



gazette

SEPTEMBER 2026



*Follow the
GAZETTE on
Facebook!*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026
Volume 143, Number 9



FEATURE

Leading the Charge

An inspiring Golden galvanized support for cancer research.



Toy

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

Poodles
Schipperkes
Shiba Inu
Tibetan Spaniels
Tibetan Terriers

Herding

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

Non-Sporting

Bichons Frises
Boston Terriers
Bulldogs
Chinese Shar-Pei
Chow Chows
Dalmatians
Lhasa Apsos
Norwegian Lundehunds

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SECRETARY'S PAGES

MASTHEAD

"Our Pearl Harbor"

UPDATES

New international agreement; CHF Impact Report; Judges Institutes; National Art Contest; Government Relations update

SLIDESHOW

Jazz Age Covers: The GAZETTE of the 1920s

RINGSIDE

Northeastern Illinois Norwegian Elkhound Association

GALLOPING TO GLORY

Greyhounds and the Waterloo Cup

TIMES PAST

Handling the Coady Way

VIDEOS

More from America 250; Airedale specialty; Claudia Orlandi; the Podengo in *The Odyssey*; Canine Royalty: the German Shepherd Dog

DOG PEOPLE

Ernesto Lara

PARENT CLUB PAGES

HUSKER VALLEY CLUSTER

Stack. Stride. Shine. Show your best!



Friday, October 2, 2026

Hosted by:

Cornhusker Kennel Club

All Breed Shows: October 3 & 4, 2026

Entries Close September 16, 2026

Sandhills Global Event Center

Lincoln, NE

Superintendent: Onofrio.com

Note: NOHS Regional Points will be doubled for this event.

Specialty & National Shows on Friday

5 OB Trials - 5 Rally Trials

3 Days of Fast Cat



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB



Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

This year, the American Kennel Club celebrates 142 years, a milestone that allows us to reflect on where we began, how far we have come, and the responsibility we carry to ensure that AKC remains strong, relevant, and true to its mission for generations to come.

When AKC was founded in 1884, our organization brought together 12 dedicated dog clubs with a shared vision for the future of purebred dogs and the sport. From those beginnings, AKC has grown into an organization whose reach extends across the country and around the world, while remaining grounded in many of the same principles that guided our founders.

Throughout our history, AKC has been the keeper of the nation's largest and oldest purebred dog registry, the governing body for thousands of dog events each year, and a trusted resource for generations of breeders, exhibitors and dog owners. We have helped preserve the histories, standards, and purpose of our breeds while creating new opportunities for people to experience everything dogs can do.

That history has never been static. AKC



has continued to evolve alongside the people and dogs we serve. Our sports have expanded well beyond the conformation ring, allowing more people and more dogs to participate, compete, and build a deeper connection with one another. Our educational programs continue to grow, helping dog owners at every level learn more about responsible ownership, training, breeding, and the remarkable capabilities of dogs. Our commitment to canine health is advancing important research and helping breeders make informed decisions, while our advocacy work gives responsible dog owners and breeders a voice in communities across the country.

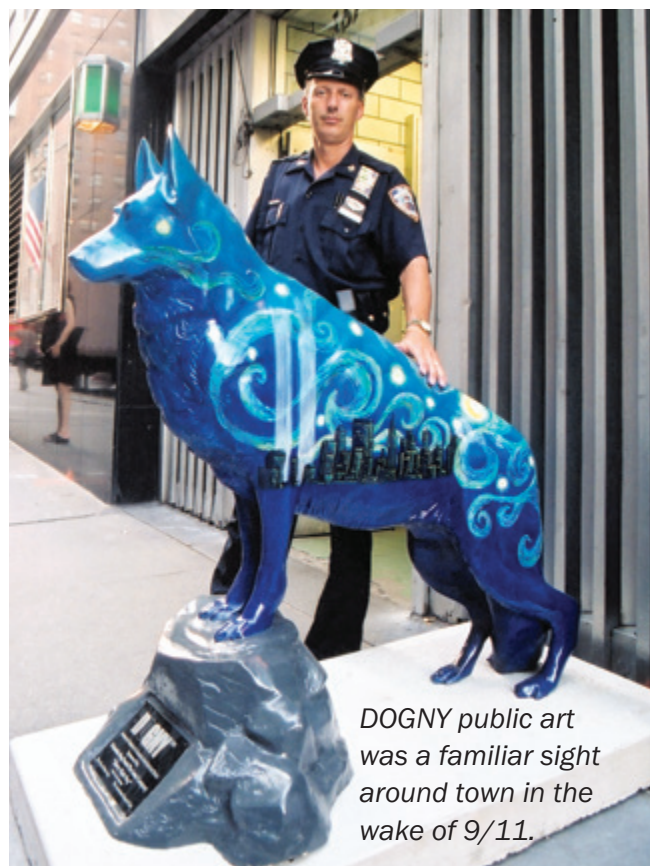
Today, we are building on that foundation in new ways. We are investing in education, media, canine health, and innovation while modernizing the way AKC serves its customers and connects with the broader dog-loving public. We are working to make AKC more accessible, responsive

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

and connected, using technology and new approaches to improve the experience of the people who rely on us. And we are expanding the ways people can discover AKC and become part of the world of dogs.

Our growing reach through media and major events is helping introduce dog sports and the AKC brand to new audiences. From Canine Good Citizen tests to agility, obedience, scent work, diving dogs, and other sports, we are demonstrating that there are countless ways to celebrate the abilities and partnership of dogs. At the same time, initiatives such as Canine College and our expanding health and DNA efforts are helping ensure that AKC remains a trusted source of knowledge for the next generation of dog owners and responsible breeders.

We are also focused on bringing more people into the world of dogs. In January, AKC Meet the Breeds returns to New York City at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on January 23 and 24, 2027. Last year, more than 30,000 dog lovers joined us to meet breeds, speak directly with knowledgeable breeders and club members, and discover the remarkable diversity of the dog world. Meet the Breeds has become one of AKC's most impactful flagship events and an important way for us to introduce a new generation to responsible dog ownership, preservation breeding, and the unique histories and purposes of our breeds with the help of our clubs and their dedicated volunteers.



DOGNY public art was a familiar sight around town in the wake of 9/11.

As we celebrate our own history this year, we also recognize a solemn milestone in our nation's history. September marks 25 years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost, the families forever changed, the first responders who answered the call, and the search and rescue dogs and handlers who worked tirelessly in the aftermath. Their courage and service demonstrated most profoundly the extraordinary bond between people and dogs.

AKC was proud to support those canine heroes through DOGNY: America's Tribute to Search and Rescue Dogs, which placed more than 100 artist-painted, life-sized

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Join the fun at AKC Meet the Breeds in January.

German Shepherd Dog sculptures throughout New York City and raised millions of dollars to support canine search-and-rescue organizations. Twenty-five years later, we continue to remember all those who served, including the remarkable dogs and handlers whose courage will forever hold a place in our history.

This year also gives us another opportunity to reflect on the connection between AKC and the history of our country as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. Dogs have been part of the American story from its earliest days, and for 142 years, AKC has played a role in preserving and celebrating that relationship. Through AKC Celebrates USA 250 and our many events and programs, we have an opportunity to share with new audiences the important place dogs hold in our

families, communities, and national heritage.

While we look back on our history, I am grateful for all those who have shaped AKC and for those who continue that work today. Our legacy is built on generations of people who believed deeply in dogs, in the value of responsible breeding and ownership, and in preserving the unique qualities of our breeds. It is also built on our willingness to evolve—to embrace new opportunities, reach new audiences, and find new ways to serve the people and dogs who are at the heart of everything we do.

That is the responsibility we carry forward. We must preserve what makes AKC special while continuing to build an organization that is relevant, accessible, innovative and sustainable for the future. We must honor the knowledge and traditions passed down to us while creating opportunities for the next generation to discover the joy, purpose and extraordinary possibilities that come from our connection with dogs.

For 142 years, AKC has evolved without losing sight of who we are or why we exist. The next chapter should be no different.

Here's to honoring our past, building our future, and ensuring that AKC remains strong for generations to come.

Gina M. DiNardo
President and CEO
American Kennel Club



FCM Universal Championship

Four AKC International Dog Shows 2026

For AKC breeds fully recognized.

FCM Universal Championship

Special Attraction Dog Shows

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



Expo Santa Fe. Mexico City



November 12–15, 2026

FOUR ALL - BREED DOG SHOWS

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

FCM - Panamerican Championship Title

(Thursday November 12th, 2026)

FCM - Continental Championship Title

(Friday November 13th, 2026)

FCM - Intercontinental Championship Title

(Saturday November 14th, 2026)

FCM - Universal Championship Title

(Sunday November 15th, 2026)

FCM - Mexican Championship Title

(All four days)

AKC - Championship Points

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

AKC - Grand Championship

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

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

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



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®



managing editor
BUD BOCCONE

senior editor
ARLISS PADDOCK

creative director
KATE MCCROARY

design projects manager
CHRIS ESPIRITU

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 2026, Volume 143, 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.

Our Pearl Harbor



NEW YORK—On September 11, 2001, I was among the AKC staff at 260 Madison who watched on TV in stunned silence as the towers came down. Outside, people were running in all directions, not knowing if or where another strike would hit. Others stood at the corner of 39th and Madison, which on a clear day afforded a view of the Twin Towers. They watched as a huge plume of black smoke rose into the cloudless blue sky.

Farther uptown, my wife was at her office. She called her dad back home in Tennessee to assure him that she was safe. My father-in-law was old enough to have vivid memories of another surprise attack, on the morning of December 7, 1941. He said, “This is your Pearl Harbor. I’m

so sorry. I always hoped my children would never have a Pearl Harbor.”

This month we commemorate the 25th year since “our Pearl Harbor.” Americans who recall it will gather in solemn remembrance. And, I hope, the hundred million Americans who were unborn on 9/11 will learn of its importance. Let’s take a moment to pray that these young people never have a day they will come to call “our 9/11.”—**B.B.**



On Our Cover:
Vizsla, David
Woo ©AKC

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

New International Agreement

The AKC and Dogs Australia, a not-for-profit organization that represents the interests of its member bodies throughout Australia, are pleased to announce that they have entered into a Mutual Cooperation Agreement.

The agreement strengthens international collaboration around shared priorities, expanding canine exhibitions and registrations, advancing education, promoting dogs as family companions, and support-

ing responsible breeding and ownership, while establishing a framework for cooperation to deliver meaningful value to breeders, dog owners, exhibitors, judges, and event officials in both the United States and Australia.

“Strong international partnerships are essential to ensuring a solid future for purebred dogs,” AKC President/CEO Gina M. DiNardo says. “We are honored to collaborate with Dogs Australia as we work



together to advance responsible breeding, expand educational opportunities, support the growth of dog sports, and celebrate the extraordinary bond between people and dogs.”



AKC CHF: Your Generosity at Work

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has published its 2025 Impact Report. The report details how \$3.2 million was awarded across 30 new grants advancing discoveries in cancer, genetic disease, and breakthrough technologies. The 2025 Impact Report is the story of your generosity at work.

[2025 Impact Report](#)

AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

UPDATES

From Government Relations: 2026 at the Halfway Mark

In the latest issue of **Taking Command**, AKC Government Relations provides a rundown of the department's activity covering the first half of 2026. As of August 17, Government Relations has tracked over 1,900 bills this year with the potential to impact dogs. Issues ranging from shelter populations to breeder and kennel regulations, to appropriate care and training of all dogs have been considered across the country.

AKC GR: 2006 first six months



AKC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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

This volume offers readers:

- Official standard for every AKC-recognized breed
- Over 800 exceptional color photographs of adults and puppies
- Spotlight on finding well-bred puppies, sports, and activities for dogs and owners

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

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

UPDATES



Fall Judges Institutes

Three AKC Institutes for Aspiring and Newly Approved Judges remain in 2026:

October 10 (Lebanon, Tennessee)

October 24 (Ridgefield, Washington)

November 14 (Tucson, Arizona)

For each offering, there will be a Judging Junior-Showmanship Seminar scheduled for the Sunday morning following.

Registration forms will be in the premium lists for the shows at which the institutes are being held, or you may contact [Judging Operations](#) to register. Preregistration is strongly encouraged as day-of registration is limited and cannot be guaranteed.

Last Call: AKC National Art Contest

The closing date for entries in the 2026 AKC National Art Contest is September 29. The contest invites youth artists nationwide to participate. This annual summer contest is open to children ages 5 to 17 residing within the continental United States.

Entries are divided into four age categories and evaluated on creativity, alignment to theme, and overall artistic quality. One winner and four finalists will be selected from each age category.

Winning and finalist artwork will be featured in an online gallery on the AKC Education website, and winning pieces will also be displayed at the AKC Museum of the Dog, where they will be showcased in a special exhibition.

Information and Entry Forms

Contact: publiced@akc.org



TOP: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM; BOTTOM: AKC PUBLIC EDUCATION

Handling the Coady Way



Southern Oregon KC, 1977: Clay Coady with Lakeland Terrier Ch. Schlosshaus's Jo-Jo the Red. The judge is Dr. Lee Huggins. (Lindemaier photo)

We interviewed Clay Coady for our November 1996 issue. At the time, he was among the sport's top handlers (specializing in terriers) who learned his trade as a teenager working for Ben Brown and Larry Downey. He has been an AKC judge since 2001.

Most people don't realize how much work goes into a show dog before it ever sets foot into the ring. Before I commit to handling a dog, I evaluate it first. I look for conformation, movement, and attitude. If I believe a dog has enough merit to earn a champion-

ship, then I set the wheels in motion.

I prefer to have the dog live at my kennel. Being in an environment with many other dogs often toughens a dog and gives it the heart to make it as a show dog. It also allows me to see the dog's progress in develop-

PHOTOS AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

TIMES PAST



Montgomery County KC, 1995: Welsh Terrier Ch. Cisselda Sugar Babe wins the breed with Clay Coady at the helm. (Ashbey photo)

ing a good temperament, as well as to work on grooming when needed. Terriers are put into coat for show, and conditioning is crucial. I strip out the dog, put a pattern on it and “defuzz” it.

Some dogs require more coat work than others. It can take 8 to 12 weeks to get a good coat before we even consider entering the dog.

I use this time to put the dog into proper weight, teach the dog where to place its legs, lead-break it if necessary, and teach it how to show. I often take dogs that

aren’t yet ready to compete to shows in order to get them used to new sounds and places, have strangers go over them and adjust to “show life.”

When a dog is in coat, has a pattern on it, is the ideal weight, and in overall good condition, I look for the best show in which to enter it. I see what the competition is, particularly if it’s a breed I don’t often handle. If the dog is outstanding, I enter it in specialties. At this point, I begin to fine-tune its grooming. I emphasize

its strengths and minimize its faults. When the dog is loaded into the truck, it has had its final trim and is ready to go.

At the show, I wash each dog daily, blow-dry their furnishings to make them as straight as possible, as well as balance its legs and face with its body. If necessary, I add chalk to the dog’s coat to enhance it. Finally, I look closely at the dog both on the table and while it’s moving. I carefully cut or pull out any hairs that are out of place. Ideally, if time and the schedule allow, I finish preparing the dog the minute before entering the ring.

And then I take the dog into the ring. I handle it to help it look its best, always making sure the dog uses its tail and ears, moves properly, and exhibits confidence. If all goes well and the preshow work was thorough, the dog will hold its own in competition.

After the dog is shown, I bathe out the chalk, condition its coat, go home, and do it all again the next week.



familydog™



TREAT YOUR PET-LOVING FRIENDS

with a
gift subscription to
AKC Family Dog Magazine

AKC Family Dog is a magazine unlike any other—written for dog people, by dog people. With stunning photography and compelling narratives, our multiple award-winning articles capture the infinite ways dogs enrich our lives—and what we can do to enrich theirs.

Give six digital, bimonthly issues for just \$12.95!

Your gift will be announced via email with a handsome AKC greeting card.

**CLICK
HERE**

TO SUBSCRIBE!

Photos by *Lynda Beam*

Northeastern Illinois Norwegian Elkhound Association | August 1 and 2 | Huntley, Illinois



COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

RINGSIDE

Photos by *Lynda Beam*

Northeastern Illinois Norwegian Elkhound Association | August 1 and 2 | Huntley, Illinois



COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

RINGSIDE

Photos by *Lynda Beam*

Northeastern Illinois Norwegian Elkhound Association | August 1 and 2 | Huntley, Illinois



COURTESY
LYNDA BEAM

RINGSIDE

Photos by *Lynda Beam*

Northeastern Illinois Norwegian Elkhound Association | August 1 and 2 | Huntley, Illinois



COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



familydog



THE 2026 AKC PHOTO CONTEST — NOW OPEN TO ALL!

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

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

Start snapping!



"Colonel J. Dennis's Greyhounds Distingue, Dendraspis and Dilwyn," Arthur Wardle, 1914; 36 x 48 inches; AKC Museum of the Dog

Galloping to Glory

Greyhounds and the Waterloo Cup

By Alan Fausel,
AKC Museum of the Dog

Following my address to the Greyhound World Congress held during the AKC National Championship at Orlando

in December 2025, the [AKC Museum of the Dog](#) was delighted to welcome two new acquisitions related to Greyhounds and the

FEATURE

"The Waterloo Cup Coursing Meeting," Richard Ansdell, 1840; canvas 56½ inches x 94 inches; Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

Detail: Greyhounds Earwig, winner of the 1840 Waterloo Cup, and Emperor, the runner-up. They are restrained with a brace-coursing lead by their owner, Mr. Easterby.



famed Waterloo Cup, the signature hare-coursing event during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The first was one of Arthur Wardle's finest paintings, "Colonel J. Dennis's Greyhounds Distingue, Dendraspis and Dilwyn." The impressive, large canvas depicts two winners of the Waterloo Cup with Dendraspis in 1909, and Dilwyn in 1914, when he beat the third member of

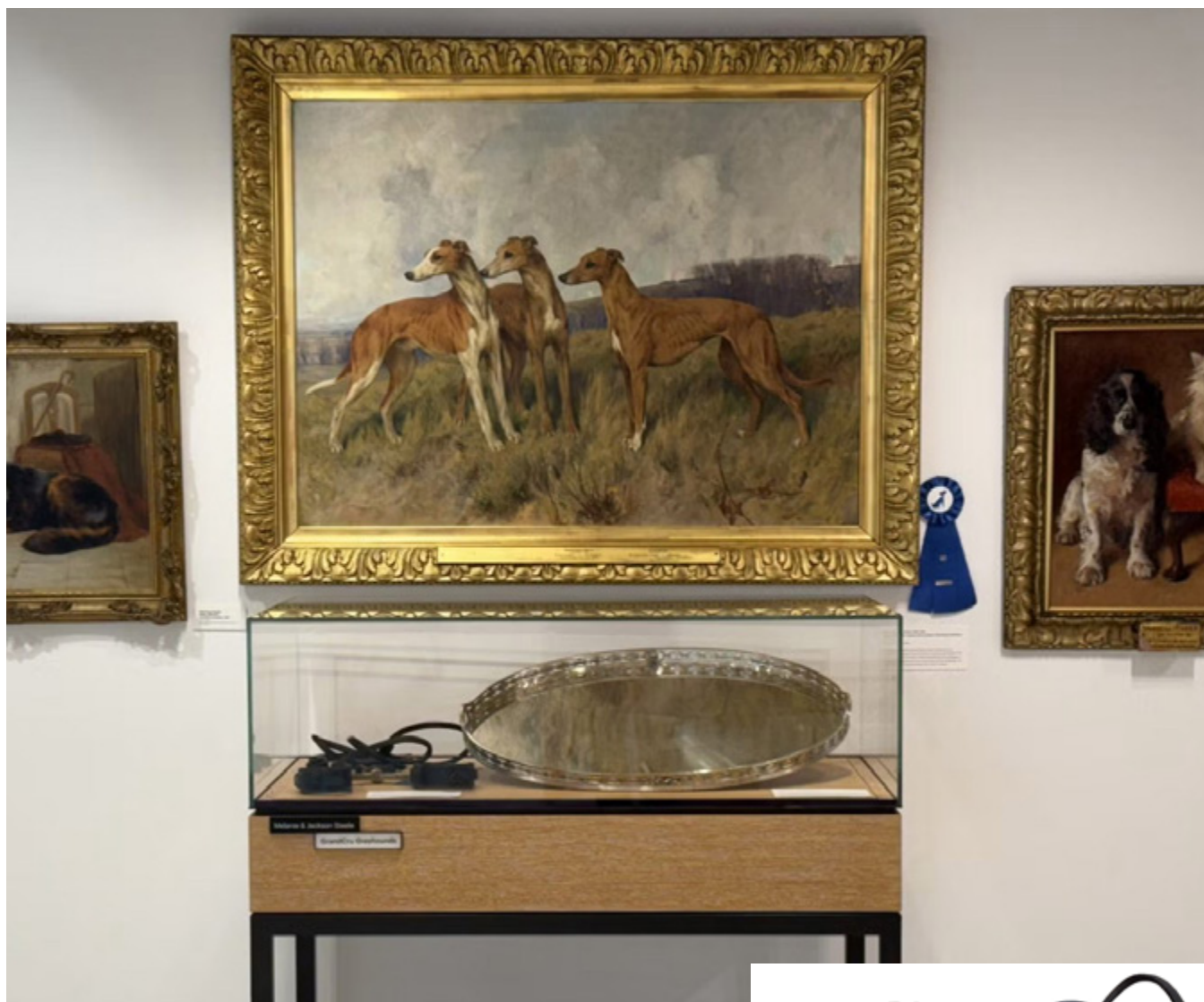


this historic trio, Distingue, in the semifinals.

The three were all out of the kennels of Colonel J.

WALKER ART GALLERY

FEATURE



*The Wardle Greyhounds on exhibit at the AKC Museum;
Detail: "The twin-collared lead was designed, by the pull of a
handle, to release the two competing hounds."*

Dennis and share a close pedigree. Dendraspis was the sire of Distingue, while Dilwyn was a close cousin. To put these hounds in a more modern athletic perspective, Bill Nicholson, the

painting's donor and AKC Museum of the Dog board member, likened the trio to the Manning family dynasty of Archie, Peyton, and Eli in professional football.



The artist, Arthur Wardle, gained fame as a painter of animals who, along with

FEATURE

Maud Earl, were among the leading dog portraitists of the day. With Maud's departure to America in 1916, Wardle was without rival in the U.K. as a dog portraitist.

In this large canvas, spanning 36 x 48 inches, he captures the trio in a moment where their attention is directed to activity outside the frame. This device allows for the rendering of each dog's head in profile and, as well, the details of their muscles and sinews down to their toes, which are remarkably unobscured by the surrounding vegetation.

WATERLOO: THE SIGNATURE EVENT

The Waterloo Cup was the premier hare-coursing competition, held annually just north of Liverpool from 1836 until the live sport was banned in the U.K. in 2005 and replaced by lure coursing. The event brought together 64 of the top Greyhounds in a

two-day single-elimination tournament that drew tens of thousands of spectators. It is immortalized in the monumental 1840 painting of the event by Richard Ansdell now in the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

This grand painting features a number of famous dogs as well as 73 well-known sportsmen of the day, including the Countess and Earl of Sefton, owners of Alcar, the estate where the competition was held.

Most importantly, in the lower left of the canvas, Ansdell shows two dogs, Emperor and that year's winner, Earwig, being held by their owner Mr. Easterby in a brace-coursing lead while a handler attends to them in the foreground.

At the December 2025 lecture on Greyhounds, I featured this painting and lamented the fact the museum did not own a good example of a brace lead. Then, AKC Delegate Cathy Gaidos and her hus-

band, Jim, volunteered a rare brace-coursing lead for the collection.

Much like a starting gate for a Thoroughbred horse race, the twin-collared lead was designed, by the pull of a handle, to release the two competing hounds simultaneously, thus eliminating the contention that either hound had an advantage at the start.

The Wardle painting and the lead are on display in the museum's first-floor gallery. They are accompanied by the large and elaborately engraved sterling-silver tea tray commemorating the 1882 Waterloo Cup winner, Snowflight. This magnificent and oversized tray features a portrait of Snowflight on the base surrounded by a gallery containing the names of all the previous cup winners.

The brace lead and tray are encased in the Melanie and Jackson Steele Grand Cru Kennels vitrine below the painting.—**A.F.**



"Cannie Lad," Lucy Waller, 1894, AKC Museum of the Dog

The Colonel's Terrier

Commonly in the Victorian era, breeders did not specialize in just one breed. The Duchess of Newcastle, known for her Fox Terriers, also promoted the Borzoi as well as Whippets, Scottish Deerhounds and, of course, the Clumber Spaniel, named after her residence Clumber Hall.

