



Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

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In this issue...

- 1 THE WAY I SEE IT**
by Sylvia Thomas, Editor
- 2 SPEAKING FOR MYSELF**
by Daniel J Smyth, Esq., Chairman
- 3 WHAT 4H DID FOR ME**
by Rick Grant
Fundamental tenets of 4H can be a great bridge to AKC.
- 7 MEET THE AKC STAFF: LIZ SOROTA**
by Marge Calltharp
Up close and behind the scenes with Liz Sorota, VP of Marketing,
- 8 NEW RULES, NEW PERSPECTIVE**
by Martha Lee Beckington
Find out what an Obedience judge thinks of the Obedience rule changes.
- 9 AKC REUNITE ADOPT A K-9 COP PROGRAM**
by Chris Sweetwood
Overview of the grant program that assists police departments in purchasing K-9s.
- 11 IS OUR LACK OF PERCEPTION KILLING OUR SPORT?**
by Eduardo Fugiwara
Reminder that first impressions can and do have consequences.
- 12 GETTING TO KNOW YOU: JIM TALBERT**
by Sylvia Thomas
Introducing a new Delegate who has an interest in dispelling myths and changing public opinion.
- 14 ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
by Bob Ekle
Dreams and visions have become reality for one community.
- 15 GIRL SCOUTS INVADE CLEVELAND ALL-BREED TRAINING CLUB**
by Maureen Setter
Positive benefit to our Sport wrapped up in a Badge.
- 17 IF YOU ASK ME**
by Monica Henderson Stoner
Delegates share their Bucket Lists.
- 19 ELECTRONIC BALLOTING: FINAL REPORT & REVIEW**
by Don James
Summary of a Parent Club's win-win experience with electronic balloting.
- 20 NO BLAH, BLAH, BLAH**
by Kathy Gregory
The sound of silence is a beautiful thing in Scent Work training.
- 21 IT ONLY TAKES ONE PERSON THROUGH THE DOOR**
by Barbara Gaines
Find out if your events are accessible and if your club is prepared.
- 23 GONE TO THE DOGS**
by Bruce Voran
Why do we go to dog shows? Why don't others come back?
- 24 A VISIT TO THE KENNEL CLUB**
by Dr. Geno Sisneros
An inside look at The Kennel Club's new headquarters.
- 26 THE STEWARDSHIP OF A LEGACY, PART II: CLUBS**
by Steven Hamblin
Past decisions impact the present and the future Legacy of a Club.
- 28 THE NEW JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS: AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM THOMAS**
by Marge Calltharp and Dan Smyth, Esq.
Thorough discussion about the new Judging approval process.
- 33 FAKE NEWS AND THE FACTS**
by Dr. Carmen Battaglia
Distorting the facts can shape an agenda.
- 35 PEACH BLOSSOM CLUSTER VERSATILITY COMPETITION: MOST VERSATILE DOG**
by Glenn Lycan
Five days of events add up to something for everyone with fun for all and one MVD crowned.



Perspectives WRITERS' GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in contributing to *Perspectives*. Following are guidelines we ask our contributors to follow. They simplify our jobs as editors and yours as writers and help us produce a quality publication while enabling us to get *Perspectives* out on time.

- **Write for your audience.** *Perspectives* is prepared by and for AKC Delegates who represent a wide variety of member clubs through the country. Our readers are very knowledgeable dog people.
- **Be certain that any facts in your article are accurate.** Double-check them. Clearly state when a statement is your own opinion.
- Whenever possible and appropriate, **try to include input/quotes from others who are experts on your topic.** Always attribute any quote to its original source.
- **Articles should be submitted electronically, via e-mail.** Solicited articles should be sent to the committee member who requested the article. Unsolicited articles should be submitted to the Issue Coordinator and the Editor for the upcoming issue.
- **We suggest articles be approximately 500 to 1500 words in length.**
- Do not rely solely on spelling and grammar check, as they do not proof word usage. **After preparing your article, read it once more before submitting it.** Use a dictionary to check word meaning and spelling.
- **Send in your article electronically, as a Word document, as early as possible.** Submissions will be due by the 15th of the month following each Delegates Meeting. If your article arrives after the issue deadline, it may not be used in the current issue and may be returned to you or held until the next issue.
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Again — thank you for your interest. Without you, there would not be a *Perspectives*.

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Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

Perspectives is a publication for, and written by, the Delegates, with an occasional article solicited by Editorial Board members ONLY from acknowledged experts in their field. It is a forum for the exchange of ideas, for argument, for news. Through this medium, we hope to become better informed and, thereby, better equipped to fulfill our responsibilities as Delegates. Your contributions are welcome, and necessary, in making this publication a useful enterprise. Please assist the Editorial Board by submitting material via e-mail. We reserve the right to reasonably edit all copy submitted. Opinions expressed in *Perspectives* are not necessarily representative of the views of the Editor, the *Perspectives* Editorial Board, or of the American Kennel Club.

THE WAY I SEE IT

SYLVIA THOMAS, Editor

Introduction



I just spent a few enjoyable days in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Specialties and High Desert Cluster. The shows are indoors and as I walked between rings, it made me think of the way things used to be... crowded quarters, the air

filled with a buzz of conversations, dogs everywhere, and lots of energy. I ran into long-time friends and was reminded how much I loved the old dog shows. They were gatherings with competition mixed with camaraderie, friendship, and inevitable “dog talk.” All were trademarks that made for full days ending with dinners at favorite local restaurants. The good news is it still exists and there are folks who are finding ways to incorporate new activities to attract more participants. In this issue, articles by Rick Grant and Maureen Setter provide evidence of the two-way benefit of involving the younger generation in our Sport and learning as much from them as they do from us. Bruce Voran tells us why he continues to “Go to the dogs” and Eduardo Fugiwara implores us to be aware of the impressions our behavior can create.

The Obedience rules have changed, and Martha Lee Beckington got a Judge's opinion about the new rules. Alison Kraus' lyrics read, “You say it best when you say nothing at all.” No doubt, Kathy Gregory would agree. She writes about the power of silence when training and practicing Scent Work.

We continue our AKC Staff interviews. In this

issue, you will meet Liz Sorota, VP of Marketing. She has a fascinating background with great ideas to advance AKC's mission. Speaking of interesting people, meet Jim Talbert, new Delegate who has an impressive background, and some thoughtful ideas about his breed and AKC.

Bucket Lists were popularized by the 2007 Morgan Freeman/Jack Nicholson movie of the same name. We asked Delegates to tell us about their bucket lists and they did!

Barbara Gaines gives us food for thought in her article that addresses accessibility and accommodations at our shows. Read this article and assess your Club's situation. Geno Sisneros treats us to a virtual visit of The Kennel Club. Are you surprised they have a bar in the building?

Chris Sweetwood shares information about the AKC Reunite Adopt a K9 Program. It's a terrific program that makes a difference in local communities. Bob Ekle introduces us to an individual who has made a significant contribution in his community.

We hear the term “fake news” daily. Carmen Battaglia explains how HSUS manipulates facts to advance its message. Steven Hamblin reminds us about the importance of preserving a Club's legacy for future generations, and Don James shares the success of e-balloting in his club.

Marge Calltharp, Dan Smyth, and Tim Thomas provide clarity to the judging approval process revisions.

Finally, Glenn Lycan familiarizes us with the event-packed Peach Blossom Cluster and the Most Versatile Dog Award.

Delegates, we love hearing from you!



We welcome your input! Send us your ideas for articles. What's on your mind? We are interested in hearing from you and reading about what's working for your club, your experiences, and/or your opinions about a topic or issue. If you don't know how to get started or where to begin to bring your article to life, we are here to help.

Contact Sylvia Thomas, Sylvia.Thomas@rccd.edu for information or assistance.

SPEAKING FOR MYSELF

DANIEL J. SMYTH, Esquire, Delegate, Burlington County Kennel Club

Opinion

“We don’t stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.”

— George Bernard Shaw



I had the opportunity to judge a well-known breed specialty show recently. Walking into the building where the specialty took place was like walking back in time. The place was all abuzz, grooming tables circled the room and hair dryers were humming away. Aprons and smocks were everywhere as the exhibitors prepared to start their day.

On further familiarity with the room, I noticed that there were a lot of people with some form of walking assist. I was in the company of a sea of gray and silver locks, anxiously awaiting the show from their seats near the ring.

Conversations turned towards the way things used to be, and the decrease in entries. Someone asked a rhetorical question concerning the last time anyone had been to a futurity. It became apparent that new membership was greatly reduced, and attrition was hitting the older, long-time members of the club. Despite this, the Specialty was being maintained as a stand-alone show. There were beautiful trophies, camaraderie, and of course the money-raising raffle. At the lunch the topic returned to the changes that had come over the club, this show, and our sport in general.

The specialty I was attending could have been anywhere in our country. As much as I hate to admit it, I am part of the graying of the sport of dogs. Most us of sporting lighter hair these days could tell you stories about those good ole’ days. The infamous beloved characters whose stories are still talked about today, spiritually still roamed the room. We all recognized that as our sport has aged, we have failed in many ways to usher our younger affiliates into the sport as we know it.

Most young families have a dog. Remember, this is the green generation where recycling has become a way of life, even in selection of a dog for the

family. The millennial population is generally not interested in the rigors of running and maintaining a kennel of dogs. Breeding new canine lives while older ones sit in shelters is not a viable option. The modern family structure of two career-minded individuals does not allow for the care, maintenance, breeding, and showing of numerous dogs.

I had a long drive home while this issue laid heavily on my mind and I realized we are suffering the effects of societal change, anti-dog breeding, public lobbying efforts, and a general lack of time or desire to do what we in the dog world did as little as thirty years ago.

Is this sounding like an article of doom? Not hardly, I await the next step in the evolution of our sport. If you look at the late 1800s when our sport was first organized in the US, the majority of major dog owners were wealthy individuals including Queen Victoria who had the help and the financial ability to indulge in the sport of dogs. As time went on, the sport became of interest to less wealthy individuals who dove in and used their own hard work, income, and planning to develop successful breeding programs, and become the basis of the AKC shows as we know them today. However, now, these hard working individuals are seniors facing physical limitations and reductions in numbers.

So where are we headed? Not to doom and gloom, but to a resurgence of interest albeit with a different spin. As the AKC develops Performance and Companion events that utilize the dogs’ natural abilities, we are bringing the younger individuals back into the sport. It’s beginning to look like a more physical sport as we see owners sprinting around the Agility field with their dogs earning MACH titles. We see training to do Scent Work, Earthdog activities, Herding trials, Barn Hunt, Lure Coursing, and the list continues to grow. Therein is the AKC of tomorrow. Owners being proud of their dogs doing what they were bred to do and performing these activities with their dogs in the bonding rituals that have always existed between humans and their best friends.

Perfection sought in the Conformation ring is a good thing. Standards were created to assure the best performance of the breed is assured. Thirty years ago we bred for beauty and conformation to

the Standard. We have to realize that these dogs had a purpose, and conforming to the Standard, should allow more than just a good breeding program. It can assure that the purpose for which these dogs were developed is preserved.

As young families get involved, we see the dog and fitness world of the millennials merging into a sport where the dogs and their owners exercise and practice; seeking a title that equates to success for both. The development of these programs is ab-

solutely necessary for our survival. The human/dog challenge, the hard work, and the success are the next step in our evolution into remaining a relevant sport in our society of today and tomorrow. Once success is achieved in the Sport, the desire to keep the genetic stream alive will reemerge. Once the dog enters its graying years, there will be a resurgence of the desire to breed and preserve the successful genetics of the Champion and strongly loved member of the family.

WHAT 4H DID FOR ME

RICK GRANT, Delegate, Providence Kennel Club

4H to Junior Showmanship!

About ten years ago, I was asked to work with the 4H group called "Wag N Tails." At the time, suffice it to say, I was a little reluctant, having no training working with children.

Someone was needed to teach dog handling and as I was already teaching a regular breed handling class, I seemed like a good choice. With some coaxing I agreed to give it a try for a few weeks. I quickly realized this group of young people was eager to learn anything they could about dogs and showing them. I decided this would be fun and it was a great group to work with. The first few classes were great, but I rapidly learned they would not focus if it wasn't competitive. I initiated a weekly system. At the end of every class, I placed the kids as if they were at a show. Of course, not all the kids had the same skill so I told them it would be based on their improvement from week to week. To make it even more of a challenge I would tally the scores and award something at the end of the training season, April to November. The awards so far have been tickets to Westminster or a tack bag and grooming supplies. The winners really enjoy going to Westminster more than anything. A trip to New York City and the prestigious show is most enticing.

A 4H Show has three components: breed handling, obedience, and a written test. The scores are tallied and the winner is determined by the top overall score. The 4H employs a different learning style.

Working with the 4H group showed me a different approach to showing

The participants learn to work as a group and they compete as a group at some of the shows. I think this encourages a better bond. At the large Regional

4H Show, they compete as groups on two levels. The first is booths and posters about their breeds or dog information. They are buddied up and the best booth is determined by a vote of the spectators. The second is in a competition called "Doggie Bowl." Doggie

Bowl involves teams of four 4Hers who sit and answer questions related to dogs the group has been assigned to study that year. It's a first ring in, and the answers have to be exact. It's lots of fun to watch.

