

THE TALKABOUT

the official publication of the Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc

2014 - Issue 1





Front Cover:
GCH CH Wild West's Double Cat "Colbie"
owned by Julie Kirkpatrick and Eve Steele

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What's Inside

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INSIDE BACK COVER BY: Grace Cartwright

BACK COVER PHOTO BY: Norma Rowley

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Message from the President

Alexa Samarotto



Dear Members,

Happy winter everyone! How many of us can raise our hands to the question whether this has been a crazy winter for us? Too many of us have had enough winter to last the rest of our lives! But think ahead, our National is coming soon and springtime will prevail for our National Specialty in Colorado.

I hope you are all looking forward to this event as much as I am. Our 2014 Specialty Committee has issued the brochure, giving information on all of the events, the hospitality information, judges, etc. I hope you have all made your motel reservations by now. Please take the time to read and plan and respond to all their requests as quickly as you can. It makes planning so much easier for the Committee when they know the numbers for meals, events etc. I hope some of you who have never gone can make the trip this year and start a new tradition. You can learn so much, even for us old-timers, which makes it so worthwhile to go. Winning is great, but learning is forever. Even if you cannot make this year's events, please consider lending your support by donations, advertising, whatever you can. Please see the ATCA website for information, as well.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I would like to bring up a topic I've talked about before by mentioning an inquiry that came to me not long ago. Someone asked me for the names of some breeder-judges for our breed who could be considered authorities. Many breeds have a long tradition of great and knowledgeable breeders becoming outstanding judges for their own breeds and expanding that knowledge and eye for a dog to adjudicating in many other breeds. The situation appears to be different in Aussies and there was my dilemma: what up-and-coming breeder-judges do we have? I have talked about education and succession planning before but it is so critical to the future of our breed. The Club is looking at updating and developing further our education programs for prospective judges from other breeds but we also need to look at developing ourselves as authorities, and yes, breeder-judges. I know that many of you would welcome better judging for our breed and we are trying to re-vamp and improve the program currently in place. Part of that effort seeks to develop current breeders who qualify through their in-depth knowledge, experience and ability to impart this knowledge to current and prospective judges, as well as interested Aussie owners and breeders. Part of this effort seeks to provide greater opportunities for members and interested Aussie exhibitors to learn more about our breed and possibly general topics of conformation such as structure and movement, for example. We would like to hear from you, the members if you would like more ongoing education on these topics. Even if you are knowledgeable now, these opportunities are great for exchanging different points of view and interpretations of the various points of type and movement.

For those of you who might be looking ahead to judging, participation in continuing education provide a great way of sharpening your skills of analysis and decision-making. By the way, attending different breed seminars provide a great learning tool by making you look at different dogs with a different standard and challenging these same critical skills. I hope to hear from you if you feel these efforts are worthwhile; it means so much to those working so hard on this project, for the better part of the last year, to hear that you would welcome these opportunities.

I want to thank our outgoing Corresponding Secretary and past President, Mike Palazzo here and I want to express my gratitude for all of his good counsel and advice; I did not get the chance in our last issue. I also want to thank our outgoing Board member, Eva Campbell for her serious inquiries and insights while on the Board.

Last month, I asked the membership to think about whether one or more of you want to volunteer to work on the Newsletter and step into Julie's shoes. We have not heard from anyone yet and the opportunity to pick Julie's brain is still offered to whoever volunteers. Please let me know if you are interested. I also would like to hear from any members who want to apprentice with a Committee and learn the ropes, whether an ongoing project or for the Specialty Committees and, if appropriate, you can be matched up to learn from them. You can always contact the upcoming Specialty Chair and offer your help and request to learn from them and possibly be inspired to chair a national Specialty in the future.

I look forward to hearing from you on these and any other topics you want the Club to know about and look forward to seeing all of you in Colorado!



REPORT OF THE AKC DELEGATE

William I Christensen

Delegate's Report for Meeting of 12-13 December 2013 Orlando, Florida

I have organized this report by subject with the meeting or committee where the item was discussed given in parentheses. I hope that this makes it easier for the reader to identify topics of interest and stimulate discussion by the board and membership.

1. USDA APHIS Regulation (Legislative Caucus)

In order to avoid designation as "retail pet stores," hobby breeders should:

- a) only sell animals in a personal face-to-face transaction. This can either be prior to or at the time the buyer takes possession of the animal;
- b) have as a "primary business purpose" "the breeding and selling of dogs to maintain blood lines and for breeding purposes;"
- c) never sell a dog on a "limited registration." Neuter and spay requirements will raise red flags. The sales contract should state that the seller may wish to breed that dog in the future and that the seller retains breeding rights. (On the other hand there need not be a stated prohibition against spaying and neutering.)
- d) Google their name in order to insure that their names have not been placed in the advertisements of on-line pet retailers without their knowledge. (Apparently this is being done to lend legitimacy to commercial on-line pet retail operations.)

It would seem prudent for parent clubs to change their Codes of Ethics and /or Breeder Referral lists so that the stated primary purpose of those breeders listed is "to breed dogs for show purposes and in order to maintain bloodlines for future breeding purposes." (The "primary" purpose does not imply that it is the exclusive purpose.)

2. Circo virus appears not to be a problem, but brucellosis is increasing in prevalence. (Canine Health Committee)

All dogs on the show circuit are at risk as the disease can be communicated through infected urine. Dogs who are going to be bred should be tested for presence of the disease.

3. Donor-advised funds at the Canine Health Foundation are growing rapidly due to favorable investment returns. (Canine Health Committee)

This raises the concern that the money is not being spent for the purposes for which it was donated, namely improving the health of dogs. Parent clubs are being asked to have their health committees submit research areas of particular importance in their breeds to the Canine Health Foundation.

I discussed this matter at some length with Terry T. Warren, PhD, JD, CEO of the Canine Health Foundation. I advised her that Dr. Thomas Graves, Professor of Internal Medicine at University of Illinois-Urbana School of Veterinary Medicine, had reviewed the subject of diabetes at our 2013 National Specialty education day. He suggested that what was most needed to help reduce the incidence of diabetes in Australian Terriers was the development of a screening test for diabetes which would detect the disease early in a pre-clinical state. He felt that the problem now is that diabetes does not become apparent until a dog ages and has thus already been included in a breeding program. He thought that the best approach in developing a test for the early diagnosis of a susceptibility to diabetes would be an immunological test for anti-islet cell antibodies.

Dr. Warren emphasized that the ATCA should not feel that the scope of a research project should be limited by the size of its donor-advised funds. If a parent club's request for research in a particular area is felt worthy, the Canine Health Foundation will issue a request for proposal in the subject of interest. If the CHF finds that there is scientific merit in one or more of the proposals submitted in response to this request, they will help fund the research.

4. For those clubs who have not donated to the Canine Health Foundation, as a club, between 01/01/2012 and 12/31/2013, donations made after 01/01/2014 will be matched by AKC up to a total of \$500,000. (Please note that this applies to donations made by a club and not to donations made by individual members of a club.) (Canine Health Foundation)

5. Rapport with veterinary schools is improving. (Canine Health Committee)

If any member of ATCA has a student or faculty contact at a veterinary school, please contact me. AKC now has presenters and experts willing to make educational presentations. The Canine Health Foundation is now the single largest grantor of research funds to veterinary schools. (Canine Health Committee)

6. The Disaster Trailer Project has been quite successful. (Parent Clubs Committee)

Over \$200,000 has been donated or pledged during the first 90 days, and 66 clubs are currently participating. All levels of participation are encouraged. Contact AKC Reunite in order to contribute.

7. The Judging Task Force, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Garvin, would like to enlist the help of several parent clubs in piloting a computer-based training program for judges. (Parent Clubs Committee)

The clubs would be asked to submit photographs and videos of 6 dogs of "varying quality." Photographs should include, for each dog, views of front, rear and each side. Videos should be of the dogs standing and in motion. Photographic standards will be issued by the AKC. The AKC may also be able to help finance the photographs and videos. Each club will be asked to recommend 10 "breed experts," not necessarily breeder-judges or judges, who will serve as an "expert panel," the results of whose ranking will be compared with the ranking's of the student judges.

8. Opt-out provision if not offering a 3-point major to Reserve Winners (Parent Clubs Committee)

A clarification was made to Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 1. If a Parent Club decides not to offer the opportunity for a three point major to the Reserve Winners at the National Specialty, the club is required to notify the exhibitors of this decision in their Premium List.

A modification was made to the AKC Board Policy on All-Breed/Specialty Conflicts. A scenario was added to the list of the circumstances that allows a Parent Club to appeal to an AKC Event Review Committee when an all-breed or group club refuses to grant permission for the Parent Specialty club to hold a regional specialty. If the regional special is held in conjunction with a national Parent Club performance event the Parent Club may appeal.

Summaries of the minutes for this Delegate's Meeting are posted on the AKC website. If you have any questions, please contact me at: wchrist367@aol.com

Corresponding & Recording Secretary Reports

Recording Secretary's Report Darlene Evans No Report First Quarter 2014

Corresponding Secretary's Report Marilyn Harban First Quarter 2014

Application for membership received from Nancy Tibbett of Indiana.
Sponsors: Ann Roache & Julie Seaton

Application for membership received from Barbel Post of Michigan
Sponsors: Sheila Dunn & Sue Bachman

*ATCA members have 30 days from the publication
of this edition of The Talkabout to ask questions
and/or make comments regarding membership applicants.*

Please send any related comments or inquiries to the Recording Secretary. After that time, the Board will vote on the applicant.

- Received inquiry on joining ATCA. Explained procedure and sent interested individuals to our Website for application. Later heard from them and they would not be applying.
- Referred three inquiries on finding an Australian Terrier to Breeder Referral.
- Received the AKC Communicates e-bulletin for December 2013
- Received a letter from AKC for Member Club Presidents to order Outstanding Sportmanship Awards.
- Received from AKC notification that the Obedience Event held in Palm Springs has been recorded and closed. Forwarded notice to Kreg Hill, Chairman of event.
- Mike received a request to access information regarding a cornea ulcer. Request was forwarded to our Health Chairman.



Birthday Party!



Health Updates – Teresa Schreeder, Health Committee

CANINE HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER

PARENT CLUB REPORTING: AUSTRALIAN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

CHIC NUMBERS ISSUED OR UPDATED: Q4 2013

Animal	Date	New / Update	CHIC #	Reg #	Owner
Rock Village Rumor Has It	12/18/2013	NEW	94343	RN21045801	Lisa Violette

LONGEVITY REPORT

OH-6.9 yrs Plural effusion/Vet malpractice
 VA-14 yrs Oral Melanoma
 WA-11.9 yrs Diabetes/Mammary tumors
 PA-3.5 yrs Leukemia
 PA-Endocrine issues rescue age unknown

**OFA is now sending year end reports on the
 status of our breeds health
 &
 quarterly reports for types of testing being done for CHiC.**

HEALTH INCIDENT REPORT

CA- 8yr Mammary tumor
 NC- Myasthenia Gravis

You can find these reports on the ATCA website



DON'T MISS OUT being in the top 100 CHiC!
The first 100 dogs get an \$80 rebate from ATCA Once their CHiC #'s are posted

Any questions regarding CHiC please contact Teresa Schreeder Via email
Pete128@earthlink.net

There will be a CERF clinic available the weekend of the National
- more information will be posted on the ATCA website...



AKC Communications

Federal Update: Congress Passes Farm Bill with Two Improvements to the Animal Welfare Act

The American Kennel Club (AKC) lauds the US Senate for passing a new five-year Farm Bill today that addresses some of the AKC's concerns regarding recent regulatory changes to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by the USDA/APHIS Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions rule. The House of Representatives passed the bill last week.

AKC outlined to Farm Bill negotiators from the Senate and House Agriculture committees that although the intent of the changes to the rule was to regulate large-scale breeders and Internet pet sellers, it also would have required some small hobby breeders who maintain more than four "breeding females" and transfer an occasional dog sight unseen, to be licensed and regulated as commercial pet dealers. The regulation also would have required small hobby breeders who provide foster homes for rescue dogs to be licensed as commercial breeders if they maintain



more than four female dogs and occasionally use an intermediary to transfer a foster dog to its new home.

The changes in the Farm Bill (HR 2642) will reduce the number of breeders and

dealers otherwise required to obtain a license if the size of their business is determined to be "de minimis" (minimal). The Farm Bill Conference Report also allows USDA to "determine if the number of animals they breed or sell or the gross annual dollar amounts earned are so minor as to merit disregard."

The measure's conference report states that this will free up more USDA resources and recommends that APHIS finalize a rule regarding this change within the year.



"We believe these changes will be welcome to responsible small breeders who not only breed occasionally, but also provide foster homes for rescue dogs," said AKC Government Relations Director Sheila Goffe. "Without these changes, many could have been forced to give up their rescue activities unless they could obtain a USDA pet dealer license."

A second measure supported by the AKC directs APHIS to clarify the term "breeding female". This term is currently used in AWA regulations to define who should be regulated as a pet dealer, but it lacks authority because it does not appear in the underlying statute. The conference report urged APHIS to clarify ***that only those female animals capable of reproduction and actively being used in a breeding program should qualify as breeding females.***

The AKC thanks the many members of Congress, Congressional staff and AKC club members whose dedicated efforts made these changes possible. "We are extremely grateful to the Farm Bill negotiators for addressing some of AKC's concerns regarding the Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions. We would especially like to thank the leadership of the House and Senate Agriculture committees, Chairman Frank Lucas, Livestock Subcommittee Chairman Rick Crawford and Ranking Member Jim Costa, and Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow and Ranking Member Thad Cochran for their leadership in including these beneficial changes to the AWA in the Farm Bill Conference report," said AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung.

A third measure in the Farm Bill also codifies the regulatory changes made by USDA/APHIS in the Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions rule in late 2013.

The measure now goes to the White House for President Obama's signature.

Note: The Farm Bill was signed by President Obama on 2-7-2014.



Meet the Member

We would like to introduce you to the breeder/owner of the dog on the cover of the current issue.

This month, our cover was reserved by Julie Kirkpatrick, a member of the ATCA since 2001.

Thank you, Julie, for sharing with us!



My love affair with dogs started at a young age, around 4 years of age. My father acquired a Cocker Spaniel by the name of Sandy. Sandy was my first friend. My days were spent with Sandy, most of the time we played in the dirt, much to the disgust of my mother. Early on I was destined to some day show dogs. One day the neighbor's dog came over to play and I stacked them both on wood crates

and my father took our picture. That picture is featured in this article. Sandy

became ill and had to be put down. Being very young and not understanding death I was devastated. Since I could not talk my parents into getting another dog I surrounded myself with as many stuffed animals as one bedroom could hold. Six years later my parents bended and I got a Wire Fox Terrier named "Hero". Hero was my constant companion until his death at 17 years of age. For many years I had a succession of Wire Fox Terriers, all who lived to old age. One day I saw a picture of an Australian Terrier and started research about the breed. I knew that was the breed for me. I bought my first Aussie and shortly after that I was introduced to Miss Willy Baldwin. Willy convinced me that I should start showing Aussies. Well, my first dog show was the National Specialty in Phoenix in 1998. Nothing like baptism by fire. At that point I was hooked. I have finished three Australian Terriers and have bred two litters. My shining accomplishment was when my bitch that I co-own with Eve Steele, "Colbie" GCH CH Wild West's Double Cat won Best of Opposite at the 2012 National Specialty in St. Louis.