Colonel Dennis, who likely commissioned Wardle's portrait, was no different. He also owned Cannie Lad, a mustard Dandie Dinmont whom he showed frequently in the 1890s at Crufts, Liverpool, and Edinburgh. Much like he did with his Greyhounds, Colonel Dennis enlisted the canine artist Lucy Waller to produce this portrait of Cannie Lad, which entered the AKC Museum of the Dog's collection in 2021.

It is hard to imagine two more disparate breeds: the sleek and rapid Greyhound and the low-slung and shaggy Dandie Dinmont.



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

Leading the Charge

An inspiring Hall of Fame Golden galvanized support for cancer research.

By Penny Leigh



Kathy Rudolph works on a raft retrieve with Charger, whose muzzle was blackened by cancer treatment.

It took less than an hour for Golden Retriever breeder Kathy Rudolph to decide which puppy she was keeping from her first litter.

“He caught my attention from the moment he entered the world. Less than an hour old, he was

standing on his hind legs trying to exit the whelping box,” Rudolph says. “Charger was the first to sit up and the first to walk. He was definitely the alpha of the litter, not because of his actions, but because of his presence.”

Rudolph is an agility judge and longtime agility competitor, so she began prepping her pup for a future career in the sport. Charger grew into a large Golden, standing 24.5 inches and weighing nearly 90 pounds, but that did

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OWNER

FEATURE



*Charger, the
MACH 3/PACH*

not slow him down. He ran very fast.

“My agility instructor said he would never earn a championship because he was just too big,” the Wisconsin resident says. “Though Charger was not my first Golden to compete in agility, it took me a while to learn how to handle a big dog with speed.”

In time, they became an amazing team and

proved the instructor wrong. Charger earned three Master Agility Championships (MACHs), a Preferred Agility Championship (PACH), qualified multiple years for the AKC National Agility Championship, and qualified for the Golden Retriever Club of America Agility Hall of Fame.

But their life together was not without challenges.

“A More Aggressive Cancer”

In May 2010, Charger was 7 years old, healthy, and actively competing when Rudolph noticed a lump on his muzzle.

“My veterinarian thought it looked suspicious, did a needle aspirate, and suggested I go to the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Care Clinic. There, he was diagnosed with a Stage 2

FEATURE

Mast Cell Tumor. Due to the location of the tumor, the oncologist believed it would be a more aggressive cancer.”

The veterinarians gave Charger six to seven months to live. But the vet school was conducting a clinical trial on Mast Cell Tumors and invited Rudolph to enroll Charger. For six weeks, he received a combination of two chemotherapy drugs with the goal of shrinking the tumor so it could be removed.

“After the second dose we noticed a reduction in the tumor’s size, indicating that the treatment was working. ... By the end of the clinical trial, the tumor had shrunk enough so that it could be removed. The surgery was in July, and Charger returned to the agility ring in August.”

The experience inspired Rudolph to help in the fight against canine cancer. That December, Charger and she competed at a large agility trial—Hounds for



the Holidays—sponsored by Cream City Canines. She collected \$700 in donations, which she donated to the University of Wisconsin Companion Animal Fund.

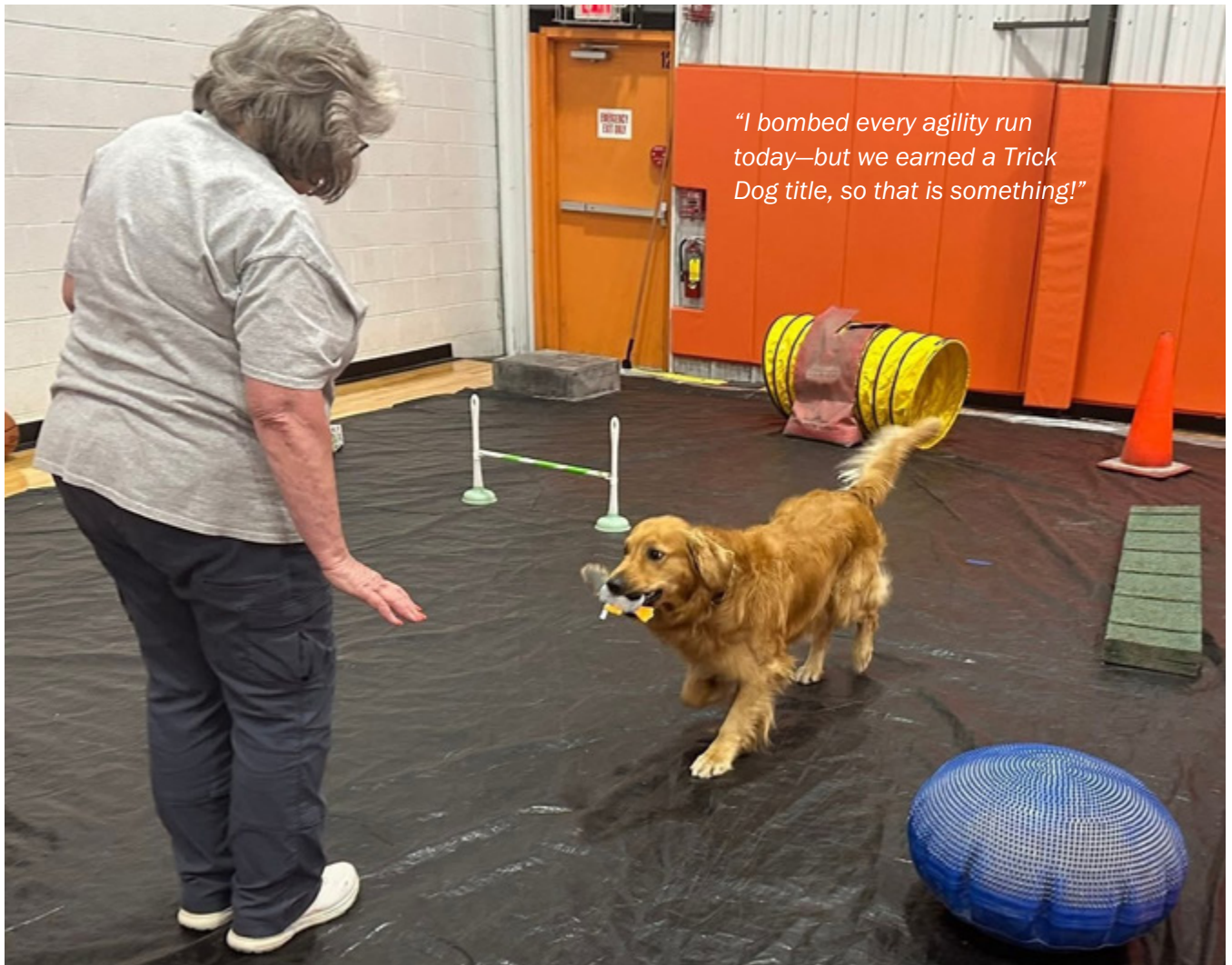
“A Wonderful Idea”

A year later, Charger was still in remission, and the popular four-day Hounds of the Holidays trial was nearing. Rudolph had an

idea for a raffle to raise funds: “The problem was collecting donations. While businesses thought it was a worthy cause, I had no tax-exempt status.

“I met with a representative from the University of Wisconsin Foundation, the board that manages all gifts to the school. I told him about Charger’s experience and my desire to create

FEATURE



"I bombed every agility run today—but we earned a Trick Dog title, so that is something!"

a canine-cancer research fund. He thought it was a wonderful idea."

A few weeks later, the University established the Charge Against Cancer fund. For six years, Rudolph held a raffle at the Hounds for the Holidays trial, and the fund grew to \$70,000.

Then, in 2018, she pur-

sued a charity agility trial in which all profits would go to the fund.

"Though clubs thought it was a great idea, no one would do it. Then I reached out to the [Golden Retriever Club of Illinois](#), and it only took a few hours for them to grant approval for the event."

The first Golden Retriever

Club of Illinois Sporting Dog Agility Classic was held in September 2019 at Canine Sports Zone in Middleton, Wisconsin. Friday was an all-breed day, and Saturday/Sunday was reserved for sporting breeds.

The trial scheduled for 2020 was called off because of the COVID pandemic. Even with the cancellation,

FEATURE

handlers donated more than \$3,500. The trial moved to June and changed to three days of all-breed in 2023.

In 2024, the trial moved to the Roma Sports Complex in Frankfort, Illinois, making it easier on the trial committee members from Illinois. Entries have consistently totaled more than 900 runs/trial.

The charity trial offers many added features for competitors, including:

- Time 2 Beat class to the handler's music choice
- Premier Cup Awards (The Premier Cup is open to every competitor who enters the Premier classes. Winners receive engraved silver plaques and are determined by the cleanest runs and the fastest combined times.)
- High in Trial by Jump Height Class
- Veterans Parade for senior dogs not entered in the trial
- Annual Raffle/Silent Auction
- Lemonade/Ice Coffee Stand (An exhibitor runs

this and donates all proceeds, more than \$470 this year.)

“That Is Something!”

But an added titling opportunity proved to be a big hit at this year's fundraiser. AKC Trick Dog testing was offered to exhibitors, and more than 80 dogs showed off their tricks, bringing in nearly \$850.

Agility judge Lisa Potts came up with the idea of giving handlers something else to try with their dogs. Potts has been a judge since 1998 and is also an AKC Canine Good Citizen/Trick Dog evaluator.

“Being that this is a benefit type of event, I was looking to come up with a way that I could help the cause,” Potts said. “I thought this would be a fun thing to offer because any dog-and-handler team could participate.”

Participants included those agility handlers who brought along their young dogs, not eligible for com-

petition yet, and their older dogs who are retired from agility.

“These senior dogs were so excited to be back in the ring,” Potts said.

“A number of folks came into my Trick Dog ring, stating ‘I am not sure what this is all about, but my friend told me to come over here and try it.’ These ended up being very satisfied customers,” Potts said. “One of the funniest quotes of the day was ‘I bombed every agility run today, but we earned a Trick Dog Title, so that is something!’ ”

Many people donate services to cut down on expenses and make sure as much money as possible goes to the cause. Rudolph donates her agility secretary services, and others also go the extra mile.

“This trial is an act of love. One handler creates a beautiful backdrop for photos. An area agility judge took over hospitality, and exhibitors help by bringing in salads and desserts. A

FEATURE

club member who took over the raffle/silent auction also donates the use of the agility equipment. The ring is not air-conditioned, so another exhibitor brings in four giant fans. People who are not associated with the club or trial volunteer their time and talent because the cause means so much to them.”

This year’s Sporting Classic trial raised \$9,345. But clubs in Iowa and Wisconsin held their own fundraisers, bringing the total for June to more than \$20,000.

Postscript

Rudolph lost Charger when he was two months shy of his 13th birthday. Since he was part of the clinical trial, a necropsy was performed and determined that he remained cancer free.

“It turned out that sometime in his life, a foreign object lodged in his lungs, and his body created scar tissue around it. Unfortunately, the scar tissue was big enough to rub



Charger

Support the Charge

To donate to the Charge Against Cancer Fund, go to [Make a Gift/University of Wisconsin Foundation](#).

In the top right, click on the Give Now box.

Select *Charge Against Cancer* from the drop-down menu. Follow prompts to complete donation.

against his aorta, eventually wearing a hole in it.”

Rudolph encourages all dog lovers to support canine cancer research.

“Initially in 2010, 14 dogs participated in the clinical trial that Charger was in, but two years after the study ended, he was the only sur-

vivor,” she says. “There is an urgent need for research as more than six million dogs a year will be diagnosed with cancer.”—**P.L.**

Penny Leigh is the director of the AKC Agility League and competes in dog sports with her canine team.



The 1920s was a transitional decade for America, and also for the GAZETTE. By 1923, The magazine was no longer a dry rundown of AKC news in austere columns of black type. The GAZETTE of a century ago was relaunched as a glossy magazine with illustrated features, color art plates, and eye-catching covers.

In this month's slideshow, we present several of our favorite GAZETTE covers from the colorful Jazz Age.



Love that Wet-Dog Smell!

PHILADELPHIA—Highlights from the AKC Diving Dogs Team Challenge, from this summer's USA 250 celebration. 7:14



North vs. South

PHILADELPHIA—Boston goes head-to-head with Nashville in the AKC Agility Team Challenge. 10:26

VIDEOS



A Visit to Topsfield

From the [AKC Canine College](#) Breeder Legacy series: a mini-profile of Dr. Claudia Orlandi, of Topsfield Basset Hounds. 4:57



Airedale Northern Exposure

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN—Eminent Canadian terrier man Joe Lobb judges Best of Breed at the [Wisconsin Airedale Terrier Club](#) specialty. 23:24

VIDEOS



Homer's Dog

Tails of History discusses why a Portuguese Podengo played the faithful Argos in Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey*. 8:22



Canine Royalty

A Gazette Gallery slideshow celebrating the versatility, loyalty, and beauty of German Shepherd Dogs. 1:03



Ernesto Lara

“**H**andlers and their dogs are like boxers and their trainers, or athletes and their coaches. It’s our job to make sure the dog is ready for the show. Their muscle tone, their diet, their grooming—everything has to be ready. We are the nannies, the chauffeurs, nurses, the best friends. We sometimes work for years with the same dog, making sure we are the ultimate team.”

BUD BOCCONE ©2026

BREED COLUMNS

Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)

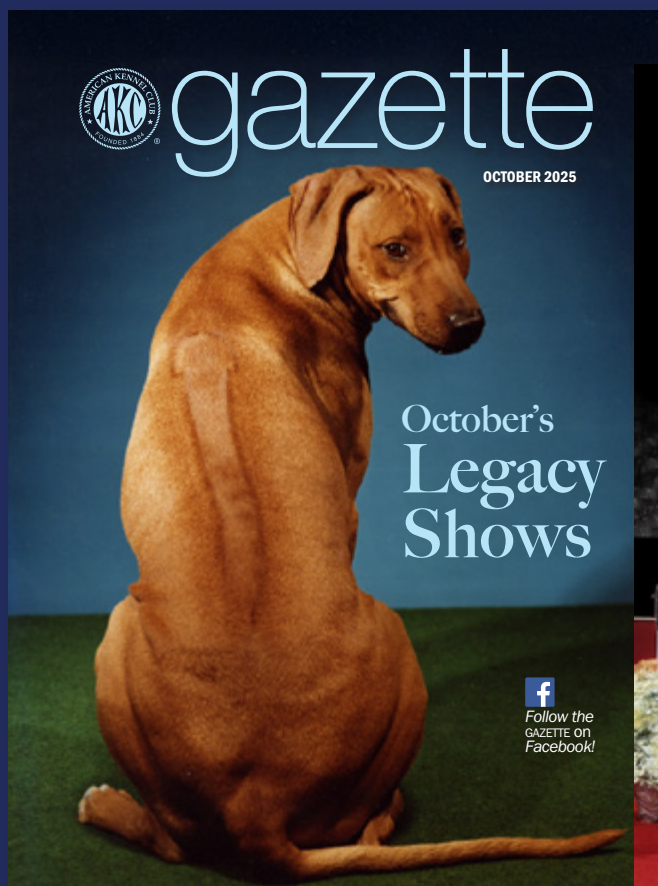


This month's column from the National Shiba Club of America explores the wide world of dog sports available to the breed. Columnist Letty Hughes writes, "This breed is quite easy to train with the handler who understands how a Shiba thinks."

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

ADVERTISE YOUR UPCOMING CLUB EVENT!

NEW AKC GAZETTE AD RATES EXCLUSIVE TO AKC CLUBS!



UPCOMING DEADLINES

OCTOBER ISSUE: September 15 for space reservations and September 17 for materials.
Emailed **October 1**

NOVEMBER ISSUE: October 15 for space reservations and October 16 for materials.
Emailed **November 2**

RATES FOR CLUB ADS

Full Screen \$400
Half Screen \$200
Quarter Screen \$125

AKC advertising contact: Venus Rodriguez | 212.696.8260 | venus.rodriguez@akc.org

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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



THIS MONTH

Toy

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

Non-Sporting

- 56 Bichons Frises
- 58 Boston Terriers
- 59 Bulldogs
- 61 Chinese Shar-Pei
- 63 Chow Chows
- 65 Dalmatians
- 66 Lhasa Apsos
- 68 Norwegian Lundehunds

- 71 Poodles
- 72 Schipperkes
- 74 Shiba Inu
- 76 Tibetan Spaniels
- 77 Tibetan Terriers

Herding

- 79 Bearded Collies
- 81 Belgian Malinois
- 83 Belgian Sheepdogs
- 85 Belgian Tervuren
- 86 Bouviers des Flandres
- 88 Briards
- 90 Collies
- 92 Finnish Lapphunds
- 95 German Shepherd Dogs
- 97 Icelandic Sheepdogs
- 100 Norwegian Buhunds
- 101 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- 103 Pulik
- 105 Shetland Sheepdogs
- 108 Swedish Vallhunds

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

Brussels Griffons

COLORS

Many years ago, an acquaintance brought her friend to my home with her Brussels Griffon. The dog was having skin issues, and she wanted to ask my advice: Was this common in Griffons?

The dog who showed up was a color I had never seen. It was blue-gray, similar to a color you would see in Weimaraners. The coat was not harsh but incorrectly soft and limp. Compared to our wonderful rich reds, shiny black and tans, and blacks and belges, it didn't look very attractive.

But the sad thing was the skin. There were patches on both sides where the coat was thin, and the skin underneath was red and inflamed.

The owner said she'd been to three veterinarians. They had prescribed creams and lotions and pills and given him injections for allergies. Nothing worked.

In my many years of breeding Griffons, I had



never seen this, I told her.

Soon, at the national specialty, I would ask among other breeders for advice. What I found out surprised me.

There were other breeders who had seen this, but never in a red, belge, black, or black and tan. The only colors in which this skin condition appeared were blues and chocolates. Those are dilute colors.

Blue is the dilute of black; chocolate is the dilute of red. For a dog to be dilute, it needs two copies of the

dilute gene. In other words, both dam and sire contribute dilute genes to the puppy.

Recessive genes can show up in any litter. It's why someone can purposely breed together rough coats for many generations, and suddenly a smooth coat puppy appears. Rough is the dominant gene, but recessive smooth genes can be carried along unseen for many generations before, Surprise! these small "r" genes find each other and produce a smooth. That's

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

the wonder of Mendelian genetics.

After the visit of this dilute puppy, I subsequently learned that, according to *The Definitive Brussels Griffon*, by experts Jeffery Bazell and Jeffrey Kestner, “dilutes and some other non-dilute colors carry associative problems such as alopecia or significant hair loss, loss of eyesight, and hearing loss.”

Several years later, a recessive chocolate color puppy showed up in my breeding. It was born to two red rough parents. The chocolate color was immediately obvious at birth, less obvious at 12 weeks when the coat had grown in. A new owner could have purchased the puppy, but knowing the potential for a skin condition, I didn’t sell it. She went to a young veterinarian as his pet and happily joined him at work every day. He knew of the possibility of a skin condition but felt sure he could handle it.

Now, in 2026, there are several chocolate Brussels

Griffons with popular accounts on Instagram. The pigment of their eye-rims and noses is not black but a washed-out liver color. Instead of expressive black eyes, their eyes are yellow, like those of a predatory bird.

Every month, I get requests: “Do you breed chocolate?” or “I am looking for a blue.” Each request gets a long answer, explaining what I’ve written here, that the potential for a health problem means that I will never breed these colors.

Interestingly, dilute color genes do not represent a hazard in many other breeds. As a Whippet breeder, I often saw blue, silver, cream, and rose fawn Whippets with perfectly healthy skin and no unusual medical issues. English Springer Spaniels come in liver. All Weimaraners are gray.

But when buying or breeding a Brussels Griffon, stick to the four approved colors: red, black, belge, and black and tan. No one needs health problems that they

could have easily avoided.

—Sharon Sakson

[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Stephanie Abraham wrote the following in 2011 for the breed’s GAZETTE column.

SIZE IN CAVALIERS

There appears to be a significant discrepancy between what the breeders see as ideal size in the Cavalier and what the standard recommends. Time and again, I hear that the breed is getting too big and too coarse—or too tiny and weedy and lacking in bone. Who is correct—your Tom Thumb, or my Goliath?

Perhaps we need to educate our eye. Sometimes our perceptions are influenced by what we prefer, not by what is correct according to the breed standard. The standard says that ideal size is between 12 and 13 inches at the withers. That little “magic inch” encompasses

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel,
May 2026

a lot of territory! A 12-inch “Tom Thumb” dog is a lot smaller to the eye than is a 13-inch “Goliath”—and if the 13-inch animal is a dog with adequate bone, he may be seen as “huge” by those who prefer the 12-inch size. And if the 12-inch dog happens to stand beside the Goliath, we criticize him as “bitchy.” Both animals absolutely fit the standard’s description, but they are at opposite ends of the size-spectrum it describes.

Likewise, a significant variation in weight is permitted in the standard, which says, *weight proportionate to*

height, between 13 and 18 lbs. That is a *major* variation. A 12-inch, 13-pound dog is going to look a whole lot smaller than a 13-inch, 18-pound animal, but they are both equally acceptable according to the standard, and they should both be equally acceptable to us as breeders and exhibitors. It is perfectly allowable to have preferences, but it is not fair to say that either end of the allotted size/weights is “wrong.”

And just to complicate matters, the standard goes on to say, *these are ideal heights and weights, and slight variations are permissible.* How much variation is too much or too little?

In different regions of the U.S., we see a preponderance of larger or smaller Cavaliers in the ring. Perhaps it indicates that breeders in one area prefer one size or the other, but unfortunately it also means that if you want to exhibit a Cavalier outside of the “norm” for the region, judges may unfairly discrim-

inate against your exhibit because they see a majority of Cavaliers in the ring all conforming to a certain size. Sad but true.

As a breeder, if you surround yourself with animals of one size, you may not keep for show and breeding a better specimen from your litter whom you think is either too large or too small. And heaven help the 13-inch bitch in the mix; she would surely be a Goliath in the eyes of many, but she is perfectly acceptable under the standard if she remains feminine in other characteristics of bone, expression, and so on.

No less a breeder than the late Molly Coaker lamented in 2004, “The thing missing for me is the ‘wow’ factor, so few have this now ... Over the years the lovely outline of the Cavaliers has changed, maybe to do with keeping the small ones in a litter. Size reduction has a lot to answer for ... the bigger dogs with those beautiful heads and outlines seem to be few and far between.”

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

So the next time a Goliath or a Tom Thumb appears before us, we would be well reminded that it is the overall dog and his conformation and temperament—within the standard’s recommended range—that merits our attention. And that sometimes, keeping one who is 11½ inches or 13½ inches is hardly a mortal sin. While we acknowledge that the Cavalier is a toy spaniel, he should be neither minute nor Springerlike. Moderation is all. And while size matters, we should be delighted if that “wow” dog of our future appears as a larger or smaller package. —

Stephanie Abraham

[American Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel Club](#)

Chihuahuas

ELEMENTS OF CHIHUAHUA TYPE

“Are all those dogs the same breed?”

When walking into the Chihuahua show ring, you’ll see a variety of dogs who are so visually different, it’s no

wonder judges are having a hard time choosing the best dog of the day.

Because interpretation of the standard leaves a lot of leeway to the individual breeder, we must breed for *type*. By doing so, we would see less variance in our dogs.

Coat, head, movement, silhouette, and character are some of the elements of type as described in our breed standard.

On these points:

Coat “should be of a soft texture, either flat or slightly wavy, with under-

coat preferred.” Today it appears that the long-coated Chihuahua is “preferred” to have a very full and heavy coat, straying from the original intent of the standard. One dog will have a full, heavy coat, while the dog next to him may have a flat or slightly wavy coat. This tends to confuse judges and ringsiders alike. Sometimes the dog of better conformation, soundness, and type is overlooked for a luscious coat.

Head is defined as having a “well-rounded, ‘apple dome’



Chihuahua Ch. Becky's Angel with Becky Liscum Rossen, mid-1960s

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

skull with a saucy expression.” To some, the head is the all to end all, while to others, it simply sits at the top of the neck. The correct head highlights the dog, and the expression projects the essence of what we look for in our Chihuahuas. It’s the first impression and the final brushstroke in painting the picture of a Chihuahua.

Movement is to be swift, with firm, sturdy action and good reach in front equal to the drive from the rear. From the rear, the hocks remain parallel to each other and the footfall of the rear legs follows directly behind that of the forelegs. There is no hackney gait or high lifting mentioned in our standard.

Many believe that a toy dog cannot move like a sporting dog. Over the years, quality breeders have made huge improvements in the structure of their dogs, and indeed, a Chihuahua can and does move with grace and ease around the ring. This correct movement denotes

correct conformation, yet it goes unrewarded at times for a pretty face in a fur coat.

Silhouette is the physicality of the breed. It is everything that is required by the breed standard. An accomplished groomer can hide a multitude of sins, creating an illusion. A correct outline should denote correctness in parts, so it is important to be sure that what we are looking at is real.