Working with the 4H group showed me a different approach to showing. I think the 4H encourages a supportive atmosphere of friendly competition, yet it is competitive. The 4Hers are a strong community of exhibitors who work together and encourage each other. It is very rewarding to see them carry this ideal into the AKC Juniors program.

I asked three of the students to write about their experiences, hoping to gain a better understanding of the way they feel about showing in both 4H and AKC. Sierra has just started in 4H and AKC Junior Showmanship. She has done exceptionally well at those shows. She uses one of my older Cairns, "Flyer," and it is great to watch how they work as a team. She has moved up from Novice to Open very

GRANT, cont'd

quickly in Juniors and I think the group of friends she has made has helped her immensely. Sierra is the youngest at 11 years.

Sierra

My AKC experience has gone very well this year.



Sierra Gluchacki with Flyer, (Ch. CastleRock Nighthawk) after exhibiting in AKC Junior Showmanship and Veterans Class

Here are some examples. Recently I've become a co-owner of my dog "Flyer." We work together in the shows and at class. Also, we have become second best junior Cairn Terrier handler in the country with 18 current points. We achieved the Open Class from the Novice Class in four shows. I also handle Flyer in the

regular classes and he is one point away from his Grand Champion title! The judges have been very nice and encouraging to my dog and me. At my first show I was very nervous, but my judge was very helpful and he talked to my dog and me.

I've made a few really great friends along the way, Brigid and Mia, who have been very helpful and nice especially when I feel nervous at a show. In short, the AKC has gone very well so far and I can definitely see myself doing this in the future.

Next, there is Brigid, who is 16 and has been in a great student in class and has shown her willingness to compete. She has a great attitude about showing and currently co-owns dogs with my wife and me. One of my proudest moments was when she beat me with one of my dogs in the Owner Handled Group ring.



Sierra Gluchacki with Ch. CastleRock Nighthawk at a 4H Show.

Brigid

How 4H and AKC Have Impacted my Life



Brigid White with Tori (Ch. CastleRock Notorious) after showing in AKC Junior Showmanship and Veterans Class

When I was ten years old, I joined 4H with a dog who was not easy to work with. Although he may not have been too big, at ten years old he was not easy for me to handle. 4H gave me a way to train him, even though he had trauma from his past home. The people I was working around were so generous and kind that they offered me the use of their dogs in class so I could bring home what I learned to repair the trust in my little boy.



Brigid White with Ch. CastleRock Notorious) at 4H Regional Show

One year, my 4H trainer, Rick Grant, asked me to steward at the Providence County Kennel Club Dog Show, and I was so excited but I really didn't know much about stewarding. After one day of stewarding, I was determined to go back the next day. Again, the year after that, he asked me to help out again. I was so ready to go to another "official dog show" and see the breeds that I learned about throughout that year. Going to that show in 2016 changed my life. A lady who bred Japanese Chin asked me to show her dogs. This is when I truly started to learn how AKC works.

In 4H, you are asked to wear a white top and beige pants or a green skirt. There is a more laid back and natural feeling when you're in the ring. The fact that you can show an All American or pure-

GRANT, cont'd

bred dog makes it so much more unique than AKC. However, AKC shows are still some of the most exciting events I look forward to. I love the harder preparation that goes into it, always making it an exciting time. 4H has been there to teach me about myself instead of my dog. It still reminds me to smile in the ring and take my time.

Today I still own my little dog, Oscar, and he is my favorite old man. I also have my show dog, a Newfoundland named Napa, who is brand new to me, but already my closest companion. I have been showing in AKC for over a year and I've been in 4H for six years. I would have to say that these years have been the most valuable years to me as I've truly had amazing experiences with people, different types of animals, and especially dogs more than anything.

Like with every sport, there are always bumps in the road, but going to the next show and spending time with all of the different breeds can make anything better in a heartbeat.

Then, there's Mia who is an exceptional handler. She always tries to improve and encourages the other younger members with reassuring words about how they performed. She is going to age out of Juniors this year, but will be able to continue in 4H until the end of the year.

Mia

My name is Mia and I am seventeen years old. For all of my life, I have always loved dogs. I remember waking up before dawn on the weekends to turn on Animal Planet. On these mornings, they



Mia with Charm, her Ibizan Hound.

would play reruns of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show or the American Kennel Club National Dog Show. I would watch in amazement as the dogs pranced around the ring and the handlers beautifully presented the dogs to their best.

I knew that, one day, I wanted to do that. I wanted to be in one of those shows.

After constantly begging and pleading my mom to get me into dog training classes with my family's Golden Retriever puppy, Indy, she finally caved. She signed me up for a dog 4H

club called Wag N Tails. It was here, with 4H, that I began my endeavors with training dogs. I was seven years old when I started in my 4H club. I immediately started expanding my studies of dog knowledge and canine training skills. Right from the beginning, I wanted to go to classes daily. I just couldn't seem to get enough.

In 4H, I learned so much about showing and training dogs. I have weekly training in both Showmanship and Obedience. I initially had to share our family dog with my sister who constantly reminded me that Indy was "her" dog. So, I always watched carefully and patiently waited my turn. Watching helped me learn, but I wanted more hands-on experience. I wanted my own dog to train. After much prodding, my parents allowed me to get my own Australian Shepherd, Wrangle, which I paid for with all my savings of \$300.00. I was nine years old and this was the best moment of my life. Wrangle is the dog who helped me gain all my skills. Although Aussies are very intelligent dogs, they are very stubborn and need a firm handler. His difficult nature made it almost impossible for me to feel successful. I would often become frustrated and felt like I wanted to give up on him. However, my 4H club leaders and trainers pushed me forward. My parents and trainers encouraged me to stick in there. I studied my dog knowledge daily researching ways of connecting better to him and ways to



Mia Speciale with Wrangle (mixed breed) at the 4H Regional Show

improve my skills sets. I added agility to my list of weekly training which seemed to get him more engaged with trainings. Through these struggles, I have become a good handler with great canine knowledge. Most importantly, Wrangle helped me achieve all my dreams of becoming a successful dog handler. In both our state and regional fairs, he and I have won numerous placements in showmanship and obedience including multiple Grand Champion placements.

As time went on and my passion increased, I wanted to expand my skills. The next logical step would be to compete in the AKC as a Junior handler. We had trainers that volunteered hours of their time to help us prepare for the AKC show ring. Week after week, we would get an opportunity to train under experienced handlers who taught us everything from how to properly hold a lead, how to command our dog's attention in the ring, how to do all the different patterns, dog breed knowledge, and so much more. At our weekly trainings, we would work on perfecting how we moved with our dog, how we stacked our dog, and how to present ourselves alongside of our dog with confidence. Our trainer also encouraged us to attend AKC dog shows and steward so we could watch how the experienced handlers handled their dogs. I looked forward to these weekly training sessions and still do.

In order to become more competitive, I felt that I should get another dog. My Aussie was PAL registered so he could not compare to the show quality dogs that many of the Juniors use. After working with and studying many breeds, I settled upon getting an Ibizan Hound. By proving my responsibility in caring for and training Wrangle, my parents agreed to let me get a new dog. In February of 2017, I welcomed Charm, CKC GCH DC UKC/AKC CH Icyold Third Time SC, into my life. Since getting Charm, I feel more confident competing in AKC shows with both my dogs. We have won multiple Best Junior Handler Awards and multiple AKC Owner Handler Hound Group placements. One of my greatest accomplishments is winning Best Junior Handler at the 2017 Ibizan Hound Club of the United States National Specialty Show. My trainer has helped me become more competitive in

the AKC arena.

I enjoy both 4H and AKC dog competitions because they are slightly different. In 4H showmanship, we receive a score based out of a 100. We are scored on the presentation of the dog for the exam, the gaiting of the dog in relationship to the handler, the grooming and cleanliness of the dog, the appearance of the handler, and the handler's knowledge of the breed and general dog knowledge. It is helpful to receive the scoresheet so I know what I need to improve for the next time. In 4H Senior classes, the handlers are expected to know how to perform many different ring patterns such as a triangle, reverse triangle, L patterns, and T patterns. I think this is a good practice since it allows for the handler to show their skill sets with hand changes and reversing directions. AKC is different because we don't receive direct feedback from the judge. AKC is fun because it is more competitive. Most of the kids have show quality dogs. In AKC, we juniors have more opportunities to connect with breeders and experienced handlers. Because of my AKC experiences, I have gained firsthand knowledge and opportunities to help experienced handlers ringside with many different breeds.

These experiences through 4H and AKC have not only taught me about showing dogs. Through these adventures, I have become a determined and composed person. I know how to present myself with grace and confidence. I have also learned how to be a humble winner and how to lose with poise. Whether I win or lose, I grow from each experience and strive to only get better. I have made many friends in both 4H and AKC who share my same passion. It has been fun to meet up with them at shows. Without showing dogs, I would never be the person I am today. My involvement with 4H and AKC has given me a great foundation both personally and in my professional growth as a future handler.

I think the 4H has a unique way to train young people in the dog sport. By competing as individuals and as a group, they bring comradery to the sport. I will continue to work with them as it gives me a great sense of pride when I see them win and enjoy the sport.

MEET THE AKC STAFF: HERE'S LIZ SOROTA, VP MARKETING

MARGE CALLTHARP, Delegate, Chinese Shar-Pei Club Of America, Inc.

I was born and raised in a suburb outside of Boston, the youngest of three children. Growing up, our neighborhood was filled with dogs of every size, breed, and demeanor. I had hoped to become a veterinarian, but soon realized I didn't possess the disposition for such a calling.

Moving first to the University of Michigan to study Computer Science, I then relocated to New York City to pursue my MBA at NYU. I embarked on a career in Marketing with Colgate-Palmolive and moved on to progressively higher executive roles with the French luxury conglomerate, Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH), in their wine and spirits business and then at Godiva Chocolatier and Crane Stationery. My previous work experiences afforded me the privilege of traveling the world and experiencing first-hand the grand diversity of different cultures.

Early in 2016, I joined the AKC. I was excited by the opportunity to combine my love of dogs with my passion for Marketing. AKC brought me into the company to oversee the Marketing Division, specifically to make the brand relevant to a broader audience of dog lovers and to support the AKC Mission of driving Purebred demand, dog registrations, and participation in AKC Sports. The website is a critical entry point to the AKC as it is often a visitor's first encounter with the company. Typically, they come to our site to learn more about different breeds of dogs. It is important that we are able to not only educate dog lovers to the wonderful benefits of purebred dogs, but also communicate the value of registering their dog(s) and create awareness and interest in



Liz with husband Murray and son James

other dog site. We continue to be the top source of breed information on the web. Additionally, in 2017, we had over 12M visitors to the Marketplace, an increase of 72% since 2015 with the average breeder placing their puppy in just one to two months.

In the last couple of years, we have worked closely with the Sports and Events staff to create and execute campaigns targeted to new exhibitors. The goal of the campaigns is to drive awareness and interest in participation across the range of AKC Sports. Although we have been successful in engaging new potential exhibitors, their entry into the Sport is largely dependent on the Clubs. Consequently, it is only through a strong partnership with the Clubs that we can be successful and see growth in entries.

I currently live on the Upper Eastside of Manhattan with my husband, Murray, son, James, and a very talkative Sheltie, named Sammy. When I am free, we love to travel and explore, both in NYC and around the world. When possible, we like to take Sammy with us. A few of my favorite places are Turkey, Morocco, and I will include glacier skiing in the French Alps. I love adventure, travel, and experiencing new cultures. The more exotic the better!



James with Sammy the Sheltie

NEW RULES, NEW PERSPECTIVE

MARTHA LEE BECKINGTON, *Delegate, Mount Vernon Dog Training Club*

I thought, given the Obedience changes that become effective May 1, 2018, it might be helpful to interview an Obedience judge to get her perspective. Cheryl Pratt, of Alexandria Virginia kindly responded to my inquiries. She has been a Rally Judge since 2003 and an Obedience Judge since 2013. She is qualified to judge at all levels.

ML: Cheryl, what have you been doing to get ready for the new Obedience changes due to commence May 1 of this year?

CP: Well, in addition to reading the new rules, I have been going to a friends' private training facility regularly and I have been putting my own dogs and friends' dogs through the new paces. I have also been doing this with another judge so we can discuss everything.

ML: What is different for you, as a judge, with these new changes?

CP: Judges have to not only understand the new rules, but know how to position themselves in order to judge the new exercises in the ring properly and accurately.

ML: What do you think of the elimination of the Open Class 'out of sight' Stays?

CP: I think it was going to happen, I think the new changes are entirely doable.

ML: People have had some concerns about the new exercises in Open. What are your thoughts?

CP: I think people will be fine with it. You are allowed both signal and voice commands when you leave your dog and then go out 15 feet, and then another 15 feet, and at the end return back to your dog. My older dog who has a UD, accepted the changes readily and was able to perform them. By the way, there are no changes at all to the Utility level.

ML: Do you like having Novice exhibitors on lead for a shorter time and more space between dogs in the new exercises (one minute Sits and one minute Downs)

CP: "Yes, I do. I think it will be fine for the judges

and the exhibitors and for the dogs, too.

ML: Thank you, Cheryl, for your time.