Here is some personal information about myself. I am a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico and I am married to the greatest husband in the world. Joe and I have been married for 36 years and we own an automotive glass company, Auto Glass Services. I have a degree in business administration that helps in running our glass business. Joe has been very supportive of me owning and showing Australian Terriers and I could not do this without his support. We consider on dogs our children since we don't have any of the two-legged variety.

We do have five nieces and three nephews and two great nieces and two great nephews. with another great nephew that will arrive in May.



We adore them and enjoy spending family time with them. When, we are not spending time with our dogs, we love being outdoors in the yard and on the golf course. I especially enjoy sewing and making jewelry. I have made several pieces for the Australian Terrier Club of America silent auctions.

Showing Australian Terriers has opened a whole new world for me. I have met so many interesting people through this sport. I have had the opportunity to travel to some beautiful locations throughout the country. And I have worn out several vehicles in the process. Here in the Southwest it is not uncommon for us to drive 500 to 1200 miles to a dog show. Thank goodness for cruise control and navigation devices. I have stayed

in some lovely hotels and some not so nice motels. And I have dined at some wonderful restaurants and gone through many a drive thru on the way to the show site. It is all has been a wonderful experience for me. And along the way I have laughed a lot with my fellow Australian Terrier owners and exhibitors. And I will value those memories for the rest of my life. I am very inspired by the knowledge and many talents of my fellow exhibitors. Thank you all for your friendships and sharing your knowledge. Thank you for keeping me inspired.

PS: I read this bio to my husband and he was out in 9 minutes. Sleep tight my friends, may you have lovely dreams about your Australian Terriers.





Letter from the Editor

I was looking at our AKC stats for the end of the year (2013) and noticed that we have only a couple of Junior Handlers in our breed.

I hope that anyone who shows is encouraging their local youth to get into showing the Australian Terrier! It is sad to think that this wonderful breed, not common in the Junior ring, only has a handful of Juniors showing them.

*We have never had large numbers of the breed in the Junior ring, but in 2013, we had three! Yes, **THREE!** Shahntae Martinez, Luci Ellis and Molly Wilson are ranked #1 and #2 and #3 in our breed. **THANK YOU** to the girls for a job well done!*

I like to think that the future is in the hands of a younger generation. One that will show the dogs, learn about them, and before they get into breeding the dogs, IF they will be breeding, study study study....

So if you are at a dog show, which many of you are, encourage those starting out to handle an Australian Terrier! Like I have said many times to many kids, "You will never be bored!"

It is our responsibility to make sure the breed goes forward and having Juniors in the ring with our dogs is one of the paths to the future.

To quote AKC: Juniors are important to the future of the sport of dogs and responsible dog ownership, and the more they learn, the more valuable they become. The values, attitudes and responsibility learned through Junior Showmanship will serve youngsters well throughout their lives.

Juniors are the key to the future, so let's encourage more of them to show our beloved breed!

Hug your Aussie tonight and every night!

*Julie Seaton
Editor*

Palm Springs 2014

As is the tradition, the new dog show season is opened with the New Year Classic at the Empire Polo Grounds in Indio, CA. The Kennel Club of Palm Springs is the main sponsor.

All of you who attended our ATCA Specialty last year know that we have two all terrier shows with the Desert Empire Terrier Club of Southern California on Thursday and Friday and all breed shows with the Kennel Club of Palm Springs on Saturday and Sunday.

DETCSC had over 500 entries and KCPS had over 3600 entries per day. Making this one of the top five dogs shows in the country!

On Thursday the Australian Terrier Club of America sponsored and All Terrier Obedience and Rally Trial.

This was our second year and we had 36 entries and all the Terrier performance fanciers want us to sponsor another All Terrier Trial next year.



We drew a great entry with majors in dogs and bitches all four days with over 20 Aussie entries per day.

We had members exhibiting from California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado plus one Canadian.

The weather was perfect all four days - there is nothing like Palm Springs in the winter. 70 degree weather, lush green grass and snow on picturesque adjacent mountains.

Most members stayed at the Best Western Resort in Palm Desert and had good camaraderie together dining at the areas excellent restaurants.

Plan now to have your 2015 New Year's celebration next year in the desert. Our first All Terrier Breed Show and Obedience Trial will be on New Year's Day! Bill Christensen and I want to thank all the participants.



AKC Gazette Column

- by Grace Cartwright

About the AKC Breed Columns:

The Breed columns are a time-honored feature of the AKC Gazette. Each columnist is appointed by a breed's national parent club, which preserves the breed's standard and helps to educate breeders, judges, and the public about the breed's history, function, and possible health issues. A national parent club is comprised of dedicated breeders and fanciers, and it represents many years of collective experience in the breed. Columnists are asked to write about topics of interest to the fancy in general as well as those of specific interest to judges and devotees of the breed.

Australian Terrier Column

February 2014 Issue

Form follows function.....

The Australian Terrier, according to our standard, is a small, sturdy, medium-boned terrier, rather long in proportion to height with pricked ears and docked tail who was bred to work.

Part of his job was to protect the family from the vermin that invaded their homes in the outback of Australia. But that was not his only job. He also participated in the hunt and "went to ground" after prey, served as watchdog informing the family of convicts, bushrangers and marauding natives in the area, helped herd the livestock and lived in the home as a loving companion to the family. As befits their heritage as versatile workers, Australian Terriers are sound and free moving with good reach and drive.

The recognizable outline of the Aussie starts with a head that is long and strong set atop a long, slightly arching and strong neck blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders and continues along a level and firm topline to strong hindquarters with legs well angulated at the stifles and hocks, short and perpendicular from the hocks to the ground.

The length of the body comes from both the length of back from the withers to the front of the tail being ~1-1 ½ inches longer than from wither to the ground, as well as from the forelegs being set well under the body, with definite body overhang (keel) before them when viewed from the side.

The Australian Terrier Club of Queensland's website description of the Aussie states, "because of their longer body they are very agile and can leap in the air and turn on their body length and come down behind the prey."

The distinctive harsh-textured outer coat, protective ruff blending into the apron, forelegs slightly feathered to the pasterns and a silky top-knot provided the Aussie protection from the harsh environmental conditions, as well as from snake and rat attacks.

A strong and powerful muzzle and teeth of good size allowed him to dispatch these pests with ease.

The small eyes, small erect and pointed ears, tight lips and small clean catlike feet reduced chances of injury while working, or fighting with their prey, that may otherwise occur with larger protruding eyes, larger floppy ears, loose jowls and bigger loose feet.

The skull being full between the eyes, with slight but definite stop allowed him to be able to see well even while carrying something, such as prey, in his mouth. The lips, eye rims, nose and V-shaped area free of hair on the bridge of the muzzle were black (lips can be dark brown on red dogs) to prevent sunburn.

The tail set on high and carried erect, docked to slightly less than half the tail, provided a good hand-hold when mature for pulling them out of the ground if needed while hunting.

The Aussie's expression was keen and intelligent; the temperament spirited, alert, courageous, and self-confident with the natural aggressiveness of a ratter and hedge hunter and as a companion they were bred to be friendly and affectionate.

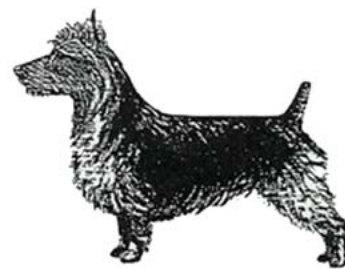
As breeders, we must understand our standard and how it relates to the ideal Aussie. We must remember, "Form follows function".

The further an Aussie is from the ideal the less likely he would be able to perform the jobs of his ancestors.



The STANDARD broken down

An Illustrated Clarification of the Standard



This issue we will focus on:

Feet

Pasterns - Strong, with only slight slope.

Dewclaws - removed

Fault - Down on pasterns.



Correct
Only Slight Slope



Incorrect
Too Much Slope
Down on Pastern



Incorrect
Too Straight, can
cause Knuckling Over

Feet - Small, clean, catlike; toes arched and compact, nicely padded, turning neither inward nor outward.



Correct
Cat Foot



Correct



Correct
Underside of Foot



Incorrect
Flat Foot



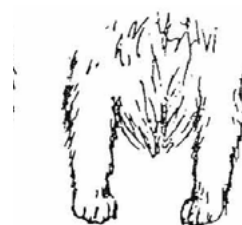
Incorrect
Harefoot



Incorrect
Heavy Foot



Correct
Straight Front Legs



Incorrect
Toeing In



Incorrect
Toeing Out



Nails- short, black and strong



TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

- The pros and cons of so many dog shows -

by Patricia V. Trotter

The proliferation of dog shows and the ensuing devaluation of the American championship title is a subject of increasing concern to breeders. As the number of dog shows has increased exponentially in the last two decades, so has the number of champions able to finish as a result of the lower point scale and fewer dogs per breed being exhibited at any given show.

Certainly there are a few popular breeds that still have high point scales due to the entry numbers, and probably these breeds benefit from this situation. However, consider that in my own breed—the Norwegian Elkhound—it took 16 bitches for a major in the state of California in 1974. These were the glory days of the breed, when an all-breed show such as Santa Barbara drew 53 Elkhounds and 129 Afghan Hounds, with neither breed needing the benefit of specialty or supported shows. Today, few specialties other than the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America's biannual national, ever draw such an entry, and all-breed shows are hit even harder by the dwindling entries in many breeds.

THE LAW OF AVERAGES...

Subsequently, dogs who can beat three inferior dogs twice during a long weekend become titled and achieve their majors, then minor out. Although some titles were obtained this way from time to time in the past, it was not the widespread situation we are seeing today. For one thing, there weren't that many dog shows, so more dogs in a given area appeared at the shows that were available. The law of averages indicates that the more dogs you have to beat to attain the title, the more likely the titleholders are of higher quality.



The correct evaluation of which animals should be selected for breeding stock and which ones should not is vital to the cause of our breeds. If the dog show becomes strictly a place to display dogs rather than serve the cause of aiding in selection of breeding stock, where do well-intentioned new breeders go to get the answers?

Exactly what long-term effect this current state of affairs has on a breed's gene pool is unclear. Unfortunately, newcomers to the breed get an inflated opinion of the worth of certain animals and begin breeding programs based on them. A recent conversation with a novice exhibitor alarmed me because his thinking is going in that direction. Not only is he considering such an animal as foundation breeding stock, he plans to special it.

SO MANY COMPETITIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, SO LITTLE TIME

It is hoped that this person in time will realize that not every dog that does a little winning belongs in the gene pool. Only the best of each generation should get that worthy honor. The expansion of the dog show to include activities such as agility and rally obedience is heartening because it allows the novice pet owner to participate in the wonderful world of dogs while learning more about the process. In time one might come to realize that it is possible to love lesser-quality animals without breeding them.

A recent lecturer at a judges' breed seminar awed us all with both his love and knowledge of his breed. A top-winning exhibitor whose dogs have captured all-breed and specialty honors alike, this gentleman surprised the audience when he stated he was not a breeder. Instead, he seeks out the quality dogs of master breeders and then conditions and pilots them to the top. Furthermore, he seeks out the best of his breed's competition in campaigning these dogs, and this, of course, contributes to the overall improvement of the breed by educating fanciers. Studying dogs of quality is how breeders learn to improve their own stock.

Better competition raises the bar for all, lesser competition lowers it. Do we want a dog-show world where every dog becomes a champion? Or do we want to protect the championship title for the future good of the sport? If so, how do we do it? The idea of entitlement is hard to get around once it becomes accepted. Should the AKC consider tightening up the point count even if it results in cries of outrage and fewer champions? Should we consider tiered shows such as those in other countries where only a select few shows can award the challenge certificate, which is equivalent to our championship points?

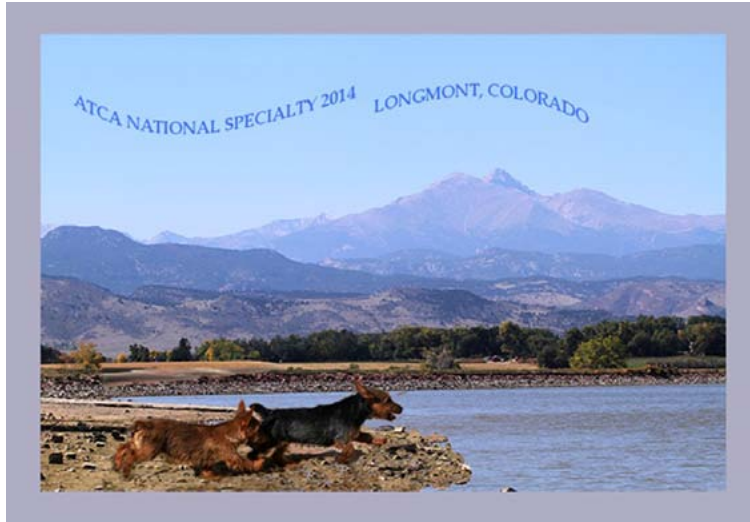
The withholding process is a tool that the American dog show provides to monitor lack of quality, but it is such a negative thing. Judges are reluctant to implement it due to its unpopular reception and depressing message that truly discourages would-be fanciers. Only a few have the knowledge and courage required to face this ordeal. However, raising the point count is not negative but is merely setting a higher standard. Naturally there would be lots of objections to this, especially in breeds where point counts are already high.

The positive aspect of it is that exhibitors would learn to support certain shows, encourage stronger competition instead of running from it, and meet the fellow fanciers in their own breed more often. When more dogs come together for the evaluation process, it broadens the database for all of us. Certainly there are both pros and cons to the issue of adjusting the point count.

Nonetheless, we must be realistic and accept that continuing to devalue the championship title, we risk the permanent loss of its credibility. Because posterity has no way to determine whether a championship title was truly valid at a given time in history of the sport, future generations of dogs pay the price for today's negligence.

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Patricia V Trotter

ATCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY BECOME A SPECIALTY BOOSTER



The Specialty in Longmont, Colorado promises to be one of the best yet and we promise a lot of fun. I am so pleased to report that our bookings for the Specialty have exceeded the reserved block of 60 rooms.

As this is an Independent Specialty, and it promises to be a big one, we have many additional expenses and we rely on contributions from our members and friends of Australian Terriers. We also have the ATCC Regional Specialty and Sweepstakes on the Sunday.

