog™

AKC'S
MAGAZINE to

**BRING
OUT
THE**



BEST IN YOUR DOG

Now an exclusively digital magazine, **AKC Family Dog** is emailed directly to subscribers —so we're with you and your dog wherever you go.

1 Year (6 issues) \$12.95

2 Years (12 issues) \$18.95

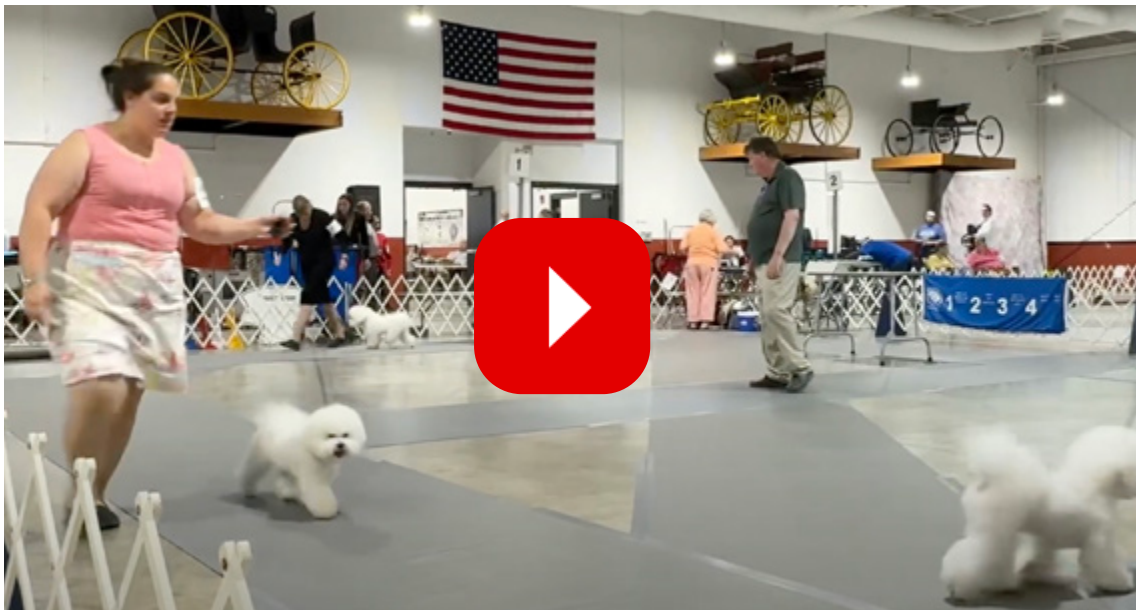
Another year just \$6 more.

BEST VALUE!

**CLICK HERE
TO SUBSCRIBE!**

NO RISK GUARANTEE!

Cancel at any time, for any reason. The AKC will refund your money for any and all unreceived issues, no questions asked.



Bichons Down and Back

CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND—Charles Olvis judges Bichons Frise for Laurel Highlands KA at the Summer Mountain Cluster. 11:30



“Raising Puppies Is Like Unwrapping a Christmas Present”

A Canine College sit-down with AKC Herding Group Breeder of the Year Sandi Lyon (Margaux Bouviers des Flandres). 4:47

VIDEOS



Die-Hard Podcast

Debut of the [Scottish Terrier Club of America](#) podcast: host Danica Burge-Garside in a lively conversation with Scottie legend Kari Hill. 1:00:25



“Cute Isn’t in the Standard!”

Master breeder Guy Mauldin discusses strategies that have made Kismet Shetland Sheepdogs a force in the sport for five decades. 27:52

VIDEOS



Berner Breed-History Project

A recent post from the [Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America](#): National Specialty awards, 1978 to 2024. 40:43



The Toy Department

Favorite toy-breed photography from the pages of the [AKC GAZETTE](#). 1:12

Gabriel Rangel

“Ever since I was a little boy, I was drawn to dogs. My parents wouldn’t let me have one of my own, so I offered to walk all of the neighbor’s dogs instead. I didn’t realize it at the time, but I was already performing as a dog handler for the neighborhood!

“It’s work, but it’s your passion, your dedication, your commitment to what you do. And that’s what makes you feel so confident and prepared when it’s time to show. It’s all about knowing that you did everything you could do to excel in the ring.”



BUD BOCCONE ©2025



AKC[®]tv

Sit. Stay. Watch.

Visit AKC.tv to see the
latest dog show events.

AKC[®]tv



Also available on

Roku



fire tv

Search AKC in the APP/Channel Store

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by **Arliss Paddock**

This month in the Chihuahua Club of America column titled "Success: As Much Preparation as Motivation," Jenny Hauber asks, is success the result of luck, fate, or destiny? In the whelping box and show ring, she says, "Fate is unalterable, but we are in charge of our own destiny."



COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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

THIS MONTH



Toy

- 39 Brussels Griffons
- 41 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- 43 Chihuahuas
- 44 Havanese
- 46 Italian Greyhounds
- 47 Japanese Chin
- 48 Miniature Pinschers
- 50 Papillons
- 51 Pekingese
- 53 Shih Tzu
- 54 Toy Fox Terriers

Non-Sporting

- 57 Bichons Frises
- 59 Boston Terriers
- 61 Bulldogs
- 63 Chinese Shar-Pei
- 65 Chow Chows
- 67 Dalmatians
- 69 French Bulldogs
- 71 Lhasa Apsos
- 73 Norwegian Lundehunds

- 75 Poodles
- 76 Schipperkes
- 78 Shiba Inu
- 79 Tibetan Spaniels
- 82 Tibetan Terriers

Herding

- 84 Bearded Collies
- 86 Belgian Malinois
- 88 Belgian Sheepdogs
- 90 Belgian Tervuren
- 93 Bouviers des Flandres
- 94 Briards
- 96 Cardigan Welsh Corgis
- 98 Collies
- 100 Finnish Lapphunds
- 102 Icelandic Sheepdogs
- 104 Norwegian Buhunds
- 106 Old English Sheepdogs
- 107 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- 110 Pulik
- 112 Shetland Sheepdogs
- 114 Swedish Vallhunds

TOY GROUP

Brussels Griffons

FEEDING THE NEW PUPPY

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

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

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

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

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

First of all, how much



Brussels Griffon Ch. Quatt Wollaton Charming Princess, 1960, with Jane Kamp (Evelyn Shafer photo)

is she feeding him? My recommendation for a 12-week-old puppy is about one-quarter to one-third cup, three times a day. But as I suspected, my new puppy owner is putting a

full cup of food into his dish. He may have consumed a dozen kibbles, but that is undetectable in such a large dish of food.

Plus, I explained, it was my experience that a puppy

TOY GROUP

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

Where is she feeding him?
On the kitchen floor.

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

There is another avenue to explore: What kind of

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

What is his behavior when she puts the dish down?

"He just looks at it, looks at me, and sits down."

New owners seem surprised to discover that Brussels Griffons do not approach food with the enthusiasm of sporting dogs. Brussels Griffons do not gulp their food. Most eat slowly. Some stop eating, leave a little food in the dish, then finish it after a short rest.

The new owner is reminded that she chose the Brussels Griffon because he is sensitive, emotional, and adapts himself to his human's mood. This means he can feel her staring at him, and it makes him uncomfortable. Think about how you feel if someone is

staring at you while you eat. You become self-conscious. Finally, you give up and move away. This is how your puppy feels.

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

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

If he doesn't eat it within a set amount of time (say, 15 minutes) pick it up and put away for the next feeding. With bigger breeds, you'd let

TOY GROUP

him go hungry until the next meal. With Brussels Griffon puppies, their low body weight makes them subject to hypoglycemia, which can cause fainting. So you need to give him a high-calorie nutritional supplement, such as Nutrical or Dyne, to keep his blood sugar levels from dropping. We use a syringe to put it directly into his mouth.

I'm happy to say that this new puppy owner was able to implement my suggestions and have the patience to let them work. However, far too often the owner finds it easier to bring home ever more expensive foods until they finally settle on one made almost entirely of meat. This, they are convinced, is the only thing their fussy, complicated puppy will eat. And eventually, it is.

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

—Sharon Sakson,
[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

THE CAVALIER—A BREED THAT SHINES IN ALL RINGS

When the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club (ACKCSC) was founded in 1994, Cavaliers had only two avenues to showcase their talents in AKC events: conformation and obedience. The founding members—primarily passionate breeders, their families, and a handful of obedience enthusiasts—could hardly have imagined the thriving, multidimensional world we see today.

In 1996, Cavaliers earned a total of 182 conformation titles and just 37 performance titles in AKC events. Fast-forward to 2024, and the growth is nothing short of extraordinary: 390 conformation titles and a remarkable 2,526 performance and companion sport titles were awarded. This reflects not only a surge in participation but a dynamic evolution in how the breed connects with dog lovers

across the country.

While the primary responsibility of a parent club will always be to protect and preserve the breed and its standard, today's clubs have a broader mission. We educate owners, advocate for health and wellness, and support the full spectrum of canine activities. The Cavalier, described in our breed standard as “an active, graceful, well-balanced toy spaniel ... fearless and sporting in character, yet at the same time gentle and affectionate,” is truly living up to that description across all arenas.

Cavaliers were bred to be companions—and they have taken that calling to heart. Their willingness to please, intelligence, and affectionate nature make them ideal candidates for the growing roster of AKC companion and performance sports. From rally and agility to scent work and Fast CAT, Cavaliers are showing the world that being a devoted lapdog and a top-tier competitor are not mutually exclusive.

TOY GROUP



Cavaliers were bred to be companions—and they have taken that calling to heart. Their willingness to please, intelligence, and affectionate nature make them ideal candidates for the growing roster of AKC companion and performance sports.

In the early days, performance and companion sport exhibitors were often viewed as separate from the conformation world—sometimes even struggling to find the necessary support to join the club. But that has changed. Today, these passionate Cavalier owners are vital members of our community, bringing fresh energy and perspectives. Their dedication to the breed is undeniable, and their knowledge of breed type continues to grow—

most are now well-versed in the standard and play an important role in shaping the club's future.

Our national specialty now reflects this wonderful synergy. In addition to conformation, we host rally, agility, Fast CAT, scent work, Canine Good Citizen, and Trick Dog evaluations—and we hope to introduce Fetch in 2026. More and more companion sport exhibitors are attending nationals, and we're seeing conformation exhibitors

stepping into new events with curiosity and enthusiasm. It's a win-win for the breed and the entire AKC community.

To celebrate this expanding excellence, our club recently created a new honor: the *Take It to the Max* Award for Performance and Companion Excellence. The inaugural recipient was Michael Bode, whose dog Max holds the highest obedience title ever earned by a Cavalier—an impressive OTCH5. We've also

COURTESY OWNER

TOY GROUP

expanded our Versatility Award categories to reflect the wide array of new AKC disciplines our Cavaliers are embracing.

These dogs and their owners are true ambassadors for the breed. While not all may be destined for the conformation ring, they are stellar representatives of Cavalier temperament, soundness, and spirit. And importantly, they are healthy. You can't fake the kind of vitality it takes to sprint over 20 miles per hour in Fast CAT, fly through tunnels and weaves in agility, or excel in scent work, therapy dog visits, obedience and rally, and all other companion and performance activities. These dogs *prove* that Cavaliers can live long, active, joyful lives.

We celebrate all our Cavaliers—whether they're bringing home ribbons from a conformation ring or mastering new skills in a performance arena. Together, they show the world that the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is not only a beautiful breed but also a versatile,

vibrant, and thriving one.

—Kim Baillie,
[American Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel Club](#)

Chihuahuas

SUCCESS: AS MUCH

PREPARATION AS MOTIVATION

What motivates you? What makes you wake up at 4 A.M. to show your dog?

The motivation to show can be a mixed bag. It can include love for your breed, enjoyment of fellowship with those who love dogs, desire to be the best, and much

more. Many people are driven by a strong competitive streak. Some may simply aspire to finish a dog to his or her championship, while for others it can be a burning desire to succeed, predicated on a fear of failure.

Are successes because of luck, fate, or destiny? Make your own luck! Keep your ears and eyes open, and your mouth closed. Luck is applying lessons you've learned, even when it would be more convenient to do otherwise. Everyone encounters obstacles as well as opportunities. Sometimes



Chihuahua

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

one leads to the other, and we need to recognize the difference. Simply put, good luck is the ability to learn from bad luck.

Fate and *destiny* both refer to a predetermined course of events. They can be distinguished in that fate is defined as “inevitable,” while “destiny” is used with regard to the finality of events as they have worked themselves out, determined at least in part by our own actions. Therefore although fate is unalterable, we are in charge of our own destiny.

To be successful, we must look at our dog—not just the face, but also at his body and structure, including both front and rear assembly. We need to acknowledge where he falls short and be objective about what our eyes see. We should not overlook faults and health defects in our dog. The Chihuahua Club of America has a list of health testing suggested for our breed.

We need to read and re-read our standard and come to understand it.

Developing an “eye” for a good dog is the ability to view a dog as one piece and to recognize balance, quality, and correctness in any breed. If you find you are unable to truly grasp what your standard means, seek a knowledgeable person to be your mentor. To help in the development of your “eye,” sit next to the designated mentors at shows and ask about what you’re seeing in the ring.

To be successful, we must truly be objective about to what we choose to reproduce or put in the show ring. As a breeder, we must always strive to improve the next generation. If a problem is discovered in a breeding program, we must be prepared to adjust our plans, even to the point of starting over with new foundation stock.

What sacrifices are you ready to make on your road to happiness? Dreams do find direction. Make yours come true. —*Virginia (Jenny) Hauber,*

[Chihuahua Club of America](#)

Havanese

WHY CHOOSE THE HAVANESE?

Why pick a Havanese over any other breed recognized by the AKC?

Havanese are happy, lively, small-breed dogs who are a joy to be around. Their love of attention comes from their little “show-off” nature. Havanese are equally happy at home sitting on your lap or racing through an agility course, as long as they can be with you. They are very easy to train, and that combined with their amazing balance and athletic ability has caused a rapid increase of Havanese in many dog sports.

What is the Havanese personality like? The most appealing aspect of the breed—the jewel in the Havanese crown—is its winning temperament. Happy, loving, intelligent, social and accommodating, Havanese perform to their highest capability when rewarded with constant human companionship. An ideal family companion, they blend well with dog-oriented

TOY GROUP

children, offering themselves as constant playmates. Gender plays no part in the breed's mellow temperament, as both males and females display equal portions of brains, beauty, and heart. Both playful and alert, the Havanese is trainable and intelligent, with a sweet, non-quarrelsome disposition.

Havanese puppies are very busy, full of energy and curiosity, becoming calmer yet still playful as they mature into adults. Because Havanese live longer than many other dogs, particularly the larger breeds, they develop more slowly. Havanese age gracefully, however, keeping their youthful appearance and playful attitude well into their teens. The lifespan of the breed is generally greater than 10 years.

How much grooming does a Havanese need? Havanese are non-shedding, however this does not mean no maintenance. The hair on a Havanese grows all the time. As a result, all Havanese require some sort of regular

Havanese



grooming, even if the coat is kept short.

How much exercise does a Havanese need? Havanese can be very content living indoors. Unlike many larger breeds, they usually do not need regular exercise to reduce nervous energy. However, even those Havanese who have their own fenced yards enjoy

spending time with their owners on a 15- or 20-minute walk multiple times per week.

What is the best way to train a Havanese? Puppy kindergarten and/or basic obedience training, always using positive training techniques, is recommended for all youngsters. Havanese require consistency, fairness,

COURTESY ANNA FAUST

NON-SPORTING GROUP

and firmness in training. Positive rewards and patient understanding, combined with gentle correction, work far better than harsh discipline. In fact, they should never be disciplined harshly, as a harsh punishment is counterproductive to proper training of a Havanese.

Most Havanese will do just about anything for food treats. But, because they are smart, they are easily bored with rote obedience work. Training sessions should be kept short and exercises varied to maintain attention. Above all, have fun and keep a sense of humor.

Are Havanese suitable for people with allergies? Many people with allergies have a difficult time being around dogs because of the dog's saliva, coat oil, and hair. However, many people with allergies can live with Havanese because this breed does not shed like shorthaired breeds. Regular grooming is essential for the Havanese living in an allergic household. It is recommended that potential

owners with these medical conditions check with their doctors first, prior to bringing any dog, even a Havanese, into their homes.

The Havanese Club America's website (www.havaneseclubofamerica.org) is a wealth of information for anyone considering a Havanese as a companion.

—Alice L. Lawrence,
pulifuzz@aol.com
[Havanese Club of America](http://www.havaneseclubofamerica.org)

Italian Greyhounds

THE ONE AND ONLY

There are pros and cons to a standard referencing another breed of dog. Certainly in a positive way, it should confirm an image in one's mind as to a family of breed type or background influence of development, especially in cases where the breed name is actually not indicative of that.

Where this goes awry, however, is when the referenced breed goes through a stage of development, a trend or “fad.” This has bearing and in effect



*Italian Greyhound, August 1993
(Daniel Magus photo)*

changes things for judging those dogs being compared to that breed.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to pay attention to details of proportion (the framing of breed type), shortness of loin, the distinctive and *unique* topline, and not just size but proportionate refinement when judging the Italian Greyhound.

I must also mention their signature movement, which goes hand in hand with breed type.

It must always be kept in mind that this little dog is its

TOY GROUP

own breed, and not a “variety” of the Greyhound that the standard compares it to, nor the Whippet, which it easily predates by hundreds of years yet is often casually compared to.

—Harry Bennett,

harryonly@aol.com

Italian Greyhound Club of America

Japanese Chin

BREED-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION AND THE JAPANESE CHIN

A ban on breeding brachycephalic dogs is ill-advised, risks causing harm to breeds like the Japanese Chin, and is more attributable to poor breeding practices than the breed itself.

I came into the breed almost 15 years ago because I fell in love with a rescue Japanese Chin whom we named Bambui. He was a very large male who had been born in a puppy mill and purchased by his elderly previous owners from a pet store. He had bilateral luxating patellas, heart problems,



Japanese Chin: “Fine Feathers,” Maud Earl photogravure

and very high pressures in his eyes. He was also the love of our lives.

Because of Bambui I became a devoted member of the rescue—adopting, fostering, and doing hospice for almost a dozen Chin over the years. What was true across the board was that the dogs in our rescue that came from puppy mills and pet stores had health conditions, while the Chin who had come from good breeders but needed rehoming for one reason or

another were healthy and generally long lived.

The Japanese Chin has not really changed in nearly 2,000 years. You can look back at dogs in paintings or sculpture from Asia, and they look nearly identical to today’s dogs. Early photos of the Chin like those that came over to the Americas with Commodore Perry look exactly the same as those of today; their structure, heads, faces, and body type seem to strictly adhere to today’s standard, but

TOY GROUP

perhaps with a bit more coat.

Structurally the Chin has remained the same. Breeders who take the time to check the genetic background of their dogs produce healthy, long-lived dogs with no breathing problems despite this being a brachycephalic breed.

The standard for the Chin has remained the same over the years, but though the Chin's original job was to be a lap dog, they now compete in activities including agility, Fast CAT, scent work, and obedience. Only a healthy dog could perform these tasks at competitive levels.

However, there are currently steps being taken in some places to ban breeds like the Chin. In 2019, the Dutch Kennel Club ended the registration of breeds with "short snouts," and in 2024 the city of Ojai, California, decided to ban the breeding of dogs with "extreme" traits, including flat-faced breeds, to be enforced by "peace officers." New Hampshire also proposed a similar bill last

year, claiming that brachycephalic dogs are inherently unhealthy.

While these laws do not name the Chin specifically, they do broadly refer to traits of brachycephalic breeds and name others specifically claiming them to be unhealthy by design.

It is my belief that it is more important for breeders to continue to be careful of their breeding stock, checking for heart, knee, and breathing problems prior to breeding. Banning the breeding of these dogs completely would do more harm than good, spurring puppy mills to fulfill the demands of prospective pet owners. This would serve no one but the profit monger and harm the dogs themselves.

Encourage the quality Japanese Chin breeder to continue breeding and caring for this magnificent, playful, healthy companion dog for the next 2,000 years, and put legislative efforts toward holding off those who care nothing

for the breed.

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

Miniature Pinschers

YOUR NEW MINIATURE PINSCHER PUPPY

Well, it's done. You did the research by reading books and checking the American Kennel Club and Miniature Pinscher Club of America websites, and you found a breeder close to you. You spent hours asking questions and talking about puppies, adults, and when the litter will arrive, and whether you can come to see the newborns, and how often you may visit as they grow until you take puppy home.

Finding a good breeder is the best way to go, as this will be someone who has researched pedigrees (health and structure) and spent years to breed the most healthy and genetically sound puppies and adults. Your breeder is able to discuss any questions that you

TOY GROUP

*Miniature Pinscher Min-Ken's Lil' Red Pranzler with handler Lenora M. Robertson, 1956
(Photo Master photo)*



or your veterinarian may have regarding your new puppy. She will guide you toward the best training techniques and will support you for that dog's entire life.

Your breeder gave you a list of things to buy for your puppy: blankets, collar, lead, water bucket, food bowl, and toys—oh, my, yes, toys!

You and your family decide that waiting for a healthy puppy with a great

support team is the best way to go. So the call comes: The sire and dam have been bred, and now the wait begins for the puppies to be born. It sure seems like a long time at first, but it is worth it to wait for your Miniature Pinscher to ensure you will have many happy years together.

You get the call, the babies are born! The weeks go by, and soon you get reports

from the breeder that they are all doing well and playing and jumping in their playroom.

Puppies don't go to their new homes until after 8–10 weeks, or sometimes a bit longer—however, you are willing to wait. A puppy from a reputable breeder will give you years of happy and healthy love and friendship. In addition you'll have a person who will be able to answer any questions you may have throughout his whole life.

Finally, congratulations! You have selected and are bringing home a baby Miniature Pinscher.

Your breeder presents you with a written agreement and a list of things to work on with your puppy:

- Gentle socialization is very important;
- feeding quality food is a must;
- exercise and play are required;
- grooming is imperative; and
- training makes all the difference.

TOY GROUP

Continue to talk with your breeder as your puppy grows up. Your breeder is always there for you to share insights about the breed. —

Kim Byrd, 2014

[Miniature Pinscher Club of America](#)

Papillons

PAPILLONS AND OUR WELL-BEING

Scientists have proven that being around pets can reduce stress, lower high blood pressure, and even extend lives. Merely petting a dog causes a chain reaction of neurotransmitters in our heads, making us feel good. When spending just a few minutes with a dog, we feel less anxious and less stressed. Our bodies actually go through physical changes that can make a noticeable difference in our mood. The level of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress, is decreased, while the production of serotonin, a chemical associated with well-being, is increased. This correlation of stress-reducing factors



is the equivalent of saving wear and tear on your body, possibly even extending life.

In an article Mayo Clinic oncologist Dr. Edward Creagan attests that animals have healing powers. He explains that when you pet a dog, you experience a surge of hormones that produce feelings of peace and serenity. One hormone he refers to is oxytocin, the presence of which helps increase our ability to heal and grow new cells. This not only is beneficial but also may be one of

the main reasons why dogs became “man’s best friend.”

More and more psychological and speech-pathology therapists are utilizing dogs as facilitators in their practices. Similarly, therapy dogs are improving the quality of lives in senior centers.

Many Papillons are very successful as certified therapy dogs because these little dogs are non-threatening, put people at ease, have calming effects, and allow people to be more willing to

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

open up and talk, which is a first step for healing.

Even watching my own Papillons experience the world as they do provides me with a feeling of serenity. Some perform their yoga-like daily stretch routines, while others wait patiently at the door to take the world head on and start their day. My little yoga followers stretch their legs out in front, lowering their heads to the ground, and extend their hind legs to stretch their spines. It amazes me to see how they limber up and get ready for their exercise just like any well-disciplined athlete.

Observing my Papillons going about their normal routines indeed fills my heart. Watching their behavior can turn a bad day into a delightful experience. Their enthusiasm is often so infectious that just spending time with them will leave me feeling happy and less preoccupied with my own problems.

The extent of their intelligence is certainly quite

astounding. It intrigues me to see their deep concentration and purposeful expressions when observing how they use their keen senses to track a female or look for a long-lost buried treasure in the yard. It makes me think that one day they just might find gold, seeing the odds of how often they dig up the ground!

It has also been proven that dogs can be great conversation-starters, making it easier to form friendships and positive relationships that in turn have a huge impact on maintaining good health and promoting a healthy mind.

For many pet lovers, the most effective and beneficial way to relax is not by indulging in a glass of wine but rather by spending time with our pets. And for me, it's the quality time I spend with my beloved Papillons.

To many of us, our dogs not only give us a sense of purpose, but also they complete our family. —*Roseann Fucillo, 2013*

[Papillon Club of America](#)

Pekingese

FIRST IMPRESSION

The “first impression” of a Pekingese when they enter the ring is the most important aspect of judging the dog on that day. Exhibitors should spend a great deal of time grooming and training their dog for that “first impression.”

When Pekingese enter the ring, the first observation should be the overall balance and proportion of the exhibit, along with a large head in proportion to the body. A full, well-conditioned coat along with this balance presents a beautiful picture of type and dignity.

Often judges are so impressed with the heavy and beautiful coats that they forget to examine and evaluate the body under all the coat. Pekingese are small, compact, heavy-set, and low to the ground. Compactness with a lionlike shape is essential for breed type and should be immediately apparent. The front should be heavy and with a lionlike shape should have

TOY GROUP



Pekingese

lighter hindquarters.