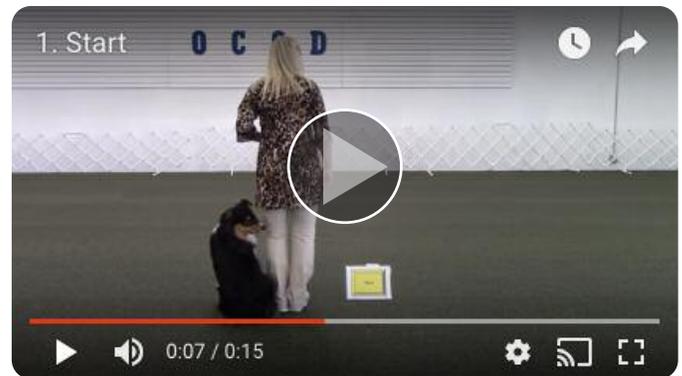
CP: My pleasure.

In conclusion, we will all see now how things go after May 1st. Remember, we will all be adjusting to these changes together....dogs, exhibitors, and judges! In the next *Perspectives*, Judge Pratt will discuss the new Rally classes and regulation changes that took effect in March of this year.

Note:

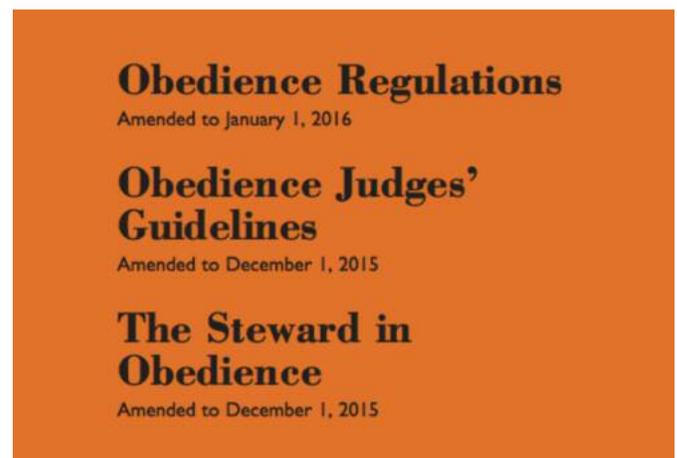
AKC videos of the New Obedience Exercises can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOmnrKKiM2kcaowVI3SXeVQ>



The new Obedience regulations are in a green insert and can be viewed here:

http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf?_ga=2.115214031.91637588.1516112030-2029001241.1494438290



AKC REUNITE ADOPT A K-9 COP PROGRAM

CHRIS SWEETWOOD, Delegate, Trap Falls Kennel Club

You may have seen some information on this subject in the past, but it bears repeating. Many clubs are providing a great deal of assistance in their communities, but may not be taking advantage of the Reunite Adopt A K-9 Cop Program, which can help meet the needs of your community. Kudos to the Kennel Club of Riverside (California), and Durham Kennel Club (North Carolina) for partnering with local law enforcement to help purchase Police K-9s. Police K-9s are essential members of law enforcement and perform vital tasks effectively

dogs' needs. In some communities, K-9s who are retired are simply not replaced. It is true that the costs are high. The price of an average dog can be upwards of \$10,000 and the training can add another \$5,000 to \$10,000. Many Police K-9 units exist primarily on donations from the community to continue their mission. But help is available through the AKC Reunite Adopt A K-9 Cop Program. It's simple, easy, and is a "win-win" for K-9 units, communities, and a public service for kennel clubs.

How the Program Works

Some AKC clubs may already have a relationship with their local police department, which could involve a K-9 unit. If this is the case, then beginning the process is simply a matter of talking with the department about the program and supporting its efforts to submit a grant application to AKC Reunite. On the other hand, a local police department may initiate contact with a local AKC club and ask for assistance. (This is key. They come to you and ask first, unless you have a working relationship with the department that has been ongoing). The steps are straight forward:

Meet with the Chief or K-9 Officer of the department to discuss their needs.

Advise them of the following:

1. They must submit a grant application to AKC Reunite and AKC Reunite must approve their grant. The grant application must be signed by the Chief of Police.
2. The club raises the funds. This can be public and may involve a Go Fund Me site.
3. The club collects the funds and transfers them to the department. Upon grant approval from AKC Reunite, the funds raised up to \$5,000 will be matched by AKC Reunite.
4. As part of that grant, the police department must agree to place the AKC Reunite logo on the K-9 Patrol vehicle and hold a press conference to recognize AKC Reunite and the AKC club. This "must" is stated on the AKC Reunite grant application.
5. AKC, its affiliates or clubs, should not become involved in any way in the selection or training of the police K-9. The department finds, purchases, trains, and certifies the dog. We just



working with human partners, like pursuing and apprehending fugitives, detecting illegal substances and explosives, and searching for missing people.

Unfortunately, many police department K-9 units experience budget cuts due to any number of reasons, including a poor economy or a shift in priorities. In many cases, they are unable to solicit funding and donations due to town and municipality codes. These cutbacks can result in K-9 handlers forgoing training and/or personally funding their

provide the funds. If the club becomes involved in the dog's selection or training and the dog fails to meet departmental certification requirements or develops any health issues, this could result in adverse blame being leveled toward the club or AKC.

6. The department must have necessary funding to care for the dog, equipment, handler, and training. We do not fund every aspect of the new dog. We just help with the purchase costs. The department must make a commitment to fund the daily operating expenses of their own K-9 program. This does not preclude a club from working with a department for future needs.

If it doesn't already exist, the sponsoring club should make every effort to develop a long-term relationship of mutual support with the department. This might consist of vesting or participation in community activities or demonstrations at kennel club events. If they aren't already microchipping their dogs, suggest the use of AKC Reunite microchips for their police K-9's as well as shelter dogs. They are inexpensive and can help fund the purchase for future police K-9s. During your initial meeting with the department, you should be prepared to conduct a short presentation regarding AKC, its mission, departments, and functions, emphasizing public education and responsible dog

ownership.

Be sure to let them know that AKC is a great resource of public education materials, which are available online, that can be used to augment and support their public education programs such as the "Dog Listener" and "A Guide to Dog Care and Training" DVDs. This is a golden opportunity to promote your club, and AKC Reunite (remember the funds for the matching grant come from their microchip sales) and the positive value of using microchips. You can talk about your club and what it does. Take the time to discuss anti-dog legislation, you never know when it may come up in your area. This is a chance to educate and inform and make lasting friends. You'd be surprised how little they may know about AKC and dog clubs. The partnership and relationship that is established may go far beyond getting the grant.

If contributions are solicited, pay attention to the contributors. Take care to avoid special interest groups who may have agendas that could potentially embarrass your club or the police department. This could mean you might have to return a donation, but remember public perception is reality. If you need help getting started, I'm always available to help and we have clubs that have successfully partnered with local police departments who can speak from experience and provide advice.

Kudos to the many clubs that have helped our communities in so many ways.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) is a charitable program offered by and accessible from Amazon.com that allows customers to enjoy the same shopping features available on Amazon.com, but lets the shopper select a charitable organization to which the AmazonSmileFoundation will donate to the

selected organization 0.5% of the customer's purchase price. All four of AKC's affiliated nonprofits are enrolled in Amazon Smile and any one of them can be selected by the customer to be the recipient of contributions. Customer just has to follow the prompts to complete the process.

Similarly, SurveyMonkey is an online survey company that has a philanthropic program called SurveyMonkey Contribute (contribute.surveymonkey.com). Through this program online survey takers may select a pre-registered charitable program and, for each survey the user completes, \$.50 is donated to the selected charity. The AKC Humane Fund is one of just seven animal-related charities selected by Survey Monkey Charitable to be a recipient of these contributions.



IS OUR LACK OF PERCEPTION KILLING OUR SPORT?

EDUARDO FUGIWARA, *Delegate, Fort Lauderdale Dog Club*

As a Marketing professional, I consider Marketing the art of manipulating the public's perception. To market a product, service, organization, celebrity, or "sport/activity," is to create an image which the public will perceive as desirable, attractive, interesting, or beneficial to them.

Public perception is the fundamental ingredient to create any successful image. Now, keep these concepts in mind and let's transfer that to our behavior in our Sport.

We may underestimate public perception or be totally oblivious to it, and to the way our action and discourse affect our environment. We may even overlook the fact that any time we are interacting with someone, we are also interacting with the public around us. Our body language, behavior, conversations, and discussions will capture the attention of the unintended bystanders. The way you react, inside and outside of the show ring, is being seen by the bystanders who are left to wonder if this is usual behavior and a trademark of our Sport.

Unfortunately, good behavior is much less noticed than bad behavior. It is human nature to be attracted by the dramatic, so negative behavior will not just be noticed, but may also be immediately imprinted on their brains as typical or characteristic of our Sport. When we act negatively, and publicly make bad remarks about the Judge, winning dogs, or handler, we are damaging the image of our Sport. This is especially the case with potential new fanciers who may be coming to watch their first show, or to figure out what a dog show is all about.

What's the take away? Is their first impression that judges are incompetent or corrupt, that winning dogs don't deserve to win, that handlers are manipulating the results... wow!!! Can you imagine what those potential new fanciers are thinking right now? Most likely they are not thinking about it, because they just dropped their catalogs and ran for their lives!

If we look in the mirror, are we all guilty of committing these crimes in one way or the other with different levels of intensity? Nobody likes to lose—we just don't need to publicize our frustration. A mentor once shared with me what her mother told her, "If you don't like the results, keep it to yourself, congratulate the winners, and only when you are in

your car, with the windows shut and nobody around, share your opinions and frustrations—but never in public." She was not only teaching her daughter how to behave with dignity and good sportsmanship, but also how to be an ambassador of our Sport. I know there is bad and the ugly in our Sport; we just don't need to make it the focus point of our experience or anyone else's. Did you ever think about how every time you make a negative comment about a judge, a dog, a handler or fancier, you may have pushed someone away from becoming a fellow fancier? If we focus on the positive instead of the negative "in public" we all will be helping the overall image of our Sport.

In the modern era, we have added social media to the mix. It is a powerful way to deliver messages. Whatever is said in social media is disconnected from emotion, body language, and context. It may not be possible to verify the accuracy or reliability of sources. Fragments of conversations can be manipulated by anybody's interpretation and perception. Reality and the truth become relative. Negative comments in social media are worse than impulsive reactions ringside. They take on astronomical proportions, and became a vessel for all the discontented, bitter people of the fancy. Any negative comment will grow into an uglier, nastier, meaner version of the original. Think about it: all the newbies and potential newbies will only see and retain the negative side of these posts. I doubt any potential fancier will feel encouraged to participate in such an "awful" sport.

The best advice I ever heard given to people who are miserable and unhappy with the fancy, is to leave or take a break. People should not do things that make them miserable.

Taking time off will help reset your perception of the Sport. You will miss it for the positive things you were overlooking, or you may be glad that you don't have to deal with the negative side anymore. One way or the other, your perception will help you improve your mood and your perspective. By removing your dissatisfaction from the show environment, you will be contributing to improving the public perception about our Sport. It's a win-win situation.

After I became an AKC Delegate, I became aware that people were always asking about what AKC is

doing to promote our Sport or saying that AKC needs to invest in promoting the Sport. As marketing professional, I can assure to you that there is no dollar amount—no matter how big—to be invested in attracting new people to our Sport that can effectively counter the damage that our own negativity has caused to the fancy.

It does not matter how many potential fanciers a multi-million dollar advertising campaign can bring to the show grounds. If we don't work on the perception we transmit to the public, we will not retain the potential fanciers.

The characteristics of our Sport are not conducive to modern generations. The onerous commitments of time and finances are, themselves, giant obstacles. If you add to that the necessity of enduring a negative, bitter and cynical environment, you make it completely unattractive. People are looking for hobbies and experiences that are pleasurable and rewarding.

What is the perception we want to give others about our Sport? Why do we love it and keep coming back? Are we helping create that image for others?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...JIM TALBERT

SYLVIA THOMAS, Delegate, Kennel Club Of Riverside

This issue, I had the good fortune to virtually meet Jim Talbert, one of our newest Delegates. His love of dogs extends to his childhood with several dogs including "Lassie and Rinty" whose names harken to my youth and two of my favorite dogs and television programs. Jim is an accomplished and busy professional who enjoys life to its fullest and, like many of us, has a bucket list of goals to be accomplished with his Lagotti.



hero. I have raised another German Shepherd, a Yellow Lab, several mixed breeds, and currently two multi-titled Lagotto Romagnolo, Gelato and Cannoli, our "dessert" dogs.

Where does your dog interest lie and Why?

My wife and I ventured into Conformation events after we purchased a Lagotto Romagnolo and our dog-training mentor, Marylin Saunders, suggested that we take our little puppy to a "fun match."

How did you become involved with dogs?

I've lived with animals all my life. I grew up in a rural part of Virginia with livestock and farm animals. Animals were utilitarian, and each had a job. The dog(s) protected the livestock and family; the cat(s) and snakes kept down the rodents, and everyone got along. As a boy I bred and sold fish, rabbits, Guinea Pigs, and hamsters to support my later interests in electronics and chemistry.

What breeds do you have and how did you choose your first breed?