Donate \$25, or \$50 if you can, to the General and Trophy Specialty Fund and be listed as an ATCA Specialty Booster in the catalog if your donation is received by February 28, 2014. PayPal on the [Australian Terrier website](#)

By mail -Donations for the BOOSTER FUND 2014 should be sent to Kreg Hill, Treasurer, ATCA, 255 N El Ciel Rd, Suite 140-274, Palm Springs, CA 92262-6974.

Make checks out to ATCA with the notation, **Booster Fund 2014**, or pay online with PAYPAL

The Brochure for the Specialty will be sent to members by February 1, 2014.

As soon as the Premium list is available, the link will be sent to members. As this show has a limit on the entry, I will be reminding you to enter early and to send in Reserved Grooming early also.

For any questions about the specialty, email me at aussee@hotmail.com

Kerrie Bryan
Show Chair

Eukanuba Week Results!

Once again, the trek to Orlando Florida was made by a few to compete in conformation. Here are the results:

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Judge: Betty Anne Stenmark

BOB: GCH CH Arista Redsky's Love Is All There Is

BOS: GCH CH Rock Village Rumor Has It CA

SEL Dog: GCH CH Temora Ri Diercc

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Judge: Robert J. Whitney

BOB: GCH CH Dunham Lake Scoutmaster

BOS: GCH CH Rock Village Rumor Has It CA

WD: Johmanda-Kambara's Sprezzatura

SEL Dog: GCH CH Arista Redsky's Love Is All There Is

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Judge: Judy Webb

BOB: GCH CH Rock Village Rumor Has It CA

BOS: GCH CH Dunham Lake Scoutmaster

WD/BW: Tekoah & Wagddog Comin' Round Again

WB: Johmanda-Kambara's Sprezzatura

SEL Dog: GCH CH Arista Redsky's Love Is All There Is

SEL Bitch: CH Shastakin Flying Dyson

Friday, December 13, 2013

National Owner/Handler Series Final

Judge: Cindy Vogels

BOB: GCH CH Marble Arch The Corner Man

AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, December 15, 2013

Judge: Elizabeth "Beth" Sweigart

BOB: GCH CH Temora Ri Diercc

BOS: GCH CH Rock Village Rumor Has It CA

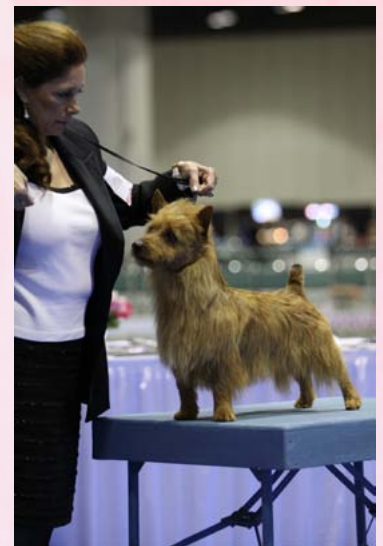
SEL Dog: GCH CH Arista Redsky's Love Is All There Is

SEL Bitch: CH Araluen's Bubbles In The Wine

Best Bred By: GCH CH Arista Redsky's Love Is All There Is

AOE1: GCH CH Marble Arch The Corner Man

AOE2: GCH CH Dunham Lake Scoutmaster



Candid Photos by Cathy Dahlberg©

WE ASKED, They Answered, The Judges Comment....

As Breeders & Exhibitors spending precious dollars per year for that coveted ribbon to show that our hard work paid off, we often wonder what the judges think? So, we decided to ask!

(Please note the answers do NOT necessarily mean the judges are referring to Australian Terriers!)

Question, and this is a tough one:

**How do you judge an entry that is lacking quality?
Have you ever withheld ribbons and if you didn't, and you should have, how do you feel after the fact?**

If the entry is lacking some quality but still has a strong resemblance to what the breed should be then I just look for the traits that do have positives and go with that. If the entry doesn't have that resemblance to the breed with no positives, then I will withhold.

I have been fortunate to have people follow my judging and not present dogs that do not look or have the quality for that breed. I have no problem withholding when I feel that there is a total lacking of merit and have had to withhold only once many years ago. I have watched entries where it was impossible to judge any quality in the entry and felt that the right thing to do was to withhold for lack of merit.

- Michael Koss

I have withheld, but only at the winners level. At the class level, my feeling was that I was placing the class, regardless of the quality. At the winners level, where points are awarded, is where I felt that we (and where I) withheld.

- Dr Alvin W Krause

Judging an entry that is sub standard is always very difficult. I strongly feel it is the judge's responsibility to find the dog that looks most like the one described in the standard. This being said we have to judge pieces at this time after we have found the first place winner. By saying pieces I mean things like color, coat texture, size of ear, etc. have to come into play if nothing is really good. Yes, I have withheld in breeds other than the Aussie. I have never withheld in your breed. I feel confident about my decision to withhold when I have done this. Once I am out of the ring I have to look at my image in a mirror. I have to be true to the person looking back at me from the mirror. My decision to withhold is always based soundly on my interpretation of the written standard for the breed.

- Richard Miller

I judge the class as I would any class. The best of that class goes first.

have withheld ribbons for winners. Just because a dog/bitch win a class, does not necessarily mean they are worthy of points.

- Kenneth Kaufman

Yes, this could be a tough question, however, if one is true to oneself, why worry? I once withheld an entire entry of Aussies way back when the breed was in its infancy in this country. If I am faced with an entry of such poor quality and I plow ahead and put up the "best" of the worst, what was to be gained by this. The one with the purple may breed and perpetuate and re-produce poor quality Aussies. Horrors for the breed, any breed. After withholding I brought the exhibitors into the center of the ring and explained why I had to do what I did and why I could not possibly put up any one of their dogs.

Conversely, I recently withheld from a breed which had a change in their standard regarding docked or undocked tails. If undocked, the tail must be at a prescribed angle. You guessed it, I penalized two of the entry which is in accordance with the breed standard. There are times, as a judge, where you are confronted with an exhibitor who is not so inclined as to take your ruling in a less than amiable manner and it is this that more than likely prevents some judges from withholding. This I cannot accept.

Yes, there has been a time where I should have withheld and did not. This was a single entry, a champion, and to this day I wonder how and why this dog finished and my only excuse and consolation was that I did not see this dog advertised at stud anywhere.

- Annemarie Moore

Lacking quality: Man! I have that situation every day at a dog show! Why do people bring junk? OK – I know the answer. With entries down, points have to be gathered together somehow, so you bring what you've got. I understand that . . . and if there's one there deserving of a CH, I have no problem keeping the junk in the ring to aid the points. Not what AKC might want to hear, but I've been out there scratching around for majors with really good quality dogs and will take it any way I can get it. Yes, they say that lowers the value of the CH, but a good dog will eventually win even against good dogs, but who has 6 years and a small fortune for that lifestyle?!

Withholding: As I've said many times to my fellow judges – if it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck – it's a duck and can't be sent out of the ring. However, if there are ONLY quasi-ducks in the ring – sorry, the points must not be awarded. I've never had second thoughts re withholding or not withholding. It's a call that has to be made quickly on the day and moment I trust myself to make the correct decision.

- Ann Hearn



How do you judge an entry that is lacking quality?

It's quite rare that an entire entry, even a small one, has no dog worthy of anything. However, it does happen. Keep in mind that AKC allows judges at most, 2.5 minutes per dog. So, there isn't much time to consider whether to withhold, or not. It has to be an almost immediate decision. I try to break it to the exhibitor gently, explaining that the dog is not being disqualified, only having all further ribbons/awards withheld for that day. I will not tell him/her that the dog is young and will probably get better with maturity, unless I think that it's true. If it's a size issue, I will ask if that exhibitor has read the breed standard and quote what it says about size. I recall having dinner with a highly respected judge, who claimed, in a very aggressive manner, that he had told a large class, in which he was withholding all ribbons, "These are pets – take them home!". I would never do that. We need to encourage new exhibitors, not drive them away. If I'm dealing with an obviously very experienced owner-handler, I may be more direct. Professional handlers may very well not be that aware of the breed standards of some of the dogs they're handling. Therefore, I will attempt to enlighten them. No matter what, every dog entered must be carefully examined and gaited. All exhibitors are entitled to that, at the very least.

Have you ever withheld ribbons and if you didn't, and you should have, how do you feel after the fact?

In one of my long-ago assignments, there was a special that was very decent, but the one class bitch entered was quite atrocious. There were no dogs. I reluctantly gave her a blue ribbon but could not bring myself to give her Winners. I should mention here that I was "provisional" in the breed at the time and was being watched by the rep., who later didn't seem to think she was THAT bad. About three weeks later, another provisional judge, with whom I am somewhat acquainted, withheld even the first-place ribbon in a class of three which included this same bitch. The next day, a judge (not well regarded, now deceased) awarded this same bitch a 3-point major. It was my understanding that she unfortunately finished her championship a few months later. After having now judged them for more than ten years, I would still do the same thing. That was a bitch who should never have finished.

Withholding ribbons is stressful to judges, too, not just to those exhibitors; but sometimes it just needs to be done. It is the judge's responsibility to each breed and to the sport in general.

- Kathy Grosso



How do you judge an entry that is lacking quality?

First let me preface this answer with the fact that all entries should be judged the same regardless of merit or quality. If we are to grow our sport and encourage new exhibitors this must always be how we approach our assignments. I actually may find myself spending a little more time if I realize that the exhibitor could be a novice who is unaware of the quality of their animal. After all this is also their pet and part of their family. They have paid their entry fee and deserve their money's worth the same as any other exhibit on that day.

Once I determine that I have an entry that is lacking in quality I feel I have to make two judgment calls. First, does the dog look like the breed it is entered as. Second, is it just a very poor specimen. I was taught by the judges I grew up showing to that if they thought it was recognizable as the breed it is entered as you may choose to withhold first, but what many told me and the rule I follow is to withhold winners and/or reserve. After all it is clearly marked on our judge's book that when we award winners we are stating that we believe the animal is deserving of its championship. Seems like a pretty clear directive to me. However, if it is not recognizable as the breed then they said they would excuse it from the ring. I would politely tell the exhibitor(s) that I was choosing to not award winners on that day because to do so I would have to indicate that I believed their animals should be worthy of becoming champions and it was my opinion that they were not. I would then thank them for showing. If I were to be approached later. I would be polite and suggest they contact their national breed club and find out who might be able to mentor them in their local area. I would also encourage them to continue their interest with more education.

Have you ever withheld ribbons and if you didn't, and you should have, how do you feel after the fact?

Yes I have. One of my first provisional assignments in my own breed. I had 2 males, the only class entries to show up that day. It was obvious that they were purebreds: however, their faults were so great that in my opinion there was no way they should be considered or used for breeding stock. To me that is what the Championship title stands for and I withheld both Winners and Reserve. While I knew I disappointed the exhibitors I knew what I did was the right thing to do. I then went to meet with the AKC Rep since I was being observed. He had nothing but praise and encouragement for what I had done. I was very pleased to get that support. I have done it again a few times. Each time I had no hesitation because that is the purpose of judging. It is to evaluate breeding stock against the standard. I must consider this when the faults are so great or the overall quality so poor. Dog shows should never denigrate into a simple beauty contest where the best of whatever is there wins. Instead it should be much more meaningful so that when that Championship Certificate arrives you know it meant your animal was a quality specimen, not just a dog who finally beats the numbers.

- Kathleen Ferris



Judging and Its Effect on Breeding

by Jonathan Jeffrey Kimes

As old as the sport itself has been a theoretical debate regarding the influence of judging on the progress (or lack thereof) of breeding show dogs. On the one hand, breeders complain that judges are not knowledgeable enough about the dogs, that judging is not fair and impartial and that sub-standard stock win prizes well out of proportion to what they should. On the other hand, judges argue they can only put up what is shown to them and if poor quality animals win, it is a reflection of the population of the show ring over which they preside.

For most of us, it is akin to the chicken and the egg conundrum; one could not happen without the other. For my part, I feel very strongly judges do indeed make a tremendous impact on how breeds evolve and whether they improve and what direction they take. Make no mistake, I am by no means a sympathetic breeder. I pointedly do not exhibit under judges who have proven themselves incapable of recognizing the good ones in their ring; and in this I believe I am in the minority. How the situation occurs and why I believe it continues is the subject of this article.

American dog breeders are, I believe, more “process” oriented than our English counterparts. In England, shows are far less numerous, competition routinely far more keen (from a population perspective), and judges are far more specialized. Specific wins count for much more than they do in America. Only at such shows such as breed national specialties (or in some breeds, Westminster wins), do American breeders place much stress on single shows. In the United States specials are campaigned at scores, if not hundreds, of dog shows with win records in the double or triple digits. We tend to take the “win a few, lose a few” approach to dog shows and I believe this makes us far less concerned about the middle range (read: mediocre) of judging quality which is our bread and butter.

In such a model, a wide range in quality of animal will eventually achieve championship titles. Most experienced American breeders know a championship is not particularly meaningful or helpful in assessing a dog's quality. Poorer dogs may take more showings to finish – especially if they are unfortunate enough not to be showy – but they generally will finish given the owner's fortitude in pursuing the title. Even on the specials level, a vast group of quite mediocre animals can reach very excellent heights of success if the correct mix of presentation, campaigning and advertising surround the animal.

I say this next piece with a sort of sad pause, but I think many of today's exhibitors do not realize show dogs are being judged as breeding stock. Take away the national specialty wins and the group wins and everyone else pretty much falls into an undistinguished field. We've made it so. We might look askance at that common, unvirtuous, and completely uninteresting exhibit waiting to go into the ring, but if he wins his championship, what does his owner need to know from ideal? He gains his title and he is of equal breeding merit to the carefully bred animal from generations of truly virtuous stock. They both will be bred from.

But what of our serving judge, the long-suffering individual who makes decision after decision all day long standing on concrete sustaining him or herself on the occasional cup of coffee? Why are they to blame? Easily. Because in most entries there are the “haves” and the “have nots.” There are the animals who could bring the breed up a notch, maybe not dramatically so, but in very important ways.