Character is the sum total of the dog’s mental and physical characteristics. It’s the immediate impression of the dog at first sight. It is expressed in not only what the dog looks like but also in how it conducts itself. Breeders need to develop an ability to recognize the ideal Chihuahua character in order to establish a vision of excellence for the breed.

“The pendulum of type swings to and fro, but those remaining true to the standard triumph in the end.”

—Virginia (Jenny) Hauber

[Chihuahua Club of America](#)

Havanese

Our column for this issue is written by Kat Smith.

WHEN WHAT IS ‘RIGHT FOR THEM’ IS THE HARD CHOICE

There’s a notable overlap in horse people and dog people, so many of you probably watched this year’s Kentucky Derby and saw when Great White reared up, flipped over, and was pulled from the race—from the Kentucky Derby!—moments before it began.

If you’re in dog sports long enough, you know exactly how this feels. You worked hard, trained hard, prepped well, the moment has arrived, and ... *oh, nooooo* ...

I did this in February: I entered Westminster with a bitch I had done some nice winning with. It was a much-anticipated trip; I couldn’t wait to be part of the show, see far-flung friends, and get my hands on that “150” merchandise.

While we did pretty well at Progressive, something seemed off with my bitch on

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP



Havanese

Saturday. My friends said she looked great, and I figured she could rest all day Sunday and be good to go at Westminster on Monday.

Monday morning I sat on the bed in the hotel room, looking at the dog I was so excited to show. She wasn't obviously sick, but I just knew something was not right. *Oh, god, I thought. I have to pull her.*

The rationalization began immediately after: But she

would still probably show OK for me, and I wasn't expecting any huge wins anyway. She could snooze in her crate most of the day at the bench. It would be fine, right?

As I sat there, struggling with a lot of emotions, there was one thought that won out: Sometimes, what is right for them will suck for you.

I took a moment to acknowledge that yes, this does indeed suck, then I

tucked her in her crate and went down to the show without her. My friends and I went shopping and had an early cocktail and watched many beautiful dogs, agreeing and arguing over the placements. I was a little sad, but it was a fun day even without stepping into the ring. And I did get my "150" swag!

Two days later, the hacking began, and it was clear my bitch had been brewing kennel cough. Hello, validation. I was glad I hadn't pushed her, and I am sure my competitors were pleased not to have been benched next to her.

It wasn't the first time, and it won't be the last. Over 30 years, I've excused myself from a specialty ring with a seasoned special who was having a bad day; cancelled hotel reservations I made eight months before because I knew the dog wasn't ready to handle it; cut down dogs I would have loved to keep showing; placed much-loved adult dogs I knew would be happier in a less crowded

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

home. Sucks for me. Right for them.

This is a normal part of competing with any animal; they have feelings and needs that are separate from ours and the desires don't always align. It's sometimes bad luck, bad timing, just a passing moment and things get back on track. Sometimes it's more permanent, but not always. When anticipation is high and wins seem within reach, it's hard to hit that wall of disappointment without it feeling like a catastrophe. It's hard not to feel like a failure, even when things weren't your fault.

But the biggest failure in this sport is taking better care of your ego than of your dogs. So sometimes you have to break your own heart to do right by them. But honestly, with all dogs do for us, it seems like the least we can do is pick them up, tell them we love them for who they are, and see how they feel about tomorrow. —K.S.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not

necessarily reflect the views, positions, or policies of the Havanese Club of America.

[Havanese Club of America](#)

Italian Greyhounds

ITALIAN GREYHOUND

TEMPERAMENT

The breed's AKC standard does not mention temperament. However, anyone truly familiar with the Italian Greyhound understands that this is a sighthound, in spite of his small size, and as such, he does not have the same attitude toward life as that of a terrier or a working breed. The IG is a sweet, very affectionate dog who sometimes carries those characteristics to the point of neediness. A happy IG is fun loving and full of enthusiasm for the people and things near and dear to him. He can be quirky and as changeable as the wind. In German his name is *windspiel*, which literally means "play of the wind" or "playing with the wind." He is intelligent and imaginative

but not quite as easily trainable as some other breeds that were created to serve their humans in a specific way.

The IG can be difficult to show, mainly because his affection is focused chiefly on his immediate family and others he knows well, and he is not very interested in entertaining strangers. That means he is not fond of being expected to behave like a puppet on a string, constantly and eagerly responding to the bidding of his handler with mobile, alerting ears and rapt attention to bait or a squeaky toy. Neither is he likely to immediately connect with a judge, who is a stranger to him.

Sometimes an Italian Greyhound will react negatively to a judge going over his body with heavy hands—or cold ones—by backing away. This is typical sighthound behavior, and judges who understand this mindset will not fault a dog for it—at least they shouldn't.

That is not to say that the

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP



Italian Greyhound

dog should have a panic attack when confronted by a stranger or try to jump off the table while being examined, but nor should he be expected to behave as if anyone who approaches him is immediately his best friend.

The typical IG is cordial to strangers but not overly demonstrative with them. Judges of this breed should

always keep that in mind. So should some newcomers to IGs who think they should breed for a tougher, showier, almost terrierlike temperament. Such behavior is not correct for the Italian Greyhound.

Some Italian Greyhounds are reluctant to use their ears when in a strange or new situation. It is well for judges

to remember that the original purpose for alerting ears was to make sure that those ears go into a proper rosed position and not straight up. In other words, it should *not* be a requirement that the ears are operated repeatedly like semaphores.

Nor should the dog be judged on his ability and willingness to do what is essentially a “happy tap-dance” in order to be considered worthy. Most IG owners have chosen this breed for its interesting and individualistic behavior as well as its natural, streamlined beauty. Neither the appearance nor the behavior should be required to undergo any artificial change in order for the dog to be shown successfully. —

Lilian S. Barber, 2011

[Italian Greyhound Club of America](#)

Japanese Chin

REFLECTIONS ON THE NATIONAL

As I write this, I am sitting in the airport after

STEPHANIE ELLIEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

leaving the Japanese Chin Club of America's 2026 national, and I am struck by many things.

This is the first time that I have ever gone to a dog show without a dog with me. It felt super weird and kind of lonely being dog-less. Yet I enjoyed a sense of calm ... I wasn't having any of those jitters I so often feel about going into the ring. Therefore, I was able to really enjoy and notice things that I have never been able to before.

This wasn't my first national; I've been to several across many breeds. It's not even my first for Japanese Chin, but this one was different.

There are so many things you can and cannot control at a dog show. One thing you can't manage or control is the venue—such as whether or not the Koi pond that you were excited to have all of the finishing photos in front of is suddenly drained so the pools can be refurbished, and the Koi are all in a huge wooden box



Prizes, Best in Specialty winner, and welcome sign from the Japanese Chin Club of America 2026 national, held in Houston August 19–20.

at the end of the beautiful, sweeping atrium.

You can control your own temperament and how you react to things that might happen. The dryer breaks, you can't find your dog's lucky lead ...

For the most part, you can control your own dog: You have trained him and acclimated him to the show ring. You can manage the incredibly beautiful ribbons and trophies. You can manage knowing where everything is, and be able to hand it to the judge before she even needs it. And that's what happened, and it was wonderful.



The national this year was, of course, a display of impossibly beautiful dogs who look like they float on air, parading around in a ring. It was also a display of human kindness and openness to conversation and opportunity to learn.

I observed and learned from expertise in the grooming area, taking note

COURTESY JAPANESE CHIN CLUB OF AMERICA

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

of techniques I was excited to try at home. There was even a judging education forum that I was very excited to partake in. I've read the Japanese Chin standard a million times and spent hours outside of the ring, watching judges and handlers. After this course, having things explained the way they were by the educators, along with the hands-on portion, I feel I have a deeper understanding of our breed. It was also enlightening to see so many dogs, all of whom are correct and within standard, yet where the difference between each one can be quite striking. If you have an opportunity to take part in a judges' education forum, I strongly encourage you to do so!

I chatted with people who have far more experience than me—sometimes legends in this breed. I also talked with people who are new to the breed and new to showing, and it helped me become a better handler and a better person in general,

knowing that now I finally have something to give back.

If you ever have the chance to attend a specialty for any breed, please do! There is so much you can learn from others.

As for the Japanese Chin, well, this breed is special, and perhaps that rubs off on their people as well. Congratulations to all the winners and to those who made it all happen. Well done!

—Karen L.M. Wolfer

[Japanese Chin Club of America](#)

Miniature Pinschers

INTERVIEW WITH LARRY AND PENNY DEWEY PART ONE

Using the question bank provided by the AKC Parent Club Committee, I have been working to collect interviews with our legacy breeders. This is my third interview of the series. Our interviewees are Larry and Penny Dewey. The Deweys have been breeding and competing with their Ruffian Miniature Pinschers for over 40 years.

How many years have you been in your breed?

We acquired our first Min Pin in 1978 from Carol Garrison of Carlee Miniature Pinschers. We had our first litter in 1980.

Please share some of the achievements of your breeding program.

We had over 50 Ruffian Miniature Pinscher homebred champions in limited breeding. We were the Toy Group Breeder of the Year in 2018. Breeder-owner-handled BIS BISS Ch. Ruffian's Starbuck was number-one Min Pin in 1984, with two all-breed BIS and several group firsts, including one from breeder-judge Mr. E.W. Tipton. Starbuck is also a HOF sire. We bred BIS Ch. Ruffian's Cruise Control, owned by Carol Anderson. We are proud of being recognized by our peers with a Dog World Award, and we both have received the Good Sportsmanship Award from the MPCA. Larry is a retired AKC judge of

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP



A few of the Ruffian Miniature Pinschers of Larry and Penny Dewey; right, Larry with national specialty Best of Breed win.

Min Pins, IGs, Chihuahuas, Great Danes, and Juniors.

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

In recent years, we have not been breeding; we have co-owned and handled outstanding dogs with breeder friends. Thanks to these friends for trusting us with these dogs. We had the pleasure to co-own and show GCh. Aztex March-On Buddha & The Chocolate Box (Sidd) to an all-breed BIS and back-to-back national specialties in 2017 and 2018, bred and owned by Chris and Dan Bayless. We also co-owned and showed Ch. Windwalker

Call in the Clowns (Emmett), bred and owned by Bobbie Mills Bowhay, to an all-breed BIS. Our good friend in Florida Mr. Armando Angelbello has been kind to give us promising Min Pins to keep us in the sport we love.

How would you describe Miniature Pinscher temperament?

Fearless attitude. Tail up. They are so alert in the ring that if they key on anything outside the ring, it is hard to get their attention back.

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

Min Pins are adaptable.

I would like to see a fenced yard, but apartments are OK if you realize they can be escape artists. We always warn new owners of that talent.

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

Larry and I are in our 80s, so we have not done any breeding for a number of years. We feel we can benefit our breed now by occasionally showing and mentoring when we have the opportunity. We have been conducting the seminars for judges' education at the national for a number of years, and arranging

COURTESY LARRY AND PENNY DEWEY

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

mentors for the Orlando shows. We will be assisting with the breed presentation in Houston at the NRG shows with Dog Judges of America. Larry has been the Health and Research Chair since its inception. We hope to continue serving our breed as long as possible.

What made you choose your breed?

We wanted a healthy toy dog, so we went to the Astro Series of dog shows to investigate what breed we might be looking for. The Min Pin fit what we wanted. We attended seminars on breeding, reading pedigrees, etc. Then we obtained the best Min Pin bitch we could find at Carlee Miniature Pinschers in Florida. We finished her, and in our second litter she produced multiple all-breed BIS and BISS Ch. Ruffian's Starbuck, #1 Min Pin in 1984 breeder-owner-handled. Bucky was also a Hall of Fame sire.

What has been your greatest challenge while

breeding/showing?

Carol Carrison's bitch Ch. Carlee Love Unlimited (Ruffy) was a great start. She had lift and lovely head, neck, nice front, and good rear. She was a little soft in the topline at the withers, so we looked for a stud dog with a good topline. We bred to Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough, and they produced two ABIS winners and several group and specialty winners. We continued to strive for Min Pins that fit the standard until we quit breeding.

Which breeders in the past/present do you admire?

Carol Garrison, our mentor; Linda Talbot, Shajawn Min Pins; and Barbara Stamm, March-On Min Pins. There are many breeders at the present time we admire. We loved what John McNamara's style brought to our breed. He had very elegant dogs.

(To be continued.)

—Joanne Wilds, Vice President/Delegate

[Miniature Pinscher Club of America](#)

Papillons

PAPILLON TEMPERAMENT

Papillons are lively, gay, expressive, and affectionate little creatures. They are “people dogs” who possess a sweet, endearing temperament and make ideal companions. They are wonderful little ambassadors of the canine world with their beauty, elegance, grace, and exceptional intelligence.

In this diminutive body is one of the smartest of all dogs, with cognitive skills that enable them to solve problems, work as service dogs to the handicapped, and excel in competitive sports—obedience, agility, rally, flyball, and even tracking—just to name a few of their many talents. They often learn their routines so well that they anticipate your next command. This can be frustrating, especially when you're competing in obedience events. You may even have to spell things out or use code words, because your Papillon is smarter than the average 2-year-old. They anticipate when you

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP



will hang up the phone just when they hear the simple phrase “all right.” For them, it’s their cue to bark, because they’re telling you they want to go out!

As a Papillon owner, you also have to be prepared for a dog with a lot of personality. Yes, they are fun to be with, if you like to be active and to have a shadow following you 24/7. They want to be with you, so you need to keep them busy, since most will not be satisfied left relegated to the backyard to play alone. You will either find them sitting and waiting for you at the door or,

if they are the demanding type, jumping up and down and barking commands to let them come in!

Yes, they will rule you if you let them, and if they are left to their own devices without reprimanding. They need gentle and consistent training to curtail any bad habits. It is equally important to praise them for their cleverness and for being the wonderful, brilliant little creatures they are.

Because they are smart, they will learn quickly. Clicker training works well, and you can imprint their good behavior with a click and treat.

Never feed into a Papillon being possessive or allow one to show his teeth or even growl. If not nipped in the bud, this type of behavior would be detrimental to your relationship with your dog. A Papillon needs to have a leader whom he can look up to and respect, otherwise he might try to rule you. It would be quite atypical of a Papillon to go the extreme, to be overly possessive or show aggression, or worst yet, become a fear-biter. Any such negative behavior is not the norm of this breed and must be corrected immediately.

Initially, Papillons can be cautious in new situations. However, they should quickly recover from any hesitancy and be outgoing and confident, especially if they have been well socialized and raised in a loving environment. They will not be afraid to meet new people, other dogs, or explore strange places, different surroundings and meet new challenges.

Paps don’t think they are

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

small, and they appear fearless around larger dogs. You can never be too careful, as they are apt to challenge a bigger dog. Sighthounds pose another problem, because they instinctively see with their peripheral vision. To a sighthound, a Papillon's quick movement and his furry body and big ears may make him appear rabbitlike, and not like another dog. —

Roseann Fucillo

[Papillon Club of America](#)

Shih Tzu

COAT TEXTURE

There is a wonderful reason to breed for proper coat texture—it will make your life easier! Experienced breeders in an online discussion agreed that the better the coat texture, the less work it is. Correct hair therefore saves grooming time, as well as a lot of money spent on expensive hair-care products designed to improve coat texture.

Some breeders feel we seldom see the sturdy, easy-to-care-for coats that were

common in the decade or so after the breed's AKC recognition. These coats had a strong topcoat that could tolerate a lot of abuse and a non-wooly undercoat that didn't mat every time you simply looked at it cross-eyed.

For a long time, we tended to take such coats for granted and to pretty much ignore coat texture in our breeding programs. Today we drool over the idea of being able to brush a show dog only twice a week and bathe him every three weeks, or to keep a retired show dog (or one sold as a pet) in full coat, perhaps trimming the hair on the head and stripping out some of the undercoat. As one breeder commented, what a joy it was to watch a Shih Tzu roll on his back on a Berber carpet and leap up mat-free!

The breed standard describes the breed's coat as *dense, long, and flowing*. This is a double-coated breed, but breeders in the online discussion felt that the soft, puffy double coat that refuses to drape is just as incorrect as



Shih Tzu, February 2024

the Maltese-type single coat that flows beautifully. Several people said that the flowing single coats are often very fragile, and that even single coats can sometimes be wooly and dense.

While the loss of the easy-to-care-for coats of yore has forced breeders to pay more attention to coat texture in their breeding programs, an incorrect coat isn't the most important fault one encounters as a breeder or a judge. (And, as a judge, it's sometimes pretty hard to determine a coat's natural texture after it has been enhanced with grooming

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

products.) Most of those involved in the discussion thread felt that good health and proper temperament, plus the correct conformation underneath all that hair, should weigh more heavily than a pretty coat. And to a man (or woman), they'd choose the coat that was easiest to care for! —*Jo Ann White, 2010*

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

Toy Fox Terriers

THE START OF IT ALL

“**S**ugar and spice.” Those words from the nursery rhyme definitely describe the Toy Fox Terrier. The first line of the Toy Fox breed standard sums it up: “The Toy Fox Terrier is truly a toy and a terrier and both have influenced his personality and character.” The second line says how being both encompass their personality: “... as a toy he is diminutive, and devoted with an endless abiding love for his master,” and “as a terrier, the Toy Fox Terrier possesses keen intelligence,

courage, and animation.”

Toy Fox Terriers were bred down from Smooth Fox Terriers in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Folklore has it that as the Fox Terrier became more popular for hunting, the smallest ones were sought out for life on the farm, being excellent rat-ters and mousers and great family companions. These smallest ones, often the “runts” of the litters, were then bred with the intention to bring down size even further. The typical Smooth Fox Terrier is a dog which in those years weighed 18 to 20 pounds. The current Toy Fox Terrier averages between 5 and 9 pounds, and the early variations of the breed standard prior to AKC acceptance limited dogs to 7 pounds.

This is the part of the history of the breed that everyone agrees on. From there, the accounts of historians and breed enthusiasts diverge, with some believing that today's Toy Foxes are only bred down from their larger cousins with

no crosses to other breeds. Others believe that some early developers of the breed used Chihuahuas and Toy Manchester Terriers. There is even a book where the author asserts Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Italian Greyhounds were thrown into the mix. Breed historians discount those assertions, and we can be fairly certain those two breeds did not contribute to the development of the Toy Fox Terrier.

The most widely agreed-upon history of the Toy Fox Terrier is that the “runts” of the breed were desirable and were used to bring down the size. There were some early breeders who used Chihuahuas as well, and today that resulting “apple head” is considered a serious fault. In order to correct the resulting head shape and protruding, overly large eyes that would be damaged going down a hole in the ground after prey, those early breeders then crossed in the Toy Manchester Terrier.

While some breed historians assert these two

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP



Toy Fox Terriers were popular in the early 1900s as circus and vaudeville performers—and today these lively, intelligent dogs continue to enjoy a wide range of activities and adventures with their families.

breeds were not utilized, there is sufficient evidence such that the fledgling Toy Fox Terrier breed club in the mid-1950s issued warn-

ings to breeders to halt the practice of crossing these other breeds into the Toy Fox Terrier bloodlines. Additionally, as proof that

other breeds were incorporated into the development, the current Toy Fox Terrier no longer has the “terrier front,” coat, ears, or headpiece of the

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

Smooth Fox Terrier. If it was simply bred down in size, it would be a duplicate of it in a smaller version, and it is not; the Toy Fox Terrier is a distinctively different breed.

In addition to being sought out as rodent hunters and family dogs, Toy Fox Terriers were popular in the early 1900s as circus and vaudeville performers. Valued for their intelligence, agility, and fearless nature, these “trick dogs” entertained crowds by performing acrobatics, walking tightropes, and riding ponies in regional “dog and pony” shows across the U.S. That agility and trainability now make them exceptional dogs for AKC sports.

Today, the Toy Fox Terrier excels as a loyal, intelligent, and versatile toy-sized companion who enjoys laps and adventures and is ready to participate in all activities with his family.

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

NON-SPORTING

Bichons Frises

BE YOUR PUP'S SAFETY NET

Socializing a puppy can be a double-edged sword. You want your pup to be exposed to a variety of places, people and things, but you don't want to overwhelm or scare them. When you first get your baby puppy, usually between 8 and 12 weeks, they are like little sponges for learning about the world around them, but often they go through a fear period right around that time. Choosing places and experiences to give your pup the best chance to learn without fear or overwhelm is key.

One pitfall many of us get trapped in is thinking we need to spend every waking moment introducing our puppies to all the new things. Not only is this overwhelming for the puppy, but it makes being a new pet owner feel like training is way too hard. Stop and think how you learn best. It's probably when you are well-rested. It's probably when you study or read in small

periods of time. The same is true of puppies.

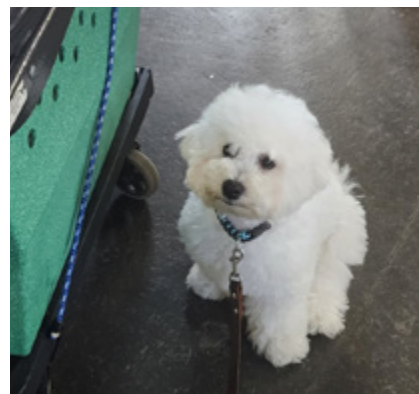
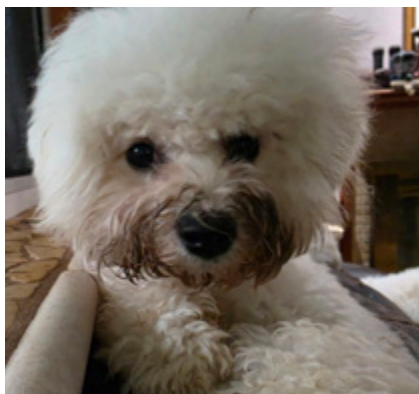
If you are going to take your puppy on socialization outings, make them short and not necessarily every day. There are new experiences your pup can have without ever leaving your yard. At only 8, 10, 12, and 14 weeks, there's a big world out there to explore.

Greet it with small approximations like you would for any other training. Don't take your pup with you to Home Depot when you are shopping for an entire project; take them on a day you are just picking up a drill bit or some light bulbs, or nothing at all. Walk through the aisles for a few minutes, let them greet a shopper or staff member or two, hear some new sounds, then head out for the ride home.

Think about finding places where you have escape routes. Have a plan to “get out of Dodge” quickly. Too many people trying to greet the puppy, and the puppy looks like they want to bolt? Make an excuse and move

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Young Bichon Frise experiencing the world: (1) Guinevere is learning about gardening each time she goes into the yard; (2) Gish and Doro camping at a dog show and watching “RV TV”; (3) Puck observing the dogs and people at a dog show.

on. Someone won't leave the pup alone and you're pretty sure the pup is “done”? Make an excuse and head for the door. Puppy shrinks away or startles at the noise made by a saw or forklift? Back up to put distance between the pup and the scary thing, let them watch from farther away, or put yourself between pup and the scary thing.

Don't stifle any curiosity they might still have; just offer the protection of distance or minor body-blocking. Let that curiosity lead them to watch, learn, and become accustomed to new things. And always, always, advocate

for your puppy. If someone doesn't take no for an answer, it is your job to repeat the no, and act to get your pup away.

If it feels like a few minutes at a dog-friendly store is not enough, think about all the other things your dog is being socialized to every day. New toys, sounds from the radio or the neighborhood, birds in the backyard, neighbors chatting over the fence, different surfaces under their paws, friends coming over, new smells from the kitchen—all of these are things your pup is learning about throughout the day. Every time they are awake, they are learn-

ing. Every little training session you do for name recognition, drop it, or simple manners, your pup is learning not only new behaviors but also new social cues. Setting a puppy up for positive experiences and encouraging them while still letting them feel protected translates to confidence and comfort in the show ring and performance venues.

You are your puppy's safety net. It cannot be stated strongly enough. You provide love, sustenance, and shelter. That's your duty as a good pet owner. But your main job, really your only job, is to

COURTESY CHERIE EKHOLM

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

advocate on behalf of your dog.

—Cherie Ekholm,
wrappedupindogs@outlook.com

Bichon Frise Club of America

Boston Terriers

UNDERSTANDING JUDGES' DECISIONS

The information and stories shared are true from observation and life-learned experiences. The names used are from breeders and judges who have passed away, and a few whose names will not be used because they are still judging. Sometimes a person has to live long enough to make mistakes before learning what not to do. Instead of criticizing people and judges, they need to figure out why they made their decision.