Along with a correct appearance, Pekingese should display an attitude of courage, self-importance, and self-esteem rather than daintiness or delicacy. In order to display the correct first impression, exhibitors must train, prepare, and groom their dogs to develop this attitude and confidence in the ring.

Many judges have said that the Pekingese is one of the hardest breeds to judge. Non-breeder judges must study and work hard to understand a breed that is built so differently from all others. For example, the

way a correct Pekingese moves may be considered unsound by someone who doesn't understand the front assembly in relation to the hindquarters and who does not understand the standard. The Pekingese has often been referred to as a "head breed" because in the early standards where points were assigned to various aspects of the breed, the majority of the points were assigned to the head.

Rose Marie Katz, an early breeder and author, commented in her book: "The Pekingese dog should be judged as a whole. It must present a picture of balance

and type. It must be evaluated for its good points rather than torn apart for its faults. In evaluating a Pekingese, one must keep in mind that it is a toy dog of great substance and character for its small size."

Therefore it is very important that every breeder, exhibitor, and judge fully understand the standard, because if incorrect specimens are rewarded in the ring, they will be used in breeding, and the breed will suffer. The future of the breed is in the hands of the judges as much as the breeders.

The exhibitor should carefully prepare for creating that "first impression" in the ring. The Pekingese should be well groomed and well trained for that experience. Socialization along with handling classes with table training are necessary to reach the goal of the show ring. Knowledge of the standard is mandatory for the breeder and exhibitor as well as the judge. Nigel Aubrey-Jones, breeder, judge, and

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

TOY GROUP

scholar, said, “Judging is about putting up great dogs because of virtues, and not putting them down because of their faults.”—*Carol Kniebusch Noe, 2016*

[The Pekingese Club of America](#)

Shih Tzu

Following is an article from Jo Ann White, who wrote the American Shih Tzu Club’s AKC GAZETTE column for 46 years—from 1978 to 2024.

EVALUATING SHIH TZU PUPPIES

Although individual bloodlines develop differently, there are certain ages that most breeders find best for evaluating particular qualities for almost all puppies. Various body parts tend to grow at varying rates. This is why a youngster may be high in the rear one week and fine the next.

Many breeders believe you can see markings and general balance (length of leg to length of back) better

at birth than you can at any other point before adulthood. Pigment is another story. Newborns with pink noses are quite common, although noses and eye-rims should be fully pigmented by 12 weeks. The smallest puppy at birth may turn out to be the largest adult. After newborn puppies are dry, you can look close to the skin to see if the black hairs are really black or simply black tipping on what will eventually be a dog of some other color—although it may take some time to determine what that other color might be.

The distinctive head so unique to our breed develops slowly. Some puppies have broad, round heads from the very beginning, with broad, square, well-cushioned muzzles that are set high between the eyes. Others take time to develop. Dogs from one particular bloodline sometimes are born with proper muzzle placement and cushioning but have cone-shaped topskulls that later broaden and fill in beautifully. Many

dogs with narrow, oval heads do not fill out in this way—particularly those on which the skull falls away abruptly behind the eyes. Muzzles may lengthen, and low-set or downward-tipping muzzles generally do not improve much with age. Bites that are undershot or curved early on usually become too undershot by the time the second teeth are in. Eyes should be full, dark, and round, not almond-shaped or showing excessive eye-white.

There is a very good reason why the ASTC recommends that Shih Tzu puppies not go to their new homes until they are at least 12 weeks old. By then they are securely up on their feet, and attitude and structure can be evaluated. Is the rear broad and well angulated, with strong drive? Are the front legs straight with good reach, and are the shoulders set in smoothly and well laid back? Are front and rear in balance? Is the chest broad and deep? Are the bones heavy and the ribs well

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP



Shih Tzu

sprung? On a male, are both testicles descended normally into the scrotum?

Does the puppy carry himself confidently, with head well up and tail curved like a teacup handle over a dead-level back? Equally important, is the coat texture soft and cottony, or sturdy and slightly oily? The

latter texture is *much* easier to maintain.

Is this the ideal show dog in terms of temperament—a calm, confident, happy puppy, unfazed by new experiences and people? Or is he hyperactive, overly aggressive, or timid, even after he has been well socialized by the breeder, his dam,

and his littermates?

After 16 weeks, a Shih Tzu enters the “adolescent uglies.” From then until he matures, one often wonders what happened to that beautifully balanced puppy, that gorgeous head, and so on. All one can say is, give him time! Often, your faith will be rewarded. Remember, however, that this is why young puppies are sold as “show prospects,” rather than “show dogs,” and at lower prices than well-trained adults in full show coat. —Jo Ann White, 2016

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

Toy Fox Terriers

FINDING A TOY FOX TERRIER PUPPY

It sounds simple, doesn't it? You decide to get a puppy. After some research, you decide the Toy Fox Terrier will be the best breed for you and your family—and now it's as simple as emailing or picking up the phone to contact a breeder.

Or is it that simple?

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS



TOY GROUP



The Toy Fox Terrier is not a highly populous breed. With about 200 litters registered annually on average with AKC, and about 600 puppies, that means that finding a puppy could take a bit of research and patience. Average those 600 puppies across 50 states and 12 months, and the number of available puppies at any moment in any location is very small.

Also, the breeders are not spread evenly across the 50 states. So many buyers contact breeders to ask their location



only to find they are across the country, at worst—or a day's drive, if they are lucky.

If you're thinking about getting a Toy Fox Terrier puppy, do the research to find a reputable breeder, and tell them a little about yourself and what you are seeking. Finding the right breeder and a well-bred puppy will bring fun and joy to your life and is well worth the effort and time.

It's usually a surprise to people just seeking a companion, that today's ethical,

COURTESY SUSAN THIBODEAUX

TOY GROUP

preservation breeders don't breed to sell puppies. This is particularly the case for breeds not on the "most popular" list. These breeders breed a litter to produce a puppy for themselves. They breed to get their next show or performance dog, or to produce the next dog in their breeding program as they strive to produce dogs which are as close to perfection as possible when scrutinized against the breed standard. Those well-bred puppies from sires and dams who are genetically health tested for known breed issues, produced beyond what the breeder will keep, are a happy hap-penance for folks wanting a puppy.

However, buyers need to understand that breeders who have poured their heart and soul into producing that litter can be almost reluctant to let those puppies go. They are often quite protective and vigilant about ensuring potential homes are a good fit for the puppy.

Considering the low

number of Toy Fox Terrier puppies available at any moment, then there are the buyer's requirements. We breeders often get contacted by puppy seekers who are adamant they want a puppy of a specific gender and of a specific color; it must be a desired size when grown, be ready to go to its new home *now* (or a named timeline), and they are not willing to drive more than two hours to get the puppy.

Do you see the potential conflicts between what the breeders have available and what the puppy buyers are expecting?

The most successful way to get a well-bred, properly raised Toy Fox Terrier puppy is to contact members of the breed's parent club—in this case the American Toy Fox Terrier Club. Most breed clubs have information for potential puppy buyers on their websites, and this includes breeder-referral contacts, available puppy listings, and breeder listings. When you contact breeders, keep in

mind they don't have litters available all year long and many only breed one or two litters a year.

You can also search on [AKC Marketplace](#). In your message to the breeder, tell them a little about yourself and what you are seeking. Please don't send an email or message that only says, "How much?" To breeders who have lost hours of sleep to ensure the tiny 3- to 5-ounce puppies survive and thrive, and who spend weeks raising these puppies in their homes, sending this two-word message doesn't come across well.

Be prepared to wait if you are set on things like gender or color, and also be willing to travel or pay for a "pet nanny" to deliver your puppy.

Finding the right breeder and a well-bred puppy will bring fun and joy to your lives and is well worth the effort and time.

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

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Bichons Frises

Our column for this month is by Cherie Ekholm.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: ARE YOU READY?

Are you ready to evacuate? We all live in areas where a disaster can necessitate evacuation. How do you prepare? The following recommendations come from a discussion among BFCA local club representatives.

Plan ahead

If you have to leave in an emergency, *how* are you going to do that? If you are going by car, is your car or RV ready for a journey that may take you 50 miles or more from home? Is the gas tank full? Have you had your car or RV serviced recently, and the tires checked? If you need to rely on someone else to help you leave, do you have those plans in place, as well as a backup plan?

Check out your town's or county's emergency preparedness plan. Where are



the shelters nearby that accept dogs? Where are the shelters that accept dogs further along any evacuation routes? What hotels that accept dogs or towns make sense to head toward? Is the evacuation plan different if the emergency is a chemical spill rather than a hurricane?

Organize into categories

Break planning into four categories: people, papers, pets, and technology. Ahead of time, gather totes or bags to hold the necessities you'll take with you when you go. Print out a list for each container, separated into things that stay in the container

year-round and those that you'll toss in last-minute.

• People

While we are always tempted to put our dogs first, we should be practical and prep items for ourselves and other human family members first. Practically speaking, we don't need much to get started, and by the time we need to restock, we will be in a town or within easy reach of one where we can buy groceries or clothing.

—Medications and supplements. Keep at least an extra month's worth of needed medications on hand.

DAVID WOO ©AKC

NON-SPORTING GROUP

- Toiletries for 2–3 people
- Outerwear, a couple of changes of clothing, and a spare set of practical shoes. Remember to grab a jacket, sweater, or raincoat.

- Spare reading or prescription glasses

- Water (a gallon per person is a good start)

- Small battery-powered lanterns or flashlights

- Baby wipes

- A first-aid kit. A first-aid kit is a great idea to keep on hand in your house, in a bug-out kit, and in your vehicles. Many items can be used for both people and pets.

• **Papers**

Some of these are obvious, such as basic ID like your driver's license, your vehicle registration, and your vehicle insurance documentation.

To add to that list, it's a great idea to keep copies of the following in one of the boxes to pack up:

- Birth certificates and medical records for everyone
- Passports
- Property records and

your last five or so years of tax returns

- Vehicle titles

- Wills and estate-planning documents

• **Technology**

Technology items are a bit harder to keep in a box and leave until you need them; you are either using them every day, or they need to be charged. Backup cables, though, are easy to toss into a box and have ready to go. Last-minute additions include:

- Laptop or tablet. Think of whatever you use daily or can hand to the kids to keep them occupied in the car or a hotel. If you only have a desktop computer, have that set up so you can “grab and go.”

- Hard drives and backups

- A monitor (optional, but can be handy)

- Cables. Some of the most important are cell charger, laptop cord, and connector cables for your backups.

- Charging banks (and their cables)

• **Pets**

As anyone who has ever traveled with a dog knows, it takes more to maintain them than it does a whole passel of toddlers.

- Medications and supplements

- Poop bags. Always and forever, have poop bags handy. Tuck a roll in the car console or a couple of the storage areas on the doors, use a carabiner to attach a roll in a dispenser to each crate or leash. Drop a roll into the bottom of your purse.

- Vet records. Keep a printed copy of your dog's most recent records and vaccinations, and keep a copy in the cloud.

- Crates. If you need to stay in a shelter, a crate may be required. Attach emergency info to the crate with the dog's name, any medical conditions, and emergency contact information that includes your regular vet's name and phone number, as well as a friend or relative who will help in a pinch. Search Etsy for some great

NON-SPORTING GROUP

labels and emergency info tubes.

—Collar/harness with name/contact tag

—At least one leash for each dog. A long line is also a good addition.

—Paper and cloth towels

—Enzymatic cleaning spray

—At least a week's worth of food for each dog. If your dog eats a prescription food, you may want to have more. (Don't forget the can opener if needed!)

—Water. Bottled water or water from home can help avoid upset tummies.

—Food, treats, and water

—Blankets or bedding

—Potty pads. Whether your dog is trained to pads or not, these can come in handy when evacuating. They are absorbent and can protect feet from less-than-sanitary or imperfect conditions.

—Exercise pen. Optional, but handy.

—Grooming essentials

—Belly bands, panties, and pads

—Fans, cooling/warming

pads (depending on your climate)

It's time to get ready.

We're heading into fire season in the western U.S. and Canada. Let's go pack our bug-out bags and make sure both our people and our pets are ready to go if need be. Ready? Go! —Cherie Ekholm,

[Bichon Frise Club of America](#)

Boston Terriers

SOME HIGHLIGHTS—THE 2025 BTCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Wonderful conformation competition took place in the convention center in Owensboro, Kentucky, and the agility, rally, and obedience events were held 32 miles away at the Metro Sports Center in Evansville, Indiana. The host club was the Heartland Boston Terrier Club.

There was a wonderful banquet, with delicious slices of double chocolate cake for dessert, plus a cash bar. Near the end of the evening was the auction

of some wonderful items.

Raffle items were on display for limited hours several days prior to the banquet.

A person couldn't feel better fellowship anywhere. Boston Terrier of the Year was a semi-formal event, with some of the most beautifully dressed exhibitors showing a dog to their special music. (I think the dogs enjoyed showing even more than the handlers.)

Good sportsmanship was on display for all the winners. There was a basket raffle, featuring items associated with different states. People bought tickets to put in bags beside the basket they hoped to win.

One of the ways a person could honor the memory of a special breeder was making a donation to the Perpetual Trophy fund. The photos were placed in the memorial books displayed, allowing people to enjoy the contributions of past breeders. It was nice to see a face to go with accomplishments of some of the founders of our Boston Terrier.

NON-SPORTING GROUP

For people who wanted great old items from the past, this was the show to find it. There were old magazines on sale: *The Boston Bulletin*, *The Boston Quarterly*, *Bostons on Parade*, *Boston Terrier News*, *Who's Who of Boston Terriers* (1980 edition), *Boston Terrier Champions 2003–2006*, and many other historical items. There were antique jewelry items, hats, pins, and so many wonderful other things. Many deceased and retired people leave their past history of the breed for others to enjoy in the future. What a wonderful gift of friendship to be able to take home some special memories from the past.

When I didn't think things could get any better, there were the 1943–1946 issues of *The Boston Terrier* magazine, edited by Norman D. Coan. This has great articles to share in future. In the June 1943 issue is an article written by Vincent G. Perry, "Breeding for Brains." Highlights from the article included: In the past



Boston Terrier

it was decided that a dog of uncertain temperament was a detriment, so they set about weeding out offenders and breeding definitely for temperament. He traced back to a dog, Ch. Globe Sweet William, whelped in 1918, who was 20 pounds and so clever that his thinking powers were amazing to everyone who knew him.

Also mentioned was a dog named Joe, and his friend Jane, who was a digger. She would dig under the fence and get out, then return

while Joe would patiently wait for her return until her head and neck would appear and would grab her and pull Jane back through the hole under the fence; then while she looked on in great wonder, Joe would fill in the hole again, though he had taken no part whatsoever in digging it.

Breed intelligence is something we should try to preserve, just as we try to carry on the good head or grand markings.

After seeing the agility

NON-SPORTING GROUP

events, it made me realize that's what they breed for: superior intellect.

Another highlight: In the August 1946 issue is a picture of Int. Ch. Emperor's Ace winning Best of Breed and Best Non-Sporting Group at the Westminster show. This is why it's so important to save our history. We must save the past for future generations.

People who really wanted to see a different side of our Boston Terrier needed to go to the Metro Sports Center and watch the agility, rally, and obedience events. You could see the dogs' minds really working as they decided whether or not to go over jumps, pondering if they needed to go in a tunnel—and if so, which way? Thinking, “Do I really want to go down that seesaw?” and “Why am I sitting on a stay, when it would be so much fun to just run? Then all of a sudden, the lights come on in the brain, and they are off to the races for a good score.

What a great day of fun—

not just watching the dogs but also enjoying the fantastic fellowship. The people were so nice and made you realize there is so much more to our breed, and that you want to become a part of their dog world.

Normally I could mention a few people who stood out to make this such a special show, but for now I will simply say “Bravo!” to everyone.

—Patricia S. Johnson, member of BTCA, BTCNC, DWAA, 115 Poe Rd., Siler City, NC 27344, patsgrooming@gmail.com

[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

Bulldogs

THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY HALL OF FAME GALLERY OF WINNERS

The yearly celebration of Bulldogs in America known as BCA National Week will soon be here. This year, we travel to the Wyndham Executive Center Columbia Mall

in Columbia, Missouri, November 23 to 29.

In addition to the performance and conformation judging, a significant part of National Week is the induction of the Hall of Fame—eligible breeders and dogs, as well as the world-renowned Gallery of Winners. This impressive gallery is comprised of oil paintings of past national winners dating back to 1949. The unveiling of the newest portraits is always a highly anticipated event.

From the BCA website:

“The National Gallery as we know it today was the brainchild of Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Savage and dates back to 1961, when an oil painting of Ch. Cockney Gorbliney on display at the National show in Oregon awakened the desire to capture the likeness and preserve for posterity the Bulldog Club of America National Specialty Winners.

“The painting was again displayed at the Bulldog Club of America banquet in Indianapolis in 1962.

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



Mrs. Savage presented her thoughts for a Bulldog ‘Hall of Fame’ at that time. Her idea was that members and clubs contribute to its formation and all winners since

the reorganization of the Bulldog Club of America 14 years ago would be represented, and each year thereafter a painting would be added. The idea was a

Ch. Vardona Frosty Snowman, Best of Breed at the Bulldog Club of America national specialty for five consecutive years (1958–1962). In “Great Show Dogs of the Past,” Bo Bengtson wrote: “The Bulldog Ch. Vardona Frosty Snowman was one of the top owner-breeder-handled show dogs ever in the U.S. He was the country’s No. 1 Non-Sporting dog for three years in a row (1958, 1959, and 1960) ... A pure white, Snowman was always shown by his owner and breeder, Dr. Edward M. Vardon of Detroit, Michigan. Snowman sired 14 champions and died in 1966. Dr. Vardon had almost 100 Bulldog champions and passed away in 1971.”

tremendous success, and the first seven paintings were unveiled at the Bulldog Club of America banquet the night of April 20, 1963, in St. Louis, thereafter to be displayed at each National Show.

“In 1967 the Council voted to include paintings of the Best of Opposite Sex Winners from this year forward. Anyone having a Best of Opposite Sex Winner prior to that time was welcome to donate a painting at their expense. At

FACEBOOK / BO BENGTSON'S GREAT SHOW DOGS OF THE PAST

NON-SPORTING GROUP

the October 1971 Council Meeting the name was officially changed to the Gallery of National Winners. As the Gallery grew, so too did the expenses involved in shipping and storing so many paintings.

“In 1973, Ernest F. Hubbard wrote a proposal to Mack Truck, Inc., asking Mack to display the paintings at their World Headquarters in Allentown. Thus ‘Bulldog Alley’ was born, and a long and happy association with Mack Trucks. Mack displayed the paintings in a hallway adjacent to the main entrance of the building, in the same corridor as their popular gift shop. They also absorbed the cost of shipping the Gallery by air freight to and from the National Show each year. Mack housed the Gallery from 1974 to 1990, at which time, because of financial difficulties and a change in management, they indicated their desire to have the paintings removed.”

The Gallery is now stored

in a climate-controlled facility and driven to the national each year by club volunteers. The travel, unloading, display, curation, breakdown and return to home base is a monumental effort. The growing amount of portraits is quite staggering.

The management of the entire Hall of Fame, which includes trophies and plaques, in addition to the portraits, is in the hands of the BCA Hall of Fame Committee. Chaired by Carla J. Ehntholt for many years, this committee plays a vital role in the workings of BCA.

We are so grateful to have such devoted Bulldoggers committed to the history of our beloved breed.

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

Chinese Shar-Pei

JUDGE EDUCATION

I have written before about judges’ education, and touched on ringside mentoring, but I wanted to do a

deeper dive. I heard from a longtime breeder friend who was helping mentor a future judge and shared the following with me.

You know I am a very passionate person when it comes to this breed. I seriously try to breed to the standard. I was approached by a new judge who is applying for several Non-Sporting breeds, Shar-Pei being one of them. He wanted mentoring and had questions, knew I’d been in the breed and showing for a long time. I, of course, said I would be happy to help.

Several times over the course of our time together, he asked many questions, and I referred him to the standard. For example, he asked about dogs being “overdone.” I asked, where have you found anything in the standard about overdone? He commented that the standard mostly mentions moderate; did I think a dog I had shown recently was overdone? He said a couple of people told him my dog was overdone.

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Chinese Shar-Pei, August 1992
(Ron Willbie photo)

I pointed out to him to once again refer to the standard. There is nothing that lays out measurements for something like “overdone.” There is size and weight, and descriptions about how the ideal dog would look. The standard specifies what the dog should have in every aspect of his body, head, and structure.

He clearly had been studying and could recite the standard pretty well. I think he will be a very good judge if he doesn’t lose his way in opinion and politics and if he sticks to the standard. At the end of the four days,

where he came ringside and studied every day with different people, he stopped to thank me for answering all his questions and reminding him to refer to the standard *always*, and to remember the unique characteristics that make our breed who they are. We need to make sure we don’t lose those things. After all, this breed was originally sent to the U.S. to save it, not to rebuild it, but to honor its history and what it was bred for.

But then what he said is what I felt I had to share with concern. He said, “*Thank you so much* for answering my questions and not stuffing your dog’s wins or titles down my throat.” He said that the number-one thing he is tired of is exhibitors being more concerned that he knows who they are, who their dog is, and how great their dogs are, rather than mentoring the standard and answering his questions.

I mean, I was stunned, and that is absolutely *sad* to me. Why do we have mentors who think it’s a marketing

platform for their dogs? We need real, true judges who understand our breed and our standard, who know what is and is not correct. But instead, some make it their platform to promote their dogs.

Back to me now. If this were a one-off, a rarity, I would not have shared her story in this column. But it’s not. I’ve seen exhibitors seek out judges (new and established) to tell that judge the exhibitor’s opinion of a dog that maybe just won, or a dog in the group ring. Why? If they are a good judge, they will form their opinion on the standard, *not* on your opinion of one dog. Everyone who mentors needs to rise above the promotional tendency and *teach*. Our dogs, past and future, deserve that respect, especially from those mentoring new judges and/or breeders.

—Karen Kleinhans DeSilva,
karenjkleinhans@gmail.com
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Chow Chows

CHOW CHOWS FOR THE FUTURE

One of the foremost goals of every Chow Chow breeder should be to do all that they can to encourage the breeding of quality in Chow Chows—not only in health matters, but also in accordance with the ideal description defined in the Chow Chow breed standard. It is the responsibility of the breeders to maintain the breed with the required characteristics and good health to ensure the Chow Chow will survive well into the future. The future of the breed depends upon a consistent international effort by many generations of dedicated fanciers who share a common vision for the breed.

The Chow Chow is one of the oldest breeds, and as we view photos of Chows of the past, it is apparent that the renowned dogs were not exaggerated in any aspect of the standard. The Chows were well balanced, with correct proportions,

coat, and breed-unique characteristics.

The Chow is a unique dog, thought to be one of the oldest recognizable breeds, with DNA analysis confirming the fact. In the early times, the breed functioned as a sporting dog. A bas-relief was discovered from the Han Dynasty (approximately 150 B.C.) that shows the Chow as a hunting dog. The breed's AKC standard says, "While primarily a companion today, his working origin must always be remembered when assessing true Chow type." Throughout history the Chow Chow has served mankind by performing tasks done by nearly all other recognized breeds (drafting, protection, herding, and more).

The first Chows were brought to England in 1781 from the Canton area of China by a member of the East India Company. As news of the arrival of the new breed spread, the importation of Chows into England increased in the

mid 1800s, and the breed began its ascent to present popularity after Queen Victoria took an interest in this "Wild Dog of China," as it was called when on display in the London Zoo.

Queen Victoria was given a Chow in 1865, and in 1881 the Prince of Wales had one which was exhibited. The Chow Chow Club was founded in England in 1895. The breed standard was based on a famous dog of the day, Chow VIII, and this is still the standard used in England.

The Chow was recognized by The Kennel Club of England in 1894. A number of Chow Chows were exhibited at the Crufts dog show of 1925.

The breed was exhibited for the first time in the United States in 1890. The American Kennel Club officially recognized the breed in 1903, and the Chow Chow Club of America was admitted as an AKC member club in 1906.

Through the dedication and tenacious efforts of

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



Chow Chows—rough coat, top; smooth coat, below. The smooth-coated Chow is identical other than length of coat. From the AKC standard: “Clothed in a smooth or an offstanding rough double coat, the Chow is a masterpiece of beauty, dignity and naturalness.”

the Chow Chow fanciers through the years, our breed has continued to flourish. Education of new fanciers has always been a foremost effort of the Chow Chow clubs.

In the last century, techniques have been developed for health evaluation of our dogs. Via available certification and examination processes, it is currently documented that the Chow Chow is the breed most affected by elbow dysplasia. They are also prone to [hip dysplasia](#), [patellar luxation](#), thyroid disease, and ocular disorders such as [entropion](#) and [ectropion](#).

Prior to planning a breeding for any Chow Chow, the breeder should use available health, temperament, and breed standard certification processes along with breed



COURTESY LOVE BANGHART

NON-SPORTING GROUP

mentoring and education resources to evaluate the positive and negative attributes that the dog can contribute to the future of the breed.

Long live the Chow Chow!
—Love Banghart,
Lkendr4300@aol.com
Chow Chow Club, Inc.