But our judge, licensed in 60 breeds of dogs, doesn't have, and couldn't possibly be expected to have, the depth of knowledge to separate those specimens. Oh I sometimes tell myself anyone who has judged enough to have a full day of entries ought to at least understand a correct forehead, topline, rear, movement, and balance on sight, even if s/he doesn't have a true “eye”. And they are looking, they just don't seem to see. There probably are enough who have some semblance of knowledge to reward these things. I credit them with rewarding the great American invention: the “generic” show dog. Breed doesn't matter; they are clean, well angulated in the rear, clean in front (not angulated in the forehead because even these folks don't understand that), contain a level or sloping topline, possess a driving rear and god bless them if they are showy. Name a breed, any breed. Often, these dogs are “missing it” from the eyes of a true breed connoisseur but the near all rounder is oblivious. Doesn't see it, doesn't know it, doesn't value it. I think this became crystal clear to me when I exhibited a fine bitch (who won Best of Winners at a national specialty) who simply had everything one could ask for: type, structure, movement, and showmanship. Yet even she would get beaten in the ring by utterly forgettable, mediocre animals. It wasn't a specific “thing” she was getting knocked on, it was that the judge simply preferred another exhibit. Such a judge (and they are not rare) just didn't have



the knowledge to appreciate what they were looking at. To me, the analogy of taking a bunch of people who are uneducated on art into an art museum is destined for a similar outcome. They will have scattered appreciation for the art to which they have never been exposed, they will randomly select their favorite pieces with untrained eyes, and they will have strong opinions on the famous artwork, like Picasso, Renoir or Van Gogh. When you don't know what you are supposed to be looking at, it's far easier and safer to appreciate what has already been labeled as outstanding. So be it with the show ring.

The outcome of all of this is that breeders breed to what wins. A favorite old statement, “be careful what you measure for that is what will get done,” is the perfect theory. How many times have I seen breeders at ringside, totally unaware of a smashing newcomer on the scene. He might be outstanding, but no one seems to notice. Let a dog build a show record, and soon he will draw the attention of the breeders. How fortunate for the breed if he is a truly good one, how typical if he isn't. ‘Show ring success,’ regardless of debates to the contrary, is a very strong argument for including that dog in a breeding program. And while that model works if the judging is on target, when it is remiss the whole system falls apart.

But not all is footloose and fancy. There are in most breeds, one or two individuals who seem to have a clue about their breed, who breed what they believe is correct and who very often are the reason for that breed's true merit at that time. They are unimpressed, and unmoved by show ring credentials and make their decisions based on their own dog knowledge. They generally have a long life in dogs, develop a clearly distinguishable "type," and provide a level of leadership. But these people are succeeding despite the system not because of it.

Judges do indeed make a tremendous impact on how breeds evolve and whether they improve and what direction they take

Having firmly nailed the majority of the judging population to the cross of circumspection, we can now analyze the current approach to fixing the problem. Without question, breed clubs and the American Kennel Club have put a great deal of effort into developing opportunities for judges to learn more about a particular breed. Breed seminars abound. There are two particular criticisms which can be mitted out to the current environment. The first one is a study group encounter is not – and should not be considered – some sort of profound experience where someone vaguely or incompletely familiar with a breed will miraculously arise to a level of expertise. There is no glass mirror that one walks through that changes, instantaneously, the uninformed into the expert. Sitting through a specialty and chatting with one or two breeders or judges does not somehow make one qualified for a judge's license. We apparently think in this country it does. It takes people up to a decade of involvement in their own breed to gain any sort of credibility, any sort of understanding, any sort of "feel" for their breed. But once licensed, we for whatever illogical reasons, think two hours exposure makes us an expert. My other criticism is if you indeed already possess a license in a breed, it is somehow perceived as not only unnecessary but down right undesirable, to sit through a lecture on a breed. While I believe both models are illogical and beg reality, they are also highly contradictory.



If we provide allowance for a certain amount of ignorance, as we obviously do when we provide judge's licenses to people who have attended one or two breed seminars, then it would follow that we should expect that newly approved judge to "get up to speed" as quickly as possible. One way might be to attend, with a vengeance, many more seminars and many more specialties. We do just the opposite. Being seen in a "learning" environment for a specific breed while holding a judge's license for that breed is considered gauche. Apparently. Because it largely does not happen.

The only other alternative for the uninformed judge to learn about a breed is to presuppose continued judging and exposure to the breed will result in better judgments. Why exhibitors should even be subject to this nonsense is beyond my comprehension, but more to the point – I don't know of any highly skilled endeavor that is mastered simply by continuing to do it badly over a period of time. Practice is essential, if coupled with training. It is that model which does not appear to exist in today's show ring environment.

So why, might you be asking yourself, do exhibitors expose themselves to these miscreants I've chosen to call judges? The answer appears to revolve around the concept of chance. Many are willing to take the chance the judge will select their dog for points or group placements. Little pride in the win, but as I noted above, it is the "notch on the bedpost" that matters – the value of the win as in the specific show or the specific judge is not particularly meaningful.

For the three people who have read this that haven't turned away in disgust and who haven't spun off a list of self-justifications for the current environment, I propose a solution is conceivable. I am not even interested in prognosticating what that solution might be. Just knowing there is a delta between where we ought to be and where we are is an important first step. 🐾

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Jonathan Jeffrey Kimes



Different Opinions and the Danger of Numbers

by Andrew Brace

The judging of purebred dogs revolves around one basic principle: the judge of the day places the dogs in front of him in order of merit based on each individual's closeness to its breed Standard. That should be the only consideration, yet unfortunately all too often we see other factors clouding the issue. We see dogs winning unfairly because they may have an advantage of one kind or another, be that of breeding, ownership or winning record. Likewise we see dogs losing unfairly for similar reasons. While some dogs may pile up CCs because judges feel obliged to follow form, we also see some judges (particularly political breed judges in the main) who delight in demoting the reigning champion in favour of mediocrity for reasons that are clearly questionable.

Breed Standards were originally drawn up by the breeds' founding fathers as a written description of the ideal adult specimen in any given breed. In the majority of breeds, the requirement for physical attributes tended to be function-related; very few breed Standards were designed purely around aesthetic qualities as even the toy breeds tended more often than not to be miniaturized examples of essentially functional breeds.

Over the years they may have been streamlined and tweaked a little, but for the most part breed Standards remain unaltered, yet there can be no denying that many breeds have changed dramatically in their physical appearance, and these changes go beyond the superficial aspect of just more sophisticated grooming and presentation. More often than not breeds change gradually for a variety of reasons, and the changes may be almost imperceptible as they happen over a period of time. Breeds often go through phases when fashion dictates a longer neck, a shorter muzzle, a shorter back, more angulated rear or whatever and in time the basic perceived template of the breed is altered as different styles emerge.

One of the expressions that irritates me most these days is 'old fashioned' which is often used in a derogatory sense, yet what is referred to as being 'old fashioned' is often merely 'correct'. One of the problems with judging is that judges develop surrounded by the dogs of their time and their appreciation of the breed Standard is obviously colored by those dogs. That is perfectly logical and of course judging is by definition evaluating the dogs that are put in front of you, but to judge effectively you need to understand that some breeds may have drifted away from classic breed type and recognise that fact.

To quote Di Johnson, "these days people have a desire to judge more than they have a desire to learn". Learning about a breed involves intense study of how it has evolved through history, what the original breed Standard described, why the physical component parts of the breed should be as required, and what constitutes classic type. The problem is that this classic type may not be present in the majority of dogs and this is where judges can come unstuck. When faced with 20 dogs, 19 being of one 'type' and one that is definitely different, it takes a very courageous, self-confident and knowledgeable judge to say that the one is correct and the others less so. Sadly those qualities are not present in all judges, so they will take the easy option and presume that the majority are correct and the 'odd man out' is wrong. This can account for outstanding dogs being missed simply because they do not look like the majority.

In view of the fact that fashions change, faults can become endemic in a breed which become so commonplace that they eventually are accepted as the norm. Anne Rogers Clark had a wonderful expression for this kind of shortcoming as being 'the drag of a breed'. Annie also felt, very wisely, that when these 'drags' appeared they should be heavily penalized for the good of the breed and when dogs were shown that were correct in those areas they should be very positively rewarded.

As an example let's look at a breed that requires a medium size, oval shaped eye set obliquely which contributes greatly to its expression. If a large number of dogs begin to appear that have big, round, forward-placed eyes, the true expression of the breed is lost and the dog immediately looks a little 'off type'. Mrs Clark would have come down very heavily on the bug-eyed specimens that didn't look at her right, and had any dogs she could find with correct eyes and expression at the top of the line, all things being equal of course.

Some judges religiously read through the breed Standard before they judge a breed, no matter how often they have done so. It serves as a great refresher and can remind us of points that may have just drifted into our sub-conscious. Other judges never bother because they feel that they know what they like and reading a Standard might just confuse them.

The important thing is that dogs are judged to their breed Standard. More and more as I travel around I am being faced with entries in breeds where the majority of dogs have drifted away from classic type and this always makes judging more of a challenge. It is depressing to see faults that are commonplace when not always can dogs of the really correct type be found. However when one does appear it requires great intestinal fortitude for a judge to go out on a limb.

Such a situation occurred to me recently when judging in the Philippines. Throughout the 12 shows there was a numerically strong entry of Pomeranians but I soon realized that the majority of the dogs shown failed in several areas. Lots of the dogs had ultra-short, blocky forefaces with large eyes (thus removing any suggestion of a foxy outline and expression), short legs and incorrect coats which were generally dramatically over-trimmed. However in the junior dog class I had a one year old that really excited me, yet few of the others in the large entry matched him for balance and general type. He had the head proportions and expression I was looking for, the correct length of leg for ideal balance and the desired coat texture. Furthermore he was not obviously barbered and had a coat texture that still maintained the softness that should be seen in a Pom's outline. He handled well on the table, being firm bodied and beautifully groomed, and his movement was true, brisk and buoyant. The more I studied him the more correct I realized he was. He was my BOB winner and I later placed him at the top of a good group ahead of a very pleasing young Siberian Husky male. For me he was an outstanding example of breed type and deserved to be recognized as such.

Of course some readers may take issue with these thoughts and claim that judging is simply a matter of opinion. As Nigel Aubrey-Jones often said, "some things are a matter of opinion; other things are a matter of fact".

Reprinted with Permission 2014
Andrew Brace
Feb 12, 2014 issue of Dog World UK

THEY ASKED, We Answered, The Members Comment....

We decided to ask the judges if THEY had questions for the members. For the next couple issues, we will present a question to members from the judges.

How quickly do you realize that what you have been breeding is not what is out there winning and perhaps yours have become too short, tall, not good toplines, etc. – whatever? How do you go about remedying your breeding program? How long or how many litters does it take to get back to what you want?

- Ann Hearn

I always hope that I recognize that a dog or a litter is not going to ever win in the show ring long before I would consider entering them in a show. But the fact remains that it is important to know that I have bred traits that are not only incorrect and should not win but need to be eliminated by altering my breeding program. The nature of the fault determines how long it will take to fix it. A poor front assembly, for example, may take several generations to fix. On the other hand, if I catch it in the first generation, I simply don't use dogs that have or carry the trait again.

The well-known disease "Kennel Blindness" is often what allows a breeder to continue using breeding stock that produces incorrect traits. Another reason is related to one's knowledge of the standard and its application to a real dog. If a breeder cures Kennel Blindness and learns the application of the breed standard, then the need for long term fixes disappear.

- Sue Bachman

The dogs that are winning in any given area may not be correct by the Breed Standard so it is up to a good breeder to know the standard and breed accordingly. Ultimately, a qualified judge should know the breed standard and award the dog that most closely represents the Standard.

When searching for a sire for your bitch, a breeder should look at the weaknesses of their bitch and find a stud dog who has strength where the bitch is weak. That saying, one would not want to give up strengths both dog and bitch share. The length of time to correct a weakness depends on what the weakness is. A weak front takes several generations to correct and then hold. Minor problems such as pigmentation or ears can take just a single breeding. Each breeding is important. You cannot simply look at the dog you are intending to breed to but his siblings as well as parents. After that, you hold your breath and pray a lot knowing you have attempted to produce a puppy that is better than the parents.

- Marilyn Harban

Breeding is a balancing act of trying to breed to our standard and to what is winning. Sometimes those two things are pretty far apart. Sometimes you do have to stop, look and ask what happened, how did I get here? It takes about two or three litters to get back what you have lost. Or should I say what you have now, that you don't want. Like light or round eyes, our breed loses their great expression when we have big round eyes.

- Ann Roache

It's a gradual process to come to the conclusion that what is being shown and winning is not necessarily in agreement with one's current breeding program. Dogs bred within a particular region tend in many cases to take on the characteristics of other dogs in the same region (the reason is obvious). However, the best compass to determine how one's line compares to others is to attend national breed shows and supported entry shows. It can be a real eye opener. The worst thing one can do is to not study the national scene. Seeing and evaluating ALL of what's out there is the only way to draw an informed conclusion about a particular line.

The variety of types seen at national shows is educational to say the least, and interestingly, what's winning in one region sometimes may not be the same as what's often winning in another region, and all may be good (or pretty good) representations of the breed. Perhaps it simply an example of the Stockholm Syndrome gone canine? :)

In deciding what to do about a particular problem that keeps coming through, I'd first focus on what's good and strong in the dogs in the particular line. Hopefully the good traits outweigh the not so good. If a negative trait is a real problem that continues to come through, it's time for action. Action, in order to maintain the good and reduce the poor characteristics, can start with a total outcross with a dog who has the desirable traits. Not being a genetics expert, I've nonetheless seen this approach pay off in the form of one or two pups in a litter that at least lean in the right direction. Very selective breeding on the next several litters can often take a line in the desired direction. This can take years with many frustrations along the way. No dog is perfect, as we know, but the "journey" is a most rewarding aspect of breeding dogs. And who knows, that wonderful national winner might be coming in the very next litter!

- Gerard Walsh

I feel that while research and studying pedigrees is very important, there is nothing like seeing as many dogs in person that you can. This is invaluable to compare size trends, as well as movement and toplines. I especially like seeing how dogs behave at ringside, as temperament is so important to me.

I can see if a particular stud dog is strong in the aspect that I am looking to improve. While looking at photos of dogs that are across the county is helpful, and judging them on their show record is a valid indicator, I still believe that the dog up close and personal tells the best story when seeking out another direction to improve the line. I think at least two litters bred to improve a specific quality is needed to show what may or may not be improved.

Personally, I have looked to reduce size, and work on toplines. I feel that my dogs strengths have been in temperament, heads, expressions and movement.

- Lisa Weaver

I am a Responsible Breeder

I am a Responsible Breeder.

Do I have your attention yet?

If you belong to PETA or HSUS, you will be screaming at the page about what a bad person I am, because I am a breeder.

I don't care. You are not a thought in my head while I play, feed, or love my dogs.

You are not foremost in my mind when I whelp a litter of puppies in my home, clean them, place them near their mom to make sure they nurse. And I don't think of you when I sleep on the couch that first week to be near mom and puppies.

You are not, nor have you ever been, on my mind.

I am sure that "people" like me are on your mind all the time. Do you have a dog? If not, you don't know what it's like to have one sleep in your bed, snuggled next to you. You do not know the feeling you get when you are blue, and your dog lays his head on your lap and looks at you with love that is unconditional. You wouldn't know what it feels like to have a dog work with you, not because it has to, but because it WANTS to. What a miracle it is to have that bond that comes with loving a dog.