My love for canines began as a toddler with my first dog, Lassie, a Rough-Coated Collie. In my youth, every child wanted a "Lassie" dog or a German Shepherd, so my next dog was a German Shepherd named Rinty, after Rin-Tin-Tin, my canine

That's when we first realized the interest and the seemingly wide appeal generated around our cute, curly fellow, and the new Sporting breed. We had so much fun and love for the new breed that we went to Italy to get a show quality Lagotto from Monica Benelli and Il Granaio dei Malatesta Adriano, "aka Cannoli" endured a 14-hour flight home to Virginia. Cannoli, a retired Silver Grand Champion, was awarded Best of Opposite at the First National Specialty in 2016, Crufts 2016, and 2016 World Dog show in Moscow, plus multiple group placements. Gelato also competed in Conformation when the Lagotti were only approved for Miscellaneous Class, where he and Cannoli both earned their Certificates of Merit.

In addition to Conformation events, we have participated in several AKC Companion and Perform-

ance events, including Dock Diving, Obedience, Trick Dog, Lure Coursing, Fast CAT, and most recently Scent Trials. Both of our Lagotti hold titles in Dock Diving, Scent Work, CGC, and Trick Dog. We have thoroughly enjoyed the Companion and Performance events because this is what the dogs most love—sniffing, diving, swimming, chasing and time well spent with their humans.

Do you actively exhibit and/or breed your dogs?

My wife and I have also co-owned a top special Lagotto, Dolce Vita Taleggion “aka Jacques,” who won Best of Breed at both the 2017 AKC National in Orlando, and most recently at the 2018 National Specialty in San Diego, plus multiple group placements. We hope to receive our first “show worthy” female Lagotto within the year. The future goal of our kennel, Lambscreek Lagotto, will be to breed Lagotti with a focus on best temperament to suit their purpose/job, ability to be loyal, loving companions, and proper health testing to promote quality living and prospering with their human family.

Do you judge? Tell us more about it. What Club do you represent?

I do not judge.

I am a member of the Langley Kennel Club in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. At the club I assist wherever I am needed, most recently at a Fast CAT trial. I am also a member of The Lagotto Romagnolo Foundation, The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of Canada, and National Association of Canine Scent Work.

For the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America (LRCA), I have worked on the National Specialty and currently conduct Web-based education.

When did you become a delegate? What was your interest in becoming a delegate?

I became a delegate in March of 2018 because I wanted to help the LRCA become an active participant in the AKC.

As a new Delegate, is there something you want to accomplish?

My main purpose is to serve at the pleasure of the

LRCA and accomplish their goals. Second to that, I believe that our breed can provide valuable service in Homeland Security’s mission. This dog is bred for strength and endurance, working tirelessly in the hills and fields as a truffle hunter. Lagotto Romagnolo have a very well defined gift for scenting, are easy to manage with a weight of 27–38 pounds, and are “hypoallergenic.” Many Lagotti could be accomplished, steadfast team member(s) that would work well in public venues as a bomb sniffer. I would like to see trained Lagotto Romagnolo at ball games, concerts, airports, or any public venue where security may be threatened.

Another desire is to dispel the myth that “designer dogs” are genetically superior to purebreds. It is a common misbelief that selected mixed breeds have fewer health problems and possess the best traits from both genetic lines. To this end the last goal would be to utilize DNA testing to maintain genetic diversity within the breed and avoid creating repeat or evolving health problems.

“Another desire is to dispel the myth that “designer dogs” are genetically superior to purebreds.”

If it were possible to change something or start something new that would solve something having to do with the AKC, dog shows or events or anything related to purebred dogs, what would it be?

To change public opinion concerning purebred dogs and the devoted, responsible breeders who dedicate their lives and fortunes to develop great bloodlines of dogs that can live their best lives, are placed in the best homes, and not likely to be turned over to shelters or would-be puppy mills.

When it comes to dogs, what one thing is still on your bucket list?

Although Lagotti are no longer specifically bred or trained for hunting, personally, I would like to experience field work with my Lagotti and use them for bird hunting. Among their many talents, I have found that Lagotti are inexhaustible swimmers and great little retrievers too!

What can you tell us about yourself that we wouldn't already know?

Within the Orthopedic, Neurosurgical, and Spine

Delegates

Industries, I believe those who know me would say I'm a strategic leader and problem solver in international and domestic markets. I have a talent for building business relationships and have experienced success in marketing and product promotion. I'm currently the President and CEO of a certified Veteran-Owned Small Business operating out of the Tidewater Virginia Area and hold consulting posi-

tions with international and domestic companies. I'm also a regional and national distributor for several spinal implant device companies. My wife, Carolyn, and I enjoy our adult children and grandchildren and volunteer time to a number of community organizations which keeps us busy, involved, and active.

Please find Jim at an upcoming meeting and welcome him! I think you'll agree he has a lot to offer.

ONE PERSON CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE

BOB EKLE, Delegate, Columbia Missouri Kennel Club

Community Service

From time to time, our paths bring us in contact with special people who have a way of making the lives of those around them and our communities better. Oftentimes, this is done in quiet, unassuming ways, with no expectation of reward or even recognition. In fact, many of these extraordinary individuals avoid and feel uncomfortable being in the limelight. But, because of their enormous effect on communities and, in this case, on the dog family within the community, their stories beg to be told. I'd like to introduce you to such a person in our community who



was recently recognized by Columbia Missouri Kennel Club for her contributions to our Sport. I'm honored to introduce you to Virginia (Ginger) Huxley, Ph.D., Columbia Missouri Kennel Club's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient.

Working with a canine drill team on an asphalt track, a six-year-old girl developed a vision of how best to train dogs so they could live and work within a family. The problem was finding a place for dogs and their owners to train together in a safe environment.

As the years passed, the young girl reached adulthood, still passionate about training dogs. Her training skills increased and she had the opportunity to

work with a growing number of dogs. Her training classes were filled with purebred and mixed breed dogs and their families, and it was incredibly rewarding to see the relationships that developed between trainers and dogs. However, finding a venue that was safe and conducive to building skills and confidence remained a real challenge. This part of the little girl's vision, of being able to train without fear of a dog getting loose or someone getting hurt from an unforgiving surface or unstable footing, remained elusive.

After years of moving from one imperfect training location

to the next, including a tobacco barn and a warehouse, the young girl's vision became a reality. Today, Dr. Ginger Huxley is the proud owner of the Columbia Canine Sports Center (CCSC), a facility dedicated to dog training. The main building provides over 28,000 square feet of open training space that is fully matted with three-quarter inch rubber. The building is large enough to accommodate Agility, Obedience, Conformation, and puppy socialization classes, with all often running concurrently. A smaller building is perfect for meetings, seminars, and Nose Work classes. The CCSC provides something for everyone; seasoned exhibitors appreciate the ability to work their dogs on a regular

basis, and families love being able to bring their new puppies for well-supervised socialization and basic obedience. On many weekends, you can find the Center bustling with an agility trial or other dog event. It is a sight to behold and a facility that everyone greatly appreciates.

Through a lifetime of vision, passion, and persistence, Ginger Huxley has created a safe and welcoming space for people to come learn, work, and play

with their dogs. She has enriched countless lives by making it possible for them to experience the best of our Sport—the power of the bond that is created when dogs and their humans work as a team. Our kennel club, community, and sport have benefitted greatly from that little girl’s vision transformed into reality. Ginger has shown that one person can make a difference!

GIRL SCOUTS INVADE CLEVELAND ALL-BREED TRAINING CLUB

MAUREEN SETTER, Delegate, Cleveland All-Breed Training Club



Everything seemed normal at Cleveland All-Breed Training Club’s (CABTC) Wednesday night Foundation Skills 2 Class (FS2). But it wasn’t. Something was different.

The FS2 class emphasizes the skills needed to pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test. On this evening, twelve Girl Scouts and their group leaders were in attendance at the gathering. CABTC was thrilled to welcome the group, there to help and learn. This made for a fun-filled training session for the dogs, their handlers and, of course, the Girl Scouts.

During the beginning of the class, and while the dogs were in a down stay, the girls were a positive distraction while the handlers introduced themselves and their dogs. The twelve Scouts and two troop leaders assisted by being friendly strangers, greeting the handlers and asking if they may pet their dogs.

The Scouts then separated into groups and assisted at four different stations:

- Walking pattern. The girls were posts and also distractions for the dogs and handlers to navigate.

- Grooming. The Scouts observed how to check a dog's ears, paws, and how to brush a dog.
- Stays. The girls served as a positive distraction for the dogs on their stays.
- Recalls. Once again, the Scouts were a good distraction for both dogs and handlers.



Girl Scout meets Great Dane

The class ended with the girls providing an audience for the group as well as being the all-important distraction for dogs and handlers who met in the middle, shook hands in greeting while their dogs sat and remained in sit-stay positions.

The girls’ presence brought an excitement and new energy for both the dogs and their handlers who all performed well for our visitors. The evening was equally great for the girls who earned their Girl Scout Animal Helpers Badge at the conclusion of the evening. A big thanks to the girls and their troop leaders for coming to the class and congratulations on earning the new badge!

The AKC’s Public Education Department has a wealth of information to help our clubs. They offer many programs that aid clubs in educating and developing relationships with their communities.

- The AKC Patch Program is hosted by a club at

Girl Scouts Get Involved



Scouts meet Officer and K9



Girl Scouts showing off the badges they earned



Scouts are positive distraction

their event and invites youth organizations to learn about Purebred dogs and the Sport of Purebred dogs through an engaging, interactive learning experience.

- The Canine Ambassador Program encourages club members to visit local schools with their AKC registered, PAL or Canine Partner dog to

teach kids about safety around dogs and responsible dog ownership.

To find out more about these and other Public Education Department programs, visit their web page at <http://www.akc.org/public-education/> or email them directly at publiced@akc.org.

IF YOU ASK ME

MONICA HENDERSON STONER, Delegate, Saluki Club Of America

Opinion

We asked Delegates....

“Everyone has a ‘bucket list,’ things they want to do before it's too late. Maybe climb a mountain, tour the world, ride one last roller coaster. For we who wrap our lives around dogs, the bucket list might be a bit different. Maybe it's going to a special show, judging in a special country, or competing in the pinnacle of your chosen canine venue. Maybe it's taking that special dog on the tour of a lifetime. What's on your bucket list, for yourself or your dog? Let's see if we can get inspiration from each other's buckets!”

Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, Delegate, Canada Del Oro Kennel Club

I have led a fortunate and blessed life, accomplished much in my profession, with my dogs as well as my horses, but there are still things I would like to experience while I can. Some are a definite possibility, some unlikely and a few impossible except in my dreams. You can guess which category each of the following fit into.

1. I have visited much of the world but have never been to Africa. Would love to do that.
2. Same thing for Antarctica.
3. Have been at the top of the game in both horses and dogs. Would love to have one more fling with either one or both.
4. Visit Machu Picchu.
5. Do the seven day rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. Almost did that one a few years ago, but had to cancel.
6. Ride my horse down the Great Wall of China.
7. Take a flight into space.
8. Rediscover my joy in creating art. I have not taken up paint and brush, cut glass or worked with sculpting tools for quite a while.
9. Take part in a cooking competition.
10. And most of all I would like to leave this life gracefully.



Maureen Setter, Delegate, Cleveland All-Breed Training Club

I've been lucky to go to about 10 FCI World Agility events supporting Team USA and of course all the other world agility teams. My bucket list has me attending at least one more overseas FCI World Agility event.

Mary Anne Fowler, Delegate, North Shore Dog Training Club, Inc.

My dog bucket list is to provide interesting, fun, and thinking activities for my 11 year old, blind dog. She is now enrolled in a Nose Work class. The instructor tells her that she is great at it.

Martha Lee Beckington, Delegate, Mount Vernon Dog Training Club

I wanted to get a Championship (owner handled) on my 7 year old Smooth Collie, compete at the National Rally Championships, earn the Versatility Award recognition, Rally, Obedience, Herding titles, as well as be a Therapy dog. We have accomplished all of those things and he has been a joy along the way...we continue to travel and show together ... and now it is his Nephew, the puppy's turn!

I had a very specific bucket list...but the joy, companionship, and fun !!! have been the greatest gifts

of all. And I have met wonderful friends along the way !!!!

Rita Biddle, Delegate, Ingham County KC

Hi, All

Now don't laugh. I have my nearly 2 year old male Akita, who finished his championship early on, enrolled in an Obedience class. If I can just get him to do the down, I'll be really happy. He's stubborn and strong, but we're getting there. Hey, Obedience is a lot harder than Conformation. Lol!

Sylvia Thomas, Delegate, Kennel Club of Riverside

I retired after nearly 46 years in education, the last 28 as a senior administrator in higher education. My friends will tell you've I've retired, but haven't stopped working or dreaming. Seems as I check an item off the bucket list, I add one or maybe two more.

1. Have one more go around with an Akita and win a 5th National Specialty. While we're at it, I'd like to put a Rally title on my new puppy and try my hand at Scent Work.
2. Judge our National, not particularly best of breed, but the classes with the hope of seeing the future of our breed.