Dalmatians

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

If you share your life with a Dalmatian, no matter the number in your pack, you must be able to see the lighter side of life. As we all know, Dals are wicked smart, and that leads right into a wicked smart sense of humor. Add that to their owner-centric and highly empathetic nature, sensing your moods almost before you feel them yourself, and it is *game on*.

Life is a game to them, and everything they encounter can be turned into a fun time. Just make sure anything left in reach is a) safe for them and b) easily replaceable. Thankfully, the

value associated with any damages is usually more than compensated by the humor generated.

Dalmatians can also be known to “play dirty”—extremely dirty. A pond or puddle can be quite the temptation *and* challenge all at the same time. The *Peanuts* character Pigpen may have invented the grungy look, but Dals have taken it to a whole new level and perfected it. Thank the good Lord for their wash-and-wear coats—especially when they schedule their mud baths right before a show weekend.

Sometimes their smarts can take a basic game and turn it into a challenge to your skills of adaptability.

I had a girl who thought it was a great game to play tug with the dish towel draped through the refrigerator door handle. It was all fun and games until she pulled the fridge door open and discovered the Promised Land. Consequently, I was forced to bungee my refrigerator closed. I couldn't help

but admire her ingenuity while also laughing at her creativity.

They can also be great muggers for the camera. The infamous “Dalmatian smile” will put a smile on *your* face as they try to distract you from whatever. But their smile is not the only tool they have at their disposal. They also have an epic side-eye in their arsenal of goofy looks. But whatever look they may share with you, rest assured it will be classic.

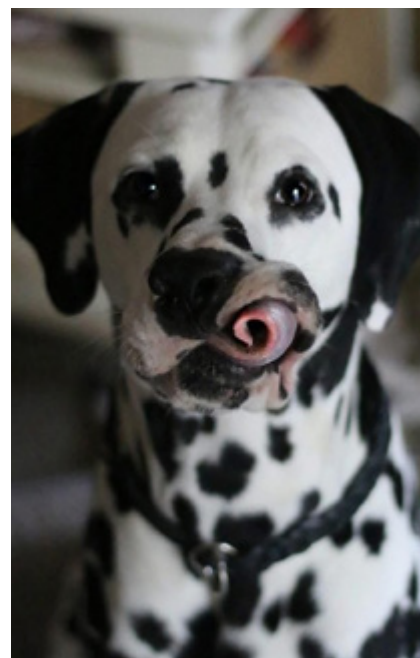
Their agility and athletic abilities are a bonus in their store of comic expertise. They can leap, spin, and dive in myriad contortions that will not only leave you laughing but also have you wondering just how they can pull off these moves.

So if you want a friend who will give you everything you could ever imagine in a dog—an intelligent, loving, and devoted companion, an adventuring sidekick, and most of all a friend who has the ability to turn any frown upside-

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



"If you share your life with a Dalmatian, no matter the number in your pack, you must be able to see the lighter side of life."

COURTESY OWNERS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

down—look no further than the Dalmatian.

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

French Bulldogs

WHAT IS AN “ETHICAL BREEDER”?

First, here’s the dictionary definition of the word *ethical*: “pertaining to or dealing with morals or the principles of morality; pertaining to right or wrong conduct.”

The French Bull Dog Club of America has a Code of Ethics. This defines what the club considers to be important components of ethical breeding. Every new member is asked to read and sign it.

A few years ago, I queried club breeders about their definitions of an ethical breeder. The responses were strong, emotional, and heartfelt. They demonstrated that there is passion that fuels a good breeder. These breeders have



French Bulldog

objectives for every breeding. They care deeply about what they do and want the best for the puppy lives they produce.

One breeder summarized what her main objective is for her puppies, and this objective was shared by everyone who responded. She said: “What I desire most for my dogs is to have a long-term, stable home. I

ask myself in each decision, ‘What is the best available choice for this dog?’ In considering both the buyer and the dog’s needs, I often opt for a companion pet home as opposed to one where the dog might be shown. This is because the companion/pet buyer when interviewed meets what I am seeking for ‘long-term commitment, stable people, loving and

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

NON-SPORTING GROUP

devoted to pets.”

Another breeder emphatically stated her practices:

“We state in our companion and show contract ... that if for any reason, at any time, the dog they purchased needs to be rehomed, the owners are to contact us first. We will indeed take the dog back for any reason: an old dog, or a sick dog, or even one with behavior issues. Neutered or spayed, it does not matter. They are our family members first and foremost. And they will forever remain that way to us. That is why it is so important to us to keep in touch with the owners of all the puppies we sell!”

An ethical breeder looks beneath the surface and investigates potential homes as thoroughly as possible.

One breeder appeared to be very aware of unethical practices among others that steered her clear of involvement. Here is her story:

“Since I believe that it is endangering the security of a dog to be passed from one breeder to another, I avoid

anyone who practices swapping/trading ... I believe that spaying/neutering any dog prior to any re-homing here or in another home is the best policy.”

Another breeder weighs in: “I think that an ethical breeder is someone who:

“1. Loves the breed first and foremost.

“2. Only breeds for the betterment of the breed.

“3. Health-tests their breeding stock to try to ensure a healthy future for their babies.

“4. Carefully screens buyers and with pets, and either has them spayed or neutered before the sale or has a spay/neuter contract in which they must furnish proof of spay/neuter or face stiff fines if they do not comply!

“6. Helps with rescue, whether it is donations or volunteer work. I believe the breed has given so much; we must all give something back.

“8. Works with educating anyone and everyone about French Bulldogs, such as at Meet the Breed booths

or just chatting with every person who has a question about Frenchies. Someone who takes the time—not hanging up on people who call and ask the question ‘Do you have puppies?’ but keeping that person on the phone by saying, ‘No—but let me give you a few pointers as to how to buy from a reputable breeder.’

“9. Someone who shows their dogs in conformation, obedience, rally, agility, and so on.

“10. Finally, I would say, an ethical breeder will lose money in the end to do what is right for the dogs in many cases. They don’t take advantage of people’s ignorance to make money. They will be honest, dependable, and caring of both their dogs and the people who love the dogs, treating all with the respect and dignity with which they would wish to be treated.”

A lot of what I’ve written sounds warm and fuzzy, but it’s not just that. Dogs have feelings, intelligence, and loyalties. All breeders must

NON-SPORTING GROUP

acknowledge this in their practices. In a nutshell, do what is right for the dog: *Don't* pass bitches around, don't declare a puppy a show prospect when he's not clear, and don't skip health testing; *do* research lines and learn about genetics, and do investigate other breeders before working with them. This is the hard, unglamorous, and tedious work of being an ethical breeder.

Don't make the mistake of saying "just this once" (as in a third or fourth breeding of a bitch, skipping a health test, or ignoring genetics). This is the beginning of a classic slippery slope: One small infraction leads to more and more, and larger and larger, and soon you can't hold your head up. — *Sande Abernathy, 2017*

[French Bull Dog Club of America](#)

Lhasa Apsos

Cassandra de la Rosa, the GAZETTE's recently retired columnist for the American Lhasa Apso Club,

contributed the club's column for more than 30 years, beginning in 1994. She wrote the following in 2016.

TAILS UP!

At my first AKC show, my puppy got a red ribbon in a class of one. The judge was the late Jackie Hungerland, and it was her first assignment judging Lhasa Apsos. I'm sure it was as difficult for her to do as it was for me to accept. Though inexperienced, I did not disagree with her decision, based on the standard's only stated serious fault: My puppy never once carried his tail over his back.

The breed standard requires that "the tail should be well-feathered, carried well over the back in a screw; and there may be a kink at the end. A low carriage of stern is a serious fault."

In our brief standard, this section is exceeded in length only by the description of the head. Therefore, we must conclude that tail carriage is an essential char-

acteristic of the Lhasa Apso.

"Well-feathered" is self-explanatory; good hair furnishings are required. "Well over the back" precludes a tail carried totally down, in a half curl behind the body or high in a pot-hook. A correctly set tail, when extended, is a natural extension of the back. It is a screw tail, tightly curled rather than carried high and loose, ideally tight enough that it "wigs, not wags," according to one authority.

Frequently, a heavily coated tail will "unscrew" and fall to the side due to the sheer weight of the hair, which is acceptable. Kinked tails appear infrequently, but the kink—probably a mutation—usually serves to keep the tail screwed even tighter, unless it kinks the wrong way, which I have experienced.

I have never quite understood the use of "low carriage of stern" rather than "low carriage of tail." The English standard, after which the American standard was patterned, used "tail," not "stern." "Low

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Lhasa Apso

carriage of stern” conjures an image of a dog slinking with its hindquarters close to the ground, tail between the legs. This is contrary to breed character, defined as gay and assertive. It is generally agreed, however, that the phrase means the tail is dropped.

Most disagreement over tail carriage focuses less on tail-set than the degree to

which a Lhasa should be forgiven for dropping his tail in the show ring. This is a subjective judgment driven by personal preference, age and/or quality of the dog, length of time the tail is down, and level of competition.

To be clear, the standard does not state “able” to carry the tail; it is to be “carried over the back.”

The Lhasa Apso is chary

of strangers, so a dog who drops his tail momentarily when approaching the judge, then recovers immediately when in motion, has done his job adequately, though perhaps not ideally. Likewise, a dog who is startled, distracted, or uncertain may be forgiven a brief lapse. And, at times the exhibitor’s anxiety conveys down the lead.

Mindful that a dog is the sum of its parts; tail carriage is a reflection of breed character, which is gay and assertive. A Lhasa who briefly raises his tail but drags it during most of the class may have shown an ability to carry his tail properly, but he should be faulted on lack of breed character based on his body language.

Tail-dropping is frustrating, disappointing, and discouraging for both newcomers and experienced exhibitors. Each dog deserves time to find his courage and be rewarded when he does.

My red-ribbon puppy was

DAVID WOO ©AKC

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Winners Dog his second show, with his tail wagging over his back. —*Cassandra de la Rosa*

[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

Norwegian Lundehunds

A LUNDEHUND LEGACY

ASCENDS

Forty years ago, Paul Ross co-owned a mountaineering shop and climbing school in New Hampshire and bred Parson Russell Terriers. Originally from England, Paul had become a U.S. citizen in 1978 and was internationally known for his technically-challenging “first ascents”—climbing parlance for successful, documented inaugural climbs to mountain peaks or to the top of a specific climbing route.

One fateful day, he read a tiny magazine article mentioning Norwegian Lundehunds, a dog capable of climbing cliffs inaccessible to man. “I thought, ‘Oh, really? A climbing dog!’” Paul recalls. His interest was piqued.

Where are the Lundehunds?

Paul contacted U.S. dog breeders and started asking straight away: “Where are the Lundehunds?”

The answer was there weren’t any.

His search extended across the pond. He learned there were four Lundehunds in Great Britain, but that was too small a population for export. Norway was carefully building its stock from the world’s six surviving dogs of just two decades earlier, and Paul remembers them being “very suspicious of me.” He explains, “I tried two years to get a Lundehund without success.”

Perhaps it is apropos, presenting an uphill battle to a seasoned mountain climber, because Paul’s persistence paid off when he contacted Julia McGrew. Julia was an American who had retired to a farm in Kertinge, Denmark, and, with her neighbor, began breeding Lundehunds in 1980. She agreed to send him one.

Twenty-four toes touch down

In November 1986, a friend of Julia’s arrived at Boston Logan International Airport with precious cargo: Haldis, a young Lundehund bitch.

“She fit right in,” Paul recalls of Haldis’s introduction to her new home. Haldis loved being outdoors and ran full speed alongside the Parson pack when Paul cross-country skied and went hiking in the mountains.

A Lundehund through and through, her instinct to hunt birds was evident: Paul says twice Haldis “went into a bunch of woods and came out with a live blackbird in her mouth. I don’t know how she did it.”

After an article was published about Paul and his Lundehund (the Norwegian translation is “puffin dog”), “I was inundated with people asking for one,” he remembers. He declined offers from strangers wanting to send thousands of dollars as a deposit until a puppy was available.

“When the Norwegian

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



Haldis arriving in the U.S.; Haldis's three puppies, the first litter of Norwegian Lundehunds in the U.S.; Haldis and her litter; Haldis's owner, mountaineer Paul Ross, internationally known for technically challenging "first ascents"; Paul Ross and his ski pack; two adult females and one young puppy Lundehund.

club learned I was serious about breeding, they gave me the job of finding people who were serious breeders and would keep them as pets as well," Paul says. He did, and soon thereafter, European judges Christen Lang (from Norway) and Inger Kristiansen (from Denmark) delivered three more Lundehunds—Brynjar (Denmark), Pigunetts

Julia-Lunde (Sweden), and Haldis's littermate, Gustav—to begin a breeding program in North America.

Haldis bred with Brynjar and whelped three puppies: two dogs and one bitch. Paul sold one and gave the other two to local dog enthusiasts.

A "peak" into the future

Haldis was Paul's first

and last Lundehund.

He entrusted her with a friend when a life change caused him to move back to Great Britain. When he returned to the U.S. in 1998, Lundehunds were steadily increasing in number, thanks to several preservation breeders in North America.

The American Kennel Club recognized Norwegian

COURTESY PAUL ROSS / KRISTINA MAZE

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP

Lundehunds in 2011, two years before Paul retired to Keswick, Cumbria, England.

Now 88 years old, Paul reflects on the struggles Lundehunds have endured during his own lifetime. Still one of the world's rarest dogs, there are now approximately 100 Lundehunds in North America. "Whatever you do, don't lose the breed," Paul implored. "It would be a shame."

In December 2024, a direct descendant of America's first Lundehund was born in the nation's capital. The puppy, Haldis, is named after her great-great-great-great-great-great-grandmother. Paul was thrilled.

—Kristina Maze

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

Poodles

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

WHY A POODLE?

The pet-buying public

is in the heyday of the "doodle." This is not new. When I was a child, the craze was "Poos." Litters of Pekepoos and Cockapoos flooded the classified ads. Sixty years later, it's déjà vu. The same phenomenon has a different name—only this craze is dominated (but not limited to) large breeds crossed with standard Poodles. Labradoodles, Goldendoodles, Bernadoodles, and so on, *ad nauseam*.

There seems to be agreement among the breeders of all these doodles that crossing any breed with a Poodle improves the offspring. What a notion! What a compliment to the Poodle breed! It stands to reason that if a half-Poodle is great, a pure-bred Poodle is as good as it gets. We Poodle breeders and owners have always known this. Apparently, however, we have not done a very good job of educating the public, as Poodle mixes often sell for more than



Poodle: magazine cover, 1908
(F. Rogers art)

good examples of the real thing.

What makes Poodles so special? Let's start with the fact that no matter what size dog a person wants, he can have it and still have a Poodle—tiny to huge, and everything in between. No matter what color dog a person wants, he can find it in a Poodle. It's true that various parti-color variations cannot be shown in breed competition, but these colors exist in the gene pool, show up

NON-SPORTING GROUP

in litters, and are attractive to many pet owners and performance folks who want something different.

Poodles have a non-shedding coat that is perfect for house pets. It can be cut short for low maintenance or low “foo-foo” tastes. On the other hand, people who enjoy having a one-of-a-kind dog can have the Poodle clipped in an endless variety of shapes, and/or dyed a rainbow of colors. This has contributed to a whole cottage industry of competitive creative grooming contests and grooming schools.

Coat care is a concern, but it is a concern with doodles as well. Professional grooming is a choice available almost everywhere. Do-it-yourself is an option. I was 10 years old when given an abandoned Poodle by our veterinarian. My mother got me clippers and scissors using green stamps (I’m dating myself!). I knew nothing when I started, but by the time I was in high school, I was earning money grooming dogs belonging

to family friends. To quote a TV quiz show, “Are you as smart as a fifth-grader?” As a breeder, I have taught coat care and even show grooming to many puppy buyers. A side benefit is that grooming dogs has a mind-calming effect—a medication-free benefit in today’s world.

One of the qualities I like best about Poodles is that they are people-lovers. Some are what one of my friends calls “stupid-friendly”—they would let a robber in and offer him a beer. Others prefer their one special person and just politely tolerate the rest. As a breed they are exceptionally affectionate.

When acclimated to children, they can be very good with them. Poodles enriched my childhood and that of my son. Most are endlessly playful and interested in what children are doing.

Poodles are a natural choice for therapy, assistance, and emotional-support dogs. In my years in the insurance business, I always took one of my Poodles to work with me.

They greeted customers with a wagging tail, performed parlor tricks, and warmed the customers up for the more serious discussions that followed. A local funeral home owner has a Standard Poodle that goes to work with him every day, comforting grieving families who come to make funeral arrangements.

Poodles excel in performance sports. They are an athletic and energetic breed and are very biddable. They love being with their people, whatever that entails. They are also excellent watchdogs—alerting to unusual sights and sounds.

The question is: Why get a Doodle, when one could have a Poodle? —J.N.

[The Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

THE SCHIPPERKE’S BODY AND STRUCTURE

The Schipperke should be a thickset, square dog. You will be able to appreciate this once you

NON-SPORTING GROUP

get your hands on the dog during the exam. The neck should be of moderate length, arched and in balance to give the correct silhouette. Too short or too long of a neck would inhibit their original purpose as vermin hunter.

It is important that the chest be broad and deep, extending to the elbows, and form a modified oval where it tapers slightly toward the sternum. The standard does not describe a round or barrel chest, nor does it describe a narrow or slab-sided chest; therefore, neither is ideal.

The forechest extends in front of the well-laid-back shoulders. The front legs extend straight down from the body when viewed from the front, with no bow-legged structure. They are not fiddle fronted with a “break” at the carpus, nor are they out at the elbows.

When viewed from the side, the front should be placed *well under the dog*, due to the well-laid-back shoulders. There is a slight,



The Schipperke should be a thickset, square dog.

flexible bend to the short, thick, and strong pasterns. The pastern should neither be broken down nor too upright. The Schipperke foot is small, round, and tight, allowing them to maintain their balance on a moving barge.

The loin is short, muscular, and moderately drawn up, which adds to the thickset appearance of the Schipperke. Too drawn-up of a loin or too long of a loin will make them appear too light and is not within the standard. The croup is broad and well-rounded with the tail docked. No tail is visually discernible.

The hindquarters typically appear slightly lighter than the forequarters but should

still be well-muscled and in balance with the front. The hocks are well let down, with balanced length of hock, and the stifles are well bent without over-angulation. The rear legs should extend straight down from the hip through the hock to the feet when viewed from behind. Cow-hocks or bowed legs are not acceptable. Rear dew-claws must be removed.

Determining “Squareness”

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

It is of note that because we are looking for a dog with a proper, thick coat, it

COURTESY AUTHOR

NON-SPORTING GROUP

is important to determine that the dog exhibits the *thickset* body as described in the standard, and not just coat making them appear to be thickset.

The above elaboration on the Schipperke standard is excerpted from an article written for SCA Judges Education. It is submitted with permission from both authors.

This article is property of Kristin Morrison and Geri Gerstner Hart and may not be copied, reproduced, altered, distributed, or published without explicit written permission from the authors.

©2025

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

Shiba Inu

STUDYING STRUCTURE WHILE HUNTING IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

It's fall, and the air is crisp, indicating a season change; the onset of an Arctic fall. It's the rainy and humid season. Blueberries



Shiba Inu

are ripe for human gathering, Shibas help by grazing on a berry patch, and it's a berry feast for willow ptarmigan. We see a large group of ptarmigan flying low across the tussock tundra and settle into the short, thick shrub surrounded by willows and alders. At this time of year ptarmigan sit tight, as they are not full into their winter plumage.

We get out of the vehicle to prepare ourselves for a trek across moss, tussock, and bog-covered ground. I open up the crate and attach the longline to a young 2-year-old Shiba. A Shiba I started to introduce to flush-

ing ptarmigan a year earlier and showed promise. A year can make a big difference in maturity and instinct. Over the year I worked this Shiba with frozen ptarmigan wings and AKC virtual scent work beginner.

The conditions today are perfect for scent and hunting temperatures; a great day to test a Shiba for what they were bred for. This Shiba senses our excitement and is straining to work. On the tundra I give her key words and line to start working the ground for ptarmigan, while my partner is nearby ready with a firearm.

The Shiba is meticulously

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

NON-SPORTING GROUP

following scent into thick willow undergrowth and back out across the wet, mossy, and boggy tundra. I'm impressed with her serious and tireless work ethic while pivoting on strong, wide haunches and using her keen sense of smell. She slows near thick, low shrubs, inhaling—almost gulping—scent, and ever so slowly starts pulling against the longline that I now have tension on.

I tell my partner, “Be ready, she is onto a bird nearby. Be ready.”

A step further, and an adult ptarmigan flushes and flies off to safety. Both humans and Shiba are extremely excited by the result of her first successful flush.

Hunting and trekking a few hours more, we came home with dinner and a Shiba who was still physically and mentally ready to hunt.

The Shiba Inu was bred to be a hunter in Japan's mountainous terrain with dense undergrowth vegetation. Their structure is such that these independent, hard-bodied, and athletic

dogs with stiff and straight guard hair have the endurance and stamina to hunt in terrain and weather all day. The proper coat, temperament, hunting instinct, and structure all play important roles for this. A Shiba without a proper harsh double coat isn't able to withstand activity in drizzly rain or gusty winter conditions. A Shiba that is short in upper arm or lacks front shoulder angle will not have the stamina to hunt long and will tire out quickly. For me, these are important traits I think about when assessing the Shiba in their natural environment and in the conformation ring. This is how I decide where I need to improve or keep in future breedings for structure.

I realize that few Shiba owners and breeders in the U.S. are hunting upland birds, but it doesn't mean we as breeders should put less emphasis on structure versus expression and type. We need to keep the Shiba's function at our forefront. More and more breeders

have their Shibas with active outdoor families and in events such as agility, Fast CAT, and Barn Hunt.

A Shiba can have all the type and expression, but if the dog can't do the bare minimum in the function category, then what are we as breeders doing to the preservation of this breed? We need to remember that a “harmonious balance of form, color, movement, and temperament is more critical than any one feature.”

—Letty Hughes,

lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com

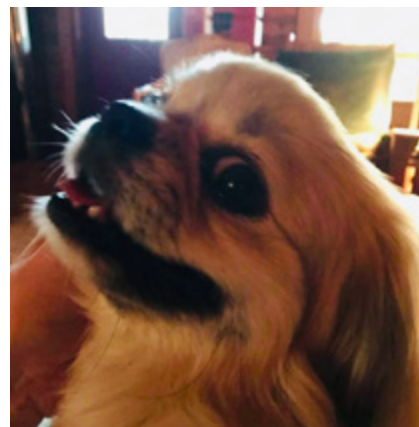
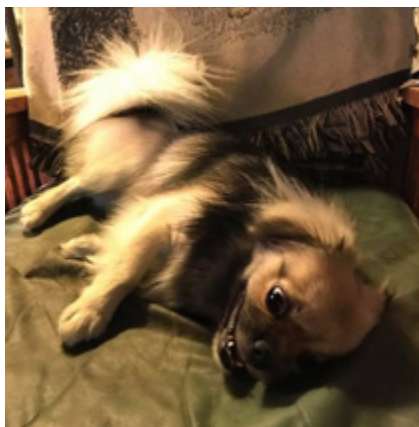
National Shiba Club of America

Tibetan Spaniels

PLACING AN ADULT TIBBIE

Strange as it may seem to us, the public finds some aspects of our sport of breeding and showing dogs hard to understand. One of the most controversial aspects is when we occasionally place our adult dogs in retirement homes after their show and breeding careers are over. Dog lovers look at

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Tibetan Spaniels, full of personality. “The point is, there are great homes out there, and great dogs deserving of them. We all have a ‘heart dog’ whom we would never place. But a big part of being a responsible breeder is keeping numbers realistic, ensuring that all the dogs in our care enjoy a quality of life, and seizing on an opportunity to place an adult in a wonderful home whenever one comes along.”

their own treasured pets and simply cannot conceive of ever parting with them. Yet in reality, rehoming our dogs to allow them more one-on-one attention with a devoted owner is an act of selfless love and entirely win-win, when the right pairing is made. Given how long-lived and spry our breed is, well into old age, it’s a plan that

works well for everyone.

The decision is never made lightly. But even for those breeder-exhibitors who maintain only a handful (single-digit number) of dogs and breed a litter perhaps once every 18 months, there may come a time when we have more dogs than we can do justice to. Presumably we breed to

keep something wonderful for ourselves out of the litter, and so that means another promising puppy or two from the next generation to work with, while also keeping a young adult dog in condition and coat to special occasions. Those of us with partners and families can’t always rely on them to pitch in to help feed, groom,

COURTESY ALLAN REZNIK / MALLORY COSBY DRISKILL

NON-SPORTING GROUP

and exercise the dogs that are, first and foremost, “our” passion (as we are pointedly reminded). Of course, the dogs are fed and cared for, but they typically live as a pack, perhaps rotate between house and kennel, and get less time on the sofa than they once did.

Science and technology have certainly had an influence on how we breed dogs today. A good stud dog will have his semen collected and stored to make available to other breeders for years to come. Fewer outside bitches visit to be bred, so his physical presence is not required to service them, as was the case even a few decades ago. A great brood bitch will be bred perhaps three or four times. Rather than sit in a kennel run or the dog room while we are away showing their offspring, that stud dog or brood bitch could be thriving as someone’s beloved companion—the center of attention rather than having to settle for one-tenth of our time.