As a breeder, I stand up and shout, "I AM A BREEDER AND PROUD OF IT!" I choose to breed my dogs. I love them, teach them, work with them, and watch them grow from puppies to adults. Those that I do not keep are placed into loving homes that are wanting a purebred dog.

Kudos to all who want a purebred dog and do not believe the hype that PETA and HSUS put out in the media!

As a breeder, I stand up not only for myself, but other breeders who feel the same way. Breeding is NOT a crime, nor is it an act I take lightly. I feel responsible for every life I help bring into this world.

I laugh at the miracles, cry with the tragedies, and marvel when even one puppy that I have helped bring into this world represents all that I would want for the breed I love so much.

I remember the parents, the grandparents, the great-grandparents, and many more generations, and am overjoyed to have had them in my life. I am truly blessed to know them, love them, and cherish them.

You toy with us, thinking you bring fear to our hearts. My fear is not of you, but whether a dog that may be sick will be okay.

You contemplate your next move against us. I contemplate whether one dog ate another's food while I was not looking.

I have a life. It revolves around my family and dogs. Dogs have taught my children that affection does not have limitations. They also taught them compassion.

Do you have a family? What are you teaching them?

I am a breeder, not just any breeder, but a Responsible Breeder.
I am proud to breed, own, and love purebred dogs.

by Julie M. Seaton

the Other Ring *by Leslie Hoy*

Leslie is a freelance writer and a lifelong dog lover. She is happiest when she's interacting with canines, whether competing with her own in rally obedience and agility, teaching at Bella Vista Training Center, or just hanging out with her four-footed buddies. She has been a volunteer with GRREAT (Golden Retriever rescue) for over 25 years, doing home checks, evaluations, and transports. She and her first Australian Terrier, Kiwi, earned 17 titles in NADAC and AKC agility over 7 years of competition till his death from cancer in 2008. Currently she shares her life with Copper, her third rescue Golden; Schatzi, a Doberman mix; and Libby, her second Australian Terrier.

The winter of 2013-14 in the Northeast has been one that is certain to make the record books! Bone-chilling cold and snowstorm upon snowstorm caused to postpone several classes due to bad weather. Snow and ice storms caused disruptions to December and January trials, with some contestants leaving early or choosing to stay home entirely. One day, even though the roads were clear, the power went out at our training building, pushing classes back yet another week. It's a good thing there are a couple of weeks between sessions, as we've needed them for makeup classes. Everyone, humans and canines, has cabin fever.

But, as you all know, it takes an awful lot to keep dog people away from events. Never mind that the roads were snow-covered. Never mind that our parking lot looked like the setting for the Olympic ice skating events. If you host it, they will come! Two recent competitions brightened up our gloomy winter.

The first such event was a Friday night World Cynosport Rally (WCR) trial. The night was frigid, with single-digit temperatures, and the entry was light, but the building was warm and all participants enthusiastic. Libby was so happy to be out and doing something that her heeling was less than stellar that night. She kept popping up, as high as my waist, doing that Aussie "Boing!" and giving me that big, shark-like grin. Everyone watching couldn't help but laugh at her happiness, and I had a hard time keeping myself composed and not laughing along with them. Both Red Dogs were successful in their classes and we shivered our way home with 2 more qualifying legs for each dog—definitely worth the trip.

This event was followed a week later by a CPE (Canine Performance Events) agility trial. We on the trial

CPE

committee kept our fingers crossed that the snow would hold off that weekend and that seemed to do the trick! Temperatures went from well below freezing to sunny and positively balmy, into the 40s F, causing our mountains of snow to start melting. Of course, the below-freezing lows at nighttime turned the parking area back into a skating rink by the next morning. People helped each other transport baggage and dogs safely into the building, where heat, light, and that emerald-green turf lifted everyone's spirits. It really does feel spring-like to see what looks like grass again—we've all forgotten what it looks like!

The trial itself was a success, with lots of qualifying runs and a party atmosphere. It felt good to spend the day among friends without worrying about travel problems on the way home. Our favorite food vendor was back and offered healthy grilled chicken sandwiches and Caesar salads on the lunch menu for both days. You had to order early to make sure you got one, because they always sell out quickly!

The Red Dogs were entered in two of the five events offered on Saturday, with one qualifying and one nonqualifying run for each of them. I was very happy with Libby's first run. She left all the jump bars up and made every contact zone, every time.

Yay! Party time back at our crate when we finished! But the second run didn't go so well and I blame myself for that.

Going into round 2, I thought I would push her a little, work her out and away like Copper does and not stay so close. Distance and more independence are the things we've been working on in classes and that's going better. And she did so well in round 1, right?

Wrong. She really does know the difference between class or open practice and running in a trial. She's so amped up at trials that her training sometimes flies right out the window. She came up

over the A-frame at a nice speed and I was well ahead of her, calling her on to the next object, when I heard everyone groan behind me. Later, one of my friends said it looked like she had grown wings. Off the A-frame she flew from about 4 feet up, landing on the springy turf. Ouch! That had to hurt, but she kept moving. Her teeter was nice; she likes that obstacle and I can always count on that. Dog walk—well, 50-50. She didn't make that contact either. It was somewhat less "spectacular" than her launch off the A-frame, but I saw her bail off the side, well above the contact zone, to catch up to me. So much for distance!

Well, I learned my lesson about being a bit more conservative, shall we say, at events. My teacher and I will continue to work on correct and safe contacts. And I will continue to send my girlie some mental reminders about terriers being "earth"-bound. Good thing she's not a "Skye" terrier!



It's a Mixed Up (Mixed Breed) World

by Susi Szeremy

This piece was unsatisfying to write, and may well be unsatisfying to read, as well, because it poses questions for which I have no answers.

Sorry about that.

Everyone probably has an opinion on the subject, however, and I blame Google Alerts for having reminded me of it.

"Google Alerts" is a content detection service that automatically notifies users when new material from virtually any source on the Internet matches a term selected by the user. It can generate hundreds of stories relevant to a keyword in a very short amount of time, especially if that word relates to a "hot" topic. Certainly heating up on the front burner is the dog fancy's Super Bowl this month: Westminster.

In the past, notifications related to Westminster have typically been links to articles focused on the judges panel, a change in venue, or the debut of breeds newly recognized by the AKC. In 2014, the new breeds are the Chinook, Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, and Rat Terrier. By my estimation, however, scarcely a quarter of the alerts I've gotten thus far pertain to any of these topics.

The media, instead, has been besotted with one story line, and the sample headlines below are emblematic of the majority of them:

"Mutts Compete in Westminster Dog Show For First Time"

"Westminster dog show adds event with mixed breeds"

"Change to Westminster show celebrates the 'every dog.'"

"Change to Westminster Dog Show gives stage to mixed-breed dogs."

The first paragraph of one article with a similar headline went this way: "One of the nation's oldest sporting events, the Westminster show had a few mixed breeds in its early days but soon became purebred territory. This year, more than 2,800 pedigreed, primed dogs are set to be judged on how well they fit breed standards that can specify everything from temperament to toe configuration. That has long made Westminster a flashpoint for the purebred-versus-mixed-breed debate."

It never used to be a "debate," let alone a "flashpoint" until the animal rights movement gained steam and made it one. For an agenda intent on eliminating pet ownership altogether, the rarified world of show dogs with its breed standards, selective breeding and the element of privilege (read: money) made the dog fancy an easy target. The bad apples that exist in any sport or hobby (in the fancy's case, lousy breeders and obnoxious exhibitors) made the task even easier. Adding insult to injury was the second wave of attack from groups involved in rescue, an activity breed clubs have been supporting long before it became politically correct.

I haven't made up my mind about mixed breeds participating at AKC performance events once limited to purebred dogs. For some reason, however, when I do think about it, an old saying that I taught my children always pops into my head: "You don't have to blow out someone else's candle for your own to burn more brightly."

In 1978, the Mixed Breed Dog Clubs of America was formed based on AKC Regulations. It offered titles in obedience, rally, conformation (huh?) lure coursing, retriever instinct, and versatility, but the club never really "took off," and presently, there are no events scheduled on its website.

Why the club hasn't gained traction among mixed breed owners, I don't know, but as far as I can tell, mixed-breed enthusiasts been nosing around for AKC recognition of some sort for years. Why they insisted on inclusion with the AKC when they had the Mixed Breed Dog Club of America is anyone's guess, but it's hard not to think about that old saying I told my kids. Does the purebred dog owner's flame need to be blown out for the mixed breed owner's candle to burn more brightly?

It's a moot point. Mixed breeds have been invited to AKC performance events since 2009, but I can't help but wonder if the seismic shift in AKC's policy was the second waft of air on the candle of purebred enthusiasts. The first would have been the AKC's removal of the phrase, "For the Love of the Purebred Dog" from its masthead" sometime in the last 15 years to be replaced by, "We're more than champion dogs. We're the dog's champion." Even that has become diluted. Today, the AKC's tag line is: "Discover. Learn. Connect. Sharing more than 125 years of passion for dogs."

If "purebred" has become a dirty word, "breeder" is tantamount to an ethnic slur. Take a look at the commercial Budweiser did Super Bowl Sunday: [Budweiser Super Bowl commercial link](#)



Try to find the word, "purebred" now...

I have to hand it to Budweiser for touching, even remotely, the prickly topic of breeding purebred puppies in this current climate. Evidently, however, as long as sales are referred to as “puppy adoptions,” it’s okay, and perhaps no one will notice that the puppies are all the same breed?

So let’s review. Who would have thought it possible that “breeder” would become a dirty word, “purebred,” would be removed from public billing on AKC material, and the AKC would include mixed breeds at its performance events all within twenty years? It reminds me of what HSUS CEO, Wayne Pacelle said: “...One generation and out. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding.” *Animal People News*, May 1993.

By allowing mixed breeds in its performance events, did the AKC cave to public pressure and political correctness? Or will the day come when we look back at the AKC’s shift in policy and realize how prescient it was to recognize that the fight wasn’t between mixed breeds and purebred dogs, but rather an epic battle to protect dog ownership altogether?

In that light, it seems rather silly to dig in our heels as dog fanciers to protect our right to ethically breed sound, purebred dogs, and preserve the legacy of their breeds. As one who appreciates history and tradition, and especially as a fancier, however, these goals resonate with me, and they do matter. They matter in little ways that make life worth living and connect me to my cultural past, but also in far bigger ways that implicate my rights in other areas far removed from dogs.

In the war of words to win over public sentiment, dog fanciers have returned to the roots of the sport by referring to our breeds as “purpose bred” dogs with predictable traits. The opposition’s counter-parry has been the charge that mixed breeds are healthier than purebred dogs, but this was disproved by a five-year study by the University of California-Davis which concluded that there is no difference between the two in the prevalence of common inherited disorders.

Awkward.

In a 2010 New York Times opinion piece, the author wrote: “Dividing the world into those who should feel guilty for owning a pedigreed pooch and those who can feel self-righteous for rescuing a mutt does little to solve the two major challenges domestic dogs face today: careless breeding and an antiquated shelter system.”

Now four years later, little has been done to address any of the problems the author identified – save one. Guilt is still a wonderful feeling to inflict on someone with a purebred dog purchased from a breeder, ethical breeders are still being blamed for an alleged overpopulation problem, and only now with the NAIA’s Shelter Model might we start seeing the beginnings of change in the shelter system. All that said, self righteous mixed breed owners remain self righteous, only now they have found validity and purpose in owning their “rescue dogs” that goes beyond companionship (which always seemed a good enough reason to me).

Enter AKC performance events. Stacey Campbell, a San Francisco dog trainer heading to Westminster with Roo! a high-energy husky mix she adopted from an animal shelter, said, “Wow, this is a really talented mixed breed that didn’t come from a fancy breeder.”

For those owners who found that companionship wasn’t enough, there’s a new “purpose” in town for their mutts: AKC performance events – action that an “every dog” can enjoy without its owner spending a fortune on a purebred dog (and without the stigma!)

It’s a reasonable question to ask, so I’ll ask it. So what if a mutt participates at an AKC show, who does it hurt?

Let’s turn the question around. Who gains from mixed breeds competing at an AKC event? Certainly the AKC realizes revenue from additional fees. Mixed breed dogs gain by having something they can do with their owners, and the owners gain not only by being able to compete with their dogs (and at Westminster!), but by earning an AKC title they got with their loveable mutt. “Purpose bred, my eye,” says “Missy,” an acquaintance of mine who owns a mixed breed dog. She’s won the canine lottery, as far as she’s concerned. She can do what dog fanciers do most weekends – compete. And furthermore, she’s advised me, she will never buy a purebred dog because she doesn’t see the point.

To drive home her message, she sent me the link to a newspaper article about agility at Westminster which read, in part, “The first mixed-breed dog chosen to perform in the agility demonstration is Alfie, a poodle/terrier mix from New Jersey whose owner bought him discounted at a mall pet store. Owner Irene Palmerini told the Associated Press she paid \$99 for Alfie. She started her new pet on an agility course for the best reason — because the little dog was bouncing off walls and needed lots of exercise. Alfie — the politically incorrect, deeply discounted pet store mutt — now becomes a revolutionary symbol.”

This isn’t what we were told when the powers-that-be instituted the rule change about mixed breeds at AKC events. The thinking, they told us, was that fanciers would be given a perfect opportunity to explain to mixed breed owners the virtues of predictability and inheritance in purebred dogs. The thinking, they told us, was that by exposing mixed breed owners to purebred dogs at dog shows, these folks would want their next dog to be one of those purebred dogs.

“Missy” evidently failed to get this memo.

And what do purebred dogs and their owners get out of having mixed breeds at AKC shows?

I don’t know. My entry fees haven’t gone down. I don’t feel compelled to buy a mixed breed dog. I don’t sleep better at night, nor are my teeth brighter. As far as I can tell, any advantage to me at all isn’t as a purebred dog owner, but as a dog lover. When any dog bonds with his or her owner through any means, including working together in agility or obedience, it’s a good thing. It really is.

But couldn’t the same thing be accomplished under the auspices of the Mixed Breed Dog Club?

Not everyone is vigilant with their dog, nor does everyone spay and neuter their “just-a-pet” dog. No one is perfect, dogs will be dogs, accidents happen, and therefore, mixed breeds will happen, and probably always will. We can strive for prevention, but I tend to see the world as it is, not as a zealous rights activist wishes it was.

If, in fact, the battle with the animal rights movement ultimately morphs into an attack on all dog ownership, I will be blessed with perfect hindsight and view the AKC as brilliant in its thinking. There are moments, however, when I wonder just whose side it’s on. Mixed breeds have a nose under the tent, as they say. Will it be enough? 🐾

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Susi Szeremy

dogknobit.com

Also check out the new Facebook page: [National Purebred Dog Day](#)

A Blast From The Past

SEPT
EMBER, 1974

K.C.C. KENNEL GAZETTE



AUSTRALIAN TERRIER CLUB OF VICTORIA
CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW — SUNDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1974

Judge — Mr. R. Hammond (U.S.A.)