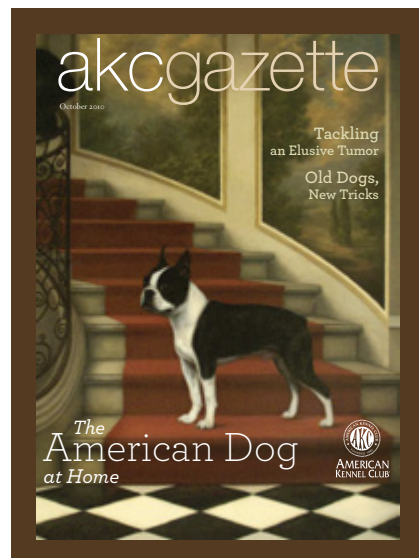
Following a judge's instructions seem to be hard for some people. It doesn't matter how silly it is, because the judge is in control of the ring, and their

decisions matter if you want to win.

John F. Johnson, my late husband, showed top-winning champions for 35 years. He was enjoying talking to friends at ringside, and the judge was explaining her ring procedure, which was not to cross over a chalk-line she had on the floor. The only thing he had paid attention to was when to go in the ring. He never noticed the chalk line and crossed over it, which infuriated the judge that he couldn't follow orders.

For the past few days John had won Best of Breed, so some of the other champions decided not to show. There were only two other champions in the ring who hadn't placed at all. This was their lucky day, as the saying goes. Every dog has their day. The shock of reality set in when he didn't win anything. John couldn't believe losing because of not paying attention.

At the end of the day, Johnny went to apologize and said he couldn't believe



Boston Terrier, October 2010

crossing a line mean so much, and laughed. He couldn't believe what she then said: "You don't have to show under me again!"

He replied by giving her a hug, saying she was a good judge, and he would have enough sense to follow her rules next time. Later he did show, win, and they became friends.

The moral to the story is, the best dog may not win if instructions aren't followed.

Sportsmanship at ringside is so important. Judges seeing you rant and rave about not winning and talking about them in an

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

unpleasant way may result in your being penalized for disruptive behavior. Remember, they are in charge of inside and outside of ring. At one show the judge stopped the show and had barking dogs removed from the area because they were upsetting the dogs in her ring.

Also, don't ask the judge why you didn't win. You should know why—and if not, be a good sport and congratulate the winner. Show you have class.

Never stare at the judge as if to say, "I am supposed to win." The only time a judge will smile and enjoy the look is when a dog takes control and stares, saying I'm the only winner in this ring.

Some judges prefer small dogs and others large, but both can still fit the standard. A husband told his wife the class dog couldn't win over the champions, so no need to show the 12-pound Boston, hoping to finish its championship. The judge was a toy breeder and loved little good-moving

dogs with great personalities. The little dog finished, going Best of Breed over all the champions. The wife didn't see her husband for two hours and didn't know if she'd have to find a ride home.

There was a judge who hated bait in the ring—he put a sign outside ringside stating that. I've seen him not considered really good dogs because a handler couldn't follow the rules.

The saying remembered most was an exhibitor who complained about a husband and wife winning everything that day. The judge's reply: "This is not a birthday party—not everyone gets a piece of the cake!"

New judges will make mistakes because they are still learning. Embrace them as a friend, letting them know you are there to help them. The old-time breeders did this. Go to the ring early and watch ring procedure—this way you will know what the judge expects.

If you feel the judge is

really bad and the kennel club keeps hiring them, do what the old-timers did: No one enters that day under the judge but shows in all the other shows. You do have this right. You don't have the right to enter and then show disrespect. Right or wrong, the judge is in charge.

—Patricia S. Johnson, BTCA, BTCNC, and DWAA

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

[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

Bulldogs

IF NOT US, THEN WHO?

For centuries, the Bulldog's distinctive characteristics were reinforced by the purpose for which the breed existed. Whether through necessity, selection, or both, generation after generation preserved a remarkably recognizable Bulldog long before formal breed standards existed.

Today, that original purpose no longer guides

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



breeding decisions. We do.

We breed Bulldogs for the show ring, performance arenas and, most importantly, companionship. The responsibility that once belonged to function and ability now rests entirely with those entrusted with the breed: to preserve its unique characteristics while maintaining good health and the stable, affectionate temperament for which it is cherished.

The Bulldog survived the transition from working dog to companion because enough people recognized that its distinctive form was worth preserving even after its original purpose disap-

peared. Every generation since has faced some version of the same question.

In the early 1800s, it was: Should this dog continue to exist? Today, it is: Should this dog continue to look like a Bulldog?

Every purebred dog exists because someone believed its defining characteristics were worth preserving. If those entrusted with the Bulldog no longer protect the qualities that distinguish it from every other breed, who will?

Many people love Bulldogs. Many people own Bulldogs. Many people breed Bulldogs. But only

a relatively small number deliberately breed toward the Bulldog standard, generation after generation. Those are not the same thing.

There are people who produce Bulldogs, and there are people who preserve Bulldogs. Those descriptions may sound similar, but they represent fundamentally different undertakings.

Producing puppies maintains numbers. Preserving type keeps the breed alive.

Without thoughtful preservation, the Bulldog will not disappear overnight. Instead, it will slowly become something else: a little less layback, a subtly altered muzzle and jaw, a slightly different front, more length of leg, less pear shape, or a head that is less distinctly Bulldog.

Each change may seem insignificant by itself. But breed type is rarely lost through one dramatic decision. It is lost gradually, one small concession at a time, until the dog may still carry the name Bulldog but no longer reflects the breed

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

that generations before us worked so deliberately to establish.

The Bulldog we inherited was not an accident. It is the result of nearly two centuries of breeders, judges, and fanciers committed to a shared vision. We are merely its current custodians. The choices we make now will determine what future breeders, judges, exhibitors, and families inherit from us.

Preservation does not mean preserving faults, ignoring health or resisting improvement. Preservation and health are not opposing goals. Our obligation is to pursue health, soundness and stable temperament within recognizable Bulldog type—not to redesign the breed according to convenience, fashion, or outside preference.

That responsibility must outweigh any immediate goal, whether producing a unique appearance, satisfying a market, winning quickly, or following whatever preference is currently popular.

Breeding toward the established standard may increase our chances of success in the show ring, but winning is not its greater purpose. The standard is our shared blueprint. It describes the characteristics that collectively make a Bulldog unmistakably a Bulldog, and gives each generation a common understanding of what it has been entrusted to preserve.

Before planning a litter, each breeder should ask:

Am I merely producing Bulldogs, or am I preserving them?

Am I serving only the present, or am I doing my best to protect and strengthen this breed for those who will inherit it?

Every generation receives the Bulldog from those who came before. Every generation decides what the next one will receive.

If not us, then who?

Good luck to everyone competing at the BCA national in Peoria, Illinois, October 25–31.

—Elizabeth Hugo Milam,

celticdogges@me.com

[Bulldog Club of America](#)

Chinese Shar-Pei

TYPES OF COAT IN THE BREED

The name of this breed, the Chinese Shar-Pei, tells you two things: they originated in China, and their coat texture should be harsh. *Shar-Pei* means “sandy coat,” which refers to texture, the roughness of it (they are to be very prickly—no animal will want a mouthful of that.) When I breed and judge, it is one of the most important things to me, because it is literally the breed’s name.

The breed has three coat lengths, two of which are shown and one which is not. The horsec coat is very short and looks like velvet, though it should not feel like velvet. Many owners report the pricks it makes when they hug or bathe their horsec coat. This is the original coat that came to this country. Then there is the brush coat, which still should not exceed an inch, so not a “long” coat by

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

any means. Originally there was no undercoat, but many years ago that was removed from the standard. That said, the coat still must be harsh and off-standing. This is the predominant length in the show rings, because after the breed entered the AKC show rings, that was the coat that got the most rewards.

And finally, there are Shar-Pei who have what is called a bearcoat—it is long, sometimes very long (still typically off-standing and harsh). This may come from the street dogs used to save the breed in the 1960s, or perhaps from some Chow mixes long, long ago. The very first one I saw had no undercoat but had a black, off-standing coat that was about four inches. She looked like a porcupine! I've never seen one like her again (this was in 1984, and through a rescue group).

No matter the length, the coat texture should be harsh, and there are some personality traits that tend to travel with coat lengths (not all of any coat is like this,



but it does seem most are). Horsecoats are often more aloof, more intelligent, and more all-purpose farm dog. Brushcoats are a bit more easygoing and less intense. And bearcoats tend to be very laid back—smart, but not worried about proving it!

The breed was in a very precarious place for our original horsecoat some years ago, when the impact of the AKC judges was such that there were very few horsecoats being shown, and many breeders had never had or bred for horsecoats. I recall being asked to help evaluate a litter because

the breeder wanted to keep a good horsecoat but had never raised them and didn't know how to evaluate them. The club had to start re-educating judges that horsecoats are *not* "lesser than" but equal to!

It is also shocking how much half an inch of hair can change perception. There were nearly identical brothers, same in height, length, and weight, yet the judge's eye was saying the brush was bigger, with better head and bone. So our Judges' Education committee started explaining that a judges' eyes can be deceived,

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

and a correct Shar-Pei will have the correct coat texture, pigment, movement, topline, and so on. Judges responded with interest, and we now see more horsecoats in the ring, and winning.

Breeders responded with renewed interest and have worked very hard, and I can tell you, as a big fan of all aspects of this breed, that horsecoats have made a *great* comeback, because of breeders and education.

—Karen Kleinhans
DeSilva,

karenjkleinhans@gmail.com
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of
America

Chow Chows

CHOW CHOWS AND THE RAMP

Chow Chows were originally approved by the AKC to be examined on the ramp during conformation judging effective May 2005:

“At the discretion of the judge, the following breeds may be judged on a ramp: Clumber Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Basset Hounds, Whippets, Kerry Blue

Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Bulldogs, Chow Chows and Keeshonds.”

Please note that the use of the ramp for our breed was at the discretion of the judge, not by exhibitor request.

A motion was passed, with a quorum present, at our CCCI 2014 annual general membership meeting, requested the following ramping revision, with over 93 percent voting in favor. The Board of Directors then met, with a quorum present, and voted to adopt this motion that was passed by the membership, and this request was made to the AKC:

The Chow Chow Club, Inc requests that the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club amend the policy for the ramping of Chow Chows so that ramping is required for all levels of competition. The Board AKC approved the Chow Chow Club’s request, and effective January 1, 2015, the breed was required to be judged on the ramp through



Chow Chow

all levels of competition held at conformation dog shows.

These important decisions resulted in several notable benefits for our Chow Chows, the judges and the exhibitors.

Chow Chows are now trained for examination on the ramp and may have gone into group competition with limited experience with examination on the ground. Correct and thorough examination on the ground may have been difficult and uncomfortable for the dog and the judge, occasionally having the effect of compromising the balance of either the dog or judge and resulting in an unsafe, disadvantageous experience.

COURTESY LOVE BANGHART

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

All Chow Chow breed-specific disqualifications are on the dog's head.

Disqualifications: Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which breaks at any point from its base to its tip or which is not carried stiffly erect but lies parallel to the top of the skull. Nose spotted or distinctly other color than black, except in blue Chows which may have solid blue or slate noses and cream Chows which may have a range of nose colors. The top surface or edges of the tongue red or pink or with one or more spots of red or pink.

The evaluation for any of these disqualifications necessitates an accurate evaluation of the head. The ramp provides the elevation for a thorough examination of the head; especially eyes and pigment of the mouth.

The Chow standard states: "Because of its deep-set eyes, the Chow has limited peripheral vision and is best approached from the front." The breed may have problems with the eyes that

are much easier to evaluate when the dog is elevated on the ramp, which puts the dog on a level that allows the judge to perform a complete examination without having to lean over the dog and puts the judge into the scope of the dog's vision. Examination on the ramp allows full appreciation of the expression, structure and character of the head—an important element of breed type.

The Chow standard states: "Keen intelligence, an independent spirit and innate dignity give the Chow an aura of aloofness. It is a Chow's nature to be reserved and discerning with strangers." Use of the ramp provides a more comfortable and safe experience for the judge, dog and exhibitor.

Overall balance. To correctly assess the balance of a chow, the judge must use their hands in order to minimize the perception created by coat. If the judge compares the distance from the top of the body coat over the withers to the bottom of the

coat under the chest, with the amount of leg that is visible from the bottom of the coat under the chest to the ground, a well coated dog may look short on leg. This effect is magnified on the smaller chows and it may well be the coat that gives this perception, therefore it is essential that in assessing the balance of leg to body, the judge must use their hands to accurately determine the proportions of the body. This exam is much easier when the dog is on a ramp.

The Chow is required to have a relatively straight rear leg with the hocks and rear feet under the hip joints and with sound hock structure. Again, this is much easier to assess if the dog is elevated rather than when the dog is on the ground. At outdoor shows in grass, the ramp makes it is easier to assess the dog's balance and foot structure

With an ever-increasing number of senior exhibitors and judges, the ramp makes presenting and examining the

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

dog easier for both parties.

Since Bulldogs were already a mandatory ramp breed and are in the same group as the Chow Chow, the superintendent may schedule Chows in the same ring as the Bulldogs, thus there will be no additional work for the superintendents. The addition of Chow Chows to be judged on the ramp at all levels of competition would in no way cause delay of a show.

We thank the AKC and the devoted CCCI members who worked to implement this appreciated regulation.

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

Dalmatians

PUPPY LOVE

Dogs are called “man’s best friend” for a perfect reason. Their devotion to us is unmatched in the animal kingdom. They love us totally and unconditionally for their entire lives. I once heard someone say, “Dogs are a chapter in our

lives, but to them we’re their entire book.” Perfectly said.

I literally don’t know where mankind would be without them. One-hundred-plus years ago, their jobs were fairly basic: they hunted with and for us, helped us on farms, and they went to war with us. And our beloved breed, the Dalmatian, has worked as a fire dog, ensuring their ongoing status as mascots to firefighters. As times have changed, so have their duties. Now we have detection dogs that focus on bombs and drugs, medical-assistance dogs, search and rescue, disease detection, and emotional therapy dogs. They are there for us in countless ways, working willingly and wholeheartedly.

But in my mind (and heart), the single biggest and most important job they have is to simply love us with quiet and complete devotion. And they are so open and honest in the ways they let us know what we mean to them.

If I may paraphrase the poet Elizabeth Barrett

Browning ... how do they love us? Let me count the ways.

They touch us. As pack animals, it’s important to them to be in close contact. If you look at a pile of puppies, you will see how important the sense of touch is to them. As family, they extend that same important bond to us. See how your dog *needs* your presence and will find some way to lie with you, by you, and even on top of you. You are their security.

They show so much delight when they see you after a separation—whether it’s been 20 minutes or two days, their joy is the same and undiluted.

They’re completely relaxed with us. Their trust in us is so far-reaching they look to us for comfort when they need security. Their eyes soften, their ears droop, and they maintain eye contact—all of which indicate the release of the love hormone, oxytocin, into their systems. And strangely enough, it seems they

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

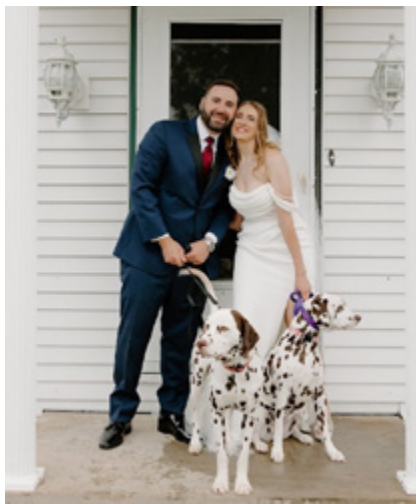


Dalmatians: "The single biggest and most important job they have is to simply love us with quiet and complete devotion."

produce that same effect in us.

They follow us everywhere. They would follow us to the farthest ends of the earth, but their favorite place is the bathroom, confident they know we need them even there.

They share their most



important belongings with you, from their favorite toys to your stinky shoes and socks. And if they destroy your shoes and/or socks, take it as a compliment, since they smell so much of *you*.

There are countless other ways they communicate

how much we mean to them, but time and space prevent me from going any longer. Suffice it to say, we are bonded to each other in ways that defy explanation or words. So, remember to remind them just what and how much they mean to us.

If I may, I will close with a modified quote from Anatole France: "Until one has loved a *dog*, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

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

Lhasa Apsos

THE ART OF MENTORING

Children need parents. Puppies need trainers. Newcomers need mentors. None of us has made it on our own, and sound mentoring of newcomers can help in our quest to secure the future of the breed. The opportunity to help someone is a gift. How this help is offered can either sustain a newcomer's interest or crush their desire to continue.

COURTESY OWNERS / JAN WARREN LINNÉ

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



A mentor may share with a mentee information about his or her own breeding program, and they may provide guidance, motivation, emotional support, and role modeling. A mentor may help with learning pedigrees, evaluating breeding stock, setting goals, and helping with

grooming and training skills.

A mentor's role is as broad or narrow as the mentor and the mentee choose. Some relationships are brief, while others may last years. Some mentees want to learn how a breeder achieved a certain success to further their own vision of the breed; others

might want to partner with a mentor in future endeavors.

A mentor is a guide, like a sherpa who helps climbers summit Mount Everest. An astute mentor evaluates the skill level of the aspiring breeder-exhibitor, starts at their level, and bolsters their shortcomings. Leading someone as they achieve success should be as fulfilling to the mentor as to the mentee.

The aspiring novice has come to this point out of love and hope—love for the breed and dog or dogs they currently have, and a desire to showcase those dogs. Usually, their desire exceeds their knowledge of dogs and the objectivity toward their own dogs to be successful.

Novices need to learn that love of the breed alone is not enough. However, making this a “tough love” experience risks losing them. Guiding someone to recognize that their beloved dog might not be a show or breeding prospect is delicate. Just as you would have a difficult time telling

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

someone their child is physically unattractive, you should take care with your evaluation.

Asking questions rather than making statements perceived as judgements is a good place to begin. “What do you believe are your dog’s strengths?” “What would you improve?” “How do you see yourself doing that?” These can be followed by comments such as “This is what I see ...”—starting with good points, and moving toward what needs to be better.

Two schools of thought prevail on moving forward. If their dog is truly hopeless, they should be encouraged to keep it as a treasured pet and find a show prospect. If their dog has possibilities, pedigree notwithstanding, encourage them to use this dog as a learning opportunity for grooming, training, and presentation. Mistakes will happen and should be treated as learning opportunities rather than catastrophes. “Oops, that didn’t work. Let’s do

it another way.” Treat challenges as opportunities in work clothes.

As the mentee gains knowledge and confidence, it’s time for questions about the future. Are you achieving your goals? Do you feel you are learning? Are you and your dog having fun doing it? If not, is it your dog or you? What do you want to do about it? Take each success, however small, and build on it. This person’s future in the sport is at stake—and so is the future of the breed.

Some newcomers may move from one mentor to another, gleaning the strengths of each. Exploring new opportunities and viewpoints should be encouraged, not resented or discouraged. Tribalism frequently drives away newcomers.

As novices move forward, they might seek a stud service or a puppy to show and breed in the future. I have always believed that it is best to look first at the potential of the person and

their commitment, progress, and personal ethics above the quality of their current dog. You can always improve the dogs; changing people is much harder.

The ultimate reward is when a successful mentee says, “Thank you for trusting me.” —*Cassandra de la Rosa, 2022*

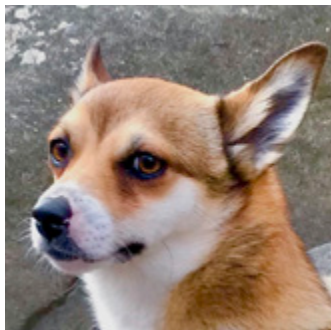
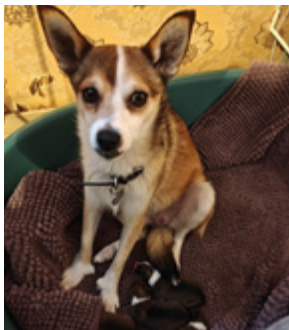
[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

Norwegian Lundehunds THE EYE-CATCHING PUFFIN DOG

Imagine you’re a judge determining which of the two Norwegian Lundehunds in your ring to select as Best of Breed. Both Lundehunds are equally matched in rotary gaits and rear movements; each of their front feet has five of the six toes touching the table, and total toe counts of 24; their tail carriages are well placed; their bites, coats, chest depths, wedged-shaped heads, body proportions, and standard sizes are similar; and their erect, triangular ears

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



(1) Norwegian Lundehunds have two-toned eyes—a dark brown ring surrounds the pupil, while the iris color ranges from yellowish-brown to brown; (2) experts speculate the Lundehund’s prominent brow developed to protect the eyes from injury; (3)



fallow hair surrounds the Lundehund’s eyes and forms widow’s peaks above, and a dark brown line of hair traces from the outer corners of the eyes to the bottom corners of the ears; (4, 5, 6) examples of the different hues of brown of the Norwegian Lundehund’s eyes; (7) the breed’s active tear ducts evolved to wash away dirt and debris falling into the eyes when hunting; (8) black completely outlines the Lundehund’s eyes; (9) the color of the almond-shaped eyes, captured in direct sunlight and in shadow; (10) a Lundehund’s look of “barely disguised disgusted forbearance” during a table examination.

accentuate their alert expressions as they remain nicely stacked, their handlers calmly

awaiting your decision. While there are many deciding factors on which

dog to choose in this scenario, there is one, glaringly obvious tie breaker unique

COURTESY HILDE SIMONSEN, STINE HOPE PEDERSEN, TANJA MINDER, JON VIVANG, SUSANNA KOT-LUM, KRISTINA WAZE, SANDRA NORBYE, KENNEL PRIDE OF NORWAY/VABOANDERSEN, ANNIE MILLER/CLICKING TO CAPTURE

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

to this breed: eye color.

Let's Have Another Look

The Norwegian Lundehund's eyes are two-toned. The iris ranges in color from yellowish-brown to brown with a dark brown ring around the pupil. The lighter the eyes, the more striking this two-toned contrast and the dark brown corneal limbus, or "border" separating the iris and the white sclera. The shades of brown are more easily seen in well-lit spaces and in bright sunlight.

The eye-rims are dark and completely outline each almond-shaped eye, complementing the dog's solid black nose and lips. (Lundehunds with a fully- or half-white head should have complete, dark eye-rims and dark lashes, according to the AKC breed standard.) The hair surrounding the dark-outlined eyes is fallow, with two triangular widow's peaks stretching from the upper eyelid to the stop. At the outer corner of each eye is a

dark brown line of hair tracing to the lower corners of the ears.

High Brow

A Lundehund's eyes produce a profusion of tears. Like other parts of the breed's anatomy, the active tear ducts evolved over millennia for the purpose of hunting puffins nesting underground or deep within steep sea cliffs. A Lundehund's well-lubricated eyes ensured that crumbling dirt and falling bits of debris were flushed out of the eyes during the hunt and clear vision was restored for the climb back down the mountain.

Some speculate the dog's prominent brow may also serve an evolutionary purpose—namely, eye protection. Better to brush a bony brow against rocks rather than delicate eye tissue while navigating dark, narrow crevices to reach a puffin's burrow.

Hound and Vision

Norwegian Lundehunds

are an ancient breed that lived in isolation within the Arctic Circle for centuries. Like other primitive dogs, many Lundehunds express indifference—toward strangers out in public, those in the show ring, and, when obstinately ignoring their wishes at home, their human caretakers—not through physical posturing but rather through the windows to their little "Lundie" souls. This author calls the not-so-subtle side eye one of her Lundehunds throws "the look of haughty derision." An AKC judge playfully describes the steely-eyed gaze she has met during Lundehund table examinations as "barely disguised disgusted forbearance."

All in Favor, Say "Eye"

Back to imagining being a judge of two equally nice Lundehunds: How will taking another look at each dog's eye color and expression weigh in your decision?

—Kristina Maze

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

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Poodles

The following was written by Joann Neal, Sandstorm.

THE PERFECT MENTOR

I was very fortunate when I bought my foundation Miniature Poodle bitch. As a package deal, I also got one of the world's best mentors. Even though the breeder lived 1,700 miles from me, and there were no cell phones nor internet, she still helped me succeed.

Previously, I bought dogs on the basis of what showed up when I was in the market. I had owned all three Poodle varieties, finished many titles in obedience and tracking, and had dabbled in conformation showing. I decided that I wanted a white Miniature Poodle that I could take to the next level.

I did my homework and identified a line of dogs that I thought fit my ideal. I found the breeder at a Poodle Club of America regional specialty. I introduced myself and asked if I could talk to her about



Poodles Ch. Hollycourt Silverado and Ch. Belle Isle Bright Gem, painting by Mildred Megargee

a puppy. I was a perfect stranger, but she could not have been more cordial.

We talked about what I had done with previous dogs and what my goals were for the next dog. I told her that I wanted to finish a champion in breed, get an OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion), and get a TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent), and I wanted to do it all myself. I'm sure she had doubts that I would succeed, but she did not express them.