3. Play good golf consistently!
4. Attend the Masters, the British Open, College Softball World Series, and maybe Wimbledon.
5. Share my love of our Sport with my grandchildren who love dogs, but have not been to a dog show!
6. Visit Australia.
7. Increase my community involvement and volunteerism.
8. Learn to be a better person, friend, mother, grandmother, and the kind of person that would have made my parents proud.

Monica Henderson Stoner, Delegate, Saluki Club of America

Many of the things I could wish for on a bucket list I've experienced already. I've judged in foreign countries, touched some of the most beautiful Salukis ever bred. I've traveled...of course we can always travel more! But I find my goals have shifted as I moved into ever new dog activities. For the Sport I've enjoyed for a very long time (though never long enough) I'd like to see the groups realign so we can judge in a more logical manner. For myself and my Salukis...well doggonit I'd really like to nail those weave poles!

Thank You

Special thanks to Issue Coordinator, **Sylvia Arrowwood**, who helped with the collection, submission, and reviewing of articles for this issue. Job well done, Sylvia A! Thanks, too, to **Steven Hamblin** for helping with proofing and **Monica Henderson Stoner**, Assistant Editor, for her unfailing assistance with proofing and editing of articles. Huge kudos to the increasing number of Delegates who are submitting articles for *Perspectives*.

We appreciate your interest and sharing your thoughts and experiences with all of us!

ELECTRONIC BALLOTING: FINAL REPORT & REVIEW

DON JAMES, Delegate, Leonberger Club Of America

Electronic Voting

In the September 2013 issue of *Perspectives*, I wrote an article entitled “The Horrors of E-Balloting.” The title was a bit misleading because it was, for most of the Delegate body, an introduction to the idea of using the Internet to create and run an election, eliminating the traditional methodology centering around the use of paper ballots and snail mail.

A year later the AKC Board of Directors voted to amend the By Laws to allow Parent Clubs to conduct their elections using Electronic Balloting. In order to make this a reality, Parent Clubs would have to:

- 1) Verify that the corporate statutes of their State of Incorporation allow for Electronic Balloting.
- 2) Amend their own club’s By Laws to allow for E-Balloting and citing the specific sections of their State of Incorporation’s statutes which reference E-Balloting
- 3) Get approval from AKC on the changes made to their By Laws

I wanted to give you an update on what has happened with my club since we completed the three elements listed above. There’s a huge caveat here that every club needs to be aware of before considering running your first E-Balloting election.

The Leonberger Club of America (LCA) seemed to be well on its way toward making the switch to E-Balloting for our 2017 Board election. We were incorporated in the State of Washington which does allow 501 type corporations to use E-Balloting to stage elections. Our By Laws were changed, approved by AKC, presented, and passed by our membership. I wrote an RFP* and selected four electronic voting companies as candidates to handle our first electronic election. We chose one of those vendors and seemed ready to go for 2017. But, as Murphy’s Law would have it, we had three open positions for our Board and had only three candidates, thus negating the necessity to stage any type of election at all. Back to the drawing board for 2018.

* The Leonberger club’s RFP is available to any of Club on request.

That’s when things really began to get interesting, and it points out one other item all clubs must check



on before moving ahead with staging an Electronic election. A further reading of the Washington state corporate statutes stated that the default method for voting in an election must continue to be a PAPER BALLOT. We had assumed all along that once our club approved an E-Balloting format, the electronic method of casting ballots would become the default. Of course, paper ballots would still be allowed for members not wishing to vote electronically. This turned everything right on its ear. Now, in preparation for our 2018 election, we were suddenly faced with the prospect of convincing our 1150 club members to opt-in to voting electronically. Those who chose not to opt-in would have to be provided with an old-style paper ballot at about five times the cost of what a corresponding electronic ballot would cost.

This was a monumental undertaking because, as you surely know, in most years, you may get 40% of your members to vote in an election. But, you must send 100% of those members a ballot. And, everyone who failed to opt-in must be sent a snail mail ballot at a cost of about \$5 per ballot including postage, materials, and time required for the election committee to stuff and mail ballots.

Without getting into torturous detail, our election team developed a method of contacting all our members and asking them only to hit “return” on that email in order to opt-in to vote electronically. We have software that can eliminate all members who have already opted in, so subsequent requests (and we sent out three in all) would only be sent to those who had yet to opt-in.

The process was amazingly successful. Of our 1150 members, we wound up with 850 people opting in. Now, that didn’t mean they would necessarily be voting, but it did mean that our club would save \$5 for every one of these opt-ins by not having to send a paper ballot.

All that aside, there are two success elements you can point to in staging an electronic election.

- 1) Did the process save our club money?

The cost of using an E-Balloting provider for our 2018 election was \$778.00 which does include

JAMES, cont'd

the 300 paper ballots we had to mail out for those who did not opt-in, but does not include the time spent by our election committee preparing those paper ballots.

The cost of our last all paper ballot election (2016) was \$ \$2,346.00

One down, one to go. Our first E-Balloting election saved our club \$1568.00

2) Did the ease of use in voting electronically increase the number of people voting in our election?

Here are the total number of ballots cast in our last 6 elections:

2011 – Ballots Mailed/Returned: 949/417

2012 – Ballots Mailed/Returned: 1022/517

2013 – Ballots Mailed/Returned: 1099/498

2014 – Ballots Mailed/Returned: 1126/451

2015 – Ballots Mailed/Returned: 1142/319

2016 – Ballots Mailed/Returned:

1059/495

2017 – No Election (3 candidates/3 positions)

2018 – 1st E-Balloting Election:

E-Ballots Cast: 536

Paper Ballots Cast: 61

Total: 597 Ballots Cast

The best election turnout we've had in the last 7 years.

Bottom line, a win on both fronts. The Leonberger Club saved over \$1500.00 and had the largest election turnout we've had in the past seven years. The overwhelming response from our members involved how easy it was to cast their votes electronically. They wondered what took us so long.

Folks, E-Balloting worked for the LCA and it can work for your club as well. I'm available to discuss our experiences with other Delegates and would be happy to provide the RFP we wrote to solicit proposals from a selected group of E-Balloting providers.

NO BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

KATHY GREGORY, Delegate, Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.

One of my oft-repeated introductory statements to students taking their first Scent Work class includes the thought that practice sessions should be like a quiet, calm, meditative spa experience. Although participating in a trial can, and should, be an exciting, thrilling day and the culmination of many enthusiastic practice sessions, it is almost universally believed that learning is best done in an atmosphere of attentive and thoughtful observation where everyone can hear and learn from other teams as well as from an instructor. It is so renewing to throw away all the cares and stresses of the day and just enjoy the sights and smells of this one hour with

“So, next time you are practicing Scent Work, try practicing silence.”

your dog. Be in the moment. Connect with your dog. Love their talents. Love their joy!

How annoying it must be for the dog to hear the constant din of our human voices braying “Find it, find it, find it!” or “Look for it, look for it!” or “Go fish!” or “Search!” time after time during a search, and the most egregious, “SHOW ME, show me, show me, show me!” UGH! I am reminded of a childhood incident where I was trying to add many columns of numbers and concentrating so hard, and adding and adding and adding and then, from the kitchen came my mother’s voice, “Dinner!!” Oh my gosh, I was so distracted I had to start adding all over again from the beginning. Let’s

all practice the lessons we learned so long ago from our first Obedience Instructor: Say “sit” only once. So, let’s say our release word only once and let the dog do the work. Release the dog and let them lead us. Surrender to the dog’s ability. Be confident in your dog’s ability to step out into the search area and get the job done!

Regarding the canine half of participating teams, barking dogs in class are not usually unnerving unless their barking rises to the level of a constant din, making it difficult to be understood by the students or the barking becomes disruptive to the other dogs. A good question to ask is why is this dog barking? Is it aggression, fear, being too close physically to other dogs or their handler moving too far away from them that provokes this reaction? There are several ways to manage this – covering the crates, moving some of the dogs to adjacent rooms or having students work from their cars. All dogs are best confined in some way unless they are running, so they should never be able to interact directly. Usually, by the second or third class, all the dogs remember the treats that await them at the end of their searches and the barking gives way to

silent, controlled excitement. Some dogs bark as an alert to their handler that they have successfully located the odor source. This type of barking is a joyful sound is the happy expression of a successful hunt and anticipation of the reward to come.

But who benefits most from this noise? It is certainly better for the handler to have a dog who frantically paws the location of the hide or barks loudly when the source of odor has been located. This eliminates the need for us to patiently wait and observe the many clues that lead us to the crescendo of body movements that tell us the hide has been found. However, it most likely does not benefit our canine partners who hear our voice and, distracted, immediately respond because of years of training as good home companions.

So, next time you are practicing Scent Work, try practicing silence. Try just speaking your release word and then not speaking again for the duration of your search...or not speaking at all! Rather, let your dog speak to you in their wonderful, non-verbal way. Let the dog work undisturbed and let them take the lead in this wonderful sport.

IT ONLY TAKES ONE PERSON THROUGH THE DOOR

BARBARA GAINES, Delegate, English Springer Spaniel Club Of America

Each of us has enjoyed many years in every aspect of this sport of purebred dogs. We provide educational programs and training classes for our members and the curious spectators who attend our events. When we plan our shows we routinely organize the event in the same way each time and our competitions rely on this organization.

However, it only takes a person through the door to reverse the entire event with an incident involving a disabled individual. I am the AKC Delegate for the English Springer Spaniel Club of Michigan. My career spanned 40 ½ years as a speech therapist in the Utica Community Schools in Michigan, the state that founded the mandatory special education in all public schools in September 1972. This began the legislation and all of the rules in public and private

facilities for the disabled.

This subject was discussed at the March Delegates meeting in the All-Breed Committee. A woman at a show had a stroller and caused such a problem that she was removed from the grounds. The next morning she returned with the Sheriff. The details were not revealed.

However, it only takes a person through the door to reverse the entire event with an incident involving a disabled individual.

I spoke with the building department in Sterling Heights when I returned home. Michigan began uniform codes for all public and private buildings in 1966 and totally revised all regulations in 2015. The regulations for every type of facility are available online for a fee. The Building Department heads and employees were very interested in my description of incidents at dog shows and all agreed that complete knowledge of the facility and its rules should

be required of the host club.

My purpose for writing this piece is to protect each club member, each club, each facility and most importantly every person and animal at our events.

Each club should schedule a specific meeting to review the following:

1. Have a copy of your entire facility floor plans and rules
 - a. where are the push button door openers for the disabled – don't have any? Talk to facility manager.
2. Restroom compatibility – indoor and outdoor
3. Emergency exits – where, how many, and are they clearly marked?
4. Discuss the club insurance policies – who's covered and for what and how much?
5. Golf cart rules and insurance coverage for whom and when – who isn't covered and why?
6. Who calls your insurance company? When? Immediately?
7. Photos of the incident are probably the best idea – however, who takes the photos? How will or can they be used if necessary?
8. INCIDENT REPORT FORM MUST CONTAIN THIS INFORMATION: NAME OF CLUB, DATE, PURPOSE OF EVENT, SHOW CHAIR/OFFICERS LISTED, NAME and POSITION OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS REPORT
 - a. Name and description of person(s) who are the reason for this action – what happened?
 - b. Type of disability – type of apparatus used by said person
 - c. Mobility level
 - d. Was a dog not owned by the disabled person involved in the incident? Breed – size – location in facility – who had the leash – were there any discussions before the incident?
 - e. Was 911 called – who called, and what was the timeline?
 - f. Action taken by the show committee for this incident – be specific in your documentation!! – Committee must sign this report.

- g. Give a copy to the offender and/or individuals involved.
- h. If an action is taken to remove the offender from the grounds, the Committee should escort the person to their vehicle and off the grounds..
9. Type of apparatus used by show attendee –
 - a. Stroller – usually contains a young child – PROBLEMS – child is at eye level with 90% of the dogs
 - b. Crowded show is the main problem – provide a stroller parking lot
 - c. Small children make weird sounds, wiggle and can be odoriferous – many dogs do not understand this, which could become a dog related problem.
 - d. Wheelchairs – manual and powered – many of these vehicles are too wide to go through the grooming area – many seriously disabled persons in wheelchairs may also emit unusual sounds, as well as having flailing arms and legs which could startle our dogs. Just be aware.

I have not noticed any wheelchair signs ringside now that I think of it! Should they be provided as a courtesy?

- e. Walkers and canes – these tools do provide for more mobility than the previous items, however, the user does move more slowly and we must accommodate them.
10. Other considerations
 - a. Club members need to be aware of the multitude of activities at the event and be available to assist the show chair, bench committee, hospitality, and in general be good hosts.

Introduce yourselves to guests with strollers and all other assistive devices – answer their questions and guide them through your event.

It only takes one person through the door. We need to be prepared.

GONE TO THE DOGS

BRUCE VORAN, *Delegate, Myrtle Beach Kennel Club*

On my dog show trips, I often travel the Interstate system I have traveled many times before. I put my two-storied garage called a motor home on cruise control and have plenty of time to think about the phrase “gone to the dogs.” I wonder why I, and others, go to dog shows and why we believe what we believe. I came to the conclusion that our beliefs arise from our perceptions, feelings, and thoughts, and are formed on how we relate to people and values.