Because our show Tibbies

are socialized from an early age and are accustomed to car travel, hotel stays, and examination by judges, as well as perhaps being shown by professional handlers and their assistants, they are generally accepting of new people and new situations, with a little time to transition. Separation anxiety is seldom an issue. Some breeders have had success placing an intact bitch with a responsible owner, taking her back once or twice for a litter. Most breeders have a policy of placing only spayed/neutered animals. Either arrangement can provide the dogs with time and attention in a loving home.

Years ago, “getting a dog” automatically meant bringing home a puppy. As lifestyles changed over time, with mothers working outside the home becoming the rule rather than the exception, the concept of adding an adult dog to the household, rather than a young, needy puppy, caught on. The dog-loving public learned that dog ownership

for working adults was more doable with an older animal.

We all know great owners who, for whatever reason, can no longer cope with a young, boisterous puppy but are still active, take long walks or jogs daily, and don’t want to be without a dog. These folks are perfect candidates to give a deserving adult dog a retirement home. Depending upon the dog’s age and the inclination of the new owner, they might even explore the array of performance events available after the Tibbie’s conformation days are over.

Some retired champions with an easygoing, “up for anything” attitude and energetic owners explore canine activities that are available, from rally to Barn Hunt. Others thrive with daily walks on leash in the park and long naps on comfortable furniture.

The point is, there are great homes out there, and great dogs deserving of them. We all have a “heart dog” whom we would never place. But a big part of

NON-SPORTING GROUP

being a responsible breeder is keeping numbers realistic, ensuring that all the dogs in our care enjoy a quality of life, and seizing on an opportunity to place an adult in a wonderful home whenever one comes along.

—Allan Reznik,

reznikallan@gmail.com

Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Tibetan Terriers

“PUPPY FEVER” CAN STRIKE AT ANY AGE!

Let me start with a confession. I am in my early 70s, and I recently had a serious case of “puppy fever” (i.e. the strong desire to adopt a puppy or the emotional feeling of wanting a puppy, often—no, *always*—associated with cuteness and playfulness). Any dog lover of any breed can tell you that this fever hits without warning, and all logic totally and unapologetically disappears when those little puppy eyes look deep into your soul and say, “Take me home”!

Recently I came within a signature of getting a gorgeous Tibetan Terrier puppy, but my “voice of reason” (AKA my husband) stopped me in my tracks and got me thinking about something that had never been an issue before: my age. I have been blessed to be owned by 14 Tibetan Terriers over the past 30-plus years—most were puppies, some older adults—and not once did I hesitate to bring any of them into my life because of my age.

We all know there are no guarantees that any of us will live long, healthy lives, but the thought of any of my dogs outliving me never crossed my mind ... until now. But I sure wanted that puppy! I currently have two TTs, ages 8 and 11, so enough time has passed that I have totally forgotten how much energy goes into having a little canine whirlwind in your life. I know fully well that Tibetan Terriers often live well into their teens, so if I did the math today, that

would put me in my late 80s when my little one would be a “senior.”

All this got me thinking about my responsibilities as a dog owner and how a breeder who doesn’t know anything about me might react to an application from someone in their seventies. Age alone cannot be a valid reason to refuse to sell a dog to an individual, but concerns about a person’s ability to care for the animal throughout its life can be legitimate reason for denial.

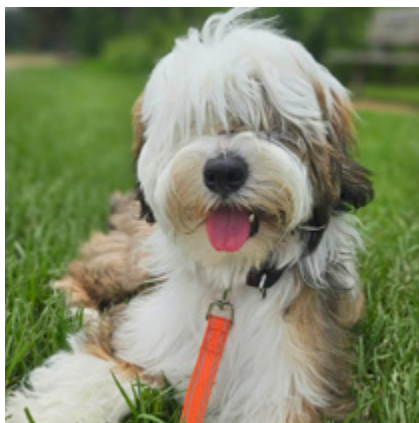
I asked for feedback from a Tibetan Terrier Facebook group and got some consistent answers. Age, for most who responded, was not as much of a concern as were the lifestyle and health of the individual applicant, experience with the breed, and having a documented plan in place if the owner and/or breeder were no longer able to care for the dog.

All that made perfect sense, but I am still conflicted about the wisdom of getting a puppy in my later years, because it is the later

BREED COLUMNS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



years of the dog's life that worries me the most. Will I be around to "grow old together"? Right now, I am fortunate to be active and healthy, and I have the time, energy, and resources to be a great dog mom; however, there are certainly no guarantees that will continue as I celebrate each birthday.

I decided that I had forgot-

If some years have passed since the last time you raised a puppy, you might forget how much energy goes into having a little "canine whirlwind" in your life and household.

ten about how much work a puppy can be and whose life may extend well past mine, and that was enough to convince me to say no to that little bundle of adorableness that I really wanted to take home.

Each of us, old or young, comes to the table with different circumstances and realities, and I know there are amazing people out there who are "up in age" who would give a puppy the perfect home, and who would benefit greatly from that relationship. But as we grow older, age should always be part of the conversation each potential buyer should have with

themselves and with the breeder.

To this day, I still wish I had said yes to that puppy. But I know he is spoiled rotten and living his best life with his new family, and I take comfort in knowing that I made the best decision for both of us. I always see my future with a TT or two in it, so when the time comes to look for another companion, I will seek out a senior Tibetan Terrier in need. That will be the perfect cure (if there is one!) for my ongoing "puppy fever"!

—Janet Krynzel,

tibterrsrule@aol.com

[Tibetan Terrier Club of America](#)

COURTESY JANET KRYNZEL

HERDING GROUP

Bearded Collies

UNFORGETTABLE

“Would you like to see Skipper?”

Alan asked. “My parents are visiting, and they’ve brought him along.”

“Yes! Definitely!”

Alan was a breeder and exhibitor of Old English Sheepdogs, a friend I knew from the dog show world. Some years ago, his parents decided to get a dog, and though they were fond of their son’s choice of breed, they were less than enthusiastic about the upkeep required for the OES coat. So Alan suggested a Bearded Collie—smaller and easier to groom, but still with an appealing “shaggy dog” look and congenial temperament. His parents agreed with his choice and left it up to him to find one for them.

That’s when I entered the picture. Alan approached me about acquiring a pup, and I contacted him when the next litter was born. When they were old enough to leave home, Alan came to



pick up the selected pup and deliver him to his parents’ home some 200 miles away.

I never saw the pup after that, though Alan kept me updated on his growth, his personality, and his antics.

One tale that sticks in my mind involved the time when his devoted owners decided to send him off to a local pet salon for a bath and grooming. Before

relinquishing their pet to the groomer, they carefully questioned if she knew how to correctly groom a Beardie. She assured them she did. She lied. Oh, how she lied! When Skipper was returned, his owners gasped and didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. So they did both. There stood their beloved boy adorned in a Poodle show clip! When

COURTESY HOT DOG PHOTO

HERDING GROUP

Skipper saw their horrified reaction to his trim, he dove under their front porch in embarrassment and refused to come out for two days. Beardies may be clowns at times, but you have to draw the line somewhere.

The years went by, and Alan married and moved to a place only a short drive from my home. Then came the day I got Alan's call about his parents' visit. It had been 12 years since Skipper had left my home as an 8-week-old pup. This would be the first time I had seen him since that long-ago day.

Wheeling my van into Alan's driveway, I was greeted by the whole family, dog included. Skipper gave me just a passing glance and trotted on by. Suddenly he stopped as though he had just realized something and turned back to me. With an "Omigosh, it's really you!" look in his eyes, he launched himself into my arms, bestowing doggie kisses accompanied by wiggling whimpers of delight.

Could he really remember

me after a dozen years? Obviously he did. He glued himself to my side for the rest of my visit, nudging my hand to elicit pats and scratches and make sure I was still there. When it came time for me to leave, I opened the van door and Skipper immediately jumped in, taking up a spot on the passenger seat and looking at me as if to say, "OK, mom, let's go home." He was finally coaxed from the van, and I departed sans a sad Skipper.

The visit left me with a dozen mind-munchies, puzzles that played games in my brain. Skipper wasn't the first dog to recognize me after an extended period of time. There had been others who greeted me like a rich relative after a year or two, and one Beadie who hadn't seen me for six years. But *twelve* years?

Scent is the greatest of a dog's senses. Long after hearing and sight have diminished or disappeared completely, the ability to detect a scent still works

just fine. But could Skipper remember my scent after all those years? (And yes, I do shower regularly, in case you were wondering.) Would a person's basic scent change over time? If it wasn't scent that prompted the recognition, then what might it be?

Newspapers, TV, and YouTube occasionally carry tales of dogs reunited with someone after extended years. But so far none I've seen have mentioned anything like the dozen years that stretched from Skipper's puppyhood to his senior status when we met again. Maybe it doesn't happen all that often. But even if the secrets of canine memory aren't revealed, there's still the warm, fuzzy feeling provided when a dog demonstrates that he not only remembers you but also recalls the affection you both shared with his unbridled enthusiasm. And isn't it wonderful to think that you made such a lasting impression! (Especially if you're the sort whose mind goes blank when you try to

HERDING GROUP

introduce your best friend to your Aunt Daisy.)

—Alice Bixler,
alice@bedlamkennels.com
Bearded Collie Club of America

Belgian Malinois

THE NEVER-ENDING TAIL

PART TWO

In Part One of this series on the Belgian tail, which appeared in the June issue, I introduced a list of that appendage's four main functions:

- Continuity of the spine
- Balance
- Communication
- Aesthetic appeal

I talked about the origins of the tail and its role in continuing a healthy spine past the end of the pelvis to the tip of the tail.

This time, we'll talk about balance and the Malinois. Many people believe that the tail plays a role in the breed's exceptional athleticism. They assume that dogs use their tails as rudders or counterweights.

A rudder, whether on a

boat or an airplane, creates a high-pressure region on the side the rudder blade is turned to, and a low-pressure area on the other. The high pressure generates a net force on one side of the rudder. If the rudder moves to the left, for example, the high-pressure area developed on the left forces the rear of the craft to the right and the front end to the left.⁽¹⁾

The problem with the tail-as-rudder theory is that a tail is not the right shape. It's a rope. A rudder needs a certain amount of surface area to create enough force to rotate the boat's front end around its pivot point. Dogs' tails just do not have enough surface area to produce a significant rudder-steering effect.

More plausible is the idea of the dog's tail as a counterweight. True, the dog's tail is quite light in weight compared to the rest of the dog. Still, it might have enough mass for *some* effect. After all, human arms are pretty spindly, yet figure skaters make very effective use of

them for motion control.

Engineers apparently agree. Researchers at Virginia Tech⁽²⁾ are looking at adding articulated tails to the dog-shaped robots we've all seen in the news, specifically to enable the robots to remain balanced while walking in a more natural (read: less creepy) quadruped style.

The only direct evidence I found on the biomechanics of the dog's tail comes from an experiment⁽³⁾ in which Border Collies were covered with motion sensors and then asked to perform jumping maneuvers. The data collected from the sensors was used to generate simulated motion profiles and predict body reactions. This study, widely quoted since its appearance in 2022, concluded that dogs did not make significant use of their tails for balance and turning.

We might find the results of this balance study counterintuitive, but it at least represents a systematic effort to examine the question. Still, since there is not a lot of data on how dogs' tails are (or are

BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP



Top left: The tail appears to counterbalance the swing of the rear as the dog begins to turn right (Ch. Carousel's Stars and Stripes, CAX, owned by Catherine Shields; photo by Carilee Moran). Top right: Tail position while turning during a coursing ability test (Ch. OTCH MACH2 PACH2 Carousel's Pole Star, VCD3, UDX3, OM3, VER, RAE2, MXG, MJG, MXP7, MXPS, MJP9, MJPG, PAX2, FTC1, MFC, TQX, MFPS, TQXP, T2B2, T2BP, CA, SCN, owned by Barb Benner; photographer unknown). Two bottom photos: The dog's tail swings from his right side to his left side as he changes the bend of his body in the weave poles (Avonlea's Stuck on You, UD, TDX, RA, TKP, CGC, owned by Carilee Moran; J.C. Photography).

not) used for balance and turning, maybe our intuition and experience can still provide some guidance.

In our thought experiment, we must reconcile the observable fact that dogs do move their tails like coun-

terweights during sharp maneuvers with the fact that no one seems to be able to document any deficit in

COURTESY CARILEE MORAN / BARB BENNER / CATHERINE SHIELDS

HERDING GROUP

the agility performance of breeds with natural bobs or docked tails.

Consider this [brief video](#) of a Belgian performing a turn and recall. The tail sure looks like it is assisting the turn. Perhaps facilitating balance is not the tail's *major* function, but surely any Belgian worth his salt would be hardwired to extract any available advantage out of the tail, even if that advantage is small.

But we must also consider that docked/bobtail breeds have been maintained as such for hundreds (or thousands) of years, while still performing strenuous physical work. In all that time, the benefits of the bobtail seem to have far outweighed any detriment to the dog's abilities.

Still, many agility competitors prefer their normally docked breeds to have tails. And if it helps by 1 or 2 percent—and that is the kind of margin that can put you on a podium or leave you in the dust—no one can say that the tail plays no role at all in balance.

I conclude that the tail does play some role, but I am not convinced that it is the major function of the Belgian Malinois tail. I think the major role is for communication. We'll talk about that next time.

References:

The Five-Minute Mariner: [How a ship's rudder works | 5MM](#), YouTube video, 2021.

Pinhas Ben-Tzvi and Yujiong Liu, "Engineers Study Tails for Robot Locomotion," ASME, 10/5/2021. Link: [Engineers Study Tails for Robot Locomotion—ASME](#).

Tom Rottier, Andrew Schulz, Katja Sohnel, Kathryn McCarthy, Martin Fischer, Ardian Jusufi, "Tail Wags the Dog Is Unsupported by Biomechanical Modeling of Canidae Tails Use During Terrestrial Motion," bioRxiv, December, 2022, DOI:[10.1101/2022.12.30.522334](#).

Carilee Moran video, "[Lincoln Emergency Recall 20250501](#)," YouTube.

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,

colemich@sbcglobal.net
American Belgian
Malinois Club

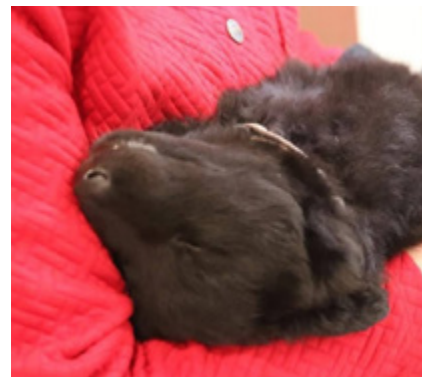
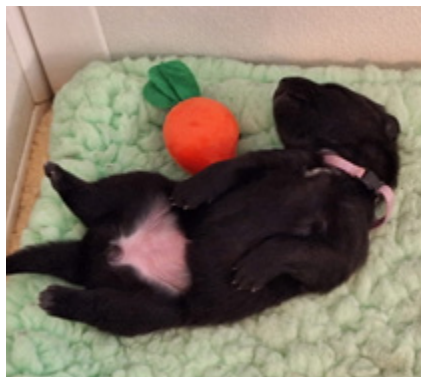
[Editor's note: Our apologies that the following captions and credits were inadvertently omitted for photos accompanying the Belgian Malinois column in the June 2025 issue: No Cash du Hameau St-Blaise at the Belgian Shepherd National Specialty Show in France, 2016 (photo by Carilee Moran); Aramis du Hameau St-Blaise, owned by Catherine Purnelle (photo by Yannick Butez); and GCh. DeVel's Hootenanny at Endeavor, HSAscD, HIA's, HXAsM, HSDs, HTAD1, TT, owned by Allison Bath (photo by Kathy Champine)]

Belgian Sheepdogs

BRINGING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

Recently I had the pleasure of sitting down and visiting with a lifetime BSCA member, Claire Trethewey, and reminiscing about days gone by regard-

HERDING GROUP



Top: Three young Belgian Sheepdog puppies; left, an older Belgian pup.

ing the Belgian Sheepdog breed. She has long kept the pedigree database for fanciers and has studied, owned, and bred Belgian Sheepdogs both in the U.S. and overseas. Because she was local to me, Claire has been an important mentor to me, especially when I first started in the breed, always answering questions about many facets of the breed, plus just being an overall knowledgeable person.

That recent visit got me thinking about some of the

frozen-semen breedings a breeder friend of mine has done in the past couple of years. Since I am not a breeder myself, I reached out to longtime Belgian Sheepdog Club of America breeder and AKC Breeder of Merit Sherri Swabb, of Sarron Belgian Sheepdogs, for her input on this subject. The following is written by Sherri herself.

Line-breeding With Frozen Semen, by Sherri Swabb

I have owned and exhibited Belgian Sheepdogs for 39 years and have been a preservation breeder for 28 years. When I obtained my first Belgian Sheepdog, I went to dog shows to learn

about the breed and got to know the breeders long before I started breeding. I made friends with a couple of established breeders and soaked up as much knowledge as I could by spending time with them and their dogs. I paid attention to the dogs that were out showing in my area, and I was able to put my hands on those dogs in person. I learned old pedigrees and asked my mentors questions about specific dogs in the pedigrees. I watched what other breeders produced in their litters and how they “did business,” and I learned from them, too. This foundation allowed me to learn the good and bad things

COURTESY SHERRI SWABB / SHELLY BROSNAN

HERDING GROUP

that the dogs in my pedigree produced in their offspring.

Once I felt confident enough to breed a litter—I relied heavily on my mentor to guide me to a good stud dog, to help me understand why the pedigree should produce nice dogs and to help me place puppies in good homes. I have learned from, and documented, each litter that I have bred. I follow up with and stay connected with my puppy owners and I maintain a Health Table for my dogs and litters.

A dog breeder must be willing to research each pedigree they create and learn from each litter that they produce as well as to learn from others who complete similar breedings. Preservation breeders should be able to articulate the health issues they have seen and produced and feel comfortable that they have researched them thoroughly enough to determine where those issues came from—and then try not to repeat those issues. This requires

investing time and money to research and “grow out” puppies, and to complete DNA tests and do other health testing.

The rationale for line-breeding using frozen semen from years back is that this sire is in your pedigree generations back, and you have been able to follow the generations down from that breeding and have a good understanding and documentation of what that dog produces within your line. Also, you should have knowledge of what other breeders who have similar lines to your own have produced with that sire as well.

For me, the dogs that I have chosen to go back on are foundation dogs in my line. I have line-bred on these dogs for years and feel comfortable that when I bring them forward to my current stock I will not unearth negative issues. The health issues that I face in my line are *not* from these dogs that I am line-breeding on from the past—I stay away from doubling up on the dogs that

I know have brought issues to me.

The interesting part about genetics is that line-breeding on one sire in one pedigree can be disastrous, while line-breeding on the same sire in a different pedigree can be quite wonderful. This is where your firsthand knowledge, in conjunction with honest and accurate secondhand information, makes all the difference in the world.

It is a lot of work and effort to learn about pedigrees. It takes years to really be proficient and knowledgeable. Choose your friends and mentors wisely and learn from everyone. —S.S.

Thank you for sharing your information and knowledge, Sherri!

—Shelly Brosnan,

3busydogs@gmail.com

[Belgian Sheepdog Club of America](#)

Belgian Tervuren

GRAMMING FOR AN EXAM

Cramming for an exam is not an ideal way to

HERDING GROUP

prepare. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. The best approach to learning something is to be methodical and thorough in your approach to understanding the topic. You need the building blocks of education for thorough comprehension.

The same thing happens when you rush or don't create solid building blocks in training your dog to show and in the ring. You may get a good performance, you may get a poor performance. Your dog does not have a solid toolbox of tricks to fall back on.

Ideally when you look down the leash you catch the bright eyes of the puppy standing in front of you. The ears are up on top of her head and she's staring intently in your eyes, as only a Belgian can do. Each hair on her body seems to have been individually combed. The black tips of her coat are evident on the warm red base. She looks like she's sparkling. That bath/blow dry along with the line-brushing really helped



The building blocks of early socialization and training ensure your pup grows up to be a well-balanced Belgian Tervuren ready for his or her next adventure.

her coat get under control. The whole puppy looks like she sparkles.

As the judge approaches, your dog's neck appears to get longer, and the ears go up higher on her head and gradually the tip of her tail starts to wag. She is excited to see the judge. Perhaps he has a treat for her or a kind word. Her front feet



start to tap the ground, and you're hoping she does not jump all over him in puppy enthusiasm. She stands very

COURTESY DANA MACKONIS

HERDING GROUP

well, with a minimal amount of body wiggling until the examination is over. I guess it could be a reward for being a good girl.

You smile. She has to turn around to look at the dogs and people behind her, and her neck grows a little bit longer while she is making her overview of the crowd. You call her toward you to give her another treat, and she stands there looking at you. Her eyes are still sparkling with excitement as she looks at you. In that moment the judge points to you!

Amid all the congratulations, you hear comments about her temperament being so good, her condition being good, how all those puppy classes and handling classes paid off, and you smile. You know it's more than handling class that put you where you are today. You know all the hours you've put in to get your puppy to the point where she is enjoying the dog show. It takes so much more than a handling class to get a puppy ready for their first

big show, or first show.

You have had that puppy out since the day she came home. She goes with you to the feed store, to have your oil changed, and for walks in the park and downtown. She's learned how to quietly walk on a leash, and how to take a cookie and put her ears up for it. She's learned to be happy at the approach of a person who comes over to pet her. You have conditioned her to those things.

You've spent countless hours with her sitting on mulch bags in the Home Depot garden center letting her watch people and shopping carts go by. People have come up to her and petted her. You have walked her through the middle of the store. You let her be there at the end of the day when the loudspeakers in the store are announcing the store is closing.

You've taken her with you to a dog show and walked her around. You've crated her for the morning at a dog show so she can become accustomed to the noises

and smells and sounds.

You walked in and around automatic opening doors at grocery stores. When she was a baby, she rode around in shopping carts and went to multiple stores with you.

How many Little League games, softball games, and high-school football games have you been to with her, walking around in the parking lots till you got to the point where you could sit at the edge of the bleachers with her, with crowds roaring and shouting and activity going on, and food vendors with tempting smells?

They say you can't duplicate dog show noises, but you can get close to those sounds, and you get them used to similar sounds, activities, and site. You know to back off if your puppy gets nervous and approach the newness in a way that makes it comfortable for him or her.

You approach a new activity as a new training adventure, all the way up to the point where your puppy

BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP

can take a treat and wag her tail in a strange situation. Then you go on to the next training obstacle.

Some days are good. Some days you have setbacks. But in the end your patience pays off and you have a well-balanced, well-socialized puppy ready for her first show adventure.

You know there's no such thing as cramming for an exam when it comes to showing your dog. With all these building blocks of training, you are building a show dog.

—Dana B. Mackonis,
cachetnoir@yahoo.com
American Belgian
Tervuren Club

Bouvier des Flandres RECALLING THE VERY FURRY FIRST SPECIALTY

Drawn by the joys of memorable litters and the sorrows of the passing of great dogs, often long-time breeders sit down together for moments of reflection. Usually it takes place at a specialty show, but

the Bouvier didn't really capture the applause of a crowd of dog fanciers until more than 60 years ago.

At that time they were still a relatively new face full of whiskers who first ambled up gangplanks to board vessels headed to America. Tagging along behind immigrants, a few forlorn dogs followed soldiers home after World War I. These imports became the basis of a new breed, dogs with Dutch papers who had short, wiry coats that were far from tousled.

Entire Bouvier litters met an early fate in some towns, fading into the lost pages of breed history. In other places, settlers seeking a bearlike pet to help with farm chores like cow herding figured out how to make the dogs blossom.

The first Bouvier des Flandres Club of America was the idea of Dutchman Evert Van de Pol in the 1950s, with the help of cinema pioneer and importer of fine, furry gray dogs, Louis de Rochemont. But



Bouvier des Flandres, June 1967

these unique dogs lived in kennels so far apart in a big country, the club did not get off the ground, fizzling after one AKC-sanctioned “A” match in January 1953. It would take years before the breed could average over 20 annual registrations.

By the end of 1964, the club had 100 members. By April 1965, the club completed its final match show requirement, and in December the first Bouvier national was held in Philadelphia. This first

HERDING GROUP

specialty drew 44 entries, the greatest number of Bouviers that had ever been entered in one show. Thirteen specials completed the “very nice selection of dogs,” according to judge James J. Duncan of Atlanta, who claimed that selecting his Best of Breed was “a very tough decision.” James Neylon’s import Ch. Konard du Rotiane took top honors as Best of Breed. Ch. Giaconda du Clos des Cerberes, owned by Carl May and bred by Edmee Bowles, was Best of Opposite. The Winners Bitch for a five-point major was Del Poppy du Clos des Cerberes, and Thor du Clos des Cerberes was Winners Dog. The Bouvier was still in the Working Group.

Konard was number one in the breed in 1965 and 1966. He became the second Bouvier ever to leave the ring with a red, white, and blue Best in Show ribbon, awarded at the Lorain Kennel Club (in Ohio at that time). Only 130 Bouviers were registered

that year with the AKC, and they ranked 89th in breed popularity.

A year later, the wind-blown look of an unidentified Bouvier in need of a pin brush could barely see out of the hair cloaking his eyes. The silver fluff on top of his skull was not clipped short, neither were his ears, as a flyaway fall touched his black nose. The photo decorated the cover of the June 1967 *Pure-Bred Dogs* / *American Kennel Gazette*.