She apparently liked me, and within a few months she sent me a lovely puppy bitch with an unflappable temperament. Unlike many of today's breeders, she did not insist on co-owning the bitch and all its progeny ad infinitum. She did not require puppies back from future breedings. She did not require me to hire a handler. She did not send me something unfinishable to "learn on." In short, she did not rob me of the pleasure of establishing my own line

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

under my own name with this bitch's progeny.

The puppy arrived sight unseen. When she came out of the crate at the airport after 12 hours en route, she was the happiest tail-wagging pup I had ever seen. She was so beautiful, I burst into tears of joy.

As the puppy grew, the breeder and I had many telephone conversations regarding what I needed to be doing. I mailed her pictures of my grooming, and she sent back critiques. She gave me tips on conditioning.

I proceeded to put several single points on the puppy. At 10 months of age, I entered her in a big show that turned out to have majors. I arrived at the show to find that my mentor had flown 2,000 miles to be there. She scissored one side of my puppy, explaining the lines she was creating. Then she told me to scissor the other side to match. I showed the puppy to two majors that weekend! I have a cherished picture of me holding the puppy after the

first major. I had the biggest grin a face can make. I finished her the next show—my first champion!

I showed the bitch as a champion six times. She won five Bests of Variety, two Group Firsts, and a Group Second.

I cut her down and started obedience training. She became my first Obedience Trial Champion. About then, agility became a “thing.” I started training and showing her in agility. At 10 years of age, she achieved her MACH (Master Agility Champion), becoming the first Ch. OTCH MACH of the Poodle breed. At 11, she got her TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) title.

When I got ready to breed my bitch, my mentor approved of my choice for a stud dog, and she advised and supported me through the breeding and whelping.

Now my mentor has long ago departed this world. I have experienced much success, including all-breed Best in Show wins, breeder-

owner-handled, and many more Ch. OTCH MACH TDX dogs. Her good advice keeps coming back to me like she is whispering in my ear, and it makes me smile. I took all she did for me and have paid it forward to my puppy buyers. —Joann Neal

[The Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

TWO NEW EVENTS

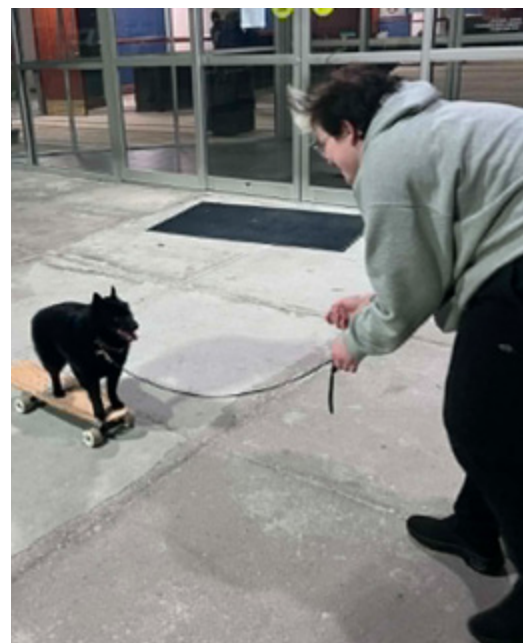
HIGHLIGHTING THE LONGEVITY AND VERSATILITY OF THE SCHIPPERKE

The Schipperke Club of America hosted two new events in March during this year's national in Louisville, Kentucky. The first was a Tournament of Veterans, which was modeled after other clubs' Veterans Tournament events and was coordinated by the show committee.

Since Schipperkes are a breed that is often shown into their veteran ages, it seemed fitting to offer an event that would highlight these dogs.

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Judges at the Tournament of Veterans Showcase; winners of class divisions at the Tournament of Veterans; a skateboarding Schipperke wowed spectators at the Freestyle Trick Performance.



With 16 entries, the event was judged similar to a Top Twenty competition. Three dogs entered the ring at a

time, each judged individually and scored by the three breeders who were tasked with judging the event.

The breeder-judges, Dawn Bannister and Melissa Grueninger from the United States and Lindsey McLachlan from England, are all well known for understanding the importance of structure and movement, as well as type, substance, and balance as it pertains to the breed. Their combined years of experience in the breed

COURTESY TORI LEE / OWNER

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

(well over 100 years) proved their ability to be able to evaluate our breed's "older" dogs.

Interestingly, the highest number of entries was in each of the oldest classes, which speaks for the breed's ability to continue to be competitive—even over 12 years of age.

Winners were awarded as "Best in Age Group." It was outlined prior to the event that no overall winner would be awarded, as it was felt that each veteran is special and deserves recognition, and to be judged against the various age groups would not have been the goal of this event.

The second special event held was the Most Versatile Schipperke. This event was interesting because the participants had to meet certain criteria of competing in multiple events, including obedience or rally, conformation, and a trick showcase for bonus points. This event also boasted 16 entries.

Schipperkes, to those of us who love them, are such a fun and endearing breed. They keep us laughing but

are typically thoroughly engaged with whatever their owner is doing. This helps them excel at many performance events but also shows their fun side and a connection with their owner. To align with these traits, a trick competition seemed very fitting, along with overall structural conformation and the ability to work well in performance.

The conformation competition scoring was based on 100 points, and was judged by a well-known breeder, Virginia Larioza, who has bred many top show dogs and producers in the over 40 years that she has been in the breed.

The performance portion was taken from scores from either obedience or rally at the national and parent club specialty competitions, and made up 50 percent of the participant's raw score. The exhibitor could choose their highest score to be included out of the events they participated in.

The final portion was the Freestyle Trick

Performance. Handlers and dogs were encouraged to perform up to five qualifying tricks to earn bonus points. The tricks ranged from very basic feats to one Schipperke riding a skateboard! Although some tricks were more impressive, each trick performed was considered for bonus points only and was not a main portion of the competition.

The event was such a success due to the generous trophy donations made by Virginia Larioza, Dawn Bannister, and Katharine Baptiste, who was the event coordinator.

The winner was announced just before Best of Breed judging, which added to the prestige of the event.

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

Shiba Inu

MORE WAYS TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOG

The Shiba Inu was originally bred to hunt by

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

sight and scent in the dense undergrowth of Japan's mountainous areas to flush birds and small game, and occasionally to hunt wild boar. This requires the Shiba's movement to be nimble, light, and elastic to allow for agility and the skill to turn on a dime.

Shibas possess a spirited boldness and an unaffected forthrightness, which yield dignity and natural beauty with an independent nature. This package has led many people to believe a common misconception that this spirited breed is difficult to train for the performance ring, with their unreliable recall and their tenacity to hunt.

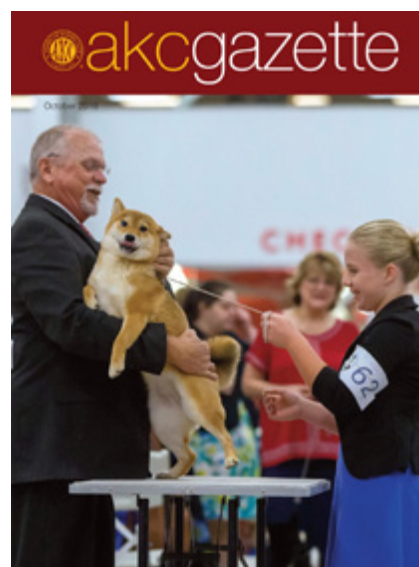
A Shiba owner will agree on the latter, but this breed is quite easy to train with the handler who understands how a Shiba thinks.

While I say "easy to train," however, the handler will have their challenges. The Shiba's mind is highly intelligent and picks up training concepts quickly but frowns upon a lot of repetition. The handler must see the training

through a Shiba's eyes: "I am not here to please you—and furthermore, how are all your requests advantageous to me?" Understanding this, as well as the breed's independent hunting nature, allows the Shiba Inu and handler to excel in the performance world.

Increasingly more Shibas and their owners are dipping feet and paws into the wide array of events offered by the AKC and other organizations. Coursing ability tests—CATs, Fast CATs—scent work, and Barn Hunts are weekend favorites for the highly active Shiba who can show off their skills chasing and seeking out critters.

A recent scenario described to me depicted a Barn Hunt event set up near the conformation ring, and the Shiba let loose the breed's typical "Shiba scream" outside the show ring once his keen sense of smell picked up the rat scent. I can only imagine the handler diligently working to gain the focus of their Shiba before entering the ring.



Shiba Inu, October 2018

The owner who is looking for a little more challenge and has a nearby facility can try dock diving. Shibas have earned titles in this sport—quite the achievement for a breed that is not particularly fond of water.

The opportunities to earn titles such as Trick Dog and rally through AKC's virtual program allow the Shiba and their owner to explore performance in a low-stress and safe environment at home or a training facility.

The NSCA is seeing more of the membership participate in these activities and

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

earn titles, which in return can be applied toward the club's annual award program.

I personally took the opportunity to explore trick titles with my Shibas. I'll admit tricks with my crew were never on the list; however, I quickly realized the fun I missed, and it was me, the handler, who needed to learn how to teach the trick!

These fun events extend beyond being a great pastime to challenge the Shiba mind and their athletic, compact body—they enhance the relationship between handler and dog, build confidence in a young Shiba for the show ring, help an older senior be active, and increase skills of the new or advanced handler.

—Letty Hughes,

lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com

National Shiba Club of
America

Tibetan Spaniels

LIVING WITH SENIOR TIBBIES

One of the joys of living with Tibetan Spaniels is witnessing how well they

age. Other than a little frost on the face and muzzle, Tibbies tend not to show the advancing years. Their love of life certainly doesn't diminish.

To illustrate that point, I am writing this column as I reflect on our recent national specialty week in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where several competitive veterans did very well showing against lovely dogs from across the country, many years their junior.

One exhibitor showing a 10-year-old male commented that she had planned to retire him a while ago, but he simply wouldn't have it. He continues to love showing and does not want to be left out of the fun, and his animated performances certainly demonstrated that enthusiasm.

A longtime breeder-exhibitor made a touching post on Facebook recently about one of their Tibbies who had long ago accompanied her daughter to college, offering good company during stressful student life. In time,

the Tibbie moved with her graduate owner to New York City, adjusting to the hustle and bustle. Eventually, as an old girl, she handled another big move down South, when an important career opportunity presented itself to her successful owner.

Because Tibbies adjust so well, they are happy to explore other competitive venues beyond the breed ring. Tibetan Spaniels are a familiar sight in Junior Showmanship, where their size, easy grooming, and animation are a great fit for young exhibitors. Many breeders have placed older Tibbies with Juniors, and it's a win-win situation for all.

Agility, rally, and Fast CAT are other performance activities where older Tibbies can shine. It also offers exhibitors a welcome break from the formality of conformation. You can dress more casually, chatter more freely, and the dogs get to socialize with one another, too. Whereas many coated breeds are cut down in retirement, Tibbies typically

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Senior Tibetan Spaniels “are old souls, with so much to offer.”



are kept in normal, moderate coat, which may be another reason why they don't seem to “look old” as they age.

And if you suddenly get the urge to enter them in a specialty Parade of Champions or Veterans, they're pretty much good to go.

Pet therapy is another activity that suits our breed so well. Their size and gentle nature make them easy for patients and senior citizens

to handle. Even rambunctious younger Tibbies intuitively sense that they need to be calm on these outings, and the gentle petting and praise they receive from hospital residents bring out the tender side of the breed.

With many Tibbies living well into their teens, it is not unusual for Tibetan Spaniel Rescue to receive one after an owner has passed away. Thankfully, with Tibbies adapting so well and usually getting along with other dogs and cats, they are soon placed in great adop-

tive homes and can enjoy a few more years of love and attention.

While Tibbie puppies are undeniably charming and winsome, senior Tibbies are old souls, with so much to offer. When one “canine career” is over, they will happily throw themselves into the next one.

—Allan Reznik,

reznikallan@gmail.com

[Tibetan Spaniel Club of America](#)

Tibetan Terriers

WHEN THE WORLD COMES “TTOGETHER”

Knowledge is power... and to be advocates and guardians for our beloved Tibetan Terriers, the more we know, the better and stronger the breed becomes. And what better way to gain more knowledge than to gather with others from across the globe who love our breed to share ideas, research, experiences and stories. Tibetan Terrier World Congress is just that opportunity.

COURTESY OWNERS

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Thirty-seven years ago, Tibetan Terrier breeders, owners, and enthusiasts gathered in Denmark for the very first Tibetan Terrier World Congress to share their knowledge and experiences, and to begin to create a valuable global network to improve the health and preservation of the breed we all love so much.

Initially organized by Margareta Sundqvist of Sweden and Marianne Dehlholm Dons of Denmark, the World Congress has continued to this day to be an important gathering for our breed. Since its first meeting in 1989, the Congress has been held every second year, with few exceptions. After a five-year gap due to Covid, the TT World Congress met in France in 2022 and in Sweden in 2024.

This year the honor of hosting the event was given to the United States, and the Tibetan Terrier Club of America did not disappoint. Held this year in Tarrytown,

New York, on May 3 and 4, just prior to the TTCA national specialty, the World Congress programs were organized by the dedicated and hard-working team of Jackie Faust (Chair), Kate Stanuch (Co-Chair), as well as Flossie Barczewski, Pam Desrosiers, and the late Lynn Meyer. The theme of the presentations and discussions was Breed Preservation—a critical topic not just for breeders but also for owners of Tibetan Terriers worldwide.

The TT World Congress committee was honored to host Dr. Jerold Bell, DVM, for the morning presentation on May 4th. Dr. Bell is an Adjunct Professor of Genetics, Department of Clinical Sciences, Cummings Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University. He is Chairman of the Hereditary Disease Committee/World Small Animal Veterinary Association, and he is also the Director of OFA/The

Canine Health Information Center. Dr. Bell presented a breed health seminar focusing on pedigree analysis, genetic diversity, and genetic disease control. He followed up with a discussion about the genetic disorders and testing specifically affecting Tibetan Terriers.

The afternoon seminar was also honored to host Liz Hansen from Canine Genetics Laboratory, University of Missouri—College of Veterinary Medicine, who presented the history of the 30-year research collaboration between the Tibetan Terrier Club of America and Dr. Gary Johnson's Canine Genetics Lab and Dr. Martin Katz's Comparative Neurology Lab at the University of Missouri. She explained how this extremely valuable collaboration established DNA banking and initiated genetic research for heritable conditions of concern to breeders of Tibetan Terriers. She also reviewed the breakthrough research

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Logo for the Tibetan Terrier World Congress 2026

for NCL, PLL, and PRA, and how genetic testing for these issues has altered the outlook for producing healthier Tibetan Terriers now and in future generations. The day concluded with a panel discussion with breeders from countries in attendance.

To be able to come together to share ideas, to network with others we might not otherwise meet, to compare notes, and to gain more knowledge is a necessity and a gift to the future of our breed.

In addition to the incredibly valuable presentations, the World Congress committee also provided each

attendee with a comprehensive booklet that included reports and statistics, breed club information, and much more from each of the countries in attendance this year: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Knowledge truly is very powerful. Certainly, all who attended the 2026 Tibetan Terrier World Congress went home feeling a little more powerful about safeguarding the health and well-being and, more importantly, the future of Tibetan Terriers.

We will see you in Slovakia at the 2028 TT World Congress!

If you are interested in learning more about the presentations by Dr. Bell and/or Liz Hansen, please contact me at the email address below.

—Janet Krynzel,
tibterrsrule@aol.com
Tibetan Terrier Club of America

HERDING GROUP

Bearded Collies

A DOG BY ANY OTHER NAME

Just imagine if you had a dollar for every dog named Daisy! Or Dusty. Or Lassie. Or Buddy. Or Rex. They wouldn't even have to be your dogs, just someone's pets. You'd have a bathtub full of bucks. Or perhaps a swimming pool (preferably Olympic sized).

It's readily apparent where some of these popular pooch names originated. A best-selling book, a movie and a long-running TV series combined to make Lassie one of the most renowned dogs of modern times and provided a name that was apprehended by hundreds of canines. The popularity of the name Daisy may be attributed to the cartoon featuring the Bumstead family and their perky pup. Rex was one of a group of names alluding to royalty or positions of power such as King, Prince, Queen, General, Princess, Baron, and so on. Names like Buddy or Pal were bestowed on dogs because it

WENDY HEWITT AND SANDY WHITE

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

described their position in a relationship (and Companion was too long).

We're talking call names here. Registered names are a different story.

An article about a longtime breeder mentioned he gave each new pup he retained the same name as the preceding one "because it makes it easier to remember." But doesn't a special dog deserve a special name?

Of course there's something to be said about names that are easy to remember. There have been times when I've stood in an obedience ring and when the judge asked, "Are you ready?" I've answered, "I will be as soon as I remember my dog's name."

Even royalty had problems with dog names. Queen Victoria, a dog lover *par excellence*, must have run out of dog names or had trouble remembering them. Over the years, she had (among other breeds) 36 Pugs, of which two were named Rose, two answered to Fermach, two were called Miska, another two duos



were named Quiz and Arjah, and there were three more each responding to Minka or Mops. Maybe they had nametags on their collars.

Over the years, I knew several people who had dogs named Poppy simply because they called the youngster Puppy until they could agree on a proper name. And then one day

when Puppy was 6 or 8 months old, they realized she needed a real name and turned to the closest one, which was Poppy.

When it comes to popular names, I'm old enough to remember when first-grade readers were introduced to Dick and Jane and their dog, Spot, whose main source of entertainment seemed to

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

be running. “See Spot run. Run, Spot, run.” Not exactly a particularly original name. And the poor dog must have been exhausted after all that running.

It’s not really difficult to come up with creative call names. There are names in sports or in the news. Names of characters in books or movies. Ever wonder how many dogs got dubbed Rambo?

Occupations are another source of names. At one time, I named pups after natural disasters (earthquake, avalanche, landslide, et al).

Read the name tags of clerks in stores. Some of them are positively unique! Got a hobby? (Beside dogs, of course.) Choose words that apply to it. How about cars? The automotive vocabulary is an absolute goldmine.

Names to avoid are those that make people laugh whenever you call your dog. How would you feel if people smirked, chuckled, or laughed out loud whenever your name was mentioned? An article I read told of a

foreign couple who moved to the U.S. and when their daughter was born, they opted for an English word that sounded “pretty” to them without knowing its meaning. The poor girl was christened Diarrhea.

Then there are the misguided souls who think Kong is a clever name for their Chihuahua. That’s just reinforcing the breed’s Napoleonic complex. That’s almost as bad as calling a Rottie Petunia.

And for heaven’s sake, skip the “cutesy” names. A vet told of a lady who acquired a toy breed and wanted to name the pup Itsy Bitsy. Her husband objected. She asked the vet what he thought of the name. He said, “Imagine your dog slips through an open door one night and you (and your husband?) are walking the dark streets of your neighborhood calling ‘Itsy Bitsy.’ “ I believe she got the picture.

Entry blanks for performance sports usually request the dog’s call name as well as the registered

name. If that’s the case, make sure you spell it correctly and print it clearly. A canine whose call name was Eeyore, like the donkey, came out as Eyesore. Then there was the pup named Pizzazz, only sloppy printing resulted in the Z’s being mistaken for S’s.

One of the drawbacks of a common name is the chance of encountering another dog with the same moniker. Though, most of the time, it just makes for a bit of confusion. However, it’s interesting that owners who once used canine call names like Spot, Buddy, Rex, or Rover have switched to “people” names. Perhaps it’s a sign that dogs have become one of the family rather than just a pet.

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

Belgian Malinois

THE PASTRY METHOD

Over the years, I have come to enjoy fitting

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

together the training jigsaw puzzle for each Malinois personality I've encountered. I now like that part even more than the competitions we are presumably preparing for. Of course you're bound to improve at something you've done for 43 years, but my gradual evolution from traditional physical-correction training methods to force-free performance training has been a huge driver of the increased pleasure I take in the training itself.

Back in my corrective-training days, it wasn't lost on me that the best trainers around me delivered matter-of-fact physical corrections, devoid of heat. They never grew frustrated. Their corrections were always measured, proportionate. They never escalated, never corrected once too often. But my temper ran hotter. It meant training could be on the edge of not being fun for anyone. It limited my dogs' achievements and affected our relationships.

Gradually, I replaced that

training style with more positive methods. That was good for me. If physical correction isn't part of the picture, it can't get out of hand.

Luring, shaping, stimulus control, variable reward schedules—all these are important, and widely taught. But to do force-free training successfully, you need the whole toolbox. The missing piece is knowing what to do when a training session blows up. This is the critical knowledge needed to avoid ever reverting to previous training patterns when you're out of other options (ones you're aware of, anyway), and the dog can't—or seemingly won't—learn the blindingly obvious lesson you are sure you are teaching.

There are a hundred ways to approach every training task. That's not the problem. The problem is that you can't come up with a new approach, or ask for advice, when your dog is busy spinning up or shutting down and you are becoming frustrated and angry. It was a long time before anyone got around to

teaching me that part.

The first step of the disaster recovery plan is simple: Throw some treats on the floor. Do it as soon as you realize that you are not making progress and your blood pressure is rising. This makes a clean break in the action.

Step two: Quietly put your dog on his bed.

Step three is to think up a new strategy. That might take two minutes or two days. Regardless, when you feel your scalp prickling, or your dog keeps making mistakes, it's time for a cup of tea and a pastry.

I'm not saying the pastry is the most important part ... *but the pastry is the most important part.*

The few situations where I still get frustrated while training almost always involve an audience, and my expectation that my dog and I should be perfect for them. I watch for that imaginary peer pressure now, and reject it ASAP.

Maybe I could have figured all this out a lot earlier.

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



(1) Belgian Malinois Bijou (OTCH4, MACH, PACH, RACH2, GCh. Carousel's Southern Cross, VCD3, UDX7, OGM, BN, GN, GO, VER, RM5, RAE5, MXS, MJG, MXP7, MXP6, MJPS, PAX, MFC, TQX, MFPS, TQXP, T2B3, T2BP2, CAA, DCAT, SWE, SCM, SIM, SEM, SHDE, TKA, CGC, PMC-VCH4, HOF), owned by Barb Benner and bred by Catherine Shields and Laurie Kudna, calculates whether the reward rate is high enough, maybe. Photo taken in 2016. (2) Christine Klockenbrink handles Ch. BelCol Phoenix, CAX, FCAT, SWN, FTI (owned by Joy Daniels and Christine and bred by Christine), in "C" Course Herding at the 2026 American Belgian Malinois Club national specialty. This is the "traffic-check stop" before proceeding to the grazing areas.

But at least I finally did, and now I'm telling you, in case you also have a temper. It is unlikely that I am the only one. You might, in fact, think that *you* are the only one. You are not. And you can take on that challenge and win. I want people to have faith that they can become improve as trainers no matter their age, no matter their history..

I'll never be the best dog trainer. My reaction time is a bit slow, I'm not wired like an athlete, and I am always

forgetting some rule or other. But finally learning to just throw treats and walk away when things go wrong made me a lot better trainer and competitor than I ever was in my first 30 years of dog sports. You don't have to be perfect to have fun training—just good enough to keep the train on the tracks and your Malinois loving the work. You're either having a blast or throwing treats. Either way, your dog can't lose.

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

Belgian Sheepdogs

THE JACK OF ALL TRADES

The Belgian Sheepdog is truly a versatile, "Jack of all trades" breed. Meaning, most will excel in as many venues as their owners choose to train and participate in. The Belgian Sheepdog is an elegant, active athlete, regardless of the sport.

COURTESY BARB BENNER / COURTESY JOY DANIELS AND CHRISTINE KLOCKENBRINK / ANN MACKAY

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



The versatile Belgian Sheepdog—whatever the activity, as long as you are keeping it fun, your dog will thank you.

Recently a group of friends and I were talking about various sports, and a few of them expressed concern and disappointment over people not pursuing advanced titles with their Belgian Sheepdogs. My reply was simply that sometimes owners lack the discipline themselves to limit their activities to just one thing. This is definitely how I would describe myself! With all due respect to those who possess the time and discipline for advanced titles, sometimes, some of us just love being with and training our dogs.

Since this is my debut as columnist for the Belgian Sheepdog, I suppose an introduction is in order. So: “Hi, my name is Shelly. My dogs and I love doing all the things!” I have owned Belgian Sheepdogs for over 20 years now, and this year also celebrates my 20th year as a Belgian Sheepdog Club of America member. I have participated in tracking, obedience, rally, herding, agility, and more recently, flyball, disc dog, dock diving, and scent work. Over those years, I’ve served as tracking

chair and secretary for several national specialties, did two terms as Corresponding Secretary, and was the liaison for people seeking out puppies and information about our beautiful, versatile breed via the AKC website. I truly enjoy meeting and talking to prospective Belgian Sheepdog owners. What can I say, I like to stay busy, and I also love talking about the breed.