Best Exhibit — C. & A. Tagg's Dog "Taggalong Talkalot".
Best Opposite — Tinee Town Kennels' Bitch "Weewak Wattle".
Best Puppy — Mrs. M. Bywater's Dog "Austingham Leprechaun".

Australian Terrier Club of Victoria Championship Show - Sunday, 29th September 1974

Judge - Mr R. Hammond (U.S.A.)

Best Exhibit - C & A Tagg's Dog "Taggalong Talkalot"

Best Opposite - Tinee Town Kennels' Bitch "Weewak Wattle"

Best Puppy - Mrs M Bywater's Dog - "Austingham Leprechaun"

Withholding Ribbons

By Edd Bivin

My experience as a breeder, exhibitor, and judge for all these years has been a positive one. I do not believe it is wise to be negative or to always find faults with our sport. With this in mind, I was recently approached by a very good younger judge who asked me how I justified withholding awards, placements or points on dogs. Certainly, he approved of the practice and felt that it should be used more frequently. But it appeared to this young judge that the withholding of awards was a negative action and not a positive one, and that withholding did not fall into my earlier-stated positive position on judging. He felt that there was a contradiction. I thought that he had a good point, one worthy of further explanation. This is my position: First, withholding ribbons is not fun; but it is a responsibility. Moreover, it is a responsibility for the judge in the ring at that moment in time. The judge should not concern himself with whether the next day's judge would also withhold or award a ribbon on the same dog. Judges are accountable only for their own actions and convictions. While a judge should be able to give the exhibitor an explanation as to why he withheld, it is not the judge's duty to make the exhibitor happy by awarding placements or points to dogs that do not deserve such awards. It is the judge's duty to disqualify dogs who possess characteristics forbidden by the breed standard. It is also the judge's duty to excuse or disqualify dogs who fail to possess characteristics that are required by the breed standard or possess conditions not in keeping with AKC rules. An example of this is that you cannot judge a lame dog in any class, and this includes Junior Showmanship.

WHY WE JUDGE

An all-too-often-forgotten concept is that judges are evaluating breeding stock. Therefore, any awards a judge gives influence the breed he is evaluating at the present and for the future. It is an important responsibility. Others share this duty within the fancy. Exhibitors must breed better dogs based on education from mentors and their parent clubs, from the influence of judges, and from experience gained in the ring. In turn, judges must demonstrate a better path of breeding by awarding wins and points only to those exhibits who deserve the honor. Remember that the award, regardless of what it may be, should be coveted not simply as an ego trip or an economic reward for the breeder, handler, or exhibitor. Also remember that a win is an award bestowed - not a right or entitlement.



WHEN IT IS DUE

The withholding of ribbons and points must be done when there is an obvious lack of merit or quality in the dogs that are present in the class. If a dog lacks sufficient quality and breed characteristics to warrant an award, a judge must make that assertion so that the exhibitor, breeder, or handler will know that this position is being taken out of respect for the breed, and not as a derogatory statement about them personally. It is amazing how many times you will be thanked for making this decision. Such a decision will often turn a new exhibitor to a better dog rather than waste his money on a very poor one. I am sometimes asked, what are the more serious faults in a breed? I try to answer that by turning it into, "What are the more important characteristics for a breed?" I have always felt that the more important characteristics are those which define that breed - those which make it different from any other. Then I conclude my answer with the statement that the more serious faults are those that take away from a breed's definition. Judging dogs is breed specific, not generic. Dogs must first possess sufficient breed characteristics to be worthy of award. While dogs must show well and demonstrate their qualities well in the ring, they also must follow the breed standard. After all, we do not have a breed called "show dogs". I encourage judges to evaluate dogs on breed specifics, and to defend their withholding of ribbons to the exhibitor of the dogs that are worthy of award due to lack of the breed-specific qualities, rather than to the faults possessed. There is a difference. The withholding of ribbons and points must be done when there is an obvious lack of merit or quality.

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Edd Bivin

Make the Right Choice

Purchasing an Australian Terrier puppy can bring joy and happiness to you and your family for many years. However, the decision to purchase a dog should not be based on impulse nor taken lightly. Taking a few minutes now to review the information. Thinking about the issues will help you choose the best Australian Terrier for you and your family.

When considering the source of your new puppy, ***we encourage everyone to buy from a member in good standing with The Australian Terrier Club of America.*** Each of our members act as an independent breeder that has agreed, as part of membership, to adhere to the ATCA Code of Ethics. Within this code, some aspects are important to the new buyers:

- Breeders protect the health of the bitch and pups by providing a safe, sanitary environment, necessary veterinary care and adequate puppy socialization.
- Breeders breed as closely as possible to the Australian Terrier Club of America Breed Standard as approved by the American Kennel Club. Any breeding will be undertaken with the object of producing sound, healthy Australian Terriers of good temperament and correct breed type.
- Breeders accept and acknowledge that they have a lifetime responsibility to the breed, to those who purchase their puppies, and to the dogs they produce.
- Breeders breed only to advance and improve the breed.

The positive outcome of good breeding practices will develop physically and mentally sound dogs. The health of an individual dog can differ from the next, but, in a world where genetics are so prominent, our member breeders take the quality of their animals very seriously. As a new buyer, take advantage of the care, love, and nurturing that goes into every litter by buying from a reputable ATCA member.

Never buy on impulse and really think through the decision to get a dog. A dog is a lifetime commitment and will rely on its guardian for all of its needs.

The average life span of a dog is anywhere from ten to fifteen years or more and a puppy is a living creature you cannot “try on for size”.

Be prepared to make a commitment to the care and well being of your dog from puppyhood to old age. To help make the decision on whether you should introduce a dog to your life, consider the following points:

Does your lifestyle offer sufficient time to socialize and train your puppy?

This will be a substantial commitment on your part, particularly in the first year. Puppies do not come with an obedience guarantee, nor will they be housebroken. Puppies are like children and need the constant love and attention of their family. Your early commitment will be duly rewarded with the unqualified love and admiration of your dog through its entire life.

Are all members of the family in favour of having a puppy join the household?

A “split family” may lead to disagreements and ultimately result in the dog being returned or left with a rescue group or humane society. In order for the dog to become a lifelong member of the family, the original decision to buy must be shared with equal enthusiasm by all members of the family.

Are there young children in the family?

One of the main reasons people purchase a puppy is “for the kids”. Be sure the match between your puppy and the children is right. Sometimes young children can seriously hurt a puppy albeit unintentional and by the same token a rambunctious puppy can easily hurt and frighten a small child. Parents must assume the responsibility of constant watchfulness so neither is harmed. This done, both puppy and child will very likely become bosom buddies to the end.

Who will feed, walk, groom and pick up after the dog?

Too often a puppy arrives without the decision makers thinking this through. If this is to be a family dog, everyone should be committed to its care. If children are involved, don’t expect them to shoulder the responsibility, it’s too much, but they should be expected to assume their portion of this responsibility. It often ends up with one family member attending to the dog’s needs, so talk it over and come to some agreements in advance.

Have you prepared a budget for the cost of caring for your dog?

This will involve nutritious food, municipal licensing, regular visits to your vet, plus bedding etc. Such things as obedience training, regular grooming or pet insurance should also be considered. It won’t be a huge amount but be prepared for the additional expense in your household budget.

Don’t buy the dog as a surprise gift.

An Aussie puppy can be a marvelous gift if the giver has thoroughly discussed the matter with the recipient in advance. Under no circumstances is the practice of giving a surprise puppy appropriate. Too often the animal is unwanted from the beginning and finds itself helplessly abandoned or if kept, ultimately neglected. Please be responsible, your dog will love you for it.

Finding a Reputable Breeder

Australian Terriers are sold through various channels but the only source we recommend is from a knowledgeable breeder who is a member of the Australian Terrier Club of America. Make your final purchase from someone you are comfortable with and who you feel you can trust beyond the day of purchase to be as concerned about your puppy’s future as you are.

The ATCA can refer you to Breeders who have puppies or upcoming litters on their website: australianterrier.org/breeders.

Once you have your Australian Terrier, have fun with your new dog. We hope that this wonderful new addition to your household will bring great joy and happiness to you and all of the members of your family for many years to come.

New Protocol Gives Parvo Puppies a Fighting Chance When Owners Can't Afford Hospitalization

Footnote: As this article will point out, prevention is the key, always. At home treatment requires a dedicated owner, and in some severe cases of parvovirus, the puppy may not survive, regardless of inpatient or outpatient treatment. Owners need to realize the "distemper" vaccine is a combination of distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus and parainfluenza, therefore when we discontinue this vaccine, our dogs may not be protected from parvovirus. Parvovirus is more commonly seen than any of the other diseases, so it behooves us to complete the puppy series, administer another vaccine in a year and then do titres. An acquaintance of mine discontinued her older dogs' vaccines, continued to vaccinate her active show dogs, and brought parvovirus home to all of her at-home dogs. Sadly, several of her older dogs died from parvovirus. As is usual, this issue is not all black or white, and education is key to keeping our beloved dogs healthy. - Heather Rife D.V.M.

Canine parvovirus is a serious and often fatal viral illness that most commonly affects puppies, though unvaccinated adult dogs can be infected as well. While treatment for parvovirus is available, it can be cost prohibitive for many families. Now, a new protocol developed at the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital may help save "parvo puppies" and give their families a chance to give their dogs a healthy life.

"Parvovirus is one of the most common and deadliest viruses that unvaccinated dogs tend to get," said Dr. Lauren Sullivan, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences and a veterinarian with the Critical Care Unit at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. "While a vaccine is available, puppies can be exposed to the disease before their vaccinations are complete, or if they haven't received puppy wellness care due to their owner's financial limitations."

Parvovirus, which is spread through exposure to feces from infected dogs, has a wide range of symptoms including lethargy, vomiting, fever, and diarrhea. It primarily impacts the gastrointestinal tract and the circulatory system, where it suppresses the bone marrow and causes the white blood cell count to drop. Veterinary care focuses on supporting the puppy with IV fluids and antibiotics, and close monitoring, while the puppy weathers the viral storm. Without intensive veterinary intervention, parvovirus is almost always fatal due to dehydration and/or a severely compromised immune system.

Intervention, while effective, requires inpatient care ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 – a cost some owners simply can't afford. Euthanasia often becomes the only other option for severely affected dogs.

"What we showed was that it is possible to treat dogs with parvovirus on an outpatient basis," said Dr. Sullivan. "If owners have the willingness to provide care at home, it's a reasonable alternative. It's not ideal and we still recommend inpatient care, but having this protocol as an option could help save the lives of thousands of dogs across the United States every year."

CSU researchers are showing that there is another possibility – intensive at-home care at a fraction of the cost (\$200-\$300), but with similar outcomes when compared to the inpatient "gold standard" of care. The treatment relies on two drugs recently released by Pfizer Animal Health (which funded the CSU parvovirus study): Maropitant, a strong anti-nausea medication given under the skin once a day; and Convenia, an antibiotic given under the skin once, and lasting two weeks; as well as administration of fluids under the skin three times daily.

"Rather than being hospitalized, our research shows that puppies can be successfully treated with a protocol that can be replicated at home," said Dr. Sullivan. "We still recommend inpatient care as the best practice, but in some cases that simply isn't financially possible."

The study, which began June 4, was conducted by Drs. Sullivan, David Twedt, Pedro Boscan, Emilee Venn (a resident in critical care); Karolina Preisner (student coordinator), and veterinary students interested in the research experience. The study was advertised to veterinarians in the greater Colorado community, who referred cases from their practices. A total of 40 dogs were admitted to the study group, randomized to one group that received traditional gold standard care and one group that received the at-home protocol.

continued on page 32.....



New Protocol cont.....

While results of the study are still being compiled, Dr. Sullivan said that early numbers show an 85 percent survival rate for the outpatient group, compared to a 90 percent survival rate for the inpatient group. One patient was moved from the outpatient group to the inpatient group when its medical condition deteriorated.

"A really wonderful part of the study was the outpouring of gratitude from pet owners who were told their dogs weren't going to make it," said Dr. Sullivan. "Seeing them take their puppies home was very gratifying. The feedback we have had from general practitioners also has been rewarding; they are very excited to see something like this published. This is real life for them, having to deal with these difficult cases and not having great options.

"Of course, the most important thing we can do as veterinarians is work hard to educate people about parvovirus. It can be prevented, and that's the best option of all."

Preventing Parvovirus

- Vaccination is the most sure-fire way to prevent puppies from being infected with parvovirus. Puppies have immunity from their mothers early in life, but should receive their first vaccine between 6 and 8 weeks of age (after weaning), and then two boosters at three-week intervals.
- Puppies are not fully protected against parvovirus until they have completed the multiple rounds of vaccinations.
- While owners often are excited to show off their new puppy, the risk of taking a puppy out in public outweighs any benefit. Owners should avoid taking puppies to pet stores, doggie day care, kennels, dog parks, or other places that dogs frequent until the puppy has its complete set of parvovirus vaccinations

For veterinarians who wish to consult with Dr. Sullivan or Dr. Venn on the parvovirus protocol, visit the [Veterinary Teaching Hospital Critical Care Unit](#).

Dr. Sullivan expects the results of the parvovirus study to be first presented at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Research Day early next year, prior to being submitted for publication in professional journals. 🐾



Must Love Dogs...

Each Quarter we will present establishments across the USA that allow dogs. They will have something special to offer for those traveling, or if you live in the area, a place you may not have known about.....



Mary's Bistro
7463 Main Street
Mackinaw Island,
Michigan 49757
906-847-0354

Mary's Bistro offers a variety of dining options. For those that prefer to dine outside, we offer a street side patio where you can view horse drawn carriages on Main Street. We also offer a waterside patio with a great view of the harbor. There is a full bar inside and outside complete with bar seating and TV's. If you prefer to eat inside, we have a large dining room with a variety of tables and booths. You can choose a view of the water or even enjoy a view of our chefs preparing your food by sitting near our open windowed kitchen, where they prepare your meal on our wood fire grill using seasoned hardwoods from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. No matter where you decide to sit, Mary's Bistro offers eclectic menu choices along with a full bar and an extensive wine list. Dogs are welcome on the terrace.