Another national specialty with a Wild West flair and a herding dog roundup of the best Bouviers anywhere is set for Cheyenne, Wyoming, August 30 through September 6. Included is the Cheyenne Kennel Club all-breed show and the Rocky Mountain Bouvier regional specialty. The national judging begins September 4, and you can see Bouviers in scent work, carting, obedience, conformation, and rally.

—Debbie Goldstein,
storybookbriard@gmail.com
[American Bouvier Des Flandres Club](#)

Briards

THE ART OF CRITIQUING

If you’ve bred and shown some outstanding dogs, are an old-timer in the breed, or are a judge or a handler well-known to the breed, there’s a good chance that one day someone will ask you to critique their dog.

Your first problem will be to determine whether they truly want an honest appraisal or have already made up their mind about the dog and just want you to confirm their opinion. The difference can best be decided by intuition or a study of their body language.

In either case, tact is the order of the day. Even if you believe their dog is the worst example of the breed ever to grace the earth, please remember the owner probably loves him. Be kind. (You can also save yourself a lot of embarrassment if that dog happens to go Best of Breed the following day after you’ve said he definitely isn’t show quality.)

You may want to ask why the person wants a critique

HERDING GROUP



of the dog. Are they just curious? Did they buy him as a show prospect? Did someone suggest he had show potential? Or did they watch Westminster on TV and decide that dog shows looked like fun? The answer could give you a clue on how to proceed.

If the dog happens to be a good example or even exceptional in your opinion, by all means tell the owner, but don't go overboard with praise. If the owner is thinking of showing, you don't

want to dash her hopes if her pride and joy loses to a better dog or if on his first outings in the ring he just doesn't happen to be the judge's preference. Untold numbers of new exhibitors have gone into their first show with unrealistic high hopes and then lost and never gone near a show ring again.

Suggest show-handling classes to an aspiring exhibitor with a good dog. To a newcomer, conformation looks like nothing more than

snapping a lead on your dog and jogging around a ring. If only it were that easy! An inept exhibitor can make even a good dog look bad.

For every show-potential dog, there are a dozen or more who can't make the grade. The critic must walk a tightrope between being honest and being tactful when faced with a dog who will never measure up. You don't want the owner to waste money on entry fees and face continual disappointment, but neither do you want her to think her dog is totally worthless.

One approach is to balance out criticism with kind comments. One such assessment might go something like this: "Your dog has a good width of skull, but two different-colored eyes like this are considered a fault. The lips have complete pigmentation, which is preferred, but the bite is undershot, and the standard calls for a scissors bite. There's a nice width of chest, however the topline is roached, which is incorrect."

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

And so on. There will be some who will only hear the complimentary comments. Make certain they realize the faults are serious enough to squash any chances of a championship.

Fortunately, there are so many venues available today that a dog's worth isn't just measured by his conformation. Once can say, "What an outgoing personality! I bet she'd be a great therapy dog." Or: "The way he keeps his attention focused on you is just terrific. He'd probably do well in rally or obedience."

However, be kind to the dog. If he's poorly constructed, don't suggest something like agility or lure coursing. You don't want to see the poor canine crippled.

There was a time when folks would say, "If he doesn't make it in conformation, you can always try obedience." No longer. Performance people want healthy, well-constructed canines who can stand up to the rigors of running, jumping, and climbing, not

conformation castoffs.

So the art of critiquing is to be honest while being kind.

One of my favorite stories concerns a longtime British breeder who had been approached by someone who asked her to critique her dog, which was definitely not a winner.

Turning aside, she quietly said to her companion, "You can always find something nice to say. If nothing else, you can always comment on his lovely temperament."

Turning back to the owner and her dog, she began to go over him, at which point he growled and snapped at her. Her companion grinned. So much for the "lovely temperament" line.

But the regal lady merely smiled, and remarked, "My, isn't he clean!" —*Alice Bixler, 2012*

[Briard Club of America](#)

Cardigan Welsh Corgis SIZE MATTERS IN CARDIGANS

Cardigans, with their history as multipurpose

working dogs, have been used for herding, as guardians of the flock, and even for farm work such as vermin control. (We will get back to that in a minute.) In these settings, Cardigans worked many hours each day—up to 17 hours at a stretch—according to some historical accounts. For a heavy-boned, moderately sized dog, size matters.

The Cardigan was bred to work on the rugged hillsides of Cardiganshire in Wales, where the terrain ranges from mountainous, to hilly, to coastal plain, requiring that the dogs work equally well on a variety of surfaces that range from steep and stony to flat.

Having been to Cardiganshire myself and having seen the terrain, I came to understand two important factors that make Cardigans suitable for the jobs they do. First, given their structure, a dog who is too big may be unable to work long hours; and second, one that is too small might not be as effective in

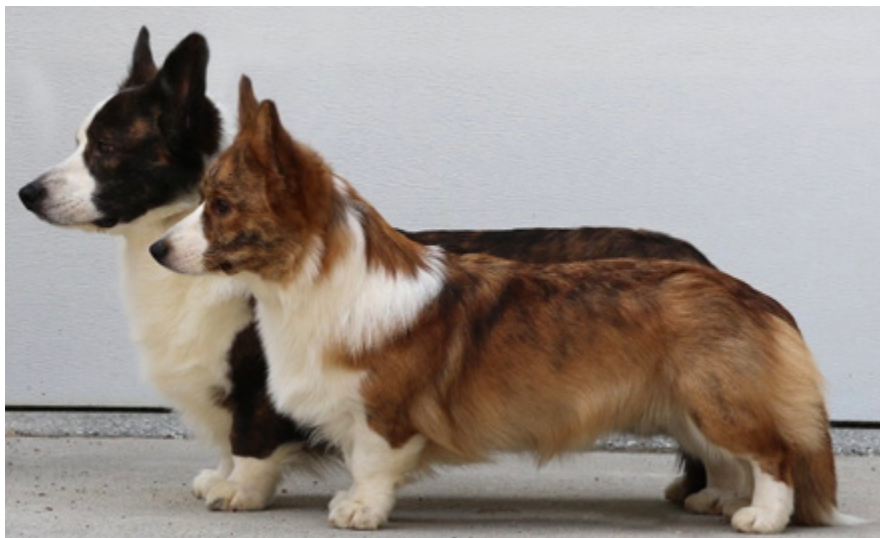
BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP



The rugged hillsides of Cardiganshire in Wales, where the Cardigan Welsh Corgi was developed. In evaluating the breed's structure, the most important thing to consider is overall balance, followed closely by thoughts about the breed's history and function.



herding stock. A Cardigan that meets that happy medium is just right for the tasks it would be required to do, and our breed standard is designed to meet that happy medium.

Cardigans are short. Their average height is between 10½ and 12½ inches at the withers. They are heelers, which means that they are low-to-the-ground dogs who follow behind the stock,

moving them by nipping at their heels. Their shorter stature allows them to duck and dive when needed to avoid being kicked as stock react to being herded. A moderately sized dog is essential because a large dog could struggle to get out of the way of a hoof. Hence, the need for a moderately sized dog is essential.

As mentioned previously, in addition to herding and guarding flocks they were an all-around farm dog, a hunting partner, a family protector, and an athlete.

The Cardigan's body outline speaks to the breed's function. The dog's length is a function of the length of the ribcage complimented by a short loin (flank). These structural features are essential to a Cardigan's

COURTESY KIM MOSHLAK

HERDING GROUP

agility and ability to turn, duck, and dive as needed to herd stock. The long, deep ribbing—the chest, or “brisket”—and especially the sternum itself (underneath, where the ribs join together), protect a dog’s internal organs from impact should the dog fall as it traverses rough terrain.

In addition to height, we also consider the weight of a Cardigan. Dogs should weigh between 30 and 38 pounds; bitches range from 26 to 34 pounds. These weight ranges indicate a 12-pound difference in size between the recommended lower end of the standard for bitches and the higher end of the standard for dogs. Variation in bone size in helps to account for significant differences in weight among individuals within their own sexes. The disparity in size between a smaller-sized bitch and a larger-sized bitch can be dramatic. We do not discount a dog who is on the larger size, or a bitch who is on the smaller size (or vice

versa) as long as they look as though they could work effectively for long periods of time.

We are often asked what is the right size for a Cardigan. The answer is simple: It depends. A lot of factors go into the answer to that question.

In general, the most important thing to consider is overall balance, followed closely by thoughts about the history of the breed.

—Kim Moshlak,
[Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Collies

Laurie Jeff Greer, my guest columnist, has been the breeder of several breeds, primarily Collies and German Shepherd Dogs since the late 1960s and a professional handler since 1977. Her Yes Virginia won the Herding Group at Westminster in 1999.

THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

To campaign a dog you first need a goal, because

everything that follows is dependent on what the owner’s expectations are. If you do not have a goal that is realistic, you are doomed before you ever start.

Second, you need a dog. Is the dog the quality to realistically accomplish your goal? You have to be brutally honest with yourself, and absolutely committed to the endeavor.

What sort of dog would this be? Again, it depends on the goal. When I agree to take a dog, I want one I can also be proud of. It should be of the highest type for its breed. There should be something “special” about it. That doesn’t mean without fault, as all dogs have their faults, but certainly endowed with virtue. Proper temperament for the breed is essential! I would never campaign a dog who didn’t display correct temperament, and who also didn’t enjoy the process. Sometimes it takes a minute, especially with herding breeds who are so attached to their owners, to settle in

HERDING GROUP



Smooth Collie

and start to shine, but that should be expected.

Next, you need a handler. There are many qualified, professional handlers out there who are dying to have an outstanding dog at the end of their lead. The hard part is finding the right fit for you and your dog. Be sure they are of the highest reputation, particularly among their peers. While it is not a dealbreaker, most herding dogs do require people who understand their particular mindsets.

Keeping a herding dog

happy and healthy for a long campaign is an art all unto itself. Never send a dog to a situation where you are not familiar with the handler's facility, their transportation, and their help. A prospective handler should be willing to provide you with references, a handling contract, and a rate sheet and answer any questions you might have as it pertains to your dog's health and welfare.

You should not expect to interfere with a handler's decisions as to when and where the dog is shown.

This is their business, and if you have agreed to what the goals are, let them do their job. If you have a question, always ask—during business hours. (No 3 A.M. texts. No daily multiple calls.)

Do not expect the handler to stop what they are doing to chat because you miss your dog. Do not expect that the dog will be allowed to go back and forth, unless it has been previously discussed and agreed to. Some dogs can handle the disruption in their routine, some cannot. This is something your handler should be able to evaluate after the dog has been in their care for a time.

Never come to the show to watch and expect to see the dog prior to judging. Stay away until the end of the day, and only approach with the handler's permission back at their set-up. My Aussie clients flew to many of the shows to watch their dog, and they were like ghosts until the show was over. They had to wait until we went back to the RV, because the dog would

HERDING GROUP

scream bloody murder. The next day, it was business as usual.

Again, depending on your goal, and your breed of dog, you should expect to make a minimum commitment of a year. I've had some go two or three years as they were so successful, and one year I had three different Collies make the Top Ten in the same year. It all goes back to your expressed goals and agreed to expectations. —L.J.G.

Thank you, Laurie.

—Marianne Sullivan,
Charlottesville, Virginia,
millknock1@gmail.com
[Collie Club of America](#)

Finnish Lapphunds

FLCA 2025 NATIONAL SPECIALTY—RACE TO LOUISVILLE

The Finnish Lapphund Club of America 2025 national specialty took place at the Kentuckiana Cluster in Louisville, Kentucky, in early March. The FLCA rotates the nationals each year around three

regions—East, to Midwest, to West—and this cluster was a great choice for our Midwest show. Kudos to our dedicated show committee, club members, and Lappy owners for organizing another successful specialty and thank you to everyone across the country who sponsored prizes.

There were 55 Finnish Lapphunds entered in the national specialty, 12 in sweepstakes, and four in Juniors. The concurrent regional specialty had 48 Lappies entered. These entry numbers are the highest in the breed history so far and reflects the continuing growth in the popularity of this delightful breed.

The national specialty was judged by Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter, who graciously stepped in last-minute to cover the assignment. The regional specialty was judged by Christian Lauluten, a judge and breed expert who came all the way from Norway.

Mr. Lauluten commented on the overall quality of the

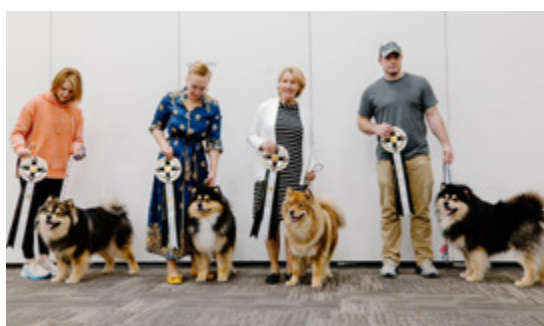
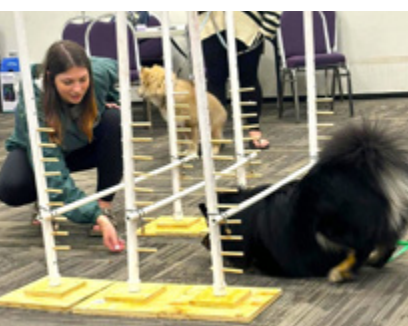
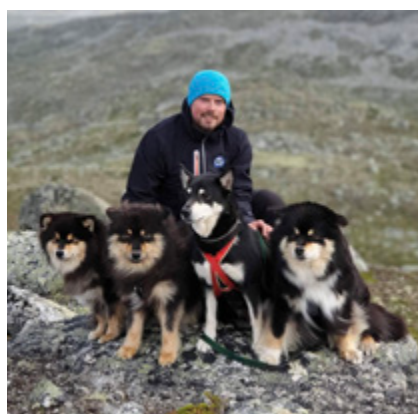
dogs in the U.S., was happy to see many presented naturally with no trimming, and he came away with the impression that the U.S. community is interested in keeping the breed true to its origin. He also gave a well-attended breed seminar, and after much positive feedback, the club is planning to repeat the seminar online so that all club members will have a chance to hear his presentation.

The 2025 FLCA National Specialty Best of Breed winner was Chase (GCh.B Sugarok The Dark Knight), owned by Linda Guelker and Jackie Longseth. Chase, at 10 years old, came out of retirement to attend this show and is a prime example of the enduring quality of mature Finnish Lapphund males. This was a repeat performance for Chase, as he won his first national specialty in 2017 at 2 years old. Out of the show ring, Chase was a calm and beloved companion to Linda's mom, sitting with her quietly and keeping her

BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP



2025 FLCA National Specialty logo; Chase (GCh.B Sugarok The Dark Knight), national specialty Best of Breed winner at age 10 years; regional specialty Best of Breed winner Mace (GCh. Nordicsol Party's Over Jango, CD, RM, RAE, FDC, CA, BCAT, CGCA, TKI, ATT); judge Laulutten with Finnish Lapphunds and Lapponian herder; breed seminar; Stud Dog Social; Reindeer Games; Top 10; donated items; regional specialty show ring.

COURTESY FINNISH LAPPHUND CLUB OF AMERICA

HERDING GROUP

company until she passed. Linda said, “It was just a bonus that he turned out to be a wonderful and happy show dog.”

Mace (GCh. Nordicsol Party’s Over Jango, CD, RM, RAE, FDC, CA, BCAT, CGCA, TKI, ATT) won BOB at the regional specialty. Mace also participated in Rally, Fast CAT, Coursing Ability, Farm Dog Certification, and AKC Temperament Test, demonstrating the versatility of the breed. It was Mace’s first-time coursing, and his hunting instincts kicked in with no encouragement to earn his CA title, along with his ATT and FDC titles. These activities were spread out across the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, so Mace and his owner Kayla Sha Aguilar raced back and forth between the show ring and the trial/testing rings for these achievements.

Along with the two specialties and breed seminar, the show committee packed the weekend with three supported entries, Top

10 Ceremony, Stud Dog Social, club dinner, and the ever-popular Reindeer Games. Show committee member Clarissa McInturf said she loved “seeing the top dogs in our breed being recognized for all their hard work. It was fun cheering for everyone and seeing the owners and breeders faces light up with pride.”

At the Stud Dog Social, Clarissa was happy that this event was included in our national and said, “It was so nice to see our stud dogs in person, to be able to have hands on them, and to see their temperament.”

Every year the club hosts the Reindeer Games, with a variety of fun activities and this year was no exception. “There was so much laughter watching all of our silly Lapphunds, along with a Pomeranian and a Samoyed puppy, play fun games with their owners—limbo being everyone’s favorite!”

The next FLCA national specialty and concurrent regional specialty will be held out West and is being

planned for March 2026, in Northern California. We hope to see you all there!

—Maria Swarts,

miaswarts@aol.com

Finnish Lapphund Club
of America

Icelandic Sheepdogs

**GETTING STARTED WITH AKC
TRACKING—SCENTS-IBLE
PRECAUTIONS, PART TWO:
PROBLEMATIC PLANTS**

Precautions also need to be taken with certain plants. The “poison” plants are a primary concern for most trackers: poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), poison oak (on the East Coast, *Toxicodendron pubescens*), and poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*). All three of these plants secrete the oily substance urushiol, which causes an allergic reaction when in contact with skin. Removal of the oil (with soap and water, another cleansing solution such as Tecnu, or crushed Jewelweed stem (*Impatiens capensis*) must be done quickly—within 10–15

HERDING GROUP

minutes—as the urushiol is easily absorbed.

Icies are fortunate in that their thick coats usually prevent the oil from penetrating to their skin. However, if contact with the skin occurs, a dog may develop raised bumps or some swelling, though rarely will a dog have a severe reaction. Their human partners are often not so lucky. And, unfortunately, the handler need not touch a plant to receive the allergen. Other sources that have made contact can transfer the oily liquid to human skin—clothing, shoes, a dog's fur, the harness, the tracking line—even several days later.

For a dog with the allergen on its coat, a soapy bath is in order followed up by a rinse with a solution made of one-half vinegar and one-half water. You should launder contaminated clothing as soon as possible, and tracking equipment should be washed in a mild detergent. If you suspect that you have the allergen on your clothing, you can place a towel

between the clothing and your car seat; the towel then should be laundered. A lukewarm shower (not a bath) with gentle rubbing (not scrubbing) of the exposed skin may help to limit the allergic reaction.

A plant with a secretion painful to human skin as well as dog paws is the stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Native Americans admired the plant for its medicinal properties, but trackers need to be mindful of the hairs on the leaves and stems that inject a mixture of chemical compounds, resulting in a stinging sensation and sometimes visible bumps or welts. The best prevention is to avoid fields with the nettles, but if an encounter occurs, some relief can be had by immediately rinsing paws and skin with water. A paste of baking soda can be applied to the affected area on both dogs and people, and crushed Jewelweed stem may also be helpful to both. Remedies for handlers also include calamine lotion and hydrocortisone cream.



Icelandic Sheepdog, August 2022
(Lynda Beam photo)

Trackers in some parts of the United States have issues with foxtails or wild barley (*Hordeum jubatum*). The problem arises when the plants disperse their seeds, because they have barbs on each awn that can embed themselves in ears, eyes, noses, and skin, causing irritation and infection. In worst cases, a seed can move from the original site of penetration deeper into the body, causing an even more serious medical situation.

The obvious solution is to avoid tracking in fields and other areas when grasses

HERDING GROUP

are seeding, since a practice track is not worth the risk of injury to either member of the team—especially to the dog, who is particularly at risk of inhaling a seed (sneezing, sometimes violent, is an indicator that this may have occurred). Since seeds can find their way to the webbing between the dog's toes, it is important to keep paw hair trimmed and to inspect the paws—along with other parts of the body—when exposure might be suspected.

Given what a tracker might possibly encounter “out there,” should you think twice about taking up tracking? Absolutely not! With careful preparations and sensible follow up, trackers need not obsess about what is in the tall grass or in the ground litter in the woods. Truth be told, most trackers never have any problems when they take a few precautions. Many will never find snakes or problematic plants while tracking, and encounters with ticks will vary by the

region and even by the local area in which the tracking is done. There is no reason not to enjoy a sport that deepens the communication and the bond between Icie and handler—and that certainly is a lot of fun!

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker,

kbethwt@yahoo.com
Icelandic Sheepdog
Association of America

Norwegian Buhunds

CHASING THE LURE

We pull into the parking lot and are careful to find a spot behind the training building so that we are hidden from the field. We get the dogs out of the car, walk them around to do their business and to warm up. We go to check in and then take the dogs back to the car. We wait until it is almost our turn before getting the dogs out of the car to wait in line.

But the moment they catch sight of that white plastic bag on the string, they lose their minds. They

bounce up and down. They emit high-pitched squeals. “OMG, it’s time to chase the lure!”

Unlike sighthounds that are bred to chase prey, Norwegian Buhunds are bred to herd. However, herding also involves at least parts of the predatory sequence (*hunt-orient-eye-stalk-chase-bite-dissect-consume*), and Buhunds’ herding and chasing instincts are easily triggered by quick movements. Buhunds have a high level of motivation to perform the “chase” part of the predatory motor sequence, especially dogs like mine who have hunted rabbits and other prey. That is why they seem to lose their minds when they see the prey, even if it is only a plastic bag on a string. For many Buhunds, chasing prey can even be more valuable than food or play.

The mechanically operated sport of lure coursing is a relatively new phenomenon. For centuries, sighthounds have been used

HERDING GROUP



Norwegian Buhund, February 2009 (Dawne Deeley photo)

to chase and kill game, but it was not until the 1970s that Lyle Gillette and his colleagues developed lure coursing as a sport. The AKC started to offer lure coursing events for hound breeds in 1992. In 2011 a version of the sport was available to all breeds in the form of the Coursing Ability Test (CAT).

The CAT consists of a 600-yard course run by dogs (with a 300-yard course for dogs under 12" at the shoulder). Dogs pass the test if they run the course in two minutes or less.

Titles are awarded based on the number of passes, with three passes getting a CA title, 10 passes a CAA title, and 25 passes a CAX title. My Buhunds find this a very fun and engaging activity because the moving lure forces them to zigzag through the course and simulates the erratic movement of live prey such as rabbits that they would love to chase in the wild. My dogs especially enjoy the fact that the course varies every time, although they often attempt to "cut the corner" when chasing the lure. Since my Buhunds have enjoyed CAT events for years, I was surprised to see that fewer than 10 Norwegian Buhunds have earned CAT titles.

An easier version of the CAT is the Fast Coursing Ability Test (Fast CAT) initiated by the AKC in 2013.

Fast CAT is a very beginner-friendly sport, especially for dogs who might not be inclined to chase the lure at a distance from their handler for 600 yards as required in CAT events.

Fast CAT can be thought of as the canine version of the 100-yard dash in track and field. Dogs chase the lure in a straight line and are timed to see how fast they complete 100 yards. Unlike CAT events, you do need two people in Fast CAT—one to release the dog at the beginning of the track, and one to catch the dog at the end. The time is converted to miles per hour, and it is amazing to see how many Norwegian Buhunds have speeds in excess of 25 mph. The miles per hour are converted to points which can be accumulated for titles: 150 points for a BCAT title, 500 points for a DCAT title and 1000 points for an FCAT title. Unlike the very few Norwegian Buhunds that have CAT titles, over 30 Buhunds have Fast CAT titles, and many have multiple ones.

Norwegian Buhunds vary in the extent to which they enjoy chasing the lure and whether they enjoy CAT and Fast CAT. I found that once my Buhunds participated

HERDING GROUP

in CAT and other lure coursing practice events, they did not seem to enjoy Fast CAT quite as much. Perhaps the shorter and easier Fast CAT, with no turns simulating erratic prey movements, was less satisfying to them than the longer CAT courses. Ultimately, chasing the lure satisfies Buhunds' herding and chasing instincts and leaves them mentally and physically tired but happy.

—Jasmine Tata,
jtata2@yahoo.com
Norwegian Buhund Club
of America

Old English Sheepdogs

READY, SET, GO ...

Going back through my GAZETTE column file, I was reminded that I have been writing these since 2012. One of the first dealt with the need to evacuate in the event of a disaster, be it a fast-moving wildfire, a hurricane, a tornado, or other problems. To quote rock and roll's Nobel laureate, Bob Dylan: "The times,

they are a changin'." With disasters seemingly more intense, the quote is as true today as when he wrote it. Thus, revisiting evacuation protocols 13 years later seems worthwhile, so you are prepared to act when you receive an emergency services alert to stand by for a possible evacuation.

These protocols cover three areas: Before the disaster strikes, during the disaster, and the aftermath of the disaster.

The key is to get preparations done in advance so that the evacuation does not become its own emergency. Each dog should have a permanent ID, either a tattoo or a microchip. For the latter, update information with the chip company if necessary. Each dog also needs a collar with ID and rabies tags. You should also make sure that your dog is comfortable in the crate or carrier you will be using. You need to research and list potential shelters, veterinary clinics, and friends or relatives where your dog can stay.

Include pet-friendly motels and hotels, as shelters may only accept licensed service dogs.