And, in my opinion, those types of people are the ones that tend to be successful Belgian Sheepdog owners. Belgian Sheepdogs have a tendency to want to be with their owner in whatever activity provided.

So, whether you choose to pursue a Herding Championship or simply go hiking and play frisbee league on the weekends, as long as you, as a trainer, are keeping it fun, your dog will thank you, regardless of your level of proficiency.

—Shelly Brosnan,
3busydogs@gmail.com
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

COURTESY SHELLEY BROSNAN

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Belgian Tervuren

WE ALL LOVE OUR DOGS

Well, of course we do!

However, there are times that simple concept seems to be forgotten among Tervuren owners. For instance, you are at a dog show waiting for groups (with your rock-star group-winning dog), and a family approaches you with their Tervuren. They are thinking they would like to get into showing, maybe Juniors with their daughter. Could you give them some pointers on how to start?

You have some time before groups go in, but you are just not sure why they would even consider showing this long male Terv with light eyes who is very pet quality—happy, but a pet.

As you try to figure out how to tell them there is no way you can show that dog, they tell you about what a wonderful dog she (now that was a surprise) is and how excited their daughter is. They watched Terv judging and saw you win.



What a great dog you have! You thank them, tell them all about your dog's wins, his ranking, and point out his good qualities. You then compare your dog to theirs and basically imply that there is no way on God's green earth that dog should enter a breed ring—all the while not noticing the smile disappear from that young girl's face. You, the Tervuren expert, then tell them they should consider starting over and tell them about your next planned litter, hand them a card from your pocket, and march off to the group ring to get your next placement.

Whether you know it or not, you just crushed someone. How hard is it to be kind to the person in front of you, the one whose dog sleeps on their bed and is the smartest dog in the whole world? Even if you did not know that a junior can show a dog that is neutered or only has a PAL number, this is someone who can be part of the future of our breed. You could even have sent them to the secretary's table to get more information.

Or, what about when you are sitting at your setup at an agility trial with your MACH Terv, and a young woman approaches you

COURTESY DANA MACKONIS

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

with her Terv, a chubby little bitch with a nonstop wagging tail? She tells you she watches all the agility trials that she sees on TV and was so excited one was being held just two hours from her home, she just had to come see one in person. She says she would love to try that with her girl, and could you tell her how you started with your Terv?

You have a while before your next run, but you just aren't into educating pet people. So you tell her you only have a few minutes till your next run (really 90, but it is only a small exaggeration) but you can chat for a bit. You then begin to tell her about your dog's record, his ranking, and his drive in the sport. You tell her how long you have competed, how many dogs you have trialed, and so on. You then point out your dog's body and what great shape it is in and go on to tell her that her dog is overweight. And you keep going, pointing out all the things her dog does not have.

By the time you are done, even the dog has picked up the tone in your voice and is no longer wagging her tail. The woman drove two hours to watch this trial, she complimented you and your dog, and she opened up her dreams to you ... and how did you handle this? Once again, another person was interested in a sport with her Terv, and you have dashed her hopes without really giving her any real information and helping her figure out where to get more guidance.

We can replay these scenes over and over with multiple scenarios. We all have them in our memories. Mine, and the impetus for this article, was a show where a friend was entered for her very first time in breed with her first Terv. A bystander came over and told her—before she went in the ring—that her bitch had a gay tail, and that was a fault, and she should not be upset if today's judge dumps her because of that. My friend was so stressed when she walked through those gates that she could

barely remember what she learned in handling classes. She came over to my grooming spot after judging and told me what was said, and that this would be her one and only show—ever. She could not do that. She loved her dog the way she was.

So the next time you are approached by a fellow Terv owner, try a little kindness. Their dog sleeps near them at night just like yours do.

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

Bouvier des Flandres

A BOUVIER SHOULD BE STUNNING, SOUND, AND YET A CATTLE DROVER

Pen-and-ink conversations in elegant prose by dog show judges at specialty shows shine a spotlight on the Bouvier. Asked to critique the dogs they examine nose to tail, they tutor the standard. When their day is done, they leave us with still shots from the ring, the written word of an expert on a

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



Bouvier des Flandres puppies; vintage photo of a historical working Bouvier—they often lived a hard life, with little rest or shelter.



paper page.

As breeders we can learn from why a judge tells of how the beauty of a special dog glittered like a golden star. The very reason he gave the red, white, and blue rosette to the perky silver male standing fourth in line were the rules set forth in the early part of the century. They were set in stone by farmers and business folks who couldn't have a dog who broke down under the tough tasks they required their dogs to perform. They had to have a Bouvier with the boldness to protect their farmhouses and the livestock they owned.

Temperament of the Bouvier, the overall picture of the dog in motion, and the look he conveys standing still. Wherever this herding dog gathers, the one clearly the best on this day is the closest to perfect. When the host club asks, the judge takes on the role of a journalist. Her choice comes with reasons: "He exuded breed type, he had proper coat texture, he was sound coming and going, and on the side view he simply floated, but with the determination of a well-conditioned fullback. This dog's back could have probably held a picnic lunch

in motion and never lost a bite."

She added, "Nothing was overdone on this Bouvier, he personified balance. He had an attitude that said he loved what he was doing. He was shown to me in such impeccable condition. I wanted a dog that could get the job done looking like a Bouvier doing it."

Woof, a magazine in Brussels, Belgium, could not have thought of a better name or more candid portrait of the breed: An article titled "The Bouvier Des Flandres: Grim of Outward, Warm of Heart," by Nora Snyers, first told of the vintage dog 33 years ago. She wrote that the Flemish cowdog, with the rough appearance and solitary nature of the dog alone in the Belgian fields, looked less civilized:

"The eyebrows and beard were much shorter, as the hair on the legs, and that made him look much bigger. They didn't treat him softly. He could never come inside, not even into the stable.

BDFCA: PUBLIC DOMAIN

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

He had to work, night and day. During the onto the pastures, at night he had to guard the farmyard. ... He didn't even have a kennel; a sloping board against a tree or wall was his only shelter against rain, cold, and wind. Most of the time he was chained and laid permanently in mud. ... He had a real dog's life. ... Although he had to be strong, because a farmer who couldn't afford a horse put him in front of a milk cart, or he had to turn around the heavy chain wheel ... and cows were more difficult to manipulate than sheep and can be more dangerous."

"You have to be a more dexterous jumper to avoid a hoofbeat," Mrs. Snyers said. "He had to be strong, quick, imposing, fearless, and authoritarian, could never be ill, had to work in every kind of weather, and had to be willing and docile, ready to obey his boss ... his food wasn't much."

After many pages about the dog's character and his "late-flowering maturity,"

the researcher of the story concluded, "the Bouvier had to be perfect."

—Debbie Goldstein

[American Bouvier des Flandres Club](#)

Briards

WHO OWNS A BRIARD?

In her book "The Secret History of Kindness: Learning From How Dogs Learn," Melissa Holbrook Pearson writes, "One of the most interesting things about dogs is the type of human they are attached to." This observation caught my attention.

As I approached retirement 15 years ago, I carefully researched dog breeds and decided that a Briard, often described as a "heart wrapped in fur," was the right choice for me. I joke that I did *not* research the types of people who own Briards. Only in the years after I brought home my Briard puppy did I learn that many owners were professional groomers or could afford help! Nevertheless,

I also learned to appreciate that most of my fellow owners were happy to share their knowledge from decades of owning, breeding, training, and showing Briards.

So, what type of human is attached to a Briard?

The Briard is an ancient breed, dating back to the 8th century. Early tapestries from the time of Charlemagne depict dogs resembling the modern Briard. French farmers, known for their practicality and frugality, developed the Briard as a versatile two-in-one working dog. Briards are accomplished sheepherders, famed for quicksilver agility, while also serving as courageous flock guardians capable of driving off predators.

Historically, people who have owned Briards include Napoleon Bonaparte, Marquis de Lafayette, and Thomas Jefferson, who is credited with introducing the breed to the United States. After America gained independence, the wool industry boomed, bring-

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

ing increased demand for sheep-herding dogs.

The American Kennel Club officially recognized the Briard in 1928, and the Briard Club of America (BCA) was founded. The breed will be celebrating the club's 100th anniversary in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2028.

BCA membership includes people from all walks of life. Whether their Briards are involved in agility, conformation, herding, obedience, rally, tracking, working as service dogs, or beloved canine companions, all BCA members share their intense love, respect, and an enormous sense of responsibility for the Briard.

The BCA currently has 328 members, representing 42 states. The states with the most Briards owned by BCA members are Ohio (21), Massachusetts (17), and Florida, Texas, and New York (tied with 15 each).

Although few Briards live on farms today, this versatile breed has adapted well to living in diverse environ-



ments including even our largest cities.

Our longest tenured member joined the BCA in 1967, and 50 of our members (15 percent) are lifetime members (minimum of 30 years). The BCA has been actively recruiting new members (adding eight in just the past two years) as well as encouraging lapsed members to rejoin. As the 15th newest member, I've appreciated how quickly I've gotten to know so many fellow owners—an advantage of owning a rare breed with such limited numbers.

On average, U.S. breeders

produce about 40 Briard litters each year—fewer than 300 puppies. Potential owners must be patient to wait for a puppy to become available and must often travel far from home (or have their new family member shipped to them).

For novice owners, the Briard can be a bit of a challenge due to its strong-willed nature. The typical buyer has already owned at least one Briard (and may currently have one or more)—I was a rare exception. Once people have owned a Briard, they generally want another!

So, what type of person

STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

is attached to a Briard? In my experience, Briard owners tend to be a lot like the dogs we love. We value intelligence, loyalty and partnership. We can be stubborn and opinionated! We are students of the breed, eager to share what we know with one another and a strong desire to preserve a remarkable piece of canine history. Most of all, we understand that living with a Briard is not simply owning a dog. It is accepting a long-term commitment to a breed that asks much of its people and rewards them with extraordinary devotion.

—Jacqueline Campbell,
jacampbell@mac.com
Briard Club of America

Collies

SCENT WORK: THE FIRST SPORT YOU SHOULD TRY WITH YOUR COLLIE

Scent work is a quickly growing activity in the dog sport community, and for good reason. It's easy to get started in for both dog and handler: Scent work

doesn't require long training periods before trialing at the novice levels, and it can often be taught at home or via online classes if you don't have access to an instructor.

It's a great first sport to pick up. Any dog can do it, it doesn't require skills beyond basic marker systems and food motivation to get started, and the handler mechanics are minimal at first (less for you to learn). Dogs run one at a time and scent work trials are fairly calm, so it's often a good environment for young dogs, older retired dogs, and dogs who may not like the hustle and bustle of other dog sport events.

Like other scent-based dog sports, scent work is a truly dog-powered activity. If you are brand-new to dog sports, have ring nerves, or find yourself making handling mistakes, scentwork lets your dog take the lead. You'll learn to trust your canine partner, and they'll build confidence and learn to trust you in return.

At a basic level, dogs involved in scent work are trained to locate "hides," or essential-oil-laden cotton swabs, hidden in different locations. Dogs must alert their handlers when the odor is found, and there are varying challenges based on the level and class you're entered in. In AKC scentwork, the odors your dog will be trained on are birch (Novice and all higher levels), anise (Advanced and all higher levels), clove (Excellent and all higher levels), and cypress (Master).

There are also five different classes. Containers class requires your dog to find odor hidden in closed cardboard boxes. Buried requires your dog to sniff out their target odor(s) in boxes full of sand or water covered with a grate. Interior searches are done in rooms with lots of hiding spots, and exterior searches are done similarly, but outside.

The fifth class is the Handler Detection class, which tests how well your dog can decipher your scent

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



from other odors in the environment. Each level of scent work offers a different amount of hides for your dog to find.

Though scent work is easy

to get started in, the puzzles dogs must solve at the upper levels aren't anything to scoff at. Converging odor (multiple odors in areas where they may meet),

Doing scent work is a great way to build your bond with your Collie. (Top, scent work containers exercise; below, scent work buried exercise)

inaccessible hides, and unknown numbers of hides—among other challenges—require dogs to independently problem solve in ways non-scent-based sports rarely do.

As you creep up the ladder in level, skills handlers work on in other dog sports become more important: building frustration tolerance, handler mechanics, reward systems, and endurance are all pieces of the puzzle.

Even given these advanced topics that come up in higher levels, scent work should absolutely be the first sport you try with your Collie. Whether you have a new puppy, a nervous dog who you're trying to bond with, or an older dog looking for a job, scent work is a supreme confidence-builder for many dogs.

Smelling is the number-one way dogs gather

COURTESY KARA HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHY

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

information about the world around them, and dogs have between 100 million and 300 million scent receptors in their noses compared to humans' measly 5-6 million. Some scientific journals (<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/16/3/427>) have posited that breeds with longer snouts (dolichocephalic, like Collies) have more surface area for olfactory (scent) receptors as well as increased air circulation and contact time with scent particles. In some studies, dolichocephalic breeds had the quickest performance in scent discrimination tests, so I imagine that Collies would sit on the higher end of the scent-receptor range.

Dogs practice so much agency and independent decision-making in scent work that they build lots of value for it quickly when trained properly. Collies, as we know, do well with choice-based training like this, so scent work is the perfect way to bond with your Collie and build up their confidence/working

drive in an environment that's easy on the handler but still has opportunities for fun challenges.

—Jae Thomas, Boulder, Colorado;

jae@canineathletics.com

Collie Club of America

Finnish Lapphunds

FLCA 2026 NATIONAL SPECIALTY—WESTERN REGION

The Finnish Lapphund Club of America (FLCA) 2026 National Specialty took place at the Shasta Kennel Club (SKC) show in Anderson, California, in mid-March. The FLCA rotates the nationals each year around three regions—East, to Midwest, to West—and this show was in a beautiful location with friendly people.

The SKC was thrilled to host a national specialty. The club donated volunteers and provided many perks to the FLCA to ensure a stress-free show weekend. Many thanks to our dedicated show committee, club members, to the volunteers,

and owners for another successful specialty. Thank you to everyone from across the country who sponsored prizes—our trophies and prizes were the envy of the show!

There were 43 Finnish Lapphunds entered in the national specialty, nine in sweepstakes, and two in Junior Showmanship. The concurrent regional specialty had 41 entries. These entry numbers represented a strong showing for the West Coast, and despite the long trek to Northern California, there were many people from across the country who attended. For those who could not make the journey, the national was live streamed to the [FLCA Facebook Group](#). Along with the two specialties, the show committee packed the weekend with supported entries with many nice prizes awarded to the winners.

The national specialty was judged by Mr. Laurent Heinesche, a judge from Finland who was brought to the U.S. by the Shasta

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



Kennel Club. Mr. Heinesche donated breed books and beautiful decorative plates for trophies and prizes. Ms.

Rhonda Silveira was honored to judge the regional specialty. The SKC also brought in a second judge from Finland,

(1) 2026 national specialty logo; Chipee, national specialty Best of Breed; Chipee and Shellie with ribbons; montage of Chipee and Mikee doing agility and obedience; Aurinko, regional specialty Best of Breed; Katelyn with Journey and Alucard, Group 1 Brace; Katelyn with Journey and Alucard in perfect step.

Mr. Jussi Liimatainen, to judge the breed at one of the all-breed shows. Having two international judges helped

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

make this a very special national-specialty weekend.

The 2026 FLCA National Specialty Best of Breed winner was Chipee (GCh. Legendary Bearspaw Magic Chip, OA, OAJ, NF, CGC, TKN, FITB). Chipee and his co-owner/breeder Shelli Sinclair-Wood won the “trifecta”—Best of Breed, Best of Breed Owner-Handled, and Best Bred-by-Exhibitor—a first for the breed at a national. Chipee’s sire, Mikee (GCh.S MACH4 Sugarok Magic Mike, UDX4, PUTD, PCDX, OM3, MXB2, MJB2, MXP, MJP, MXF, TQX, T2B2, BCAT, CGCA, TKI, FITB), won the national back in 2019, and this is another breed first for both a father and son to win our national. And to top it off, both father and son are our only national winners to have advanced agility titles!

Chipee’s favorite person, Lorraine Paglini, said he is the sweetest dog she has ever owned, he loves to please, and he is always smiling.

Aurinko (GCh.G Sugarok

Here Comes the Sun, FDC, DCAT, ATT) won Best of Breed at the regional specialty. Whitney Stacy said her favorite thing about Aurinko is his willingness to please and exuberance for life. Every day is a good day according to him.

Along with conformation, the SKC show also offered Brace, obedience, rally, Fast CAT, and Barn Hunt, with Lapphunds entered in all these activities. In conformation, new titles were earned for eight dogs over the show weekend. In Brace, Journey and Alucard showed what teamwork looks like, earning Group 1. In obedience, Mikee earned the PCDX title plus an all-breed PHIT, and Ayra got an all-breed HIT and HC. In rally, Tuula earned her RA, and Alucard got his RN. The Lapphunds also participated in Rally Team Novice and Excellent, taking home lots of nice prizes. In Fast CAT, Lego got his FCAT2 title, River picked up his DCAT, and Alucard finished his BCAT.

All these successes in one

weekend demonstrated the breed’s versatility and the ability of their handlers to be in several places at once!

The FLCA also held its first FLCA Honors event at this national, giving presentations and mentions for Versatility Awards, Register of Merit Awards, Rudolph Award, Life Members, Top Finnish Lapphunds, and Junior Showmanship. [Click here to see the fabulous online catalog](#) detailing the awards and awardees.

In 2025, the FLCA launched the [Finnish Lapphund Versatility Award](#) and for the dogs who had applied, special ribbons were ordered. The first Finnish Lapphund Versatility Gold (FLVG) ribbon was presented to Mikee, with mentions for the first Silver (FLVS) to Teemu and first Bronze (FLVB) to Ricky. Other club members who were in attendance received their versatility ribbons for Mace, Lego, Journey, Cosmo, and Musti.

The 2027 FLCA national specialty and concurrent

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

regional specialty will be held on the East Coast over Memorial Day weekend in Doswell, Virginia, in conjunction with the Breeders, Owners, Blue Ribbon (B.O.B) Cluster, and the show committee is already making exciting plans. We hope to see you there!

Links:

FLCA Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/finnishlappundclubofamerica>

Awards catalog

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/a547fb6e92.html>

FLCA Versatility Award

<https://www.finnishlapphund.org/flca-versatility-awards>

—Maria Swarts,

miaswarts@aol.com

Finnish Lapphund Club of America

German Shepherd Dogs

THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

The German Shepherd Dog Club of America

(GSDCA) is the oldest and largest organization in the United States dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of the German Shepherd Dog. Since its founding more than a century ago, the club has played a vital role in establishing breed standards, supporting responsible breeding, promoting canine health, and celebrating the remarkable versatility of one of the world's most admired dog breeds.

The German Shepherd Dog was developed in Germany in the late 1800s by Captain Max von Stephanitz, who envisioned a highly intelligent, athletic, and dependable working dog. As the breed gained popularity around the world, enthusiasts in the United States recognized the need for a national organization devoted to its welfare and development.

In 1913, a small group of dedicated fanciers founded the German Shepherd Dog Club of America. The organization was created

to encourage responsible ownership, preserve the breed's working abilities, and provide a unified voice for German Shepherd enthusiasts across the country.

During the early decades of the 20th century, German Shepherds quickly became known for their intelligence, courage, and loyalty. They excelled as police dogs, military dogs, guide dogs, search-and-rescue partners, and beloved family companions.

The GSDCA worked closely with the American Kennel Club to promote responsible breeding and educate the public about the breed. Through conformation shows, obedience competitions, and educational programs, the club encouraged breeders and owners to produce dogs that possessed both sound structure and stable temperament.

One of the club's most important responsibilities has been maintaining and interpreting the official breed standard. The standard describes the ideal

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

German Shepherd in terms of appearance, movement, temperament, and working ability.

Throughout its history, the GSDCA has emphasized that the German Shepherd should be more than simply an attractive show dog. Sound nerves, intelligence, trainability, and the ability to perform useful work remain fundamental characteristics of the breed.

As interest in canine sports grew, so did the club's programs. Today, GSDCA members participate in a wide variety of activities, including:

- Conformation shows
- Herding trials
- Obedience competitions
- Rally
- Agility
- Tracking
- Scent work
- Performance and working events

These activities showcase the breed's versatility while strengthening the bond between dogs and their owners.

Recognizing that respon-



sible breeding requires a commitment to health, the GSDCA has invested significant effort into educating breeders and owners about hereditary diseases and sound breeding practices. The club encourages health testing, supports scientific research, and provides educational resources on nutrition, training, genetics, and responsible ownership.

The organization also promotes rescue efforts, helping German Shepherd Dogs find new homes through regional rescue groups across the U.S.

Few breeds have contributed to society as broadly as

the German Shepherd Dog. From serving on battlefields and assisting law enforcement to guiding individuals with visual impairments and locating disaster victims, German Shepherds have demonstrated extraordinary courage and devotion.

The German Shepherd Dog Club of America has helped preserve these qualities for generations by encouraging breeding programs that value temperament, intelligence, structure, and working ability equally.

More than 100 years after its founding, the German Shepherd Dog Club of

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

America continues to adapt while remaining true to its original mission. Through education, competition, health initiatives, and public outreach, the club remains committed to protecting the integrity of the breed and ensuring that future generations experience the same loyal, capable, and versatile companion that has earned worldwide admiration.

As the German Shepherd Dog continues to serve families, communities, and nations around the globe, the GSDCA stands as a testament to the dedication of generations of breeders, trainers, owners, and volunteers who have devoted themselves to preserving one of the world's greatest working dogs.

—Vicki Bemont

[German Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Icelandic Sheepdogs

ISAA REGISTER OF MERIT (ROM) PROGRAM

In the December 2025 issue of the AKC GAZETTE,

this column highlighted the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America's Versatility Awards program. For this issue, the other official ISAA awards program is the focus: the Register of Merit (ROM), now in its third year.

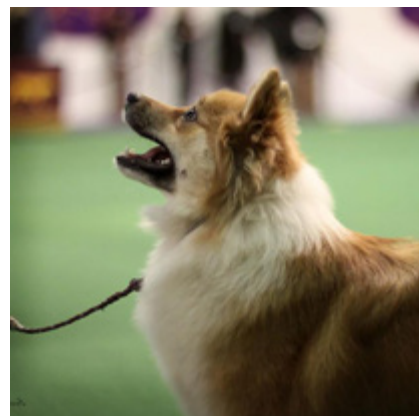
The purpose of the Register of Merit program, according to the defining document, is to "recognize Icelandic Sheepdogs who have an impact on the future of Icelandic Sheepdogs in the United States as well as across the globe." In addition, it "rewards those individuals who participate in AKC/ISAA events to showcase their breeding stock and influence breeding standards in the United States." Each potential ROM owner must be a member in good standing of the ISAA. Owners of offspring of the potential ROM recipient do not need to be members of the ISAA.

Sires and dams are recognized based on the points earned by their offspring (both male and female)

across all AKC venues (conformation, companion, and performance) and from ISAA national and regional specialty conformation events. Requirements for a Sire of Merit (SOM) are a minimum of 100 points from titles of his offspring (which must include AKC titles from at least seven individuals), and no fewer than five offspring awarded the title of AKC Champion. Needed for a Dam of Merit (DOM) are 60 points or more from titles earned by offspring (which must include AKC titles from at least four individuals), and three or more offspring with AKC Champion titles. Advanced levels—Bronze (BSOM/BDOM), Silver (SSOM/SDOM), and Gold (GSOM/GDOM)—are available for sires and dams who have produced more numbers of AKC Champion offspring or advanced level Champions, plus have earned points from more than the minimum of AKC titles and title holders required per level.

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



Some of the ISAA ROM awardees: (1) Caradoc's Vali Singin' in the Rain; (2) Isneista Alspora Snati of Bayshore; (3) Mombaccus Valykrja; (4) Stokk-Sels Bjorn Bangsi; (5) Stubborn Elm's Oskasteina Skiptingur; (6) Caradoc's Wicked

For the highest level, the Legion of Merit (LOM), sires and dams are awarded when a parent of three ROM recipients, one of which must be Gold level.

According to ROM Committee member and current ISAA President Blake Williams: "The ROM program has been a wonderful addition to our club.

It all started a few years ago based on ideas and feedback from our membership that had a strong desire to recognize breeders and the dogs who are leaving a lasting impact on the Icelandic Sheepdog breed. Following the membership's feedback, a committee was formed of members who brought different strengths to the

table: data/excel crunching to automate the process; graphic designing for certificates and publication; project management; and communication skills. The committee not only worked hard to create a sustainable program, but they also continue to run it year after year. To date, we have had 34 recipients, all of whom

COURTESY OWNERS / ISAA

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

are incredibly deserving. Included with the award is recognition at the ISAA annual meeting and in the quarterly ISAA Newsletter. A certificate is given, and owners may purchase a special plaque.