Westminster 2014 Results

Judge Mrs Knowlton Reynders



Best of Breed

GCH CH Dunham Lake Scout Master

Breeder: Theresa Goiffon & Ellie Goiffon

Owner: Tim Steinmetz & Jane Steinmetz



Best of Opposite

GCH Rock Village Izabella Dinki-Di ME CAA

Breeder: Lisa Violette

Owner: Susan Jacobsen



SEL Bitch

GCH Rock Village Rumor Has It CA

Breeder: Lisa Violette

Owner: Lisa Violette



SEL Dog

GCH Arista Redskys Love Is All There Is

Breeder: Pamela C Levy

Owner: Pamela C Levy

(No Photo)

AOM

GCH Nellyson's Mr Dont Skip The Zip

Breeder: Tina Nordgren

Owner: Cheryl Mechalke & Jim Mechalke Jr

Are Breeders and Judges From Different Planets?

By Patricia V. Trotter

Just as an art critic evaluates a canvas, a judge must assess a dog's success or failure in upholding artistic standards.

The breeder-judge relationship is an interesting continuing theme that needs further analysis to be fully appreciated. If one is an architect, is the other a building inspector? If one designs art, is the other an art critic? If one is a writer, is the other a reviewer? If one is a gourmet chef, is the other a gourmand? If one is a creator, is the other a destroyer?

The answers may be yes, the answers may be no, or the answers may fall somewhere between the two! Sometimes the relationship seems so complex that one wonders if breeders and judges are often on the same wavelength. Yet we readily acknowledge that when they are, the entire breed benefits. I have discussed before how some of the educational tools that are available to us today, and that are likely to be available in the future, aim to help all of us to agree on an exact definition of functional basic type while recognizing that individuals may sort their priorities differently. One such tool would be the work resulting from the recently formed Breeders' Education Committee.



Overcompensating

Perhaps the problem could be more readily solved if breeders would present dogs of like type to the judges, which would allow for more apparent consistency in judging as well as in breeding. One of the many problems facing judges in the ring today is the "piecemeal" dog that results from breedings where well-meaning breeders seek to correct a fault by overcompensating.

For example, a small, compact bitch with the correct length and depth of rib cage is bred to a huge dog with a long loin and an insufficient, short rib cage in hopes of some magic blending of traits to produce a "happy medium." Instead of a litter combining the hoped-for merger of the traits, the resulting puppies are piecemeal dogs with the faults of each parent. What went wrong?

Or take a case in which a dog who comes at you true but with very little side gait, resulting from an incorrect straight-front assembly, is bred to a very elastic bitch with lots of angles and very little control of her front end. The breeder desires to produce puppies that move true in front and also cover plenty of ground from the side. Alas! All the puppies have no control of their front end and are all over the place like their dam. Furthermore, they cover even less ground than their rather short-strided sire, resulting in the worst of both parents. What went wrong? How do these things happen?

Piecemeal dogs are the result of breeding two dogs that are not of like type. Because the breeder has ignored the wise adage to "breed like to like," the progeny are uncoordinated and unable to function in the proper athletic manner for the breed in question. Perhaps they have disproportionate length of bones with angles of one kind at one end and angles of another kind at the other end. They are out of sync and not pleasing to the judge, even if they please the breeder. And this is perhaps the most important contribution the judge can make to the breeder: to send the message that piecemeal dogs are not in the best interest of the breed, no matter how attractive and pretty they may be.



Breeders and Judges

Evaluating Judges

One of the most important considerations in evaluating judges is the contribution they can make to your breeding program. That contribution is why collective opinions are important, and all the more so

if they occur in excellent competition and under world-class judges who understand the needs of the breed. These judges can guide you because of their demands for a smooth-working functional animal and their appreciation for the essence of breed type. Such judges are able to appreciate a quality lone entry in a breed just as much as a dog whose attributes make it stand out in a huge class. This is because they have honed their skills at evaluating as well as their skills at comparing. These are the true connoisseurs of the judging community who have the most valuable contributions to make to your breeding program. You should appreciate and utilize their decisions accordingly in assessing your breeding stock.

Your own personal interpretation of the worth of any judge's opinion is confused by two obstacles: First and foremost always is the subjective factor that makes you look at your own dogs through rose-colored glasses while looking at the breeding stock of others through a jaded lens. Each and every breeder must come to terms with their own version of kennel blindness in their own way. Failure to keep this bias under control can ruin your breeding program.

Second, when you appraise a judge's performance it is of vital importance that you factor in the difference between judging as an observer from ringside and judging from within the ring. If there are 20 dogs in the class, the ringside observer has time to zero in on the five dogs of quality and can spend the entire duration of the class studying them.

The judge must give each of the 20 entries an appropriate share of the class time and thus has less time to study the select individuals. Perhaps the judge misses that moment the ringsider sees when the select dog looks its very best, and sees the dog only when it is not cooperating at all with the handler. Furthermore, the judge's close examination may reveal both virtues and faults not evident to those at ringside. As a breeder you should study all aspects of each and every animal in depth and under all circumstances before deciding to put that animal into the gene pool.

It is in the best interest of the breeder and the judge to work together

As the building inspector to the breeder's architecture, it is the judge's responsibility to respond to unsound conditions in the foundation of an animal. Just as an art critic evaluates a classic canvas, the judge

must react to an artwork's failure to uphold the standards of artistic expertise. Just as the reviewer of the written word does, the judge must correctly assess prose that does not flow. Just as the gourmand sampling the work of the haute cuisine chef does, the judge must react realistically when the latest recipe does not satisfy delicate taste buds.

Does this then make the judge the destroyer of the creator's work? Indeed not; it makes the judge the protector of the creator's work! By providing proper guidance, judges who correctly evaluate breeding stock are truly as much guardians of a breed as are breeders who correctly evaluate breeding stock.

However, because of the time and circumstances involved with "in ring" judging, there is room for a greater margin of error in judging decisions than in breeding decisions. When a judge makes a selection in the ring, the judge and others live with that individual decision on a short-term basis. When a breeder makes a decision, the breeder and the breed's gene pool live with that decision forever!

Therefore it is in the best interest of the breeder and the judge to work together in the breeding and judging of dogs. Such cooperation will produce the best of all worlds: judges who are the ultimate breeders and breeders who are the ultimate judges. 🐾

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Patricia V Trotter



Australian Terrier Rescue

Open your Heart to Rescue

by Susan Saulvester

Australian Terrier Rescue is getting more and more inquiries for assistance for dogs with special needs. These are usually senior dogs belonging to senior people and sometimes they have some of the health issues requiring special care that accompany age. One of life's certainties is that we will all get older, only our pets do so more rapidly.

Recently ATR has had requests to place diabetic dogs, a blind dog, a dog found to have seizures, one with ongoing eye problems. Who better knows the needs of our breed than one who already has an Australian Terrier, has an established relationship with their vet, and has already known the joys that only an old dog can bring into your life?



**Rusty - Elderly Owner Could no longer keep
Placed 1-14-2014**

The majority of the dogs ATR is asked for assistance with at present are not shelter dogs or "lost" dogs, but dogs that their owners can no longer keep for very valid reasons of need and health. ATR has been asked to assist in placement of dogs belonging to the elderly who can no longer provide adequate care or from owners (via their family members or friends) facing life threatening illnesses that require them with great sadness to see that their much loved pets will be cared for after their death. Some pet owners have included ATR in their estate planning to insure ongoing care for their pets. One ATR coordinator is currently caring for a diabetic dog whose owner had to be out of the country for a period of time and could find no one willing and able to care for her diabetic dog during her absence, so one of the ATR volunteers with diabetic dog experience stepped to the plate to care for this girl until her owner returns to the US.

What you as someone who loves this breed can do to help these dogs, displaced through no fault of their own, is to offer short term foster care while a forever home is sought, or even adopt a special needs dog. In some cases ATR is able to help with ongoing medical care for these dogs.



LIKE us on Facebook!

No one who has ever taken in a hard to place dog with special health concerns or age related issues has ever regretted that decision even with the extra care and eventual heartbreak it brings. Old dogs and dogs living with disabilities have a special grace and acceptance that brings its own rewards to care givers.

So please open your purse strings as you are able and donate to ATR to help us care for Australian Terriers in need and open your home and heart to give an older dog or dog with some health challenges a second chance.



**Boo & Bara - Owner has Cancer
Placed 2-2-2014**



**Sydney
is in foster care in need of a forever home
Contact gtwalsh01@aol.com**

The Way We Were.....
National Specialty 2006

The Way We Were.....
National Specialty 2006



2 x 0 - Is Better Than Mediocre Good Enough?

by Gay Dunlap, as published in the Canine Chronicle

It's a lovely day and I am watching Terrier judging from outside the ring. I am sadly disappointed in the quality of the dogs. Later that day I am asked to evaluate a dog, one I had co-bred and not seen since puppyhood. I try to be as gentle as possible in my assessment of the dog. The bottom line is the dog is not of sufficient quality to consider as show or breeding stock. "But I don't understand," the owner says, "He's as good as what was shown today." "Perhaps," I respond, still struggling to speak with compassion. The owner's friend chimes in with, "Yeah, he's certainly every bit as good as what was in the ring." I can stand the drift of the conversation not one second longer. Inside, my Sagittarius nature screams for release. "What's 2 x 0?" I ask.

The hue and cry of mediocrity in the show ring seems to be escalating. Exhibitors challenge our senses; many are quick to allege that judging has reached an all time low. I think it is fair to assume such allegations have been around since dog shows first took form. What's a judge to do when faced with a ring full of mediocre dogs, unless he chooses to withhold ribbons, other than to mentally wring his hands

**How can
"intermediate" breeders,
especially ones producing
second-rate dogs,
be expected to
educate a "newbie?"**

and place the "best of the worst"? But there's another sad and dreadful truth here. Some judges don't recognize mediocrity when it stares them in the face. Let's say, for the sake of argument, however, that our judge does. Let's say he or she chooses, rather than withhold, to put up this "best of worst." Following this, might our judge pray the winner will not want a picture? If a picture taken, is a prayer then offered up that it will not be printed? Might this be the criterion for withholding ribbons ... if you wouldn't want your picture taken with the dog, withhold! It's a thought. But I am straying from my subject here.

Why are we finding this overload of mediocrity in so many of our breed rings? Where do we put the blame? Certainly, the complexity of the situation is not lost on those of us who seek answers. For starters, with the proliferation of dog shows across our huge country, often as many as five shows in a week's time, anything with four legs and a little money behind it can finish. Not only can it finish...it does finish. Obviously mediocrity must be laid at the feet of the breeder. The truth of the matter is that breeders are not only producing dogs, they are also producing other breeders. It is happening so fast (like breeding rabbits!) that breeders not yet dry behind the ears are mentoring those still in diapers. This in turn creates a state where down-line education is hopelessly flawed. How can an "intermediate" breeder,

especially one producing second-rate dogs, be expected to educate a "newbie"? Yet, it is happening, to the detriment of our sport. How much insight into a given breed can someone who's been breeding for 15 minutes offer the novice? Take a look at some of the show win ads in any one of our myriad publications. One telling measure of our exhibitors' knowledge of their particular breed might be to note their ads. How do their dogs appear to stack up vis-à-vis correct breed type? Do we think, 'oh what a lovely specimen' or do we think, 'ye Gods, how could anyone in their right mind print that photo'? Returning to my opening paragraph, the owner of the dog that was "as good as what was in the ring" appears to have reached the conclusion that the dogs being currently exhibited are valid measures for determining quality. Doesn't this become a clear formula for mediocrity when many of the dogs in the ring are themselves run-of-the-mill? However tempting to presume the "newbie" simply does not care, I do not believe this. Most of them simply do not know. Judeo/Christian belief has it that you are not a sinner if you don't know your action is a sin. Buddha, on the other hand, taught that the sin is in not knowing. I tend to agree with the latter teaching. There should be no excuse for not knowing, no excuse for ignorance or for stopping short of striving for perfection.

The imparting of wisdom to our neophyte breeder/exhibitors might be as simple as encouraging them to look to the successful "old timers" as a source for clarifying breed type and strengthening their perceptions of correct structure and movement. It is shocking how many of our intermediate breeders have not so much as a cursory knowledge of even the simple basics of canine structure. Recently, following my judging of a national specialty, a relatively new breeder/exhibitor called to tell me she was fascinated sitting ringside and watching my hands. She said that for the first time ever she really understood the process of going over a dog adding that she thought she could almost feel what I was feeling.



Of course, we all know the old adage about "leading a horse to water"... a prime example of this presents itself in the following scenario: "Newbie" asks for the advice of an "old timer" as to the breeding potential of her bitch and is told the bitch was not of sufficient quality to be bred. "Newbie" informs "old timer" she is going to breed the bitch anyway. The dog she has chosen for stud is himself far from quality. "Have you seen the dog?" she is asked. "No," is her reply. "Have you seen any of his progeny?" Again the response is, "No." "Why have you chosen this particular dog?" She replies, "Because he is OFA Excellent." This in a breed hardly beset with hip problems. How about this scenario ... "intermediate" breeder comes up with a health problem in what he calls his "line". He is three generations down from his foundation bitch. Old time breeder suggests he start over. He is devastated at the thought. No way can he throw away everything he's worked so hard for. Excuse me folks, but bitches can be bred safely at eighteen months. Gestation period is two months. We are not talking about a lifetime of wasted effort here.

Several years ago a very successful and well-known "old timer" shared with me his own devastating tale of the best bitch he ever bred producing a litter of eight pups all of which, having detached from their placentas in utero, died. This, coupled with an earlier problem, led him to the decision to start over. Now, I ask you, how is it that an "old time" breeder can make such a painful decision while the "intermediate" breeder feels his "line" too valuable to lose?

Another contributing factor leading to mediocrity is the perspicacity many breeders have to produce large numbers of champions. It's almost as though there is a race going on. In frenzied fashion, breeders become convinced they have entire litters of show dogs and proceed to create show homes for each puppy. How many champions can I grind out this year? Often they are able to convince those who "only want a pet" to "join in the fun". If the buyer is well heeled, campaigning their "show dog" becomes an added expense and often includes the price of a professional handler. If the buyer balks at the cost, some breeders will offer a puppy gratis in exchange for allowing it to be shown, the breeder then paying show expenses in order to feed their habit. In the latter case, the breeder is often recompensed with stud fees if it's a male or with puppies back if it's a bitch. And the cycle continues, more often than we would like, with unsound dogs of inferior breed type entering the ring. Another day, another show. I am ringside watching a large class of lovely Welsh Terriers. Someone next to me says, "I am green with envy when I see a ring filled with such superb breed type. Wish we could see that in our ring." So, it's not all bad news.



Where do we look to find a solution for this mediocrity? Many parent clubs incorporate into national specialty weekends an in-depth educational program dealing with basic breed-specific anatomy and conformation presented by an acknowledged authority. We must be ever vigilant in our search for new tools and new ways to improve breeder education. One example of an innovative breeder educational tool is the Pedi-Score Tool Kit, designed by Basset breeder, Claudia Orlandi. It is a recording system that allows breeders to evaluate the conformation features of their own dogs. It also can score genetic makeup and health. Brittany's Jordean Kennels devised a program entitled THE WINNING FORMULA, How To Establish A Breeding Program. In it is a questionnaire that asks, for example, "Have I found the best possible specimens for my breed?" "Do I understand the breed standard and function?" "Have I read widely on breeding, genetics, whelping and rearing puppies?" "Do I have an eye?" "Have I really done my homework and research?" A comprehensive and well-designed judges education program can suitably double as an instrument for educating breeders.