When the order comes to evacuate, each dog will need a waterproof travel bag. These should contain the following:

- Current medications
- Any special medical/behavioral instructions
- Copies of medical/vaccination records, especially a current rabies certificate
- A current photo of the dog, plus a photo of the dog with you
- Identification numbers (microchip, license, etc.)
- Names and telephone numbers for emergency contacts, including your veterinarian and someone outside the area that could care for the dog.
- In addition to the travel bags, you will need enough food, potable water, and medications for at least a week. Another requirement is to have a dog first aid kit. Other useful equipment to include are leashes, muzzles, rain gear, non-spill bowls,

HERDING GROUP



Old English Sheepdog Ch. Fezziwig Vice Versa with Damara Bolte, 1975 (Gilbert photo)

cleanup bags, portable fencing, toys, and bedding. Finally, your evacuation vehicle should have a full fuel tank and a full gasoline canister (if one can be safely stored in your vehicle).

- During the chaos associated with the disaster itself, do everything possible to keep your dog with you so you can reassure him or her. Do not sedate your dog. This will inhibit their natural

survival instincts should you become separated. If this does occur, try to contact the nearest animal shelter and report the missing dog. As soon as the evacuation order is lifted, return home and search for the dog there as well.

Post-disaster, there are still a half-dozen concerns. Avoid debris from fallen trees and collapsed structures, and watch out for

downed power lines. If there is flooding, be on the lookout for snakes or wildlife in unexpected places. Also, keep your dog from drinking water or eating anything that may have been contaminated. Finally, check the internet for other agencies that can help in an emergency. For example, here in the Bay area of California, we have [ReadySF](#), which is an emergency services hub. There is likely something similar in your area.

As I said 13 years ago, “Even if you weren’t a Boy Scout, the motto is *Be prepared!*”

—Joe Schlitt,
wylecotejs@earthlink.net
[Old English Sheepdog Club of America](#)

Pembroke Welsh Corgis ENCOURAGING AND INCLUDING OTHERS

As I was driving to a dog event, I was thinking about one of my students in the obedience class I teach. The class mainly consists of encouraging the efforts of

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

HERDING GROUP

the handlers and their dogs in polishing the Utility Dog (UD) exercises and coming up with approaches to train and solidify the exercises.

So how do we encourage and include others, especially newcomers, in our sports? Think about clubs, judges, exhibitors, breeders, and yourself. Who encouraged you through high and low points in your chosen activities? How were you made to feel included? What roles did clubs and judges play?

Attracting new members is an issue for many clubs. Retaining members as they age or move to other activities presents another challenge. Attempting to help struggling newcomers without hurting feelings requires a gentle touch. Club members who have the breed as strictly a pet may feel left out of the discussions about upcoming events. How do we try to encourage as well as include others in our passions?

My local specialty club has a solid group of workers,

though many do not compete in the event in which they are working. We have offered such things as introductions to tracking, rally, herding, Barn Hunt, scent work, dock diving, and agility, and all have been at a level that beginners are welcomed and encouraged. Including Fast CAT tests has allowed everyone to participate.

We have had a Parade of Loved Ones (POLO) class at our matches. Any Pembroke could be entered, provided it was not entered in any class at the match and was over 6 months of age. (That restriction put on the B-match event by AKC, with the thought that there were classes for under-6-month-old puppies.) POLO allowed retired dogs, fluffies, beloved pets—anyone—to participate. It was always the largest class by far. A brief tribute was read, and each participant received a certificate and a goodie bag.

We have held costume competitions in conjunction with some events—again

allowing all to participate. We recently had a “dash and splash,” welcoming new participants (human and dog) to both agility and dock diving prior to a club meeting.

Another Pembroke club does all it can to include all its members in its annual specialty. The Recall class is a special attraction. Entered dogs just need to be able to do a recall. The special attraction Altered Class is divided into Veteran, Performance Titled, Fluffy, and Other (for those not fitting the other classes). There is no competition among the classes. Club members assist with any grooming needs prior to the competition so that the dogs look their best. Herding and agility events precede the event. Truly something for everyone.

Other Pembroke clubs have events on an every-other-year basis due to the amount of work involved. These daylong events often include costume parades, parts matches, grooming sessions, “try it” activities, and various demonstrations.

BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP



Some have “paw readings” or canine massage therapists. CGC and Trick Dog evaluations allow owners to earn titles in a friendly setting. Members are available to answer questions and help where needed, giving pet owners the opportunity to become involved with the club. Because the events are advertised to the public and are regularly offered, the public anticipates them.



Breeders invite puppy buyers, both past and present.

Information on club events and how to participate can be made readily available to the public, whether through a website that is

In a costume competition, everyone gets to participate; a collage of the participants in a Parade of Loved Ones class; nothing like getting one-on-one help when first starting a dog in agility; dogs got an introduction to dock diving before a club meeting.

kept up to date or on social media. Club members can be on the lookout for others who own the same breed and invite them to club functions. Sharing a friendly grooming or handling tip and genuinely praising improvement can go a long way in helping a newcomer feel welcome. If

COURTESY STACY FOX / LYNDIA MCKEE

HERDING GROUP

someone has a bad agility or obedience run, a friendly comment on something that went well may provide much needed encouragement. A sense of humor is needed when showing Pembrokes in any event, so exhibitors and judges will often enjoy a comment about your dog's own behavior. ("Well, he's never done *that* before" is commonly heard in obedience!) Judges have provided me with kind and helpful comments about my dogs' performances. Being told my beginning herder had the best stop of the day was a thrill!

It is not too late to plan to watch our Pembrokes at the annual family reunion, September 27 through October 4. Herding is the first two days in Alger, Ohio; the rest of the reunion is at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. See the club website for complete details.

—Lynda McKee,
TifflynLDM@aol.com
Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Club of America

Pulik

WHEN MICROCHIPS MATTER MOST

Two recent incidents reminded me just how important microchipping is—and why it's worth talking about.

• The devastating flash flood event on July 4 in central Texas resulted in the separation of many pets from their owners. With some collars and tags washed away, the only reliable form of ID was beneath the skin. Microchips didn't just help reunite living displaced pets with their families; they also provided a way to identify dogs who tragically didn't survive, providing confirmation that brought a measure of closure.

• In February 2025, a Puli was taken in by a North Texas animal shelter—but unfortunately, she was not microchipped. Despite the Puli Club of America's Rescue Trust offering a fully vetted, experienced foster with prior Puli ownership standing by, the shelter

declined to release the dog to breed rescue. Instead, the Puli was transferred to a retail rescue group, and the shelter refused to disclose where she was sent—informing Puli Rescue Trust that a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request would be required to track the dog's whereabouts.

A microchip is a tiny device (about the size of a grain of rice) that is implanted just under the skin, usually between the shoulder blades. The chip carries a unique ID number that links to your contact information in a national database. Unlike collars or tags, which can be lost or removed, a microchip is permanent, invisible, and always with your pet.

Microchips are not infallible. While failure is rare, chips can stop working or become difficult to detect. This can happen if the chip migrates from its original location to another part of the body, or if the scanner being used is not compatible with the chip's frequency.

HERDING GROUP



Studies in both the U.S. and Europe have shown that about 1 to 2 percent of chips shift from the standard implantation site. This is why experienced veterinary teams and shelter staff are trained to scan the entire body, not just between the shoulders. (I owned a Puli that I had scanned in preparation for a health certificate required for travel, but the vet was unable to detect the microchip anywhere on the body—even though it had been successfully scanned years earlier.) There have been isolated reports of adverse effects such as swelling or tumors at implant sites; however,

these events are extremely rare. Organizations like the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) continue to support microchipping as a safe and reliable tool, with benefits that far outweigh any minimal risks.

Microchipping also plays a behind-the-scenes role in responsible dog breeding. Reputable breeders often chip puppies before they go to new homes, ensuring permanent ID. Through programs like AKC Reunite, microchip numbers can be directly linked to registration records, helping prevent fraud and offering a transparent history of ownership, lineage, and health certifications. Microchips are strongly recommended as permanent identification in OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) submissions, particularly for canine health screening (e.g., hips, elbows, cardiac) and genetic testing (when submitting DNA samples for tests through OFA-partnered labs, like Embark

or PennGen). If a dog is registered with the AKC and has a microchip number on file, OFA results can be cross-linked to AKC records more accurately, streamlining pedigree and health transparency.

Studies have shown that problems with microchip data can significantly affect the chances of a lost pet being reunited with its owner. A substantial number of microchipped stray animals have issues such as chips registered to previous owners or organizations, incorrect or disconnected phone numbers, or even unregistered chips. In short, microchipping only works if the chip is registered and your contact information is current. Without that connection, a microchip is just a number with no one to call. Experts recommend having your dog's microchip scanned during annual vet visits to ensure it's still functional and in place. And anytime you move, change your phone number, or update your email, it's

COURTESY HOT DOG PHOTO

HERDING GROUP

worth logging into your chip registry to verify both your contact details and that the registry itself is still operating (especially as one major pet microchip company shut down earlier this year).

The AKC provides information on microchips at its website (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/home-living/how-do-dog-microchips-work/>) and through its program AKC Reunite (<https://www.akcreunite.org/microchipping-mypetfaq/>). The AVMA has an informational brochure at <https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/mcm-client-brochures-microchips-2022.pdf>.

—Dagmar Fertl,
dfertl@gmail.com
Puli Club of America

Shetland Sheepdogs

PERSPECTIVE

In my early art classes, I learned early on the concept of perspective in drawing—the gradual reduction in size of objects as they recede into the background. Our personal

perspective is affected by the priorities we have internalized over our years on this earth. Priorities are constantly changing in our lives and in our pursuits.

When one of your pursuits in successfully learning a breed of dogs, you must continue to advance your knowledge of how that breed and the major lines in that breed tend to reproduce.

This is especially difficult in Shetland Sheepdogs. One of the first things I learned about breeding Shelties is they do not tend to breed true. That was back in the late 1950s and early '60s. Things have improved since then, but this is basically a young breed, created by crosses that happened within the last 150 years.

We are fortunate now that many breeders over the last 60-plus years have been diligently working to retain and improve the quality and breed type of the Shetland Sheepdog. People involved in our breed find it is essential to their longevity in the breed

and the sport to refine their perspective to approach their goals in breeding a better Sheltie with each generation. Usually it takes many generations to try to set a virtue in your breeding program, and just one generation to lose it when you do a breeding where a fault you were not expecting diminishes it.

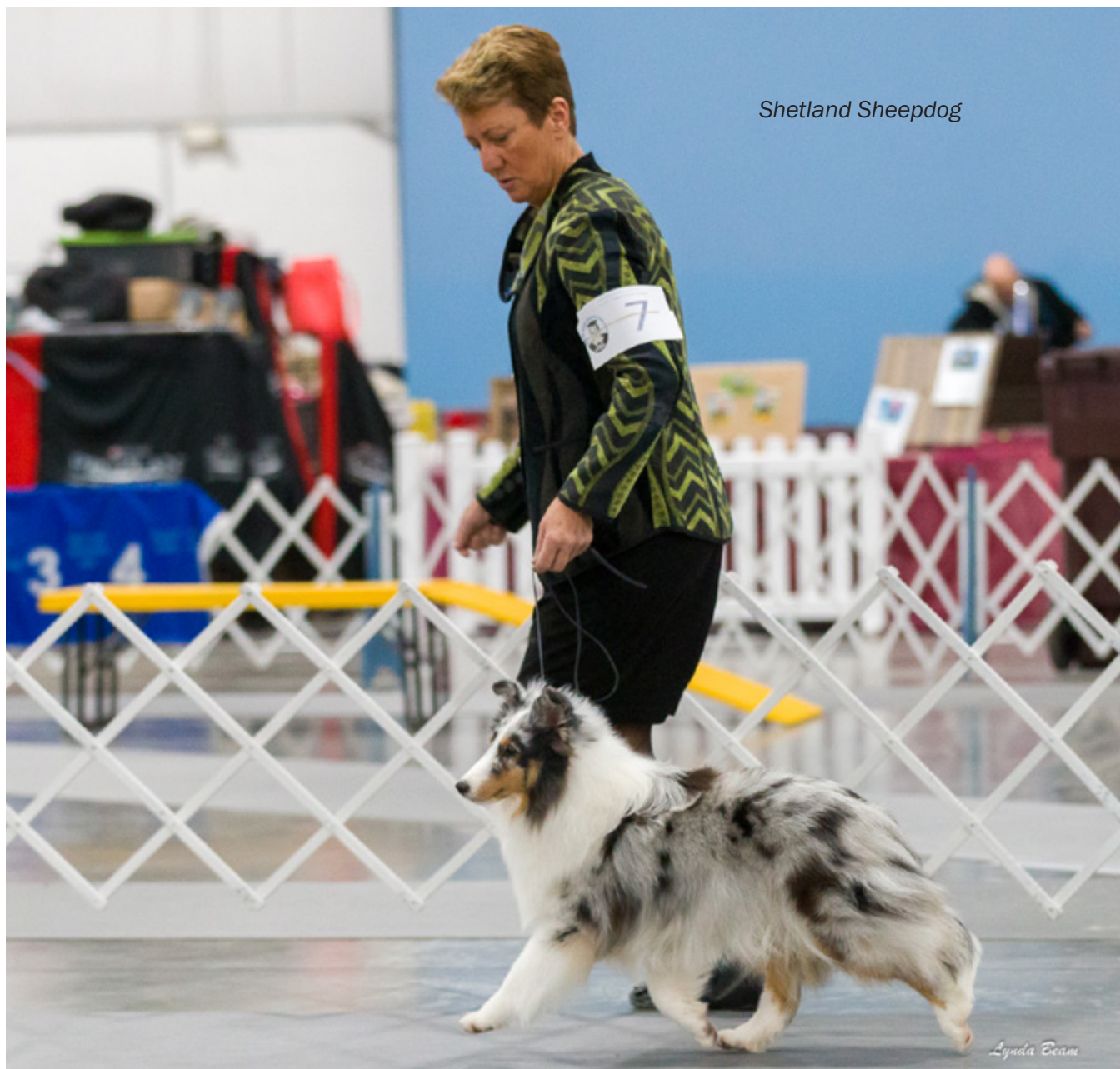
Breeders are usually looking from a perspective of years to seeing their results. An exhibitor's perspective is more immediate, with the pursuit of points at weekend shows. Everyone enters a show with dreams of winning points and finishing a champion or adding points to their after-champion titles.

Are we all being realistic? Do we actually enter the ring and maintain our perspective of whether we are competitive on that day? Hopefully we have completed our homework, learned how to select our best Sheltie, studied and conditioned this individual, trained since puppyhood, and socialized him or her to attempt to make this precious

BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP



animal “bombproof” under as many situations as possible. Now you pray that the microphone doesn’t squeal as you enter the ring, a kid

doesn’t knock over a metal chair, that puppy two rings down doesn’t get stepped on and screams bloody murder for a full minute, or the Akita

in the next ring wins a five-point major to finish and the celebration goes through the roof.

But the one thing you have

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

absolutely no control over is the judge's perspective. The judge's perspective is going to determine the day. The judge brings to the ring all their knowledge about our breed, and also all their accumulated canine experience in all the breeds they have been associated with over the years. They use that perspective to determine which dog in their opinion comes closest to their understanding of our standard.

Keep your perspective fluid about judges, and keep refining your perspective of the Shetland Sheepdog standard and your individual dogs.

Every time I think I have reached one of my goals in the breed, a whole new horizon opens, and a new perspective comes into view. It's a journey. Enjoy it and the people.

—Janice M. Leonard
(Shelties, 60 years; breed judge, 25 years) ASSA Life Member,

[American Shetland Sheepdog Association](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

PARENT CLUB MEMBERSHIP

“They’ll be an asset to the club.”

Famous last words? As a member of two breed parent clubs currently, and another earlier in my life with dogs, I have seen that phrase a great deal. Its partner is, “They always step up when we need something done at our local show.” Yes, this sounds like a person who is on hand for tasks, at least at the local level. The question becomes “How will they participate in the activities and day-to-day needs of the parent club?”

Looking at a few parent club websites online, I found that the mission statements of the clubs were about evenly divided between the responsibilities of the parent clubs in maintaining the written standard of the breed and integrity of breeding programs, and promoting the benefits members receive by joining the parent club.

Becoming a member of a parent club carries a respon-

sibility to the club. In two popular breeds I looked at, the applicant must prove having ownership of the breed for a specific period of time; have meaningful experience with the breed (showing, trialing, hunting and/or other breed-specific activities); be a member of an affiliated breed club (local specialty club or all-breed club, for a determined time period, *with documented involvement*; *demonstrate* adherence to breeding and selling practices as in the breed Code of Ethics; and *be endorsed by two members who have known the candidate for a period of years*, not just through the puppy-buying process.

There must be a demonstrated commitment to the breed, and additional conditions such as attendance at annual meetings, participation in parent club committees, and attending public education events are also expected.

Some of the benefits include: ability to participate

HERDING GROUP



Swedish Vallhund

in Futurity classes at the national specialty; access to curated resources online (discussion lists, informational videos, and judges' education materials); voting for club officers and specialty judges; being eligible to be included in the club's breeder listings; and receiving special awards, such as ROM and ROMX,

Versatility, and additional performance awards.

So, where does that put the membership of the SVCA? As a small parent club that seldom tops 100 members in any given year, SVCA needs to do more with less. All of the responsibilities attributed to the parent clubs as a group are also SVCA responsibilities.

When and where is the next national specialty? In addition to a few folks, usually from the same geographical area, who say "Let's have a dog show!" a much larger corps of volunteers is needed. This includes all the constituencies from each dog sport being offered (conformation, obedience, rally, agility, herding, and perhaps Fast CAT, Barn Hunt, scent work, and dock diving)—any and all games that count for eligibility toward Most Versatile Vallhund (MVV) or club-awarded Versatility certificates.

Add in the chairs for the raffles, the pre-event fundraisers, the welcome party, the dinner and annual meeting, trophies, ribbons and prizes, and Junior Showmanship (and those I may have inadvertently omitted), and you have more than doubled the headcount for essential volunteers. Oh, yes, and the ringside mentoring and presentation of the Judges' Education seminar,

STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

HERDING GROUP

a two-day event within the confines of show time and space availabilities. Plus, the dogs and handlers for the hands-on portion of the Judges' Ed presentation. It takes a large, well-coordinated body of reliable workers to bring an event of this magnitude together.

What if you cannot convince your family that spending a week at a dog show, even a national, is an event worthy of giving up a more conventional vacation? How can you still serve the parent club in its mission to preserve and protect the legacy of the Swedish Vallhund?

You *do not* need to become a prolific breeder of Vallhund puppies! With your *one family dog*, you can:

Participate in an AKC Meet the Breeds event—often held at a venue as close to home as driving to some of your local dog shows. There, you can practice your 30-second “elevator speech” about what it’s like to live with a Vallhund, both the good

and not-so-good daily joys they bring to us. Your well-trained four-legged family member can demonstrate that the SV *can* be trained, live indoors without barking constantly, and bring joy to the family. Additionally, you will meet more SV owners, club members, and possibly board members who share your love of the breed.

Participate in AKC Family Dog events (<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/>). Introduce the Vallhund to people who have never heard of them before, let alone seen them.

Volunteer to serve on a committee for the parent club. There are both standing committees and ad hoc opportunities for participation. If you have an interest, commit to exploring that as a member of a club committee. Give yourself a year to see if your chosen committee is a good fit.

Participate in the dog-related activities of your local organizations: 4-H, Scouting, local dog clubs, and training facilities. Many

offer events for the communities in which they serve. These may include “Mutt Struts,” reading to dogs at the local library, or providing support dogs to court clients, first responders, and others on the front lines of community service. There are service opportunities that are not dog shows or sports.

Support the [Purina Parent Club Partnership \(PPCP\) Program](#). From owners turning in weight circles from Purina Dog Food products, Purina will send the SVCA a check for the club’s earnings, to be used to support canine health research through the Canine Health Foundation, the Morris Animal Foundation, or veterinary college research.

Do you have more ideas about how a parent club can solicit meaningful participation from the membership? I gladly welcome your suggestions. Please send them to me at svca.akc.gazette@gmail.com Thanks!

—Laura Kiedaisch, Board of Directors, [Swedish Vallhund Club of America](#)

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

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

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617
101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178

Raleigh, NC Customer Call Center(919) 233-9767
New York, NY Office(212) 696-8200
Fax(212) 696-8299
Website www.akc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DR. THOMAS M. DAVIES, CHAIRMAN • DR. MICHAEL G. KNIGHT, VICE CHAIRMAN

CLASS OF 2026

CHRISTOPHER L. SWEETWOOD
HAROLD "RED" TATRO III
ANN WALLIN

CLASS OF 2028

DR. CARMEN L. BATTAGLIA
SALLY L. FINEBURG
DR. MICHAEL G. KNIGHT

CLASS OF 2027

DR. J. CHARLES GARVIN
STEVEN HAMBLIN
DANIEL J. SMYTH, ESQ.

CLASS OF 2029

DR. THOMAS M. DAVIES
EDUARDO FUGIWARA
ROBIN STANSELL
SYLVIA THOMAS

THE LATE RONALD H. MENAKER, Chairman Emeritus
GINA M. DINARDO, Ex Officio

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

GINA M. DINARDO
President
Chief Executive Officer

GORDON COMFORT
Chief Operating Officer

SHEILA GOFFE
Executive Secretary &
Vice President Government Relations

THEODORE E. PHILLIPS
Chief Financial Officer

DENNIS B. SPRUNG, President Emeritus

VICE PRESIDENTS

KIRSTEN BAHLKE, Marketing

KEITH FRAZIER, Executive Vice President, Business Support Services

RONALD FURMAN, Media, Broadcasting and Sponsorship

BRANDI HUNTER MUNDEN, Public Relations & Communications

ASHLEY JACOT, Education

DOUG LJUNGREN, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events

HEATHER MCMANUS, Vice President & General Counsel

MARI-BETH O'NEILL, Sport Services

PAULA SPECTOR, Corporate Services

DAPHNA STRAUS, Business Development

TIM THOMAS, Conformation

TRIAL BOARDS

APPEALS TRIAL BOARD

MARTHA FELTENSTEIN,
ESQ., CHAIR
BARBARA W. MIENER, ESQ.
BARBARA PENNY, ESQ.

TRIAL BOARD MEMBERS

DR. KLAUS ANSELM
KATHI BROWN
MEDORA HARPER
CARL HOLDER
DR. JOHN IOIA
LAURIE MAULUCCI
DR. ROBERT MYALL
ROBERT NEWMAN
HON. JAMES PHINIZY
DIANA L. SKIBINSKI
BETTY-ANNE STENMARK
GLENDA STEPHENSON
MICHELE WRATH

PERFORMANCE TRIAL BOARD

JOSEPH BENAGE, ESQ.
TIM CARWILE, ESQ., CHAIR
JOHN RUSSELL

ALTERNATES

FRANK BARTON
REX GIBSON
ROBERT W. MONTLER

TRIAL BOARD CHAIRS

EUGENIA HUNTER, ESQ.
VINCENT INDEGLIA
SAM KOVITZ
LAURIE RAYMOND, ESQ.

ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**. For the sole purpose of conducting the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees, the meeting will be called to order at 9:30 a.m. After those present at that time have voted, the Delegate Meeting will recess to begin the Forum (approximately 1 hour in duration). The Delegate Meeting will reconvene following the conclusion of the Forum at which time anyone who had not yet voted will have the opportunity to do so, then the polls will be closed.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Frank E. Lavoie, Bois D'Arc, MO,
Ozarks Kennel Club

Prof. Tom K. Lewellen, PhD,
Port Ludlow, WA,
Gig Harbor Kennel Club

Dawn Sealy, St. Augustine, FL,
Tri-City Kennel Club

Cheryl L. Secondo, Brooksville, FL,
Tampa Bay Kennel Club

Patricia A. Sosa, Madisonville, LA,
Louisiana Kennel Club



gazette

Click here to read the
September 2025 issue!

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fine imposed on Superintendent for failure to distribute ribbons within 60 days Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 5, Section 12.

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC..... \$1050

Notification of Reprimand imposed on Superintendent for acceptance of entry of breed ineligible to compete at the event, American Kennel Board Policy Manual.

MB-F, Inc. Reprimand

Notification of fines imposed on club for late submission of Event Records, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17, Section 2.

American Lhasa Apso Club..... \$50

York County Dog Training Club \$50

Golden State Chinese Shar Pei Club
..... \$100

Greater Louisville Training Club \$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT Regulations, Chapter 2.

Kern County Kennel Club \$50

San Luis Obispo Kennel Club..... \$50

Atlanta Obedience Club \$50

Caddo Kennel Club of Texas..... \$50

Notification of fine imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds, Chapter 13, Section 3.

Weimaraner Club of the Washington DC Area \$100

Notification of fine imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers, Chapter 1, Section 21.

Sand and Sage Hunting Retriever Club
..... \$50

Notification of fine imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels, Chapter 14, Section 3.

Oklahoma Springer Spaniel Club \$200

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of Results AKC Herding Regulations, Farm Dog Certified (FDC) Test Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 17.

AKC Judge Mariah Wood (FDC) Test
..... \$50

Ochlockonee River Kennel Club of Florida
..... \$50

NOTICE

At its July 2025 meeting, the American Kennel Club Board of Directors suspended the judging privileges of Ms.