“This program has proved valuable as a breeding tool as well, highlighting sires and dams who are consistently able to produce offspring who are competitive in many different rings. We look forward to seeing this program develop and to recognizing these amazing dogs and their accomplishments. I thank the ISAA ROM Committee who started from the beginning and continue to work hard to support this program: Kayla Stilger, Kristine Hynes, and Brittany Slane.”

Recipients of the ROM Awards to date are:

Silver Sire of Merit:

NBISS GCh.S Isneista Alspora Snati of Bayshore
Stokk-Sels Bjorn Bangsi,
TKI
GCh. MACH Stubborn

Elm's Oskasteina Skiptingur,
CDX, BN, GO, RM, RAE,
PT, FDC, MXB, MJB, XF,
T2B, CAA, DCAT, SHDN,
RATS, DJ, DN, CGCA,
CGCU, TKP, ATT, VHMA,
VSWB

Silver Dam of Merit:

NBISS GCh. Caradoc's
Vali Singin' in the Rain
Ch. Caradoc's Wicked,
CGC
Ch. Mombaccus Valykria,
TKI

Bronze Sire of Merit:

NBISS GCh.S Enska
Puck of Caradoc, BN, RN,
NA, NAJ, CGC
Ch. Foothills Laki, RATO,
TKN
GCh. Gerplu Spori
GCh.B Mack Hill Ryo of
Caradoc, RN, CA, DCAT,
CGC

Bronze Dam of Merit:

GCh.B Caradoc's Just Shy
of Heaven, RN, OAP, AJP,
CGC
Tri-Star Hroi Hottur Alia,
RN, CGC, TKN
Ch. Valhalla's Heart O'
Gold

Sire of Merit:

Astvinur Imaldur
GCh.B Bjarkarkots Hroi
Hottur Luke, PT, MX,
AXJ, MXP5, MXPS, MJP4,
MJPB, PAX, OF
NBISS GCh.B Hidow
Thrymheim's Tryggur, HT,
CAX2, BCAT, THDA,
RATN, CCGA, TKN,
VISP+H
NBISS GCh.S Isneista
Fjari
GCh. Lavandels Thorri,
CGC, TKN
Kersins Leifur Heppni

Dam of Merit:

Audurs Dimmalimm
GCh. Caradoc's Play to
Win of Wilron
GCh. Emerald Isle Grima
Ch. Enska Hot Tati of
Caradoc
Ch. Haugardsminde's Smá
Ch. Hidow Tara
Lavandels Vera, RATS,
TKN
Ch. Mceremons Gou
Roka, CGC
GCh. Mceremons Rose
Garden, BN, RA, NA, NAJ,
OAP, OJP, CGC
NBISS GCh.S Pikatti's
Hjarta Hildur, FDC, CGC,

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

TKN, ATT

Somi's Saela

Ch. Thrymheim's Dofria

Tuulenpuskan's Osk

Menjadottir

Viking Lilja

GCh. G Vinlands Kippa

Jane, RA, FDC, CAA,

BCAT, ACT1, THDN,

RATN, CGCA, TKN, VISS

Applications will be accepted in 2026 between December 1–31. For more information and to receive the point schedule, please contact icelandicROM@gmail.com.

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield
Tucker,

kbethwt@yahoo.com

[Icelandic Sheepdog
Association of America](#)

Norwegian Buhunds

FIT BUHUNDS

The AKC FIT DOG program is popular with Buhunds. This program is a fitness initiative that was started by the AKC in 2018 to encourage all dog owners to go out and exercise with their dogs. In the early years, it focused

on community fun walks, with dogs and owners who met certain goals getting an AKC FIT DOG magnet to display their commitment to fitness.

Later the program was expanded to offer FIT DOG titles, a nice way to offer recognition to dogs and owners who commit to a fitter lifestyle. In 2023, the year that the AKC started offering FIT DOG titles, 16 Buhunds achieved the Bronze level title, 13 achieved the Silver level title, and nine obtained the Gold level title.

The AKC FIT DOG titles are open to all dogs and can be earned by completing specific activities for each title. There are three levels of titles. The Bronze title (FITB) can be achieved by earning 5 points through a combination of activities that fall under two or more categories, the Silver title (FITS) requires earning 10 points, and to earn the Gold title (FITG) your dog needs to get 20 points through various activities.

One of the activities can be the completion of a FIT DOG course, which is a fun six-week course in which instructors teach a range of exercises or “tricks” such as such as a tuck sit, spins right and left, and cookie stretches. The nice part is that some of these exercises can also be used later when going for a trick dog title.

Corresponding to the three levels of FIT DOG titles, there are three levels of FIT DOG classes, with the goal of helping dogs improve balance, flexibility, stamina, and overall body fitness.

There are several other categories of activities that can be used to earn FIT DOG titles, such as participating in a local fun walk or fun run or recording individual walks for eight weeks.

Since my Buhunds and I walk almost every day and hike on weekends, I used our daily walks as one of our activities when I applied for the FIT DOG titles. You can also use a fitness-related AKC title that has been earned by your dog as one

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



Norwegian Buhund

of the activities.

The AKC FIT DOG program encourages people and dogs achieve their fitness goals. In addition to improving fitness, we also get the added benefit of forming closer bonds with our Buhunds while engaging in fun fitness activities. And there is the social aspect of interacting with other dogs and people. My Buhunds and I enjoyed engaging in activities such as community walks and FIT DOG classes

where we met new friends.

Finally, all types of exercise can engage the Buhund mind and encourage calmness—something that is not easily achieved by our active dogs.

After all, a tired Buhund is a happy Buhund, which results in a happy owner.

—Jasmine Tata, 41285 N. Point Drive, Antioch, IL 60002; Jtata2@yahoo.com

[Norwegian Buhund Club of America](#)

Jtata2@yahoo.com

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

PEMBROKE CHARACTER

The breed standard for the Pembroke Welsh Corgi describes physical characteristics. There are several references to the character of the breed: “Outlook bold, but kindly. Expression intelligent and interested. Never shy nor vicious. Correct type, including general balance and outline, attractiveness of headpiece, intelligent outlook and correct temperament are of primary importance.” But there are no true references to the *character* that the breed can be!

The Pembroke is easy to train and a willing worker—most of the time. They dislike repetitive training and can create their own versions of obedience exercises, saving their creations for public display.

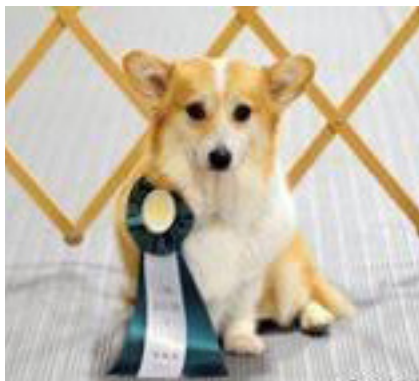
One did the broad jump in the manner of an in-and-out jump in equestrian jumping. A spectator was enthralled and asked how he was trained to do that!

Another did the drop on

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP



Pembroke Welsh Corgis: (1) The harder you try, the lower the ears go; (2) sometimes you only see their true feelings in a photo!

recall as a “drop and slide.” He would run fast, and on the down command, he would leap up in the air, throw himself on his side, and slide to a stop, grinning the whole time. Judges sometimes had him repeat the exercise because they could not believe what they saw!

Another Pembroke fell in love with her judge. She was more interested in the judge than her handler! The dog was very torn as to who to go to on the recall.

Agility gives Pembrokes lots of ways to show their creativity. A friend taught her Pembroke to “bang” the teeter. And she did. At trials. The dog would run

to the teeter and bang it, sometimes running up the teeter, turning around, and banging it again on the way down. Repeatedly.

Other Pembrokes like to entertain the crowd by rolling, either at the start line or in between jumps as they navigate the course. Others will pick up clumps of newly mowed grass as they run at outdoor trials.

Many Pembrokes do not like the table obstacle since it stops the fun. As a result, I heavily reward tables in training. One of my dogs in her novice debut did jump, table, jump, table, jump table until we got out of the table area. Be careful what you reinforce!

Conformation dogs are not exempt from entertaining moments. One of mine made a leap for the exam table as we did the group gaiting at a specialty show. Others will sit up and bark.

We know that the harder we try to get those ears up, the more the Pembroke will drop them down and then pin them back, giving a “seal” look rather than that bold expression mentioned in the breed standard. It is why it takes so long to get photos taken at shows!

The breed is friendly and outgoing, but some of them are a bit over the top in that regard. One of mine likes to watch the crowd watching him. It was not unusual for him to trip over his front feet while running in Fast CAT and watching the spectators. Visiting the ring crew and judge in agility may be seen as just a Novice thing, but your Masters level Pembroke may do the same, so be prepared!

And let’s not forget around-the-house creativity. The remnants of a hurricane

IN MOTION PHOTOGRAPHY; PHYLLIS ENSLEY, PET ACTION SHOTS

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

toppled a tree in my backyard and took out part of the fence. I created a temporary fence. I left a youngster in the yard and was cleaning out the car in the driveway. There he was, watching me. “How did you get out?” I took him back, inspected the temporary fence, fixed a place I thought he had squeezed through, and left him. And he was back in the driveway with me!

I took him back to do a closer inspection. He kept looking over his shoulder, beckoning me to follow him, with a grin on his face. He took a tentative couple steps up the deck steps, looking back to make sure I was watching. And another step, putting himself between the slats, ready to jump to freedom! He was quite proud of himself and most annoyed when I put a gate across the bottom of the deck steps.

This breed is a problem solver, creative, and clever! Come join us October 3 to 10 at Purina Farms for our national specialty. All events are onsite. Details are

on the club web site. Corgi Creativity will be on display!

—Lynda McKee,

TifflynLDM@aol.com

[Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Pulik

REMEMBERING PAM ERSTLING

The Puli fancy recently lost one of its most devoted stewards with the passing of Pam Erstling. For decades, Pam was a familiar and respected presence in the Puli community—not only as an exhibitor and breeder, but also as a tireless volunteer and friend. Whether ringside, at a national specialty, or working behind the scenes for the Puli Club of America (PCA), she devoted her time and talents to strengthening the breed she loved. Pam (Kolodzey) Erstling’s love affair with the Puli spanned more than 40 years.

Originally from Corpus Christi, Texas, Pam also lived in Colorado and Georgia before eventually

returning to Texas and settling in the Houston area. Her life with Pulik began when she and her first husband, Paul Barbro, imported her first Puli from Hungary. What began with that first dog grew into a lifelong commitment to the breed, encompassing conformation, breeding, performance sports, and service to the Puli community.

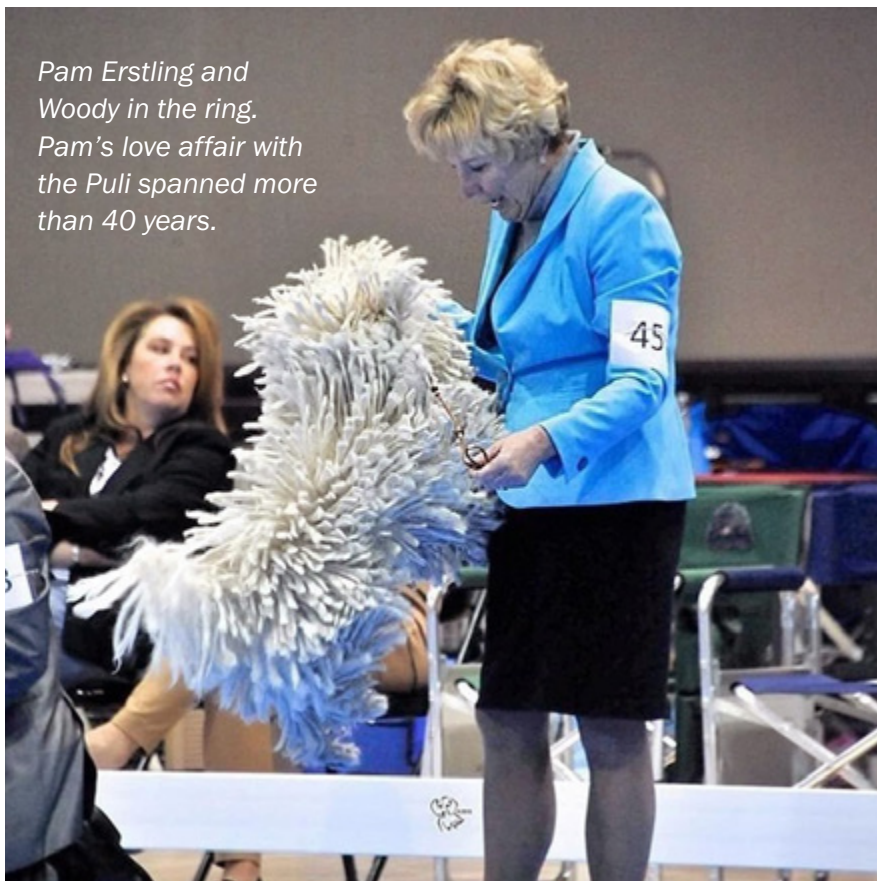
Pam bred Pulik under the *Pajkos* prefix—a fitting Hungarian word for someone spirited, playful, and a little mischievous. When Paul became seriously ill, the demands of his care and medical treatment meant that Pam had to make the difficult decision to part with her Pulik, bringing that chapter of her breeding program to a close. Following Paul’s death, her love for the breed never left her.

In time, Pam found love and happiness again with Bob Erstling, who became not only her partner in life but also an enthusiastic supporter of her enduring love of Pulik. With Bob by

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Pam Erstling and Woody in the ring. Pam's love affair with the Puli spanned more than 40 years.



her side, Pulik once again became part of Pam's home and daily life. Dogs from the Pirooska and Spindrift kennels joined their family, carrying the Pajkos name and beginning a new chapter in Pam's life with the breed.

The name "Woody" marked two different chapters in Pam's life with Pulik. Her first Woody was a black Puli in the early 1990s.

Decades later came a second Woody—this time a white Puli—GCh. Pirooskai The Woodlands TX at Pajkos, NAP, NJP, CGC. Pam was a competitive yet gracious owner-handler, and she and Woody became an accomplished team. She even trained and showed him in agility until the length of his coat became a liability. By 2024, Woody had earned more than 3,200 National

Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) points, ranking him as the #3 lifetime owner-handled Puli (see "The Owner-Handled Puli," AKC GAZETTE, December 2024).

For Pam, success in the show ring was never the whole measure of a Puli. She valued the complete dog—sound, intelligent, agile, and capable of doing the work for which the breed was developed. Her involvement in both conformation and performance reflected a deeply held belief in preserving the qualities that make a Puli a Puli. Just as important to Pam was how one participated in the breed: with integrity, good sportsmanship, respect for others, and a responsibility to leave the breed stronger for those who would follow.

Pam's commitment to Pulik extended well beyond her own dogs and the show ring. She was an active member of the Puli Club of America for many years, serving in both officer and board positions and generously volunteering her

COURTESY FAMILY

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

time in support of the club. Among her many contributions, Pam often served on the PCA's agility trial committee when the club held trials locally. Through that service, she helped support the breed and the community surrounding it, contributing the time, knowledge, and energy upon which a national breed club depends.

But titles, positions, and show-ring accomplishments tell only part of Pam's story. Pam was a truly classy lady—warm, kind, and gracious, with a generosity of spirit that drew people to her. She was loved by many, human and animal alike, and the friendships she formed through the Puli world became as much a part of her life in the breed as the dogs themselves. She could be fiercely competitive while remaining gracious to those around her, and she gave freely of her time and herself to a breed community that meant so much to her. Those who knew Pam will each carry their own

memories of her—some easily shared, others more personal and difficult to put into words. No single remembrance could capture all that she meant to the many people whose lives she touched.

Every breed is shaped by people whose influence reaches far beyond the dogs they own. Pam was one of those people. Through her generosity, her service, and her unwavering commitment to the Puli, she strengthened not only a remarkable breed but also the community of fanciers who cherish it. She will be remembered with gratitude, affection, and deep respect by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Pam is survived by her husband, Bob Erstling; her three Pulik, Spencer, Woody, and Gabby; and her Ragdoll cat, Truffy.

In accordance with Pam's wishes, those who would like to honor her memory are invited to make a memorial donation to the Puli Rescue Trust (<https://www.pulirescue.org/wp/top/>) or the

American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org/donate.html>).

As we remember Pam, we also recognize that PCA has experienced an extraordinary number of losses of PCA members over the past few years. Each was part of our Puli community and leaves behind friends, memories, and contributions that are uniquely their own. We remember them, too, with gratitude and affection.

I thank Brian Brubaker and Alece Coulman for their contributions to this tribute.

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

Shetland Sheepdogs

Our guest columnist for this issue is ASSA Junior Coordinator Marni Sharoff.

ASSA JUNIOR SPONSORSHIPS: SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

The American Shetland Sheepdog Association is

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

proud to recognize and support juniors who qualify to compete with their Shelties at some of the most exciting events in the sport.

Through funds generously donated to ASSA for this purpose, up to twelve \$500 sponsorships are available each year. Eligible events

include Westminster Kennel Club, the AKC National Agility Championship, the Junior Open Agility World Championship, and the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. Sponsorships are available for juniors competing in Junior

Showmanship, Agility, Obedience, and Rally.

Junior Showmanship gives young handlers the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in presenting and handling a dog. Unlike breed competition, the junior is being evaluated rather than the dog. The program

Shetland Sheepdog



SHEPHERD SHEPHERD

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

helps young people develop confidence, responsibility, sportsmanship, and a deeper understanding of dogs.

Juniors may also compete with their dogs in performance events such as Agility, Obedience, and Rally.

For many young people, participating in juniors is the beginning of a lifelong involvement in the sport. Along the way, they learn how to care for and work with their dogs, handle both success and disappointment, support their fellow competitors, and form friendships with others who share their interests. The lessons learned through competition often extend far beyond the show ring.

The program celebrates the dedication it takes to qualify for these events and helps juniors make the most of the opportunities they have earned.

The application process is straightforward. Once a junior qualifies for an eligible event, the application includes a letter from the junior, proof of qualifica-

tion, and an endorsement from an ASSA member club or recommendations from ASSA members. Complete materials must be submitted together by the deadline for that event. Because sponsorships are limited, juniors are encouraged to apply soon after receiving their invitation or notice of qualification.

After competing, recipients share a short written or video report about their experience. Their stories show how these opportunities help young competitors grow, both inside and outside the ring.

Competing at Westminster Kennel Club is a special achievement for any junior. It brings together talented young handlers from across the country and gives them the opportunity to compete on one of the sport's most recognized stages. Beyond the time spent in the ring, juniors can watch accomplished handlers, learn from others, and experience the energy and tradition that make Westminster so memorable.

Kadence Lancaster,

Owen Steffen, and Demery Livingston each received sponsorships to compete with their Shelties at Westminster Kennel Club. Kadence competed with Levi for the third time and shared that the experience reinforced the importance of perseverance, dedication, and the bond between a junior and their dog. Kadence and Levi have already qualified to return in 2027. Owen competed with Gabby during his final year in Junior Showmanship and called Westminster one of the best dog show experiences he has ever had. "Walking into the Garden to watch Best in Show was unlike anything I've ever seen," he wrote. Demery enjoyed the full Westminster experience, from preparing for the show and competing to watching the groups with her family and friends. She was proud to qualify for Westminster for the third consecutive year and grateful that the sponsorship helped make the trip possible.

The Junior Open Agility

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

World Championship offers a different but equally valuable experience. Young handlers and their dogs come together from around the world to compete on challenging courses while representing their countries and supporting their teammates. The event combines high level competition with the opportunity to build international friendships and learn from people with different experiences and backgrounds.

ASSA sponsorships have also helped juniors represent Shelties internationally. Abby LaSpina and her Sheltie, Sky, traveled to Portugal to compete at the Junior Open Agility World Championship. Abby enjoyed competing alongside young handlers from around the world and being part of a larger agility community. The challenging courses pushed her to do her best for her teammates and coaches, while the welcoming atmosphere and sportsmanship made the experience even more memorable. Her advice to

future competitors is to keep an open mind, meet people from different countries and backgrounds, and enjoy every part of the experience.

These juniors earned their places at these events through dedication, hard work, and strong partnerships with their Shelties. The ASSA is proud to recognize those accomplishments and support their experiences at the national and international levels.

The lessons, friendships, confidence, and memories they bring home will remain with them long after the competition ends. By supporting today's juniors, ASSA is also supporting the future of our breed and our sport.

Thank you to the ASSA members and supporters whose generosity makes this program possible, as well as the families, breeders, mentors, and clubs that encourage our juniors along the way.

Complete details and deadlines are available in the ASSA Junior Sponsorship Application. Questions may

be directed to ASSA Junior Coordinator Marni Sharoff at mcsharo@gmail.com.

[American Shetland Sheepdog Association](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

BUY YOUR KIDS A DOG (BOOK!) FOR CHRISTMAS!

Had you worried there, for a moment? Heavens no, I would *never* suggest getting a family dog over the holiday season! There is way too much chaos, strange decorations that smell yummy and *might* look edible, and Uncle Pete, who insists on slipping treats, ill-advised or not, to the family pets. Instead, here are some book recommendations for readers and (too-little-to-read-yet) family members.

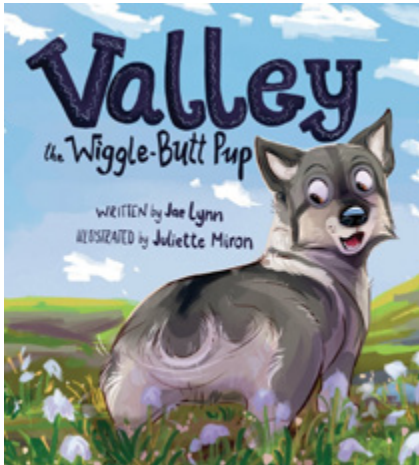
While researching books to appeal to a varied audience, I discovered two books by familiar authors: Sandy Grambort (as Sandra Kay) and Jamie O'Connor (as Jae Lynn). Both are members of the Swedish Vallhund Club of America. I interviewed

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS				
Suitable for Ages	Title	Author	Date Published	Story Line
1-3 yrs	Where's Spot?	Eric Hill	30-Jun-03	Learning names of household places/objects
4 - 8 yrs	Here Comes Bella	Seth Karnes	30-Mar-26	Deals with love and the death of a pet dog
5 - 7 yrs	Pug Goes to Hollywood: A Branches Book	Kyla May	7-Jul-26	Making new friends
8 - 12 yrs	Wombat Waiting	Katherine Applegate	5-May-26	Recovery and rehoming after a wildfire
9 - 12 yrs	They Call Me No Sam!: A Silly Middle-Grade Novel about a Noble Pug	Drew Daywalt	6-Jun-24	Meet Sam: an insolent pug, who will stop at nothing to protect his family!
Pre-K - 7 yrs	Valley the Wiggle-Butt Pup	Jae Lynn	17-May-25	A tale about a tail, and finding happiness.
Teen - Adult	Diary of a Dog Catcher	Sandra Kay	15-Oct-25	A memoir of a life lived in service to animals and the people who love them.

A guide to several dog books suitable for gifting to kids



both for this column.

In *Diary of a Dog Catcher* (2025, Prairie Moon Press), Sandy Grambort, writing as Sandra Kay, shares stories about her life and work as

an animal lover and animal control officer. Originally, the book was intended to be just that, a chronicle of her experiences. Recording the tales satisfied her need to create, but it has become far more than that.

The book begins with stories and memories from Sandy's childhood, including the small wild animals she found and her learning about the animal world with her grandparents and parents. Her lifelong love of the environment and drive

to help animals in harm's way led to volunteer work, followed by animal control work, and Sandy instinctively knew she had found her calling. Shelters, standards, and philosophies were somewhat crude at the time, and massive cases of abhorrent animal mistreatment and neglect made the news. Public animal welfare movements grew, often uniting people who rallied around their love of animals. These groups, calling for reforms to laws, monitoring efforts, and

BOOK IMAGE COURTESY JAE LYNN

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

funding for changes to facilities and staffing at animal care facilities, became new communities, giving voice to the animals. This phenomenon, in part, created this book.

As readers recognize the connections between their life experiences and the stories in the book, they pass their copies on to friends, often with the instructions, “You gotta read this!” Positive communities form there as well, groups that continue to grow and strengthen as the book gains fans. Recurring accounts of this community-building effect are encouraging. There is a sequel planned, *Diary of a Dogcatcher—Riding Shotgun*. It will feature stories of Sandra’s friends and colleagues and their shared animal rescue experiences in the field.

Jae Lynn (pseudonym of Jamie O’Connor) goes to outdoor festivals, bookstores, and dog shows to read her book, *Valley the Wiggle-Butt Pup* (2025, Jaestories), to kids. With a degree in creative writing

and a concentration in fiction for children, the author is highly sensitive to her youthful audience and genuinely enjoys presenting her work to attentive listeners. Belonging to several dog clubs and “a burst of dogs,” including her Swedish Vallhunds, Snapdragon and Saga, she promotes several animal welfare organizations and the AKC’s Bailey’s Book Club.