I suspect I choose to be at dog shows as a result of a powerful impulse to be with acquaintances and friends, to see an occasional outstanding dog, maybe even win some AKC Championship points, and generally agree on commonly held points of value and beliefs. Friendships develop and are more than simply acquaintanceships. Both are the result of beliefs that inform and shape our lives.

So why do you and I go to dog shows year after year and why do we believe what we believe? In the end, we go to dog shows or join the Elks or join a social club, or become a Daughter of the American Revolution (DAR) because we always return to that which we hold in common with friends as well as acquaintances where there is an atmosphere of civility, kindness, and integrity.

But a question arises: Why don't many return to or continue as participants in the world of dog shows? Can it relate to how acquaintances are formed; why friendships never fully develop? Has civility, kindness and integrity disappeared? Are these values missing at today's dog shows? I suspect this is only a part of the bigger picture.

Speaking personally, socio-economic factors influenced me and my family's continuation in dog shows. Political issues raised by animal rights groups didn't exist for us then. Reflecting on our beginning, we bought a dog from a breeder who was a member of an active local breed club which, at the time, had active breeders and exhibitors. The breeder had handling classes, the club held matches, the club members were active in the sport and offered encouragement. Our son was just old enough to become involved in Junior Handling. We were challenged to buy “something better” by a professional handler and “better” was to be found within the local club whose experience and success exceeded the club member from whom we purchased

our first show dog. From a socio-economic standpoint, participation in doggy activities did not have the competition for our attention that has come to exist today. Soccer, swim clubs, bike clubs, boating, and other family related activities were only beginning to attract the attention of growing families. The availability of discretionary funds was different then.

AKC as an organization was not a major concern for most of us. Beyond registering litters as we became more involved, AKC was no more than an afterthought. AKC may still be just an afterthought, not only for show giving clubs but the general population who have showable dogs. A quick glance at a show giving catalog today reveals a “mention” of AKC only briefly and no more. Of course, AKC is concerned with registration figures and income streams affected by declining registration statistics and entries at dog shows. Of course, AKC will focus on the bottom line and has made significant changes and programs in an effort to attract and retain dog show entry and registration numbers. AKC offers help to local clubs and encourages success. But is this really effective? Do billboards on Broadway or formal TV events with high dollar prizes effectively impact what once was called the “typical family unit—mother, father and two children?” For increasingly more participants, participation in dog show events lasts no more than three to five years. This, alone, is alarming financially for AKC. Perhaps as the times changed, AKC made administrative changes that were focused on financial figures and not the true pressures facing the general population. Changes made in far-away New York were once not of much concern. They were at best, afterthoughts then and quite possibly now.

Does AKC have a strategy? Does it advocate for the common dog owner whose resources are stretched thin and demanded by other pressures? Legislative activities regarding issues of dog ownership including breed specific legislation, The advocacy of pure-bred dogs, the Registry integrity, the health and well-being of all dogs as well as the dog as a cherished companion are highlighted in the Mission Statement. TV spots and marketing, suggested avenues and tools available for local clubs, are in keeping with AKC's Mission Statement. Questions arise, however, whether issues that have become the focus of AKC's financial and registry activities actually ad-

VORAN, *cont'd*

dress those who have purebred dogs and are short-time participants in AKC dog show events. Have the socio-economic and political factors affecting the general public taken one direction and AKC taken another? Some may argue that the animal rights organizations, pet adoption programs, and animal rescue groups have well surpassed AKC as an attention maker. Advocacy and strategy ought to be a unifying force. But are they?

Dog show participation has lasted nearly 40 years for me. Over time beliefs remain regarding why that participation has lasted. The question of why such participation has not lasted that long for others is not clear by any measure. Programs instituted by the AKC Board and Staff to stem the tide of falling entries and registrations haven't made that great a positive impact as both entries and registrations continue to decline. I believe I know why I have remained. It is

from my perspective. And, perhaps, this is an important point.

Why anyone goes to dog shows, what others believe or why AKC authorizes dog shows may or may not resonate with me and others. What is unavoidable is recognizing the graying of our Sport which, like it or not, is happening to all of us. If anything stated here has any value, it may not be in any construction of mine, but that it results in questions relating to AKC's stated mission, that concern why people go to dog shows? Will dog shows exist in another 40 years? The black and red figures of a financial report shouldn't be the driving force behind the questions needing answers.

Questions give us meaning, drive us forward. Seeking answers is why I have "gone to the dogs." And will continue to do so.

A VISIT TO THE KENNEL CLUB

DR. GENO SISNEROS, Delegate, American Pomeranian Club, Inc.

During a recent judging trip to England, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit The Kennel Club as a guest for lunch and tour of their new building. After 60 odd years in their previous location overlooking beautiful Green Park, which abuts Buckingham Palace, and a two-year process,

The Kennel Club moved about 50 yards down to Clarges Street. They closed up shop on Thursday and reopened the following Monday, October 5, 2016. It was not easy for The Kennel Club to give up its prime piece of real estate in central London overlooking Green Park, but an offer to move just part of a block away, to a totally new building with fixtures built to The Kennel Club's specifications worth 12 million pounds (\$16.5 million) plus around 3 million pounds in information technology (IT) and systems upgrades plus another 12 million pounds in



cash was just too good to turn down.

The "new" Kennel Club is five floors, complete with five apartments, Board Room, several meeting rooms, a beautiful member bar and restaurant, The Kennel Club Art Gallery, which maintains the largest collection of dog paintings in Europe, and The

Kennel Club Library. The entire building, including member areas, hallways, and stairways is adorned with beautiful pieces of canine history.

As The American Kennel Club makes its move, along with The AKC Museum of the Dog, to 101 Park Avenue in New York City by the first quarter of 2019, I thought it would be nice to share a bit about the prestigious Kennel Club's similar move forward in canine history.

Across the Pond



THE STEWARDSHIP OF A LEGACY, PART TWO: CLUBS

STEVEN HAMBLIN, Delegate, Pekingese Club Of America

When I first joined a Specialty Club, I did so with a sense of obligation to my mentor who wanted me to be more actively involved in my local breed club. I can't say that I was thrilled to commit time to the incessant meetings and theatrical politics. But the club I joined was old, and that simple fact poked and prodded my curiosity. I felt compelled to support this particular club simply because it was old and anything that had survived that long needed and deserved to continue.

There were few members when I joined, and those few had been involved for years. They had seen the "grand days" when entries were significant and majors required more dogs than we had in the club at the time when I joined. If only I could have seen the club and the breed in the good old days. But despite the fact that the golden era of my breed had passed me, personally, this particular club lived on. In its dysfunction, infighting, and side taking, there was camaraderie. These people were not only united by breed, but also driven by a desire to not let this glorious old club fail. Regardless of any disagreement, no one wanted to see the club dissolve into a memory that would die with the last of the members.

Dog club politics are always nuts. To be successful in a pack of dogs, someone has to be the Alpha. Naturally, Dog Sports are comprised of lots of Alphas running their dogs around a ring or through a course. Put all those Alphas in one room, and they need to be top dog in the pack. My little club was no different than any other dog club in that respect. Several long-time breeder/exhibitors had greatly differing opinions on what the direction of the club should be. Those opinions often created very divisive meetings that could be terrifying for any new comer that lacked the courage or willingness to ride out the tirade. Of course I had my own opinions about who was right and who was wrong, but the Parliamentary rules governing the club defined how the business of the club would proceed. That saving grace, alone, propelled the club forward however directionless it seemed. But I often felt that

the club was teetering on the brink – that if one person decided to jump ship and take their contingent with them, the club would fail. The future success of this club would depend on setting aside personal differences, and assuming the mantle of Stewardship for the Legacy of a club.

As a club board and as members, we have responsibilities to address not only our needs at this time, on this day, but to project forward where the club will go based on the decisions made. A short term "fix" to an immediate problem must be identified as a short-term fix, and not allowed to alter the forward motion of the club into the distant future. If clubs are not looking at their "distant futures," then they're setting themselves up for failure. Decisions and actions should be taken with the overriding

Despite differences, the Legacy of the club must be paramount.

forethought that these decisions can and will have implications years down the road. Yes, decisions can be reversed, but can the ripple effects created by those decisions be calmed before affecting many other as-

pects of the club? Members who make decisions to only foster their own sense of power, or to secure their own place in the club's history, may actually be killing what they want to perpetuate.

Despite differences, the Legacy of the club must be paramount. The current board is but one moment in the continuum of the life of the organization. Each board member takes upon themselves the mantle of stewarding the club into the future for the next generation. Every decision, every member added or turned away, and every interpersonal conflict lives on as a moment in time for that club. Not only have I witnessed that in the current state of my specialty club, but it is also evidenced in the history of that club. It turns out that long before my entry into the world of Dog Sports, a secretary for my Specialty Club experienced some sort of conflict or frustration within the club. Her response was to throw out all of the club's memorabilia: more than 60 years of history!!! Subsequent members cobbled together what they had, while perpetuating mementos of shows and club activities as they occurred, and, thus, a modern history was constructed. But,

the rich history of our glorious breed and the notable members and moments of the prior 75 years has been lost.

In researching those “lost years”, I was introduced to the names that shaped my club from the beginning. I saw the same names on the Board year after year as I dug through show catalogs from 1917 to present. For most of those years, it was the same names over and over, and then there would be a change, perhaps someone moved from President to Show Chair, and allowed another name in the club to rise to a board position. I admired how “stable” this club was historically as evidenced by very little movement in board seats for many years. Then one day, with the assistance of Jim Crowley and Brynn White, I discovered a whole treasure trove of material that was evidence of a more sinister nature. Turns out the club’s membership had been restricted for years!!! There were FIVE members of the club with voting rights!!! All other members, and there were plenty had no rights whatsoever! That’s why the same names kept popping up in my research!

It turns out that an attempt at a coup had been made in the early 1930’s, and in an effort to successfully defeat that power grab, the club locked down positions for five voting members. That may have proven successful for the club to persist, but it aggravated the non-voting members. As years passed, those members continued to feel disenfranchised, attempting to reason with the board, and in failing to gain concessions, petitioned AKC for intervention. When none of those attempts were successful in making the club more inclusive, those alienated members moved on and formed their own club which was never recognized by the AKC. This movement proved to be the beginning of the decline of the club. Those holding power aged and passed, and those who could have carried the club into the modern day abandoned ship and were unwilling to return.

Year after year, membership and participation dwindled. The club entered a very dark time from

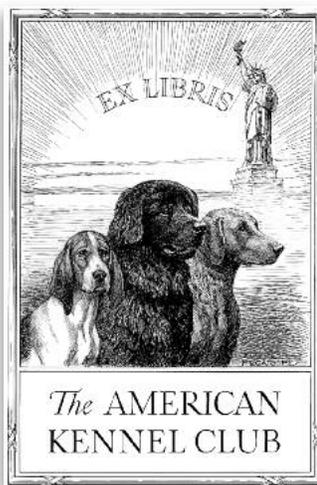


the 1970’s through the 1980’s. Beginning in the early to mid 1980’s, interest and activity in the club began to pick up. New exhibitors were interested in participating, and some of the long-timers had held on long enough to keep the club alive.

There was a passing of leadership in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s, and that core group really kept the club going into the new millennium. But the lessons had not been learned, and that core group maintained a very tight control over the club, its activities, and its membership. Members were added if they augmented what the leadership wanted to do, and potential members were rejected if there was even a notion that they would challenge the existing leadership. Simultaneously, the breed began to fall in popularity, and the recession of 2008 hit. The leadership suddenly found themselves with financial losses on shows and lack of participation among the regional fanciers.

Many people who had been interested in the breed and the club were turned off by the way they had been treated (or abused), and chose to not participate in the club at a time when their efforts and dues payments were needed the most. The resurgence of the club began around 2010. We’ve found local exhibitors that are new to the breed, but eager to make their marks. Not only do they love the breed, but they admire and honor the Legacy that we share, and they want to see the breed and the club regain prominence. It’s not an easy hill to climb, much time and effort must go into sourcing, recruiting, and mentoring new members.

But the efforts of today are what will shape the future of the club for all of the tomorrows. My dream is that in 50 years, someone will be as enthusiastic about history as I am, and when they look back at our records, they will identify the workers and the work that went in to making this club bigger and better. On this day, at this time, every member of my club has an obligation to Steward our Legacy for future generations.



AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM THOMAS: THE REVISED JUDGING PROCEDURE

DANIEL J. SMYTH, ESQ., Delegate, Burlington County Kennel Club

MARGE CALLTHARP, Delegate, Shar Pei Club Of America

Judging Operations

Last December, just prior to the Orlando Shows the Board dropped a revision of the Judges Approval Procedure upon the judging community with little warning. *Perspectives* wanted to get the reason for the revision and the effect of the changes. So, an interview with Tim Thomas, VP of Dog Show Judges was sought. Mr. Thomas graciously agreed to discuss all aspects of the change. The following are not direct quotes, unless so designated, but a summary of the thorough discussions that took place.

Who was on the committee and why was the committee created?