Lynette Stewart for a period of three (3) months effective August 8, 2025, the cancellation of her August 2, 2025 judging assignments, and imposed a fine of \$300.00 for *Failure to Follow Procedures/Rule/Guidelines, and Solicitation for wins or entries.*

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

Ms. Sue Collands (Painesville, OH)

Ms. Justus Reichert (Aurelia, IA)

Mr. Quentin White (Angwin, CA)

NOTICE

Mr. Mark Gustavson (Mexico, NY). Action was taken by the New England St. Bernard Club for conduct at its May 10, 2025 event. Mr. Gustavson was charged with personal property damage. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-year event suspension and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective June 18, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Sally Jensen (Wonder Lake, IL). Action was taken by the Corn Belt Kennel Club for conduct at its May 24, 2025 event. Ms. Jensen was charged with unauthorized removal of property at or in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a five-year event suspension and imposed a \$2,500 fine, effective July 9, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Karen Mikulin (Hermitage, PA). Action was taken by the Cleveland All Breed Training Club for conduct at its July 13, 2025 event. Ms. Mikulin was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Rhodesian Ridgeback)

NOTICE

Mr. Richard Valentini (Midland, GA). Action was taken by the Baton Rouge Kennel Club for conduct at its May 31, 2025 event. Mr. Valentini was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month suspension of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$300 fine, effective June 9, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

On January 6, 2025, the Trial Board (Laurie Raymond, Esq., Chair, Dr. Robert Myall, Betty-Anne Stenmark) of The American Kennel Club heard charges against Mr. Adam McCabe (Plymouth, WI) for violating AKC's *Personal Conduct Policy*. On January 27, 2025, the Trial Board issued a Decision, sustaining the AKC's charges but seeking to impose a penalty outside of the Discipline Guidelines. On January 29, 2025, the Trial Board issued an Amended Decision sustaining the charges as to the convictions, however, finding that the conduct was not prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events or the AKC. On March 7, 2025, after reconsideration, the Trial Board issued a third and final Decision finding that McCabe's conduct was not prejudicial, and thus, the charges were not sustained. The American Kennel Club appealed the decision and the Appeal Trial Board (Martha Feltenstein, Esq., Chair, Eugenia Hunter, Esq., Barbara Delp, Esq.) granted AKC's appeal. The Appeal Trial Board found that the Defendant's conduct was prejudicial to AKC and imposed a penalty of suspension of all AKC privileges for a period of time coterminous with his listing on the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry (currently to expire on October 28, 2041), a \$1,000 fine, prohibited McCabe from being on the grounds of AKC events, and

directed that AKC can administratively remove his name of registrations, effective June 28, 2025. (Dachshunds) .

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Aniya Bunch (Warren, OH) from registration privileges for five years and imposed a \$2,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Personal Conduct Policy*, effective August 19, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Duane Pinson (Milburn, OK) from all AKC privileges for a lifetime and imposed a \$10,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy, effective August 19, 2025. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Mark Whitney (Concord, VT) from all AKC privileges for twenty-five years and imposed a \$5,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy, effective August 19, 2025. (Mastiffs)

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified ***but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.***

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Lesa Bastow (117881) MI

(810) 278-2406
patientdanes@comcast.net
Great Danes

Mr. Richard Bumstead (117921) NM

(505) 508-2108
glenclark6517@yahoo.com
Scottish Terriers

Megan Esherick (7264) PA

(610) 203-3228
clancypbgv@gmail.com
Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens

Mr. Edward J. Harris (117861) WA

(206) 818-3221
edharris@att.net
Bulldogs, JS Limited

Mrs. Valerie Metcalf (117897) AZ

(602) 708-9025
danedreamer@hotmail.com
Great Danes, JS -Limited

Jessica Viera (111633) AK

(719) 322-1397
bjviera@gmail.com
Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Ms. Jane Yates (117813) SC

(434) 470-1671
kaneddc2021@gmail.com
Akitas, Bullmastiffs

Ms. Karen M. Zimny (117896) MN

(507) 835-5660
karen@pantheonbulldogs.com
Bulldogs

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Vicki Allenbrand (91374) KS

(678) 429-4609

blackjackdogs@earthlink.net

Afghan Hounds, American English
Coonhounds, American Foxhounds,
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Cirnechi
dell'Etna, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otter-
hounds, Plott Hounds

Mr. Gary L. Andersen (6176) AZ

(480) 323-0487

glandersen@cox.net

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco
Sheepdogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Mudik,
Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Wa-
ter Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds)

Ms. Shira Lee Barkon (108315) PA

(810) 587-5542

snocrest1@gmail.com

Newfoundlands, Rottweilers

Miss Jennifer Bell (109179) LA

(225) 933-6132

mystang50@yahoo.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Bernese
Mountain Dogs, Komondorok, Portu-
guese Water Dogs

Mrs. Mary E. Benedict (66054) NY

(585) 747-5380

longacrecollies@yahoo.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boxers,
German Pinschers, Tibetan Mastiffs,
Xoloitzcuintli

Dr. Albert Bianchi (5459) VA

(757) 672-4868

k4ux@cox.net

Balance of Hound Group (American
English Coonhounds, American Fox-
hounds, Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds,
English Foxhounds, Harriers, Sloughi)

Mr. Brian C. Bogart (100059) NY

(716) 984-0012

sumerwyndb@aol.com

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Mastiffs,
Tibetan Mastiffs

Louise Brady (67185) CA

(805) 581-1726

starweim@aol.com

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Wirehaired
Vizslas

Mrs. Peggy Browne (103759) TN

(770) 655-5757

peggybrowneakcjudge@gmail.com

Shetland Sheepdogs

Mr. James Conroy (95311) GA

(561) 400-2059

bluedane@mindspring.com

Greyhounds, Black Russian Terriers, Bo-
erboels, Cane Corsos, Dogo Argentinos,
Dogues de Bordeaux, Kuvaszok, Leon-
bergers, Newfoundlands, Portuguese Wa-
ter Dogs, Siberian Huskies, Poodles

Ms. Terry Dennison (47424) AK

(907) 775-2913

katagnik@yahoo.com

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco
Sheepdogs, Canaan Dogs, Lancashire

Heelers, Mudik, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds)

Ms. Mary Dukes (99597) NC

(951) 283-4770

putupyr@aol.com

German Wirehaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, English Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Vizslas

Mr. Don L. Evans (5916) MD

(301) 494-3647

secattorney@msn.com

Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Tibetan Mastiffs, Silky Terriers, Tibetan Terriers

Mrs. Janet L. Fink (6374) WI

(608) 820-1686

janetfink@verizon.net

Barbets, Brittanys, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Bichons Frises

Mrs. Diann Flory (102063) VA

(703) 408-5088

diannflory@gmail.com

American Hairless Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mrs. Sally George (82793) CA

(707) 321-8567

sg.gypsy@gmail.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Beaucerons, Belgian Malinois,

Bouvier des Flandres, Briards, German Shepherd Dogs, Old English Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pulik, Swedish Vallhunds

Mr. Neal Goodwin (45218) CT

(626) 327-2311

doggone1@mindspring.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Wirehaired Vizslas)

Mrs. Lisa Graser (37267) TN

(608) 655-1993

bluhvns@msn.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Fred Hyer (94219) MI

(616) 874-3647

fred@hyerluv.com

American English Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Irish Wolfhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Salukis, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mrs. Carol Lynn Johnson (108277) MI

(616) 490-5227

bellafleurcavaliers@outlook.com

German Wirehaired Pointers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Chihuahuas

Ms. Pamela S. Lambie (96227) AZ

(760) 272-0625

pam@pamlambie.com

Balance of Working Group (Dan-

ish-Swedish Farmdogs, Giant Schnauzers, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Standard Schnauzers)

Mrs. Cindy Lane (65098) GA

(864) 316-6351

glane1464@yahoo.com

Balance of Hound Group (Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Dachshunds, Ibizan Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, Sloughi, Whippets)

Ms. Patrice Loves (102871) PA

(717) 343-8619

lovesgold@comcast.net

Flat Coated Retrievers, English Cocker Spaniels

Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX

(832) 345-2100

joao.machadotx@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Afghan Hounds, Dachshunds, Whippets, Airedale Terriers, Border Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Welsh Terriers, Bichons Frises, French Bulldogs

Ms. Kathryn Madden (92226) NY

(516) 885-4860

madterv@gmail.com

Bracci Italiani, Pointers, German Short-haired Pointers

Mr. Bryan Martin (3207) OR

(847) 922-8735

bkmshows@aol.com

Golden Retrievers, Clumber Spaniels,

Spinoni Italiani, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Portuguese Water Dogs, Samoyeds, Japanese Chins, Tibetan Terriers, Australian Shepherds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

Mr. John Mayhall (101705) OR

(928) 970-0969

mtndogsrule@live.com

Azawakhs, Basenjis, Beagles, Salukis

Ms. Bonnie Money (105681) IN

(317) 452-2204

blmoney@att.net

Balance of Herding Group (Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs)

Mrs. Hildegard S. Morgan (7627) WY

(970) 449-3635

hildy.morgan@gmail.com

Berger Picards, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs

Mary B. Napper (62737) TX

(817) 458-1442

mbnapper@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu, Australian Shepherds

Mrs. Kimberly Norton (110967) FL

(352) 606-3328

phasionwpt@aol.com

Dachshunds

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch (106234) WI

(802) 238-0755

lgpodruch@gmail.com

English Setters, Gordon Setters, English

Cocker Spaniels, Field Spaniels, English
Toy Spaniels, Russian Toys

Carol Pyrkosz (96273) TN

(352) 300-2711

cpyrkosz@yahoo.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Grand
Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Norwegian
Elkhounds, Plott Hounds, Scottish Deer-
hounds

Ms. Nancy E. Ridgeway (101703) TX

(972) 671-5000

nancyridgeway@earthlink.net

Cane Corsos, Danish-Swedish Farm-
dogs, Great Pyrenees, Kuvaszok

Mr. Michael L. Savage (111869) WA

(509) 999-1800

irishbrook@yahoo.com

Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds

Ms. Ellen W. Schultz (110815) TX

(713) 899-2418

apollogoldens@att.net

Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, Vizslas,
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Inge Semenschin (27410) CA

(510) 620-9688

ingeakc@gmail.com

Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Plott
Hounds, Sloughi, Treeing Walker Coon-
hounds

Mrs. Helene Stearns (101598) PA

(570) 595-3097

cairns@aberdeencairns.com

Glen of Imaal Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mr. Karl M. Stearns (101597) PA

(570) 595-3097

kstearns@kmstearns.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American
Staffordshire Terriers, Manchester Ter-
riers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature
Schnauzers)

Mr. Eric Steel (98787) NY

(646) 479-9177

ericsteel@mac.com

Borzois, Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian
Ridgebacks

Mr. Jon Titus Steele (55162) MI

(989) 860-9677

jonauroal@gmail.com

Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, Lowchen,
Xoloitzcuintli, Entlebucher Mountain
Dogs, Mudik

Mrs. Cindy Valko (110124) PA

(412) 780-6129

somersetsts@comcast.net

Akitas, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Dr. Oleg N. Voloshin (101869) MD

(301) 379-8847

voloshino@yahoo.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield (80829) MO

(573) 760-3616

n2rotts@yahoo.com

Balance of Herding Group (Bearded
Collies, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Bri-
ards, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies,
Finnish Lapphunds, Mudik, Norwegian
Buhunds, Spanish Water Dogs)

Berna H. Welch (110818) MA

(508) 364-7343

pebwin@comcast.net

Vizslas

Ms. Claire Wisch-Abraham (100709)

VA

(571) 318-2768

outlawgwp@aol.com

Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Pekingese, Toy Fox Terriers

Ms. Cynthia Woodward (105631) TX

(501) 425-3454

cyndrwood@yahoo.com

Akitas, Giant Schnauzers, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards, Samoyeds, Standard Schnauzers, Miniature Bull Terriers

Mr. Wood Wornall (95931) MO

(805) 264-3304

woodwornall@hotmail.com

Chihuahuas, Italian Greyhounds, Papillons, Pomeranians, Pugs, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers

ADJUNCT APPLICANT

The following person application has been accepted for the breed(s) specified under the Adjunct System **but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.**

Mrs. Nancy Eilks (23143) WI

(920) 650-2299

eilks@gdinet.com

Teddy Roosvelet Terriers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Myanna F. Blake (117843) CA

(951) 719-5191

myannablakeb@gmail.com

Miss Suzanne Garcia (107216) IA

(319) 429-1961

suzannegarcai42@yahoo.com

Lydia Joiner (107669) TX

lydiajoiner@yahoo.com

Ms. Kristin Pierson (117845) NJ

(201) 317-7305

piersonkn@hotmail.com

Mrs. Allison Corn Sunderman (112099)

MI

(517) 688-3059

sunaoakkn@hotmail.com

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a Permit basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. ***They may now accept assignments*** and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Linda Brantley (116743) FL

(806) 786-8270

bhowell52@charter.net

Chow Chows

Mr. Michael Brantley (99249) FL

(806) 787-4545

bhowell52@charter.net

Chow Chows

Mrs. Annett Ilyev (117437) CA

(916) 825-8020

annettilyev@gmail.com

Poodles, JS-Limited

Ms. Tammie Sommerson-Wilcox

(48244) WA

(206) 383-0981

jareaux@msn.com

Papillons, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mr. Michael Work (57012) TX

(615) 579-8875

natalie.scher@hotmail.com

Basenjis

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Dr. Azalea Alvarez (97321) FL

(954) 600-5480

minsmere954@yahoo.com

Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers,
Bedlington Terriers, Cairn Terriers,
Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal
Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Parson Rus-
sell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Sealyham
Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers,
Welsh Terriers

Mrs. Kathleen J. Brock (47792) WA

(253) 884-2920

toccatacockers@aol.com

Cirnechi dell'Etna, Harriers

Mrs. Regina (Regi) Lee Bryant

(105299) CA

(209) 327-8778

catoriaussies@gmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Bergamasco Sheep-
dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, German
Shepherd Dogs, Pumik

Ms. Joanne Chaplek (97963) NY

(518) 796-1770

joanne.chaplek@gmail.com

Collies

Mrs. Lucretia Coonrod (111397) OK

(785) 217-5192

kanpoint@yahoo.com

Brittanys, Golden Retrievers, Cocker
Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Dachshunds

Ms. Annella Cooper (15790) AK

(907) 694-0559

acooper@mtaonline.net

German Shorthaired Pointers, German
Wirehaired Pointers, English Setters,
Irish Setters

Mr. William deVilleneuve (4244) NY

(631) 586-3376

duffdescots@aol.com

Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Borzois, Salu-
kis

Karen L. Dewey (112481) NH

(603) 504-2813

pkdewey@comcast.net

Dachshunds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks,
Salukis, Treeing Walker Coonhounds,
Whippets

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) SC

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Papillons, Silky Terriers

Karrie Dollar (111131) WI

(715) 213-0017

karriedollar@gmail.com

Flat Coated Retrievers, Gordon Setters,
English Cocker Spaniels

Mrs. Nancy J. Eilks (23143) WI

(920) 650-2299

eilks@gdinet.com

Barbets, Pointers, Labrador Retrievers,
Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels,
Cocker Spaniels

Mr. Mustapha El Khorchi (110865) FL

(561) 460-0461

musta@leongolden.com

Pointers, English Setters, Irish Setters,
English Springer Spaniels

Marie Ann Falconer (51642) TN

(413) 433-6474

mylaone10@aol.com

Balance of Hound Group (American
Foxhounds, Azawakhs, Basset Fauve de
Bretagnes, English Foxhounds, Grand
Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Harriers,
Irish Wolfhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons
Vendeens, Sloughi)

Mr. Kevin M. Flynn (66204) MA

(781) 378-0293

kevin.flynn3@comcast.net

Boston Terriers, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan
Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers

Mrs. Linda C. Flynn (66205) MA

(781) 378-0293

lcflynn@comcast.net

American English Coonhounds, Black
and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coon-
hounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coon-
hounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Nicholas Frost (6726) NC

(828) 691-3175

dehra@aol.com

Bedlington Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cesky
Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Man-
chester Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers,
Parson Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terri-
ers, Skye Terriers

Mrs. Geri A. Gerstner Hart (6085) WI

(920) 251-6322

forharts@hotmail.com

Brittanys, Irish Setters

**Mrs. Honey Anne Glendinning (6773)
CN**

(604) 943-4313

honeyanne@icloud.com

Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Black and Tan
Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds,
Cirnechi dell'Etna, Harriers, Rhode-
sian Ridgebacks, Treeing Walker Coon-
hounds, Whippets

Marlene Groves (108243) CO

(303) 621-1111

marlene@buffalgroves.com

Otterhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons
Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds

Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA

(540) 247-1121

junko@guichonchi.com

English Toy Spaniels

Mrs. Michelle LaFlamme Haag (69404)

AZ

(801) 560-8091

saluki76@me.com

American Foxhounds, Basset Hounds,

Bloodhounds, Otterhounds

Mrs. Sandra Pretari Hickson (50017)

CA

(650) 346-9912

sandra.pretarihickson@gmail.com

Whippets, American Staffordshire Terri-

ers, Cairn Terriers, West Highland White

Terriers

Jody (Jo Ann) Hill (112835) FL

(407) 353-6275

findjody2@gmail.com

Giant Schnauzers

Robin A. Hug (67358) CO

(303) 717-1702

robinahug@gmail.com

Basenjis, Bluetick Coonhounds, Plott

Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish

Deerhounds, Whippets

Ms. Britt Jung (66281) TX

(703) 626-9149

brittej@gmail.com

Doberman Pinschers

Mr. Jeffrey Kestner (100655) OH

(614) 571-7524

kestnerj@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terri-

ers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels,

Chinese Cresteds, Manchester Terriers,

Pugs, Russian Toys, Russian Tsvetnaya

Bolonkas, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers,

Yorkshire Terriers)

Mrs. Marianne C. Klinkowski (7135)

CA

(408) 446-0604

naharin@comcast.net

Schipperkes

Mr. Dominic Koon (115351) GA

(865) 582-1044

dominic.koon@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Dalmatians,

French Bulldogs, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Jodi Koon (115353) GA

(865) 582-1023

jodi.l.koon@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Dalmatians,

French Bulldogs, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. George E. Marquis (5789) FL

(603) 770-9830

chiens@prodigy.net

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Amer-

ican Eskimo Dogs, Cotons du Tulear,

Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Lhasa Ap-

sos, Lowchen, Schipperkes, Tibetan

Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers)

Ms. Shelley Miller (102995) NC

(919) 525-5001

sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com

Bracci Italiani, English Toy Spaniels

Mr. James A. Moses (93094) GA

(770) 329-4768

jmoses0924@aol.com

Basenjis, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Otterhounds, Plott Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, Whippets

Mrs. Jean Pero (30743) CO

(303) 475-7302

jmpero3@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Miniature Pinschers, Silky Terriers

Cmdr. Pamela J. Rhyner Hirko (93132)

TX

(361) 331-0030

dediciwhippets@yahoo.com

Azawakhs, Norwegian Elkhounds

Mr. Mark A. Russo (111871) CT

(860) 227-5570

townhillcorgis@charter.net

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693

yogi@mtaonline.net

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Boerboels, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Dogues de Bordeaux, Leonbergers, Neapolitan Mastiffs

Rhonda Silveira (100061) OR

(503) 428-2021

rsilveira.akcjudge@outlook.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Pyrenees, Chihuahuas

Mrs. Shelli Sinclair-Wood (24194) WA

(509) 995-0393

shellwood2011@gmail.com

Leonbergers, Finnish Lapphunds

Angela Stevanus (112189) CA

(951) 640-6819

angeldotz@yahoo.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Australian Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mrs. Sherry C. Webster (6863) TN

(901) 289-6239

swakc3@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Miniature Pinschers, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonkas, Silky Terriers)

Pamela Wilson (64914) TX

(512) 280-3103

wilscot@sbcglobal.net

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lowchen

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Shelly Henry (117505) FL

(813) 326-5561

marisolbostonterriers@gmail.com

Courtney Hynes-Robinson (117576) NY

(203) 945-9654

courtneymh317@gmail.com

Miss Chloe Elizabeth Peterson (112905)

FL

(863) 289-4041

crosstownkennel@gmail.com

Nicole Ryan (117620) WI

(262) 620-1859

nikki.mad@hotmail.com

Mrs. Kimberlie Steele-Lopez (116736)

CA

(951) 505-1324

ksteele1201@gmail.com

Ms. Lori Lynn Whitman (116727) CO

(970) 396-0512

acdlori@yahoo.com

Ms. Kimarie Wolf (116854) OR

(503) 858-4627

kimariewolf@yahoo.com

**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.

Ronnie Sue Leith (90304) WA

(360) 344-2033

rsleithmd@sbcglobal.net

Rally - All

Lisa Klein (111467) WA

(360) 798-7079

bignlildogs@gmail.com

Tracking – Tracking Dog Excellent

Kyla Smay (47191) OR

(707) 537-7687

ksmaydogs@aol.com

Tracking – Variable Surface Tracking

**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.*

Deborah Hankins (101845) CA

(925) 335-9610

deborah_hankins@comcast.net

Obedience - Utility

**EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/
TRACKING JUDGES**

Joanna Yund - Obedience & Rally

Jill Jones - Obedience, Rally, & Tracking

Sharon Hodgens-Wood - Obedience
& Rally

Tom Masterson - Obedience

**DECEASED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/
TRACKING JUDGES**

Lori Moffa - Obedience & Rally

Dr. Jose Martienez – Obedience & Rally

APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC REGISTERED NAME PREFIX

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club. Letters in regard to these applications should be addressed to Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary:

AMANDUS – Standard Schnauzers – Cary L. Geihs

ASHLAN – French Bulldogs – Mary DeLisa

CEMCADE – Dachshunds – Emily A. Goodrich

HETLAND CREEK – Labrador Retrievers – Denise R. Hetland

J&J'S – Vizslas – Joyce A. Jackson

JUSTART – Borzoi – Stuart A. McGraw & Justine S. Spiers

KNUCKLEHEAD – Cane Corso – Julie A. Walker & Nicholas Sculac

MARIKI – Whippets & Greyhounds – Raymond A. Johnson

MICONS – Labrador Retrievers – Constance L. Muellerleile & Tabitha R. Whitaker

MYSTIC ESTATE – Poodles – Helen Khom

POINTER POINT – German Shorthaired Pointers – Lacey N. Atha & Clifton B. Atha

SHEROC – Poodles – Sheryl Bleich

STRONGHEARTS – Bichon Frise – Nancy A. Brown & Gary P. Brown

STORYLINE – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Stephanie R. Deaver

TRE RUN – Boston Terriers – Laurie A. Cowhig

TAMALPAIS – Golden Retrievers – Kathy Krebs-Dean

WATERSEDGE – Labrador Retrievers – Kathy R. Weaver

ZABAVA – Borzoi – Kristina Terra & Irina Terra

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted

INDIAN ACRE – Poodles Jean M. Colvin & Lynn D. Colvin

KIMPAWSIBLE – Olde English Sheepdogs – Kimberly Crutchfield & William Crutchfield

JUNIPER MTN. – Chesapeake Bay Retrievers – Samantha A. Peyrollaz

REGALO – Greyhounds – Michelle R. TeVelde & Arieca R. Devery

RIVER VALLEY – Mastiffs – Rebecaa K. Davia

ROAN POINT – German Shorthaired Pointers – Erin L. Whitt

SILVER SUMMIT – Cane Corso – Shane P. Barger



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

SECRETARY'S PAGES

SUGAR KISSED – Australian Shepherds
– Marleina R. Storey



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 8051 ARCO CORPORATE DR. RALEIGH, NC
AUGUST 11-12, 2025**

The Board convened on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present at the Meeting: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Daniel Smyth, Mr. Robin Stansell, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Mr. Harold Tatro, Ms. Sylvia Thomas, Ms. Ann Wallin.

The Chief Operating Officer (Mr. Gordon Comfort), Chief Financial Officer (Mr. Ted Phillips) and Executive Secretary (Ms. Sheila Goffe) were also present.

Copies of the July 7-8 2025, Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review. Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the July 2025 Board Meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. DiNardo reported that the 2026 AKC Meet the Breeds® event will take place on February 7-8, at the Javits Center in New York City.

She recently returned from the World Show in Helsinki, Finland, where she had very positive meetings with other national kennel clubs, many of whom are eager to work with the AKC.

AKC staff have completed work on an updated AKC Code of Sportsmanship for the Board's review. To better acknowledge the value of respectful and courteous behavior, the title has been expanded to the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility. The Code of Sportsmanship and Civility expands AKC core values and is designed to foster an environment of fair play, respect, integrity and courtesy that is welcoming to all.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of July 2025.

AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility

Doug Ljungren, EVP Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting

in person. Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Public Relations and Communications, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Staff recommended updates to the AKC Code of Sportsmanship. The Board reviewed the following:

AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility Preface:

The tradition of competitive purebred dog events predates 1884 – the year the American Kennel Club (AKC) was founded. Those involved in these sports share core values, including a strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces the diverse community united by a love of dogs. These values are evident across all aspects of the sport: Conformation, Performance, Companion, and family dog activities. Many believe that the enduring principles of sportsmanship and civility are key reasons the sport has thrived for over 140 years.

Recognizing that periodically reaffirming our shared values strengthens our community, the revised code will be shared widely to highlight the foundational values and principles that define the sport.

- Sportspeople always place the welfare of their dog above all else.
- Sportspeople prioritize the long-term health and preservation of their breed,

making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.