Wiggle-Butt Valley and her littermates love to tumble and play, and when they are wagging their tails in happiness, Valley notices something missing: *She doesn’t have a tail!* She sets off on her quest to find out if she can be happy without a tail, and young readers and listeners can learn about self-acceptance. With delightful illustrations by noted illustrator Juliette Miron, even non-readers will enjoy Valley’s tale. “The Vallhund Pups” series continues with *Sparky the Viking Pup*, available now, and a planned book about sister Sunny, as well.

All of these titles are avail-

able through the usual retail channels, but I strongly recommend supporting your local booksellers by using bookshop.org. Find out more about how bookshop works here: <https://bookshop.org/info/about-us>

Bailey’s Book Club is a program that provides resources and dog-themed books to K–12 U.S. schools participating in Title I programming. In addition to developing reading skills and an appreciation of literature, Bailey’s also helps children learn about the human-canine bond.

A wealth of books is available on dog-themed topics for kids and older readers. This is but a small sampling of them, a stepping-off point, encouraging real, live, physical books for readers of all ages. Help create a screen-free holiday season. Remember, books are quiet (usually!), energy-saving, portable entertainment!

—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 2027

DR. J. CHARLES GARVIN

STEVEN HAMBLIN

DANIEL J. SMYTH, ESQ.

CLASS OF 2029

DR. THOMAS M. DAVIES

EDUARDO FUGIWARA

ROBIN STANSELL

SYLVIA THOMAS

CLASS OF 2028

DR. CARMEN L. BATTAGLIA

SALLY L. FINEBURG

DR. MICHAEL G. KNIGHT

CLASS OF 2030

DOMINIC P. CAROTA

SUE GOLDBERG

JASON HOKE

THE LATE RONALD H. MENAKER, Chairman Emeritus

GINA M. DINARDO, Ex Officio

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

GINA M. DINARDO
President &
Chief Executive Officer

THEODORE E. PHILLIPS
Chief Financial Officer

SHEILA GOFFE
Executive Secretary &
Vice President, Government Relations

DENNIS B. SPRUNG, President Emeritus

VICE PRESIDENTS

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

JULIA RUSSELL, Executive Vice President, Customer Strategy & Growth

PAULA SPECTOR, Corporate Services

DAPHNA STRAUS, Business Development

TIM THOMAS, Conformation

TRIAL BOARDS

APPEALS TRIAL BOARD

MARTHA FELTENSTEIN,
ESQ., CHAIR

TRIAL BOARD CHAIRS

EUGENIA HUNTER, ESQ.

VINCENT INDEGLIA, ESQ.

SAMUEL KOVITZ, ESQ.

LAURIE RAYMOND, ESQ.

TRIAL BOARD MEMBERS

KATHI BROWN

MEDORA HARPER

CARL HOLDER

DR. JOHN IOIA

LAURIE MAULUCCI

ROBERT NEWMAN

HON. JAMES PHINIZY

DIANA L. SKIBINSKI

BETTY-ANNE STENMARK

GLENDA STEPHENSON

MICHELE WRATH

PERFORMANCE TRIAL BOARD

TIM CARWILE, ESQ., CHAIR

JOHN RUSSELL

ALTERNATES

FRANK BARTON

REX GIBSON

ROBERT W. MONTLER

ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026**. 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 has not yet voted will have the opportunity to do so, then the polls will be closed.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

James Albrecht, West Barnstable, MA,
Cape Cod Kennel Club

Dana Dean, Randolph Center, VT,
Woodstock Dog Club

Karen Dewey, Newport, NH,
American Bloodhound Club

Jane M. Engemann, Lawton, OK,
Rat Terrier Club of America

Alfred Ferruggiario, Burtonsville, MD,
Catonsville Kennel Club

Catherine Ibold, Esq., Navarre, FL,
Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association



gazette

Click here to read the
September 2026 issue!

Gary Koepfel, Canaan, CT,
Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club

Gregg Lonas, Corryton, TN,
Oak Ridge Kennel Club

Idalia C. McConnie, Silver Springs,
MD, National Capital Kennel Club

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The AKC Board of Directors, at its July 2026 meeting, elected the Nominating Committee that is responsible for selecting candidates to fill vacancies on the Board at the March 2027 Delegate Meeting. There are three vacancies for the Class of 2031.

The Nominating Committee members are:

John Ioia, Chair, Southern Adirondack
Dog Club

Marge Calltharp, Chinese Shar-Pei
Club of America

Connie Clark, American Fox Terrier
Club

Joellen Gregory, Otterhound Club
of America

Steven Sansone, Giant Schnauzer Club
of America

Alternates:

Jacquelyn Fogel, Reno Kennel Club

Robert Rynkiewicz, Eastern German
Shorthaired Pointer Club

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individuals stand suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

Mr. Alwin Knirlberger (Aspen, CO)

Dr. Adrian Smith (Simi Valley, CA)

Ms. Veronica Van Zandt (White Oak, TX)

NOTICE

Ms. Jessica Baldwin (Whittier, CA). Action was taken by the South Bay Kennel Club for conduct at its May 23, 2026 event. Ms. Baldwin was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Lynn Birkner (Seattle, WA). Action was taken by the Seattle Kennel Club for conduct at its August 2, 2026 event. Ms. Birkner was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally to a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event

Committee's report and set the penalty as two-month event suspension and imposed a \$100 fine, effective August 25, 2026.

(Poodles, All-American Dog)

NOTICE

Ms. Alice Casbeer (San Antonio, TX). Action was taken by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of San Antonio for conduct at its February 7-8, 2026 event. Ms. Casbeer was charged with conduct characterized by the Staff Event Committee as inappropriate, public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating lack of sportsmanship and misuse of a tracking/training device in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the combined penalty as a six-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective April 2, 2026. Ms. Casbeer appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty. (German Shorthaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers)

NOTICE

Ms. Michelle Jacobson (Strathmore, CA). Action was taken by the Contra Costa County Kennel Club for conduct at its June 6, 2026 event. Ms. Jacobson 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 one year event suspension and imposed a \$1,000 fine, effective June 21, 2026. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Janyce Selkin (Rhinebeck, NY). Action was taken by the Skyline Agility Club for conduct at its May 24, 2026 event. Ms. Selkin was charged with public criticism of a judge that causes a disruption at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective June 21, 2026. (Border Collies, Briards)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Jacqueline McGee (Cibolo, TX) from all AKC privileges for six months and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested, effective July 9, 2024. (Dachshunds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Marc Estabrook (Colebrook, NH) from all AKC privileges for twenty-five years, imposed a \$5,000 fine and is prohibited from being on the grounds of AKC events,

for violation of AKC's *Personal Conduct Policy*, effective July 28, 2026. (Beagles)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Susan Withers (Ashville, OH) from all AKC privileges for twenty-five years and imposed a \$5,000 fine, for violation of AKC's *Personal Conduct Policy*, effective July 14, 2025. (Chihuahuas)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for six months and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested: Effective July 28, 2026:

Mr. Mervin Fisher (Christiana, PA)
Multiple Breeds

Ms. Lisa Williams (Weatherford, TX)
Maltese

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Eric Paul (Oak Harbor, WA) from all AKC privileges for one year and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's *Care and Conditions Policy* (unacceptable conditions, dogs, and/or facility) and AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements, effective

July 28, 2026. (Miniature American Shepherds)

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 individuals have submitted applications for the breed(s) listed **but are NOT currently eligible**

to accept assignments in those breeds.

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Jessica Back (119252) OH

(937) 459-9123
sureshotbulldogs@aol.com
Bulldogs, JS-Limited

Terry Ann Doane (99356) IA

(515) 707-1409
borzoi@mchsi.com
Borzoi

Jeri El Dissi (119211) WI

(262) 441-0138
Jeriieldissi@icloud.com
Beagles, Salukis, Rhodesian Ridgebacks,
Alaskan Malamutes, Akitas, Bernese
Mountain Dogs, Cane Corsos,
Doberman Pinschers, Great Pyrenees,
Leonbergers, Newfoundlands,
Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers,
Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Chow
Chows, Shiba Inu, Berger Picards,
Finnish Lapphunds, JS

Mrs. Mary Goeke (119169) FL

(913) 271-7554
mary.goeke@gmail.com
Irish Setters

Mrs. Gladys W. Knox (119171) PA

(814) 243-1500
gladys@wrightknox.com
Pekingese, JS-Limited

Mr. Christopher Osterloh (119241) MN

507237-8037
chris@pantheonbulldogs.com
Bulldogs

Susan Vernon (119229) CA

summitwhippets@gmail.com
Whippets

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Bill Anderson (103943) WI

(224) 733-4580
bomarkboxers@gmail.com
Doberman Pinschers, Danish-Swedish
Farmdogs, Boston Terriers

Ms. Shira Lee Barkon (108315) PA

snocrest1@gmail.com
Balance of Working Group (Boerboels),
Dalmatians, French Bulldogs

Mr. Brian C. Bogart (100059) NY

(716) 984-0012
sumerwyndb@aol.com
Balance of Working Group (Chinooks,
Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Neapolitan
Mastiffs)

Ms. Bridget J. Brown (102665) AL

(205) 515-8753
jackeye@bellsouth.net
Bulldogs, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs

Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC

(803) 628-8323
dean@pawgate.com
Black Russian Terriers, Boxers, Dogo
Argentinos, Giant Schnauzers

Mrs. Carrie A. Chase (36690) WV

(202) 365-4752

humnbirdcorgis@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, American English
Coonhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna,
Otterhounds, Portuguese Podengo
Pequenos

Mr. Todd Clyde (52861) DE

(302) 542-3416

tclyde002@msn.com

Balance of Toy Group (Havanese,
Maltese, Miniature Pinschers,
Pomeranians, Toy Fox Terriers)

Ms. S. Marie (Miki) Cooney (15638) FL

(508) 254-1112

ladyslipper6@gmail.com

Russian Toys, Silky Terriers

Dr. James R. Davis (111469) MA

(774) 219-1530

epiccockerspaniels@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting (Brittanys,
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-
Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers,
English Setters, Irish Setters), Basset
Fauve de Bretagnes

Mrs. Donna Ernst (91808) TN

(440) 773-5052

anthemkennel@msn.com

Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds,
Havanese, Maltese, Papillons,
Pomeranians, Pugs, Silky Terriers,
Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. James M. Fankhauser (18843) MI

(269) 720-2861

nexusclumbers@gmail.com

Chow Chows, Keeshonden, Norwegian
Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Tibetan
Spaniels

Mrs. Lisa Dube Forman (63962) NY

lisa@lisadubeforman.com

Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers,
Cesky Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers,
Miniature Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers,
Parson Russell Terriers, Scottish Terriers,
Sealyham Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten
Terriers, Poodles

Mr. Duff M. Harris (91790) CA

(714) 425-0454

allegro6@ix.netcom.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises,
Chow Chows, Keeshonden, Lhasa
Apsos, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan
Spaniels

Ms. Dawn Hitchcock (100299) SC

(864) 238-2742

bubblezsc@hotmail.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Border
Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Smooth Fox
Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Norfolk
Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson
Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Skye
Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers,
Teddy Roosevelt Terriers, West Highland
White Terriers)

Brenda Holmen (109522) MN

(612) 817-6970

medcitystaffs@gmail.com

Border Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cairn
Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox
Terriers, Lakeland Terriers

Ms. Britt E. Jung (66281) TX

(703) 626-9149

brittej@gmail.com

Boxers, Cane Corso, Great Danes,
Leonbergers

Pamela S. Lambie (96227) AZ

(480) 561-9038

pam@pamlambie.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Cardigan Welsh
Corgis, Miniature American Shepherds,
Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mrs. Jennifer Lazowski (105991) VA

(717) 823-2501

whirlaway12@hmail.com

Basset Hounds, Portuguese Podengo
Pequenos, Redbone Coonhounds

Mr. Kevin E. Lind (112598) MD

(202) 440-2225

kevin.e.lind@gmail.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Bullmastiffs,
Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Doberman
Pinschers, Dogues de Bordeaux,
Kuvaszok, Mastiffs, Miniature
Schnauzers, Miniature Pinschers

Mrs. Kathy Lorentzen (15475) MI

(989) 493-1269

kathylorentzen@icloud.com

American Foxhounds, Beagles, Bluetick
Coonhounds, Grand Basset Griffon
Vendeens, Harriers, Portuguese Podengo
Pequenos, Salukis, Treeing Walker
Coonhounds

Ms. Kimberly Moshlak (114681) KY

(301) 802-4145

cubruncwc@gmail.com

Briards, Collies, Mudik, Polish Lowland
Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds,
Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Mary B. Napper (62737) TX

(817) 458-1442

mbnapper@gmail.com

Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Cotons
de Tulear, Norwegian Lundehunds,
Xoloitzcuintlin

Mrs. Sherry Patton (110239) TX

(318) 518-6542

4everbts@gmail.com

Maltese, Papillons, Russian Toys, Silky
Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Mrs. Jean Pero (30743) CO

(303) 475-7302

jmpero3@gmail.com

Manchester Terriers, Pekingese, Poodles,
Yorkshire Terriers

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch (106234) WI

(802) 238-0755

lgpodruch@gmail.com

Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki

Ms. Ann H. Roth (63187) NC

(910) 232-5976

harnethounds@juno.com

Bouvier des Flandres, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Collies, Old English Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Shetland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Karen Scholz (100177) WA

(425) 877-9537

Balance of Toy Group (Miniature Pinschers), Australian Shepherds, Miniature American Shepherds

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693

yogi@mtaonline.net

Dalmatians, Pumik, Pyrenean Shepherds

Mrs. Pamela Schroeder (108285) WA

(360) 667-6671

pamelaschroederakc@gmail.com

Balance of Working Group (Chinooks, Komondorok, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers)

Ms. Kathryn Schwabe (51893) NC

(610) 698-6108

kathryn.schwabe@yahoo.com

Australian Shepherds, Canaan Dogs, Mudik

Mr. Eric Steel (98787) NY

(646) 479-9177

ericsteel@mac.com

Cirnechi dell'Etna, Irish Wolfhounds, Sloughis

Mrs. Pamela Waldron (56812) WA

(360) 770-2403

endorgriff@comcast.net

Russian Toys

Ms. Pamela Wilson (64914) TX

(512) 280-3103

wilscot@sbcglobal.net

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Chow Chows, Finnish Spitz, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes), German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers

Mr. Wood Wornall (95931) MO

(805) 264-3304

woodwornall@hotmail.com

Biewer Terriers, Chinese Cresteds, Japanese Chin, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Pekingese, Yorkshire Terriers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Miss Grace Brown (119167) MD

(301) 956-6122

gklbrown@outlook.com

JS-Limited

Mr. Joseph Buchanan (104137) PA

(610) 931-3670

kennelaleema@gmail.com

JS-Limited

Ms. Stacy Duncan (118567) WA

stacyjd@msn.com

JS

Ms. Kyllian Genzmer (119227) VA

(208) 650-0457

truenorth.handling@gmail.com

JS

Miss Samantha Hanle (119249) MN

(763) 486-6503

samanthajhanle@gmail.com

JS

Mrs. Courtney Hartman (117439) MI

(586) 943-9614

cemcgolds@gmail.com

JS

Ms. Scarlett Hickman-Babb (119225)

LA

(254) 979-9909

scarlettthickmanbabb@gmail.com

JS

PERMIT JUDGES

The following individuals have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the breeds listed 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

Tracy Doty (115565) NC

(703) 296-0070

tracylynn-doty@gmail.com

Tibetan Terriers

Julie Hamlin Luther (115437) MA

cespa@comcast.net

Lhasa Apsos

Kathy Nusz (118883) OK

(405) 350-0109

showdogkn@gmail.com

Chinese Cresteds

Alexis Weber (Alex) (118897) IL

(309) 945-7072

aussbern88@gmail.com

Australian Shepherds, JS

Ms. Emily White (118935) CA

whiteemily250@gmail.com

Italian Greyhounds

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Donna Bennett (99281) OK

(918) 671-7133

donna@libertyakitas.com

Basenjis, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Kuvaszok

Mr. Mike Bennett (112839) OK

(918) 760-6456

darlinmikey@libertyakitas.com

Dachshunds, Boxers, Kuvaszok

Mrs. Debarah Billings (116031) TN

(423) 483-9242

debarah@gmail.com

Maltese, Pekingese, Russian Toys, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonki, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Mrs. Tami Rose Bradford (110125) TN

(865) 680-8264

sibemom2002@gmail.com

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs, Doberman Pinschers, Dalmatians

Ms. Sheryl Cammarata (108245) CO

(970) 213-4554

goldenendeavors@gmail.com

Irish Setters

Dr. Jennie Chen (114233) MN

(512) 659-9190

jennie@romanreign.com

Norwegian Elkhounds, Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards

Mr. John Constantine (26418) FL

(215) 527-0056

john@adamis.org

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, English Setters, Irish Red and White Setters

Mrs. Vicky Cook (103755) OR

(541) 601-5355

vickycook@mac.com

Greyhounds, Whippets, Papillons, Dalmatians

Mrs. Dawn Cox (97685) PA

dawncox215@gmail.com

Komondorok, Samoyeds

Mr. David Fitzpatrick (27307) PA

(717) 586-0961

dcfitz7@aol.com

Airedale Terriers, American Hairless Terriers, Australian Terriers, Smooth Fox

Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mr. Israel Garcia (111901) TX

(512) 605-7658

English Foxhounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos

Ms. Jane M. Gentzen (90165) AZ

(928) 910-3866

janegentzen@msn.com

Borzois, Greyhounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos

Mrs. Honey Anne Glendinning (6773) CN

(604) 943-4313

honeyanne@icloud.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Papillons, Pugs, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. Neal Goodwin (45218) CT

(626) 327-2311

doggone1@mindspring.com

Berger Picards, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Finnish Lapphunds, Pumik

Mrs. Nancy Griego (90264) NM

(505) 681-8020

nrgakc@spinn.net

Chow Chows, Cotons de Tulear, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels

Ms. Krista Hansen (95865) NY

(585) 993-1351

camlochcollies@aol.com

Azawakhs, Redbone Coonhounds,
Salukis

Mr. Douglas A. Johnson (17190) IN

(812) 322-0322

clussexx@aol.com

Balance of Herding Group (Australian
Cattle Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis,
Collies, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs,
Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd
Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature
American Shepherds, Mudik, Norwegian
Buhunds, Shetland Sheepdogs, Swedish
Vallhunds)

Dr. M. Patricia Joyce (101483) GA

(770) 596-8665

patjoyce1@att.net

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises,
Lhasa Apsos, Xoloitzcuintlin

Mr. Bill Lee (18750) CO

(720) 385-5753

plee685891@aol.com

Doberman Pinschers, Samoyeds,
Australian Shepherds

Ms. Patrice Loves (102871) PA

(717) 343-8619

lovesgold@comcast.net

English Cocker Spaniels, Welsh Springer
Spaniels

Mrs. Janice McClary (4812) CA

(562) 665-2017

rjmcclary@gmail.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Great Pyrenees,
Newfoundlands, Saint Bernards

Ms. Sylvie McGee (95341) WA

(360) 704-8473

sylvie@sylviemcgee.net

Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Rottweilers

Sarah Murphy (107979) FL

abbaioibizans@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, Black and
Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds,
Greyhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Plott
Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds,
Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Treeing Walker
Coonhounds, Whippets, Sealyham
Terriers, JS- Limited

Dr. Tracy Powell (101481) CT

(203) 631-7110

dulcedanes@yahoo.com

Balance of Hound Group (Basenjis,
Basset Fauve de Bretagnes,
Bloodhounds, Borzois, Grand Basset
Griffon Vendeens, Greyhounds, Irish
Wolfhounds, Peruvian Inca Orchids,
Pharaoh Hounds, Salukis, Scottish
Deerhounds)

Mrs. Gina M. Schag (108997) IL

(630) 669-1131

chulachis@yahoo.com

Yorkshire Terriers

Ms. Karen R. Scheiner (103945) NJ

(609) 417-0200

Borzois, Pharaoh Hounds, Pekingese,
Tibetan Terriers

Ms. Joyce Siddall (98695) CO

(303) 548-1125

catalinakennels@yahoo.com

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco
Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds)

Rhonda Silveira (100061) OR

(503) 428-2021

rsilveira.akcjudge@outlook.com

Bullmastiffs, Dogo Argentinos,
Giant Schnauzers, Greater Swiss
Mountain Dogs, Leonbergers, Mastiffs,
Newfoundlands, Tibetan Mastiffs

Ms. Amy Sorbie (36968) CO

(720) 245-5781

amy@kyrov.net

Balance of Herding Group (Bergamasco
Sheepdogs, Berger Picards, Entlebucher
Mountain Dogs, German Shepherd
Dogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,
Pyrenean Shepherds)

Angela Stevanus (112189) CA

(951) 640-6819

angeldotz@yahoo.com

Bulldogs, Poodles

Ms. Jeanne E. Stiner (103999) PA

(814) 602-5917

busystar@aol.com

Samoyeds

Mrs. Sherri L. Swabb (111865) OH

(937) 620-0281

slswabb@gmail.com

Samoyeds, Berger Picards, Briards,
Shetland Sheepdogs

Bella Thompson Corwin (107246) OH

(937) 844-3557

Home@belmark.us

Collies

Dr. Oleg Voloshin (101869) MD

(301) 379-8847

voloshino@yahoo.com

Labrador Retrievers, Manchester
Terriers

Erika Wyatt (107433) IL

(708) 612-3647

erika@sloughi.us

Bracchi Italiani, Belgian Laekenois,
Belgian Malinois, Belgian Tervuren,
Berger Picards, Lancashire Heelers,
Pyrenean Shepherds

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGE

Layna Landers (118083) KS

(316) 779-6055

laynalanders1@gmail.com

BEST IN SHOW

The following judges, have successfully **completed** the required Group assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, and per their request have been added to the list of judges approved to judge Best In Show.

Ms. Britt E. Jung (66281) TX
(703) 626-9149
brittej@gmail.com

Dr. Tracy Powell (101481) CT
(203) 631-7110
dulcedanes@yahoo.com

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Grace Black
Mr. James Frederiksen
Mrs. Kathleen Steen
Mr. Calvin Ward

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.***

Laura Alton (118952) NV
702-521-4932
ascendk9@gmail.com
Provisional Rally

Karen Wenzel (118917) CA
925-918-0411
kawenzel58@gmail.com
Provisional Rally

Laura Cronin (112251) WA
206-356-6689
minadog10@hotmail.com
Provisional Rally

Thomas Harding (111457) MD
410-714-0343
singus@goeaston.net
Provisional VST Tracking

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

Teresa Walker - Obed (FL)

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:

BRAVE HEART – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Laura Tsekhmister & Yevgeniy Kuzmin

DZINE – Tibetan Terriers – Michael A Allway

EMPOWER – Australian Shepherds – Nicolette N Doris

EORZEA – Havanese – Christine J Champion

GOLDKRESS – Shiba Inu – Lonita B Kress

MAGNIFICENT – Boerboels – Ann Cress

MARISOL – Boston Terriers – Shelly M Henry

NV SUNRISE – Labrador Retrievers – Sharon A Hudson

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted

ARGYLL – Golden Retrievers – Sue
Anne H. Campbell

BOURBON COUNTRY – Labrador
Retrievers – Phillip L. Williams II & Jackie
Williams

CASTLE KC – Cardigan Welsh Corgis –
Katie E. Michenko

DAISY LYNN – Coton de Tulear – Janet
L. Suglo

KIPLING – Papillon – Nili Young

MILESTONE – Golden Retrievers – Pate
C. Thomerson

SNOWSPIRIT – Samoyeds – Cynthia
Bates

TOPPEROSE – Golden Retrievers –
Amy E. Yates

VOM HAEFNER – German Shepherd
Dogs – Christa Petrillo Haefner

VOM NORDWALD- German Shepherd
Dogs – Tracy D. Cooper

BOARD MINUTES

Please note that the August 2026 Board meeting was rescheduled to September 2026. Consequently, there are no Board minutes to report in this issue.

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Bracco Italiano



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



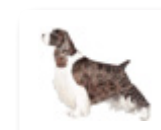
Curly-Coated Retriever



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



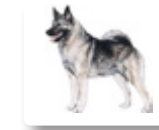
Harrier



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



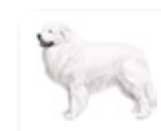
German
Pinscher



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



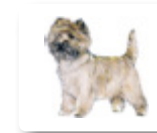
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



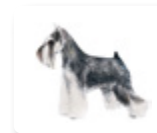
Lakeland Terrier



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/>