In July of last year, staff provided statistics to the Board related to the first 18 months of applications processed under the judging program implemented in September 2015. Due to concerns from the Board, staff, and the fancy as to the frequency with which judges were getting new breeds, the Chair appointed a committee to review the current policy and determine where modifications might be warranted. The committee was made up of Senior Judges, Frank Sabella, Edd Bivin, Chairman of the Board Ron Menaker, Vice Chair of the Board, Tom Davies, and Tim Thomas

From the onset, the Chair defined the committee's process as evolutionary, rather than revolutionary. The goal of the committee was not to develop a new Judging Approval Process, rather to make improvements in the best interest of the Sport while maintaining the framework of the current program.

Concerns as to the Rate of Progression

The committee identified several aspects which it felt demanded immediate attention:

1. The rate of advancement
2. CEU (Continuing Education Unit) experiences and values
3. The role of the Executive Field Staff

Rate of Advancement

The sense was the bar had been set too low. To explain, one could have described the minimum education requirements to apply for a breed as being set for the breeds with the most limited opportunities. To establish an education-based system with criteria set in the middle, the hope is prospective judges will exceed the minimum requirements in breeds where educational opportunities are prevalent. It is also understood that there are breeds that are very limited in educational resources and may present challenges. The new policy provides flexibility to address those situations on a case-by-case basis. It was necessary to raise the requirements to establish the education-based system.

CEU experiences and values connected with the rate of advancement. The committee saw three options:

1. Raise the minimum number of CEUs required
2. Adjust the number of CEUs assigned to experiences and correct the weight of CEUs where disproportionately assigned.
3. Combination of both – raise CEU numbers required and adjust the values.

The committee felt the best option was to adjust the CEU values. Simply raising the minimum number required would have resulted in more preparation, but would not have corrected the disproportionate weight assigned to CEUs. To do both would have been viewed as punitive. In addition to adjusting the number of CEUs earned, the committee eliminated CEU credit for judging NOHS groups at three events and having bred a litter in the previous year as they are not related to the breed applied.

Breed Exams

Breed exams were repositioned as a prerequisite to apply rather than a condition of approval. The revised policy removed the requirement to pass in two attempts and subsequent six month hold if one did

not. The tests can now be taken as many times as needed to pass. The goal of the exams has always been for the test taker to thoroughly read the Standard. The exams are not an assessment of one's preparedness to judge the breed. The committee also felt this would greatly reduce the resistance of some to completing the required online exams in the Canine College.

Board Review Committee and Board Appeals Committee

Under the original policy, if in the department's opinion an application for breeds should be denied, it was forwarded to the Board Judges Review Committee (JRC), a committee of three members of the Board, for final approval. The Board JRC could concur with the department's decision or overturn it and award the breeds. If the JRC concurred, the applicant had the option to appeal to the Board Appeals Committee, a separate committee of three members of the Board. The committee felt this created an unnecessary step and delay in the final determination of applications and recommended the dissolution of the Board JRC and the Board concurred in its approval. Today, the department is charged with the initial determination on all judging applications. If an applicant is denied breeds, they have the option to appeal to the Board Appeals Committee. If denied a breed by staff action and it is not overturned on appeal, the applicant cannot reapply for the breed for six months after final denial.

Six month waiting period following Breed approval or denial

To address concerns with the rapid rate of application, a mandatory six-month period between applications was added. Once the letter approving or denying the application for a new breed is received, there is a six-month period before the applicant can apply for any new breeds or reapply for a denied breed. To clarify, the six-months is based solely on the results from one's most recent application for additional breeds, it is not impacted by regular status requests.

Ceiling lowered for number of permit breeds

The maximum number of breeds that one can hold in permit status was lowered. To increase clarity, it was also changed from a percentage of the largest group to defined numbers. Looking at the number of groups the applicant has at the time of the application, the maximum number of permit breeds at one time for those not having one group is 12 permit breeds. Those with less than 4 groups can hold a maximum of 18 and those with 4 or more groups can hold 24. Once this ceiling number is reached, the applicant can apply for no more breeds until some of the permit breeds gain regular status.

No group can be completed in less than three applications. Under the original policy, applicants had submitted as many as 10 individual applications for additional breeds in just over two years. Over 11,000

breeds were approved from applications submitted from September 2015 until the moratorium was imposed in November 2017. There were abuses to the application process and in that time period some judges were approved for

over 70 new breeds. Unfortunately, the abuses were not the ordinary, but controls affecting all applicants had to be put into place for the best interest of the Sport.

Field Representative Observations and Discussions

The requirement for all permit judges to be observed by a field representative was re-established. The observation process today is predicated upon a discussion on the recognition of salient breed characteristic present in the ring and how one prioritizes in determining awards. All permit judges are required to obtain the required observations for regular status even if the breed(s) were approved under the original policy. We have seen that some judges are having difficulties discussing their entry in breed specific terminology, which could be a result of the minimal preparation pre-approval.

During an interview, judges can continue to use photos of the breed, but the photos can contain no notes. The Standard can be referred to on discussion points, but not read literally. It is a reference re-

“It is important to understand that Low Entry does not automatically equate to low opportunity.”

source, not a fact sheet.

Three observation reports are required when a breed or group of breeds is submitted for regular status. One does not have to be observed in all breeds three times, but the applicant must present three observation reports from three different field representatives from the collection of breeds submitted for regular status. These reports can be a combination of breeds observed under three different representatives. There should be three positive reports. If a report in a breed indicates the need for further study in that breed, one should expect the need to complete additional assignments and observations in that breed.

To be counted as an assignment completed, there must be at least two dogs present and judged. This applies for all breeds. For an observation to be completed, there must be a sufficient number of entries to have a discussion on characteristics present and prioritization. The previous requirement for “four in a class” is gone; an entry of at least four in the breed can be used as a rule of thumb. The object is to compare and discuss the dogs seen in competition. It is there to discuss hallmarks and basic breed qualities, not to question one's choices, although, how one's decisions were made might be part of the breed discussion.

Low Entry Breeds

There are exceptions built into the policy for Low Entry breeds. The Low Entry Breed List is posted on the AKC website and updated annually by the department. If a permit judge cannot meet the requirement of at least two dogs present and judged in three assignments, they may submit for regular status in a Low Entry Breed after the breed has been assigned six times regardless of the number of dogs judged. In the case of submitting after six assignments, observations are not required as it is unlikely there will be any; however, if there had been a report indicating concerns additional assignments could be required.

Application Turnaround Time

The turnaround time from receipt of application to notice of final results averages three months. Interview dates for applied breeds are being scheduled

at times within a month from the date of receipt. An interview normally takes five to ten minutes per breed, but may last longer if the applicant is having difficulties verbalizing. However, if one cannot discuss the breed sufficiently after ten minutes, the field representative is likely to cut it off and move on to the next.

Seminar CEUs

The original revisions adopted by the Board lowered the CEU values for seminars to two CEUs with a workshop, and one CEU if it is a seminar only without hands on. Following feedback from the judging community, in January the Board approved a recommendation by the committee to modify the values for attendance of seminars held in conjunction with a national, or the Advanced Judging Institutes conducted by the DJAA in Houston, Texas; the ADSJ in Louisville, Kentucky; and the combined AKC/DJAA in conjunction with the National Championship in Orlando, Florida. Seminars at the National Specialty or at an Advanced Judging Institute will receive three CEUs for seminar plus hands-on workshop, or two CEU for a seminar only.

Canine College Breed Courses

While the goal is to create courses for all breeds, emphasis has been placed on the Low Entry breeds and providing additional educational for those breeds which are most challenged. Once a purchaser buys a course, it is theirs forever to use as a reference. These courses carry two CEUs with the successful completion and passing of the questions within the material.

Long Term Mentor

Modifications were made to the CEU values associated with mentors, tutors, and kennel visits. In addition, language was added to the policy to clearly define the difference between a mentor, tutor, and kennel visit. A long-term mentor is exactly what the words mean; an individual who has mentored the applicant over a long period of time. This is not a one-time session. Those educational experiences would be designated as a kennel visit or tutoring session. The same person cannot be listed on an application as a mentor and a tutor, a mentor and a

kennel visit or a tutor and a kennel visit. Multiple tutoring or kennel visits with the same person on an application are scored as a long-term mentor. Ringside observations are a separate type of experience and it is acceptable to observe ringside with the same qualified individual who is also your long-term mentor or with whom you have completed a tutoring session or kennel visit.

To be accepted as a mentor for a breed, the individual must be a Parent Club approved mentor (lists can be found on line for each breed), have 12 years of experience exhibiting the breed in conformation or as an approved judge for that breed. If using a judge as a mentor, the 12 years of experience begins the date the judge was granted provisional or permit status. Staff does take steps to verify the correctness of the declared years of experience. As a rule of thumb, for breeds that have not been recognized by the AKC for 12 years, the experience must meet or exceed the date of the breed's full recognition.

Apprentice Judging

In-Ring Apprentice Training involves observing an entry in the ring with the presiding judge. The policy requires a major present to be accepted for educational credit. The judge may discreetly discuss the entry with the apprentice during judging. This can be a very beneficial experience for the apprentice when completed with a qualified mentor-judge. To be accepted, the judge must have 12 years of experience exhibiting or judging that breed, and the following must be completed prior:

1. A passing grade on the breed exam prior to the first apprenticeship in that breed
2. The permission of the show chairman
3. The permission of the judge

Replacement Judge at a show at a point show or judging at a foreign show for an AKC recognized registry

This carries one CEU with a maximum of three CEUs per application.

Performance Events

Events that are directly related to the purpose of the breed. This does not include Companion events. If an event is open to all dogs, it does not qualify for

this CEU.

The performance events are Herding, Earthdog, Hunt Tests, Field Trials and Lure Coursing. Only one CEU is given per breed in this category. Proof of attendance is required, such as pictures, signed note from chair of event, or other appropriate proof. Can be one dog participating.

Telephone Tutoring in Low Entry Breeds

This educational experience is available for Low Entry breeds where educational opportunities are very minimal or not available. Not all Low Entry breeds qualify in this regard. If one lives in an area where there are several breeders or shows with sufficient entry, the application to utilize phone tutoring may be denied. Many phone tutoring experiences submitted on applications were not accepted in breeds where opportunities do exist and/or it is known by staff that breeders and exhibitors are available within a reasonable distance from the applicant's home. It is important to understand that Low Entry does not automatically equate to low opportunity. Whereas it may be a good educational experience for the applicant, be aware that it may not be accepted for CEU credit on an application.

Other Educational Activities

This is a creative section for the judge who believes they have had an opportunity to learn about the breed in ways not set forth in the chart. It is up to the judge to explain the what and why of the activity and the staff will review it to see if additional CEUs can be granted. The applicant should be specific and provide adequate explanation.

Total CEUs Requirements for Low Entry Breeds

The requirement of five CEUs for applicants with less than a group and three for those with four or more groups, remains the same. The middle group, less than four groups, must now earn four CEUs in Low Entry breeds to be qualified. This was done to even out the application requirements.

Application to Apply for More than 4 Groups

Individuals who plan to apply for breeds that ex-

tend beyond four groups must now submit a request to apply in advance. On the form the applicant is asked to provide their intended goal. This was added to recognize that not all judges intend or wish to be all-breed judges. The department reviews and approves or denies based on a review of observation reports, correspondence, demeanor, and feedback from the field staff. There was a consensus that all-breed status should be reserved for the few. Each application beyond four groups requires a request and each is viewed independently. The approval to complete a fifth group does not guarantee application toward a sixth. If one has three groups and has a scattering of breeds in other groups, they may be asked to contain their future applications to one group. The denial of a request does not close the door permanently. A judge can request again at a later time, but should be proactive in obtaining observation reports on current breeds. This decision is appealable. The key here is that one needs to have a plan, not just picking breeds.

How does Tim Thomas feel about the changes?

Tim stated that he is encouraged about the way the process is working. The committee will remain in existence and will review the implementation of the modifications already made as well as those



areas of the policy not previously addressed such the requirements for first time applicants and the policies on visiting judges.

In discussing the integrity of the program, Tim agreed that for the most part this is a self-regulating Sport. Most applicants are honest and are not gaming the system. Of course, he feels there

are always those who might take advantage, but this is not the majority.

We all have a stake in this. Mentors should not randomly sign forms for individuals who have not truly completed the educational experience for which they are being asked to verify. In the same regard, applicants should regulate the validity of their own applications. Short cutting the system or simply seeking the quickest path will hurt them and affect the integrity of the system and the Sport as a whole.

We thank Tim for his time and candor. We encourage all Delegates to send their suggestions or inquiries about the system to Tim Thomas at Judging Operations. If you have a question, rest assured he will respond to you within a reasonable time. All ideas for improvement of the system should be sent on to him. Remember, as Ron Menaker stated, this is an evolutionary process not a revolutionary one.

For more information, visit the AKC website's [Judging' Resource Center](#).



A NON-SCENT SEEK AND FIND

We've done the hiding and ask you to do the finding!

Somewhere in this issue we have hidden the word "softball."

The first three Delegates to contact Assistant Editor, Monica Henderson Stoner, tsent@ix.netcom.com, with the page number and location of the hidden word will receive a Starbucks gift card.