- Sportspeople respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportspeople conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport, the American Kennel Club, and themselves.
- Sportspeople appreciate, encourage and support all who associate with and participate in the sports by fostering an environment where respect, equity, inclusion, and courtesy are foundational.
- Sportspeople understand, uphold and abide by all AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Sportspeople contribute to a positive atmosphere at events by avoiding negative gossip, disparagement, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Sportspeople extend their values of civility, fairness, and respect to all digital and social media platforms.
- Sportspeople actively support the education and mentorship of newcomers, helping them learn the rules, values, and traditions of the sport in a respectful way.
- Sportspeople recognize that they are role models in the sport, and strive to lead by example through humility, kindness, and ethical conduct.

- Sportspeople treat fellow exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, spectators, and AKC staff with dignity and respect, regardless of experience, background, or differences in opinion.
- Sportspeople are committed to fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, approaching both winning and losing with grace.
- Sportspeople understand that strong competition and civility can – and should – coexist. They appreciate the quality of their competitors, and the effort put forth by others.
- Sportspeople uphold their responsibilities to the sport of purebred dogs and refuse to let personal gain or self-interest influence their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsperson judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsperson judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsperson exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsperson exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- Sportspeople are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.

- Sportspeople decline to exploit any positions of authority or recognition for personal advantage.
- Sportspeople appreciate those that have gone before them and realize they are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sport for future generations.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro and a second by Mr. Hamblin, the board VOTED (unanimously) to consider approval of the code of conduct and civility.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro and a second by Mr. Stansell, the board VOTED (unanimously) to approve of the code of conduct and civility.

Quarterly Information About Communications, Social Media & Digital Content

Mrs. Munden provided a quarterly update on AKC Communications department media coverage totals and activity highlights, as well as the social media and digital content totals and activity highlights.

AKC Communications Q2 Report

Clips Evaluated in Q2: 8,759 (+34% from 6,502 in 2024).

Q2 Performance Highlights:

- 5.19% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications; slight decrease due to the lack of con-

sumer facing press releases which is what is generally sent to these audiences.

- 9% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (1% decrease from Q2 2024).
- Maintained a 96% positivity rating (on par with Q2 2024).
- Increased McClatchy pick up (up to over 700 newspapers weekly) (on par with 2024).
- Media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) on par with Q2 2024.

Social Media Aggregate Performance

(2025 YTD through Q2)

- Impressions: 166,368,337 (+29.6% YoY)
- Engagements: 8,850,325 (+13.7% YoY)
- Link clicks: 493,361 (+6.4% YoY)
- Net audience growth: 153,299 (+26.1% YoY)
- Audience 5,656,714 (+6.8% YoY)

Communications/PR Activities

- Ongoing media pitching executed to key audiences with stories that speak to positive qualities of AKC purebreds and breeders. Distributed 15 press releases to appropriate media outlets.
- Continued raising the visibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer as an expert in an increasing number of media requests.
- Promoted all major AKC events and broadcasts on ESPN with press releases

es and media alerts.

- Continued positioning the American Kennel Club and its spokespeople as the expert on all things dog.
- Weekly “AKC Tips” articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reaching 700 newspapers, including the Chattanooga Times Free Press, Dayton Daily News, Duluth News-Tribune, Fresno Bee, Idaho Statesman, Kingsport Times-News and Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, among others.

Reddit Kick-Off

Reddit is a social news website with a large and active user base that is increasingly important in the context of online search. AKC has begun implementing a community engagement and owned community (/r/AKC) strategy to establish, build, and grow our presence there.

AKC Education – Q2 Review

The Board reviewed an update on the educational activities of the Education Department.

AKC Canine College

In Q2 2025, the AKC Canine College (AKC CC) developed and published 3 new courses. The Learning Management System (LMS) now hosts 481 courses, totaling 1,274 modules. Over 300 customer phone calls and emails were responded to by the AKC CC team.

AKC Canine College Virtual Canine Training Center

From June 11-20, the AKC Canine College Multimedia Team, Aidan Gerety, Susu Hauser, and Misha Abbenhouse, captured footage for over 60 short videos designed to teach training basics geared toward adult dogs, giving pet owners expert guidance from the comfort of their homes. This course will serve as an accessible entry point, encouraging dog owners to find trainers, join clubs, and engage more deeply with the AKC community. Now entering post-production, videos will be edited and produced throughout 2025, with a full program launch anticipated in 2026.

Future courses will introduce foundational skills for AKC Sports such as Fast CAT[®], Scent Work, and Fetch and AKC Titles like STAR Puppy and CGC. This effort underscores the value of cross-department collaboration with AKC Sports and Events, building pathways for first-time dog owners and inspiring experienced fancy members to explore new sports and titles within the AKC family

Canine + Kids Program

AKC Canine College is entering the production phase of the Canine + Kids eLearning program, designed to help families safely integrate dogs and young children into their homes. The AKC Canine College Multimedia Team are scheduled

to film from July 15–20 in Cary, NC, capturing both instructional and lifestyle footage with featured families, dogs, and on-camera trainer talent.

AKC Puppy Training Series

The AKC Canine College team, with the support of Marketing, has successfully launched its first paid media campaign for the AKC Puppy Training Series. In collaboration with the Marketing Department and Leap agency, updated creative assets and promotional videos were developed in video, carousel, and static formats for Facebook and Instagram. These ads highlight core training topics such as crate training, puppy socialization, and play-based enrichment.

The American Kennel Club proudly announced the launch of the AKC Canine College branded mobile app, now available on the App and Google Play Stores. To date the app has 1,500+ downloads.

In Q2, two breed-specific courses were updated, three breed courses are under Parent Club review, and four new breed courses are in development or undergoing updates. In Q2 of 2025 there were 335 course enrollments.

Required Judge's Exams

In Q2, 2,684 exam enrollments were purchased, which included 1,316 breed exams, 205 judge recertification exams, 297 performance exams, and 866 CGC Eval-

uator exams. Three new breed exams for judges were launched in Q2: Basset Fauve de Bretagne, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka, and Teddy Roosevelt Terrier. In collaboration with Judging Operations, we updated the Recertification exams for Conformation judges.

AKC Education hosted eight webinars for 2,227 participants, bringing the total number of participants to 82,394 since March 2020.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented unaudited interim financial results as of June 30, 2025.

Net operating loss (NOL) is \$3.1 million, excluding investment income and spend rate allocation, primarily due to lower registration revenue. This NOL is 7% of operating revenues as compared to 2024 net operating income of 2%. Registration revenues from both litters and dogs total \$16.6 million and trail prior year by 6%. Recording and event service fees, title recognition and event application fees total \$8.9MM, is consistent with prior year. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalties total \$8.4MM, is lower than prior year by \$1.4MM (14%).

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Gordon Comfort, COO and Tim Pursell, Director of IT, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Mr. Comfort and Mr. Pursell reported that AKC's IT Division has made progress in modernizing its operations, but legacy systems and a fragmented architecture, continue to limit agility and alignment with business goals. As a data-centric organization, AKC's success depends on a reliable, scalable, and strategically aligned IT function.

To address current challenges, staff provided updates and made recommendations on the following:

- Conduct a comprehensive IT assessment.
- Define a clear vision for the future of IT.
- Deliver quick wins by fiscal year-end 2025.
- Develop a multi-year transformation roadmap.
- Present a draft plan to the Board in October 2025 for input and alignment.

Mr. Comfort also provided updates on the website, registration, and the AKC strategic plan.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP of Government Relations, and MariBeth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Parent Club Designation for Barbado da Terceira Club

The Barbado da Terceira Club USA has requested designation as the Parent Club for the breed, allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows.

The Barbado da Terceira Club USA has an active membership participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available. The club provides regular updates on club activities and Board Meetings.

Staff recommended the Barbado da Terceira Club USA be designated as the Parent Club representing the Barbado da Terceira with the AKC.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

Government Relations Q2 2025 Update

All 50 state legislatures, Congress and many cities and counties have already met in 2025. The majority of state legislatures have either adjourned for the year or are on summer recess. Congress, and legislatures in 6 states (California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin) are in session.

In the second quarter, GR monitored more than 1,700 legislative bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the

sport and the American Kennel Club.

GR prepared and published 66 geo-targeted legislative alerts, and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers, or written and/or oral testimony or official comments on the same.

Legislative Monitoring & Advocacy: Through Q2, the largest proportion of legislation tracked by GR fell into the category of cruelty & breeder regulations. Categories are determined by keywords assigned by legislatures, based on bill text, which is why breeder regulations often fall into the same category with cruelty.

By volume, the most common types of bills (federal and state combined) monitored related to:

- Breeder regulation/cruelty (276)
- Working Dogs (261)
- Veterinary (199)
- Hunting/field/land use (189)
- Animal Control (165)
- Service Dogs (114)
- Other (108)

Regulatory Monitoring: Hunting and land use policy continues to be the most common regulatory issue tracked, comprising 53.77% of GR's regulatory tracking. Proposed regulatory changes in this area may impact the conduct of, or participation in AKC sanctioned events, or training for them, primarily on public lands (some do apply to private properties). The other categories

comprising the five most common are:

- Veterinary Medicine: 14.93%
- Dogs in Public: 6.90%
- Service Dogs/Working Dogs: 3.85%
- Breeding Regulations and Restrictions: 2.73%.

An overview of legislative alerts and successes was provided.

Other project and program highlights included:

Congressional Briefing

On April 28, 2025 GR staff presented an educational briefing at the U.S. Capitol to Members of Congress and U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committee staff on the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), its current requirements, and impact on dog ownership.

AKC Legislative Conference, St Louis, MO. GR staff conducted a small but successful Legislative advocacy conference and educational day on June 14. Twenty Legislative Liaisons and federation leaders gathered to sharpen their advocacy skills for dogs, learn about legislative trends, and network with other advocates.

New Resources:

- Updated AKC Impact/Economic Benefits by State. GR updated expanded surveys of dog show exhibitors in April. The new report features data from 2024 and includes updated in-

formation for all 50 states and national specialties. The data gathered serves as the basis for a series of new reports and resources that highlight the economic benefits of AKC dog shows, and further, the overall positive impact that AKC, its clubs and affiliates have in the U.S. on a state-by-state basis.

- New Research Shows Mixes are Not Healthier Than Purebred Dogs
- Flying Pets in Cargo: What you Need to Know for 2025
- New Policy Explainer Video: Mandatory Spay/Neuter. This new 90-second educational video explains AKC policy and the problems with Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws. This is part of a comprehensive packet of information in which AKC offer legislative/ policy alternatives to address common concerns about shelter populations and irresponsible ownership.

Staff also provided updates on:

- The Detection Dog Task Force
- Legislative Seminars and Training Events
- Lawmaker/ Policymaker Conference participation
- In-State Advocacy
- The AKC PAC
- Op Eds/Externally Published articles (3)
- Policy Blogs & Updates (16)

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sports Services; and Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Employee Participation in AKC Sports

Employees and members of their household should be encouraged to participate in AKC sports provided their job responsibilities do not result in a potential conflict of interest.

Staff recommends a change to the Employee Participation in AKC Sports policy to update the policy and more clearly state under what conditions employees may participate in the sports.

This recommendation modifies the existing policy in three ways:

1. Eliminates the "highest title" in a sport limitation.
2. Clarifies restrictions on judging.
3. Allows all employees to participate in and act as an evaluator for Family Dog activities and to participate in Fast CAT[®], where there is no judge.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Timing of Qualifying Ribbons

Staff recommends a change to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* that will allow clubs the option to award qualifying ribbons following each dog's run during the hunting test rather than waiting until the entire test has concluded.

This is a change made to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, these changes will become effective for events taking place after November 1, 2025.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sports Services; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support; and Mark Desrosiers, Director of Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Limited Registration - Rules Applying To Dog Shows – Chapter 11, Section 1

Chapter 11, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* specifies those dogs eligible to be exhibited in a licensed or member dog show, prohibiting a dog with an AKC Limited Registration from competing.

The Board discussed a recommendation to modify Chapter 11, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to allow Limited Registration dogs to compete in Conformation dog shows. Dogs must still be intact to compete. The topic will be brought to the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee at the September Delegate meeting.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

If the Board approves it at that time, the proposal will be read at the December 2025 Delegate meeting and voted at the March 2026 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be July 1, 2026.

Specialty Shows – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 16, Section 2

Chapter 2, Section 7 and Chapter 2, Section 8 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* defines that a specialty club may hold a show confined to the breed which it sponsors. The Board discussed a recommendation to:

1. Insert a new Chapter 2, Section 9 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to allow specialty clubs to hold events to include classes for breeds of similar purpose or origin; and
2. Insert a new Chapter 3, Section 17

of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to establish the awarding of Best in Event at a show held by specialty clubs where classes for breeds of similar purpose or origin are offered.

3. A proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would articulate that if a dog awarded winners is awarded Best in Event at a show held by a specialty club where classes for breeds of similar origin, background or purpose are offered, it shall be awarded the greatest number of championship points awarded to winners in any breed or variety competing at the event.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

If the Board approves it at that time, the proposal will be read at the December 2025 Delegate meeting and voted at the March 2026 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will September 2, 2026.

Bred-By Exhibitor Medallion Ranking System

Staff has recommended the addition of a BBE Platinum recognition level for individuals who are the breeder-owner-handler of 25 different dogs that have become champions of record and received an original Bred-By Medallion through their participation in AKC Events, and the

addition of Rally Champion and Tracking Champion to the list of AKC titles credited toward the BBE recognition.

Upon the motion of Dr. Battaglia, and a second by Mr. Smyth, the board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, and a second by Mr. Smyth, the board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the recommendation.

The tentative implementation date is January 7, 2026. The actual date of implementation may be delayed due to priorities for projects that require programming by IT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. The Board approved increasing the event service fee across all sports. Beginning January 1,

2026, the AKC event fee will see its first adjustment since 2008 – an increase of \$1.00 from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per entry. The following year, on January 1, 2027, it will adjust again, moving from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per entry.

Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association 3rd Show Request

Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association requested approval to hold a 3rd show at the WestWorld of Scottsdale site on week 19 (2nd week in May). WestWorld of Scottsdale is 295 straight line miles and 363 driving miles from the Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc. shows in Lakeside CA.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

NOHS Regionals 2025 - 2026

Staff provided the Board with the 2025 – 2026 National Owner Handler Show Regional host clubs and schedule.

Club	Date	State
Austin Kennel Club	9/19/2025	TX
Warren County Kennel Club of Ohio, Inc.	3/27/2026	OH
Kern County/San Luis Obispo Kennel Club	3/28/2026	CA
Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.	4/24/2026	OK
Spokane Kennel Club	5/22/2026	WA
Bryn Mawr Kennel Club	6/20/2026	PA
Greater Monroe Kennel Club	7/18/2026	NC
Topeka Kennel Club	8/21/2026	KS

AKC Event Information Provided to Superintendents

Staff have implemented a process to limit the event information that is provided to the superintendents to only the events that the superintendent is involved with. Prior to this change, superintendents received information for all Conformation, Obedience and Rally events.

This sound business practice was communicated to the superintendents and implemented in mid-July. There has been no objection from the superintendents.

Fines and Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

(Fines and reprimands are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Events and Entries

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, and Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – English Springer Spaniel

The English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (“ESSFTA”) has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for the examination of the

English Springer Spaniel through all levels of Conformation competition. Currently, English Springer Spaniels may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

Staff recommends the Board approve the ESSFTA's request for the English Springer Spaniel to be added to the list of breeds required to be judged on the ramp through all levels of Conformation competition. If the Board should vote to approve the ESSFTA's request at its October 2025 meeting, the effective date will be January 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

AKC Educational Requirements Policy Update

Staff provided the Board with updates on implementation progress of the AKC Educational Requirements Policy adopted in April 2024 which requires all judges to complete the Stewards of Children® course from Darkness to Light®.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

CLUBS

Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Club Relations Portal

Ms. Cecin informed the Board that the Club Relations Portal is now available on AKC.org under the Clubs and Delegates tab and is listed under Helpful Links. The portal will allow the public to engage with AKC to Apply for Accreditation and License status online through the submission of electronic forms and uploaded documents for club presentations.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS

APPROVED IN JUNE AND JULY

Greater Kingsport Kennel Club,
Kingsport, TN (1992)

Salina Kennel Club,
Salina County, KS (1972)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS

APPROVED IN JUNE AND JULY

Deer River Retriever Club, Jackson, TN (including communities north to Greenfield, south to Henderson, in proximity to Route 45), 24 total households, 12 local.

Leonberger Club of Texas, greater Huntsville, TX (including communities north to Dallas, south to Alvin, west to Midlothian and southeast to Humble), 50 total households, 19 local.

National Redbone Coonhound Club, 29 total households (4 households in 4 states west of the Mississippi River, 25 households in 12 states east of the Mississippi River).

Red River Sporting Society, greater Gainesville, TX (including communities north to Route 70, south to Route 20, west to Route 154 and east to Route 283, including Athens, TX), 26 total households, 12 local.

Scissortail Agility Club of Stillwater, Stillwater, OK (including communities in proximity to Route 177. south to Interstate 44 and north to Route 64), 30 total households, 12 local.

Compliance

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance & Inspections, and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred - Non- Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of preferred charges.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred - Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of preferred charges.

Summary of Finalized Disciplinary

Actions as of July 18, 2025

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of July 18, 2025.

Compliance Status Report

The Board received a report of compliance actions for the second quarter of 2025.

Inspections Status Report

The Board received a report on inspections activity for the second quarter of 2025.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Registration Development

Linda Duncklee, Director of Registration Development, joined this portion of the meeting in person.

The Board discussed the current ban on the registration of Russian dogs, how other registries handle Russian dogs, estimates of registration and revenue loss, and customer concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. The Board approved to allow dogs born in Russia that have been exported to other countries, with registrations recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and registered in that country before being imported into the United States, to be registered

with the AKC.

The following restrictions remain in place:

- Judges licensed by the Russian/Belarusian Kennel Federations will not be able to judge at American Kennel Club events.
- Entry to American Kennel Club events will not be allowed by dog owners living in Russia and Belarus.
- Judges and exhibitors are strongly advised not to judge or exhibit at canine events in Russia/Belarus.

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, VP of Marketing, and Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The Board received an update from staff and the LEAP Group on the performance of the AKC digital marketing campaign. Compared to early benchmarks and historical data, the campaign is providing a lower cost per conversion, which is a direct result of campaign strategy, optimizations and execution. The presentation outlined brand tracker results, brand campaign media strategy, brand campaign launch and Always On results, impact of awareness on conversion, registration campaign results and next steps.

CONSENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. Wallin, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Jackson TN Dog Fanciers Association (JTDFa) 3rd Show Request

As an exception to Board Policy given the Limited Number of Events isolated criteria for distance, the Board VOTED to approve Jackson TN Dog Fanciers Association request to hold a 3rd show at the Jackson Fairgrounds Park on week 12 (3rd week in March). From Jackson Fairgrounds Park, it is 458 straight line miles and 545 driving miles from the closest shows in Maquoketa IA.

Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition Regulations

The Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition Regulations defines that judges for the Four-to-Six Month Puppy competition must be individuals with an AKC Conformation judge's number (approved breed or FSS/Open Show Judge). The Board VOTED to approve the modification to the regulations allowing non-approved individuals approved to judge a specialty show, to also judge the Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition when held in conjunction with the specialty show they are assigned to judge.

This is effective immediately.

Fast CAT® – Public Display of Run Times

The Board VOTED to approve the addition of a regulation to the Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT® Regulations to require clubs to publicly post the run time of each dog during a Fast CAT® event.

The change is effective October 1, 2025.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Judges Must Score All Abilities

The Board VOTED to approve a change to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* to emphasize that judges are required to assign a numeric score for each of the four abilities – Marking, Style, Perseverance and Training as part of their evaluation of a dog's performance.

This recommendation was communicated to the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Delegate Committee in June 2025 and there was no objection.

These changes are effective for events taking place on or after October 1, 2025.

Scent Work – Dogs with Coloring

The Board VOTED to approve a change to the Regulations for AKC Scent Work, allowing dogs with coloring to participate in Scent Work trials. The purpose of allowing dogs to have coat coloring is to add an element of fun to events by allow-

ing clubs to adopt themes or to encourage dogs to “run for the cause” in support of a local activity.

The change is effective September 1, 2025.

Scent Work – Revised Specs on Buried Searches

The Board VOTED to approve a change to the Regulations for AKC Scent Work on the amount of sand that must be used in Buried Classes as well as redefine what constitutes a “scent vessel” for Buried Classes where water is required. Specifically, this change would allow Buried Classes where sand is the substrate, to use one inch of sand covering the scent vessel. The scent vessel can range from one inch to two inches. This recommendation will reduce the weight of the buried container.

The change is effective October 1, 2025.

Acceptance of Pedigrees from Canine Owners and Breeders Association (COBA)

The Board VOTED to approve the Canine Owners and Breeders Association (COBA), Nigeria’s national kennel club, be added to the list of registries with pedigrees acceptable for AKC registration. Staff provided background information to accept COBA pedigrees for the AKC Foreign Registration of dogs born in Nigeria.

Delegate Approvals

James Conroy

To represent Boca Raton Dog Club

Published July, August 2025

Michael Faulkner

To represent Westminster Kennel Club

Published June, July 2025

Sandie Friend

To represent Boston Terrier Club of America

Published June, July 2025

Lisa Giannone

To represent Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey

Published June, July 2025

Mark Francis Jaeger

To represent English Toy Spaniel Club of America

Published July, August 2025

Lisa Leffingwell

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

Published June, July 2025

Alejandro Lima

To represent Fort Lauderdale Dog Club

Published June, July 2025

Jennifer Martin

To represent Weimaraner Club of America

Published June, July 2025

Susan Patterson

To represent Greater Lowell Kennel Club

Published June, July 2025

Janine Rose

To represent Parson Russell Terrier Association of America

Published July, August 2025

Rhonda Shifferd

To represent Greater Ocala Dog Club

Published June, July 2025

Bruce Van Deman

To represent Hawaiian Kennel Club

Published June, July 2025

The Board recessed for the day at 5:01 p.m. Eastern Time.

The Board reconvened on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Daniel Smyth, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Mr. Harold Tatro, Ms. Sylvia Thomas, Ms. Ann Wallin. Absent: Mr. Robin Stansell.

The Chief Operating Officer (Mr. Gordon Comfort), Chief Financial Officer (Mr. Ted Phillips) and Executive Secretary (Ms. Sheila Goffe) were also present.

Training

The Board participated in a training on harassment prevention as required annually by New York State law.

Foundation Stock Service®

Guidelines

Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

The AKC Foundation Stock Service®, was established in 1995 to serve individuals with rare or developing breeds by providing a method to maintain registration records and a studbook, streamlining the transition of the registry once the breed obtains full recognition status with the American Kennel Club. The Guidelines provide the requirements that a breed must obtain to move to establish a Parent Club, request to move into the Miscellaneous Class and then to full recognition.

Staff recommended the approval of updated guidelines to expand the requirements for a Parent Club requesting full recognition to reflect active involvement by the club in holding an Open Show, an increased number of CM titles from 10 to 20 to be earned by a minimum of five Parent Club members, a minimum of 20 litters bred and enrolled within a three year period while the breed is in Miscellaneous, establishment of at least one local specialty club, and other requirements.

Upon the motion of Mr. Hamblin, and a second by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Stansell) to consider the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin and a second by Mr. Smyth, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Stansell) to approve the recommendation of staff, effective immediately.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Canine Health Foundation

Presentation

Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CEO of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and Ms. Andrea Fiumefreddo, Chief Operating Officer of the AKC CHF, briefed the AKC Board on the successful AKC CHF Conference in the previous week (August 7-9, 2025) in Durham, NC.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 12:15 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



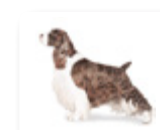
Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



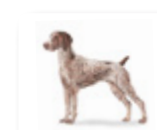
English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English
Coonhound



American
Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan
Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick
Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



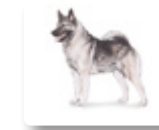
Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian
Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese
Podengo Pequeno



Redbone
Coonhound



Rhodesian
Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish
Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker
Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan
Malamute



Anatolian
Shepherd Dog



Bernese
Mountain Dog



Black Russian
Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman
Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de
Bordeaux



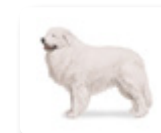
German
Pinscher



Giant
Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss
Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan
Mastiff



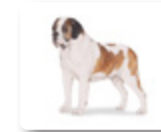
Newfoundland



Portuguese
Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard
Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American
Hairless Terrier



American
Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



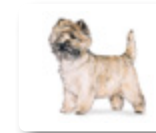
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont
Terrier



Fox Terrier
(Smooth)



Glen of
Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue
Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester
Terrier



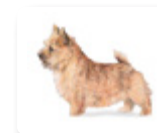
Miniature Bull
Terrier



Miniature
Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



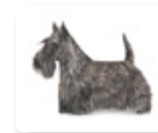
Parson Russell
Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



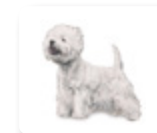
Soft Coated
Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire
Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland
White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo
Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese
Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian
Lundehund



Poodle
(Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian
Cattle Dog



Australian
Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian
Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des
Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh
Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher
Mountain Dog



Finnish
Lapphund



German Shepherd
Dog



Icelandic
Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American
Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English
Sheepdog



Pembroke
Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland
Sheepdog



Puli



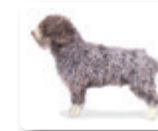
Pumi



Pyrenean
Shepherd



Shetland
Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish
Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>