FAKE NEWS AND THE FACTS

DR. CARMEN BATTAGLIA, Delegate, German Shepherd Dog Club Of America

The Real Story

Today we know fake news relies on powerful social messaging. Utilizing a distortion of the facts can shape a strategy or support a special agenda. Words, numbers, statistics can be manipulated to align with the intended message. These efforts are successfully being used to mask the truth, even create a “new truth,” as we see in the efforts being used to influence both gun and dog legislation. Examples taken from recent headlines and HSUS tax returns illustrate how distortion and carefully crafted messaging can influence public opinion.

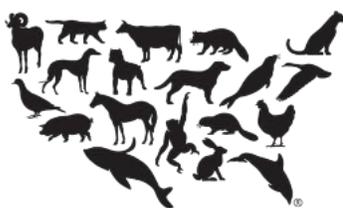
We can begin with the media reports from early February 2018, claiming there were already 18 school shootings in 2018. David Mastio, deputy editorial page editor for USA TODAY, was not convinced so he did some research for a recent USA TODAY article. He called it the truth about the “18 reported school shootings” which made the national headlines. Mastio found the Washington Post, CBS, and The (New York) Daily News all reported that 18 school shootings had already occurred in 2018. They included the 19-year old who slaughtered 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. A closer look at the facts by Mastio shows that the media relied on carefully created information from an organization called Every Town for Gun Safety, a gun-control advocacy group responsible for spreading bogus statistics. What Every Town failed to report was that their data included “any discharge of a firearm at a school, whether students were involved or not.” Using Every Town’s criteria, nobody has to be injured and the “shooting” doesn’t actually have to take place on campus. but the bullet has to be somewhere on campus.” A closer look at just three of the 18 incidents reported by Every Town as “shootings” puts a different light on the truth about the “18 shootings.” For example, on January 3, a 31-year old military veteran who suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder shot himself in a school parking lot after he called the

police and reported he was suicidal, according to the Lansing (Michigan) State Journal. On Jan. 10 there was a shooting, reported by the Desert Sun ... “a gun was fired from off campus and a bullet struck the Visual Arts Building” at California State University, San Bernardino. No one was injured. On February 5, a shooting was reported in Maplewood, MN. This incident involved a third-grader who pulled the trigger on a police officer’s gun while he was sitting on a bench. No one was injured.

Distorting the facts and not telling the whole story is not limited to guns and schools, it can also be found in the dog world. For example, a common response given to owners who do not intend to breed or show their dog is to neuter it. Owners are not told that while it may be a convenience and it may have some advantages, spaying or neutering dogs must be weighed against the possible risks associated with the procedure. The rationale usually given for this surgical procedure is the “positive effects” on the behavior, health, and longevity of the dog. The ASPCA supported this view when they reported that as many as 83% of all males and females are being neutered. What’s missing from this scenario are some facts. Veterinary

research shows the gains must be weighed against the risks. For example, this procedure has been found to increase the occurrence of many disorders including those associated with joint disease and cancer. Cognitive decline is accelerated in aging dogs that are neutered and there is a greater prevalence of immune disorders. Since the unsuspecting public does not read the literature, they are unaware of the life time risk to dogs or the potential for long term veterinary expenses.

There is more. The TV ads used by HSUS combine a powerful social message which features sad music, caged and sickly-looking dogs with ribs showing from hunger with sore eyes. These TV images move the audience and raise money based on



The Real Story

fear and sympathy. It is a \$100 million market that involves people who are not informed, but willing to contribute their dollars in the belief that they will end what they see in the HSUS TV ads.

A closer look at the HSUS tax return shows that only 1 percent of the HSUS budget was spent on grants to support pet sheltering. Research about the HSUS donor group shows they are confused about where their money is being spent. The gap between donor perception and reality is well documented, and in March of 2014, then Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt issued a “consumer alert” about the funding of national animal charities like HSUS.

The HSUS tax return shows how they actually spend the money they raise from the public. A summary of that spending shows HSUS:

1. Did not make a single grant to shelters in 6 states (Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Dakota)
2. Spent nearly 5 times more in lobbying (\$4.25

- million) than in grants to shelters (\$808,953)
3. Spent \$3 million on salaries of 13 HSUS executives – almost 4 times that spent on shelters
4. Spent \$69 million on fundraising related expenses.
5. Spent 86 times more on its Ohio political front group in 2009 than it did on Ohio pet shelters
6. In 2010, spent 32 times more on political efforts in Missouri than it did on shelter support.

This data was compiled from the HSUS Schedule 1 of IRS Form 990. In 2016, the HSUS tax return showed that their stated purpose was to provide “shelter aid to reduce pet homelessness and save lives.” A list of the grants they actually made by state shows the extent of their “shelter aid.”

These examples show how misinformation and powerful messaging are used to influence public opinion and why the facts are needed to uncover the truth. Mastio’s research shows that the media misled the public about the school shootings and HSUS

State	# of Grants	Grants	State	# of Grants	Grants
Alabama	1	\$1,100	Montana	6	\$111,700
Alaska	4	\$7,770	Nebraska	1	\$10,000
Arizona	2	\$2,000	Nevada	0	\$0
Arkansas	3	\$6,201	New Hampshire	0	\$0
California	4	\$8,500	New Jersey	2	\$3,000
Colorado	5	\$8,000	New Mexico	1	\$500
Connecticut	0	\$0	New York	2	\$4,317
Delaware	0	\$0	North Carolina	1	\$2,000
Florida	1	\$2,000	North Dakota	6	\$108,184
Georgia	2	\$6,250	Ohio	1	\$500
Hawaii	2	\$1,000	Oklahoma	3	\$19,406
Idaho	5	\$112,296	Oregon	1	\$5,500
Illinois	4	\$52,650	Pennsylvania	2	\$9,941
Indiana	4	\$56,000	Rhode Island	1	\$500
Iowa	0	\$0	South Carolina	3	\$4,750
Kansas	2	\$1,000	South Dakota	0	\$0
Kentucky	1	\$2,500	Tennessee	3	\$26,775
Louisiana	2	\$52,500	Texas	6	\$24,458
Maine	6	\$52,800	Utah	4	\$5,000
Maryland	9	\$11,975	Vermont	1	\$2,500
Massachusetts	1	\$500	Virginia	6	\$25,009
Michigan	3	\$4,625	Washington	3	\$4,500
Minnesota	2	\$4,500	West Virginia	6	\$6,250
Mississippi	3	\$14,100	Wisconsin	9	\$14,996
Missouri	3	\$4,000	Wyoming	1	\$1,000

does it through TV ads to an unsuspecting public. WE can no longer accept the news as “facts” seeing how it is being manipulated in so many instances. Therefore, we must each be more discerning and seek out the truth.

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PEACH BLOSSOM CLUSTER VERSATILITY COMPETITION

GLENN LYCAN, Director, Event Operations Support

The Peach Blossom Cluster, one of the premier events in the Southeast, held its first ever Most Versatile Dog (MVD) competition this April. The cluster made up of the Douglasville Kennel Club, Valdosta Kennel Club, Atlanta Kennel Club, and the Combined Specialty Clubs of Atlanta, has been in existence for a long time. Different from many clusters, the Specialty Clubs hold their event on Sunday with no All-Breed Conformation event, which makes for a very relaxing Sunday. Four days of All-Breed shows capped off with a day of Specialties (25) and the North Georgia Hound



Associations group event. That’s just where the fun starts as the Companion and Performance events go on all day long every day!

Each year there seems to be more events being held. They used to have Herding during the weekend and it would be common to see a gaggle of geese or ducks being herded down the road. In 2018 the clubs took it to the next level!

For many years the cluster had held many familiar additional events: Agility, Obedience Rally, and Lure Coursing. As new events were approved by the AKC, the cluster would try them out. The new



events like Coursing Ability Test, Fast CAT, Dock Diving and CGC/Trick Dog have been added to the week. To show their appreciation for the dogs that titled in at least three events, the Clubs started holding a parade of versatile dogs in 2015. Ann Wallin, Delegate for the Atlanta Kennel Club and AKC Board member, credits the success of the Versatile Dog Parade as the impetus behind Peach Blossom Cluster Obedience Chair Marlene Burford's idea to hold a Most Versatile Dog competition during the Cluster.

Marlene is modest and talks about all the people that contribute, though she is excited. She remembers starting as Obedience Chair in 2010 when the cluster was considering dropping Obedience as they only had 234 entries for the week. This week they had 822 entries in Obedience and Rally with an additional 300 dogs participating in CGC and Trick Dog. Marlene talks about planning and marketing as the strategy that turned Obedience around. When they started the Versatile Dog Parade, it was with the concept of recognizing dogs and owners that had received titles in at least three different disciplines. The Versatile Dog Parade had been a great success (30 entrants this year). Marlene thought they should do something for the dogs competing during the Cluster. What a great idea, reward dogs for successfully competing in multiple events! This additional attraction was open to any dog at the cluster. Entry forms were placed at strategic locations. Owners/exhibitors just had to sign up and include

their dogs' points. With the numerous options to choose from it became quite the competition for the \$100 award. Over 100 dogs entered with the hope of taking home the top prize.

It's an exhausting list of events held during the 2018 cluster: Conformation, NOHS, Junior Showmanship, Pee Wee, Obedience, Rally, Agility (Chattahoochee Weimaraner Club and The Atlanta Kennel Club), CGC and CGCA, Trick dog, Lure Coursing Test, Coursing Abilities Test (CAT), a Coonhound bench show (All three held by the Greyhound Association of North Georgia), Fast CAT (Atlanta Kennel Club), 4 to 6-month Puppy (Valdosta Kennel Club), B-Match, Carting (The Dogwood Rottweiler Club of Metro Atlanta) Barn Hunt (Chattahoochee Weimaraner Club and The Atlanta Kennel Club) and Dock Diving (North American Diving Dogs). This doesn't even touch the health clinic options! You can imagine how full a dog's day could be, let alone all of the people and clubs working together to pull these events off! Ann told us every competition had an increase in entries this year.

Many dogs were vying for the Most Versatile Dog award so owners and dogs tried to participate in as many events as they could. While a Conformation BIS award garnered the most points of any one award, it was going to take more than that to win the MVD for the week! You get a feel for the competition from Debbie Markwardt, owner of the eventual winner, who traveled from the Dallas area, "At

Most Versatile Dog



8:15am we did one run in Fast Cat. Riptide then went to Conformation to compete in Best of Breed. After Best in Breed we went to do one run in CAT. By this time, it was 1pm so we started with another run in Fast Cat, followed by another run in CAT and then over to Dock Diving to do three splashes. Wednesday through Saturday, Riptide did Conformation,

two Fast Cat runs, two CAT runs, and three splashes in Dock Diving. You got points for entering an event, additional points if you got a passing scoring, and additional points if you had a placement. Riptide ended up with 159 pts. I was hoping this was enough to just make a placement in the top four. While doing some of these activities, I heard a lot of people talking that they had their dog entered in the Most Versatile Dog. I gave it my best shot and may the best dog win. We had to turn in our forms at 2pm on Saturday. At 4pm I got a call that I was one of the four finalists and to show up at the ring just before Best In Show. What an honor just to be in the final four. The ribbon we received was awesome! It was like winning a Best In Show. Riptide and I worked as a team throughout the week and we won. What an honor it was!"

CH Protocol's A Splash Of Magic, CAA, DCAT, DJX, DS, WAC - aka Riptide, is a wonderfully conditioned dog that represents his breed in many events at shows all around the country. Makes you wonder how some people question showing a dog multiple times in a day! Riptide did not look any worse for wear at the trophy presentation!

Debra has been attending the Peach Blossom Cluster since 2013, originally coming for the Coursing Abilities Test, where they offered seven runs that year. She says she has always been impressed by their no fear attitude when adding events.

The Peach Blossom Cluster plans on adding Scent Work to the mix and doing this all again in 2019. Marlene indicates that every year they evaluate

whether an additional event worked or not and whether they want to continue to offer it. When asked how other clubs can add additional attractions, she said the main focus is space. Many events can fit in a relatively small space or an existing ring, Scent Work, CGC, while others, Coursing Abilities Test, FAST CAT require a larger area. Every site is different, but clubs should consider if they have the room to add one additional event, and if it works, consider adding another



event the following year. As in the case of the Peach Blossom Cluster, multiple clubs work together. Clubs shouldn't hesitate to ask a nearby club to hold something they specialize in to form a stronger cluster. Look for bigger and better events at the Peach Blossom Cluster in 2019!

If you need help considering events or just want to talk through the possibilities, the AKC Club Development Department can and wants to assist you: clubdevelopment@akc.org or (919) 816-3705



BOARD & DELEGATE MEETINGS 2018

Revised at the January 8 & 9, 2018 Board Meeting

All meetings, except December, are in the NYC/NJ area. The December meeting is in Orlando, FL.

JANUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

- 8 Board Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting

July

- 9 Board Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting

JULY 2018						
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FEBRUARY 2018						
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February

- 8 Board Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting

August

- 13 Board Meeting
- 14 Board Meeting

AUGUST 2018						
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March

- 12 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 13 Delegate Meeting

September

- 24 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 25 Delegate Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2018						
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April

- 9 Board Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting

October

- 8 Board Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting

OCTOBER 2018						
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May

- 7 Board Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting

November

- 12 Board Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 2018						
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June

- 11 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 12 Delegate Meeting

December

- 13 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 14 Delegate Meeting

DECEMBER 2018						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

[◀ Back to Table of Contents](#)