Only when breeders truly understand the components of correct breed type and sound structure, only when they have the perspicuity to strive for perfection might we stand ringside and be awed by what we see. Only when breeders and exhibitors offer judges excellence do they have the right to complain when the judge doesn't find it. 🐾

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Gay Dunlap



Looking at Pedigrees

By Arliss Paddock

The Influence of Ancestry

In the mid-1800s, Austrian monk Gregor Mendel experimented in crossbreeding thousands of pea plants in the monastery's garden. His observations and careful record-keeping of the traits of successive generations led to his formulation of the primary laws of inheritance. He published a paper about his work, but his ideas, which included description of how some traits are dominant and some recessive, were rejected at the time. Early in the 20th century, however, his research was rediscovered and his findings became the basis of the new science of genetics.

Long before Mendel, though, those interested in breeding animals to improve certain characteristics kept detailed records of matings and ancestry. This was an important complement to skillfully assessing an animal's apparent traits, or phenotype. Evidence shows that drawn pedigrees were used more than 600 years ago in the breeding of livestock.

Whether breeders were focused on dogs, horses, pigs, or other animals, they recognized the value of knowing the parentage of potential breeding stock and the strengths or weaknesses of an animal's ancestors.

The Traditional Pedigree

The word pedigree comes from the French phrase *pied de grue*, or "crane's foot" – which a traditional pedigree diagram, with its divergent branches representing several generations of parents and offspring, resembles. This type of pedigree is the most popular of those used by breeders, and it is valuable as a historical record and in identifying and analyzing the extended ancestry of individual dogs.

Pedigrees can, however, take a number of other forms as well. Breeder, researcher, AKC judge and board member, and noted canine authority Dr. Carmen Battaglia, who lectures around the world about dog breeding and canine genetics, presents extensive information about several alternate types of pedigree and their usefulness to breeders in his "Breeding Better Dogs" program breedingbetterdogs.com.

Regarding the traditional type of pedigree, Battaglia notes several disadvantages to its use:

"Unfortunately, the traditional pedigree, as a breeding tool, has many shortcomings. Most notable is the importance it places on memory and on knowing the names and titles of the ancestors ... The custom has been for breeders to recognize and associate names and titles with what could be remembered about the traits and characteristics of each ancestor. This approach lacked reliability, and it did not capture the information needed to plan a breeding. ... Perhaps its major criticism was that it did not lend itself to collecting the right kinds of information in sufficient detail to be useful to plan a breeding. A review of how most traditional pedigrees are used shows that scribbled notes around the edges and in the margins typically serve as the record system. Notes such as 'beautiful coat,' 'wonderful type,' a title, or the name of a famous offspring become the information a breeder has to use. This approach fails to collect what is relevant or specific to making improvements. In short, breeders have no way to learn from their mistakes."

Although traditional pedigrees of course provide certain important information, ideally the breeder also makes use of other types of pedigrees and additional tools when researching breeding decisions.

Other Types of Pedigrees

Three other pedigree types of value to the breeder are the visual or photo pedigree, the prism or stick-dog color-chart pedigree, and the symbols pedigree. Each has particular strengths and applications, and all three have strongly visual components.

Glossary of genetic terms

A good starting place in learning how traits are passed along through breeding is to have a basic familiarity with some important terms and concepts.

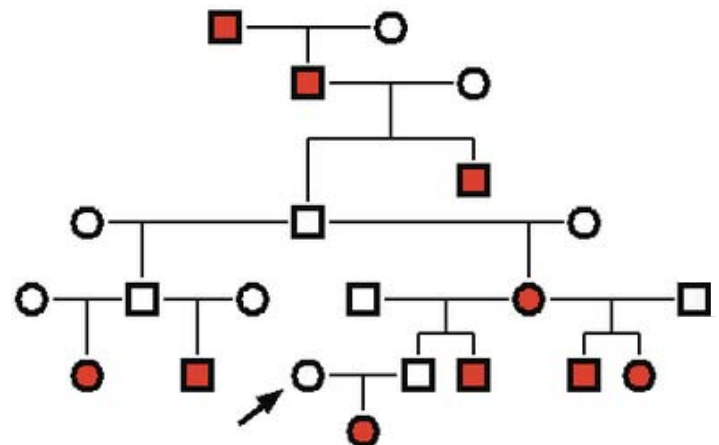
The Visual or Photo Pedigree —

The visual pedigree or photo pedigree is a traditional-format pedigree (usually three-generation) that includes prominent photos of every individual. Numerous examples of this type of pedigree can be located online by searching on the terms "visual pedigree" or "photo pedigree." An example is found at stonehavenmastiff.com/sax_ped.htm, which presents an excellent photo pedigree of a Mastiff.

The photo pedigree can provide a useful record of the overall breed type of the dogs featured and their phenotype in terms of some specific traits such as color, ear carriage, head shape, and so on. Also, it can allow one to assess how strongly (or not) certain physical traits seem to carry through from a given individual to succeeding generations.

Like traditional pedigrees, however, photo pedigrees offer incomplete information. For example, they don't provide any clues about temperament or movement, and they typically include minimal health data, if any. However, with the increasing ease of shooting digital photos and video and uploading media to the Internet, it is likely that many online pedigrees soon will not only include photos but clips of the dogs in motion. And as the availability of genetic testing and health certifications for a wide range of conditions continues to increase exponentially for all breeds, pedigrees of all kinds are likely to include more and more extensive health information over time.

All of this is good news for the responsible breeder who seeks to make the best-informed breeding decisions possible.



The Prism or Stick-Dog Color-Chart Pedigree —

Another very useful tool for breeders is the stick-dog color-chart pedigree, also known as the prism pedigree (with prism referring to its use of a spectrum of colors). This type of pedigree is highly recommended by Battaglia and also by Claudia Orlandi, Ph.D. Orlandi is an AKC judge and was AKC Breeder of the Year for 2009. Her Topsfield Basset Hounds, owned and bred with her late husband, Dom, have won more than 100 Bests in Show. Orlandi developed a study program for breeders, “The ABCs of Dog Breeding” (abcsofdogbreeding.com), and presents numerous educational seminars on this and other topics.

The prism pedigree is composed of stick-figure dogs positioned in pedigree format in place of the written names of the corresponding dogs. Each stick figure is made up of separate structural parts, with each part representing a trait of the actual dog. In the diagram, these parts are drawn in outline so that each may be filled in using a marker of any of four or five colors—each color indicating the degree of quality of that trait in that dog.

The prism pedigree largely focuses on the conformation traits described in the breed’s standard. Traits for the real dog’s separate structural parts can correspond exactly with their location on the stick figure—head, neck, front, back/topline, rear, and so on. Alternately, some parts can represent other specific traits, at the discretion of the person completing the prism pedigree. For example, the breeder may decide to color-code the tail segments to represent temperament or movement.

The specific colors used by Battaglia and Orlandi vary slightly, but generally the colors correspond with the shades of dog-show placement ribbons—with blue indicating “first place,” or excellent quality based on the breed standard, followed by descending rankings of red, yellow, and white/green. (Orlandi adds a fifth color, brown, to indicate lowest quality.)

Whatever traits are represented, the color-coding of the entire group of stick figures allows patterns and trends of inherited characteristics to be seen at a glance.

Orlandi points out that a breeder may choose to focus his color-coding on traits that he specifically wants to improve in breeding. She notes:

“The breeder seeking to produce better shoulder layback, for example, should color-code the shoulder layback of each stick figure in the first three generations of the proposed breeding, basing his choice of color on how good or bad the shoulder angulation is. This provides not only a visual summary of the quality of shoulder layback, but it also gives an idea of how many, if any, well-laid-back shoulders are likely to be produced in puppies from this mating.”

Battaglia gives the example of a stick-dog pedigree of a brood bitch where she, her sire, and her maternal grandparents each are shown to have a “fourth-place” (poor) front. This, he says, “suggests that she inherits her faulty front legitimately from her ancestors.” Further, he explains, “It should also be noticed that poor fronts occur on both sides of her pedigree. This is useful information when searching for the right stud dog and the traits he is expected to improve.”

For more information and to see examples of prism or stick-dog color-chart pedigrees, visit topsfeldbassets.com or breedingbetterdogs.com.

The Symbols Pedigree —

Whereas the prism or stick-dog color-chart pedigree is most useful in revealing inheritance patterns of an array of conformation traits, the strength of the symbols pedigree is in demonstrating trends in the occurrence of a few specific traits. It is particularly useful for tracking the incidence of health conditions. In fact, this type of pedigree is widely used by researchers studying diseases in a variety of species, including humans.

An important aspect of the symbols pedigree is that it includes all offspring from each pairing shown, rather than simply representing the direct line of descent of one individual, as a traditional pedigree does. Because of this, its format can be described as broad or horizontal rather than vertical.

In displaying information about all littermates that result from the pairing of a dog and bitch, the symbols pedigree can more accurately reveal the family’s overall genetic status with regard to certain traits or conditions. It can clarify the genetic makeup of the individuals in the family tree and shed light on how a certain trait is inherited.

This type of pedigree is so named because it employs standardized symbols representing the gender, genetic status, and relationship of individuals in the depicted family.

For example, a hollow square represents an unaffected male; a filled-in square, an affected male; a hollow circle, an unaffected female; a filled-in circle, an affected female; and so on. Horizontal lines connecting two symbols represent a pairing, and a vertical line connecting these to other symbols represents offspring. Successive generations are labeled with Roman numerals. Color-coding can provide additional information.

“The symbols pedigree is a powerful tool because of the amount of information that can be coded and quickly recognized,” Battaglia notes. “Breeders ... can use several colors to code this pedigree. Keywords and phrases can be added to clarify and further explain characteristics, conditions, and test results for each ancestor, and the repetition of a color, keyword, or phrase usually signals that a genetic trend or pattern may be present.”

Putting It All Together

Pedigree research is an important part of the responsible breeder’s decision-making process, and we are fortunate today to have excellent tools and methods available to help in this. 🐾

Arliss Paddock breeds and shows English Cocker Spaniels and is former managing editor of the AKC Gazette.

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American Kennel Club

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Aussie Brags



**CH Christhill Morongo
&
CH Christhill Coachella**



**Angelo (GCH CH Marble Arch The Corner Man)
Owner-Handled Best of Breed
and
First Award of Excellence
Breeder/Owner/Handler: Sandra Weigle**



**At the Terrier Association of Oregon Sting
completed his Rally Advanced title.
At Rose City Classic Shows in Portland Oregon,
I moved him up to Rally Excellent
which he completed this title also, one leg each day
with scores of 95 to 97.**

**He is now Auserét Little Yellow Jacket CDX RE
owned by Jill Faulmann**



**RedSky Come Fly With Me To Ryba
&
CH Ryba's Up The Anti**

**Braggs are open to
ANYONE who subscribes
to the Talkabout!**



**Send in Your
Braggs!.....**
*We want to know
what you are doing
with your Aussie!*

**Best and Best Op in Sweeps at Palm Springs
Redsky Come Fly with Me to Ryba
&
Can CH Tidewalker's Diamond Glory**



**Saturday 10-26-13 received score of Rally Advanced
and Excellent = 94/100 and 96/100**

**On Sunday 10-27-2013 Received scores of Rally
Advanced and Excellent + 98/100 and 99/100**

**This is a first Rally Excellent, Advanced RAE title
owned by Scott McSwain**



**Eukanuba Best of Breed
Judge: Elizabeth "Beth" Sweigart
BISS GCH CH Temora Ri Diercc
owned by: Zane Smith
Bred by: Julie M Seaton**

AKC Top Dogs

January 1, 2013 to December 31st, 2013*

AKC Online Stats*

Conformation Breed Totals (Top 10)

- 1 GCH CH Ryba's Call Me Irresponsible
- 2 GCH CH Temora Ri Diercc
- 3 GCH CH Dunham Lake Scout Master
- 4 GCH CH P.S. Phoebe II Christhill
- 5 GCH CH Benayr Nick Of Time
- 6 GCH CH Nellyson's Mr Dont Skip The Zip
- 7 GCH CH Ryba's Gotham City Hero
- 8 GCH CH Shastakin Flying Dust Buster
- 9 GCH CH Arista Redskys Love Is All There Is
- 9 GCH CH Ryba's A Bit Risque
- 10 GCH CH Outbackred Rahna Tabor Majesty

Conformation All-Breed Totals (Top 10)

- 1 GCH CH Dunham Lake Scout Master ** 2 Best in Shows
- 2 GCH CH Temora Ri Diercc
- 3 GCH CH Ryba's Call Me Irresponsible
- 4 GCH CH Nellyson's Mr Don't Skip The Zip
- 5 GCH CH Benayr Nick Of Time
- 6 GCH CH Shastakin Flying Dust Buster
- 7 GCH CH Ryba's Gotham City Hero
- 8 GCH CH P.S. Phoebe II Christhill
- 9 GCH CH Arista Redskys Love Is All There Is
- 10 CH Temora American Maid

Agility MACH Competition**

** Sorted by the Score (Double Q's x 10) + MACH points

- 1 MACH2 Merrigang Benjamin Matlock MXS MJG
- 2 MACH Tak-A-Chance Cole Hamels MXB MJB XF
- 3 Feathertop Melbourne Outbackred MX MXB MXJ MJS
- 4 GCH CH Merrigangs Wild N Crazy Guy RN MX MXJ ME EE2
- 5 Abq Kacy Christhill MX MXJ MJB OF
- 6 Tak-A-Chance Time Honored RE AX AXJ NF CAA RATO

AKC New Titles

This is a listing of New Titles from April 2013 to June 2013. This listing is for ATCA 'Owner' Members only

October 2013

CHAMPION

CH Dreamweaver's General Stonewall Jackson

Breeder: Lisa Weaver

Owner: Lisa Weaver & Dr Brian Spilker

GRAND CHAMPION

GCH CH Pineterri Gabby Go Girl

Breeder: Gerard T Walsh

Owner: Gerard T Walsh

RALLY ADVANCED EXCELLENT

Roachan's Kayi Drifting Snow RAE

Breeder: Ann Roache & Gayle Roache

Owner: Scott McSwain

COURSING ABILITY ADVANCED

Redhawk A Take On Red CAA RATN

Breeder: Eva Campbell

Owner: Penny Lewis & Eva Campbell

BEGINNER NOVICE

Zantoka Kyra Angel Hope BN RN

Breeder: Mary Freeman

Owner: Mary Freeman

Zantoka Morning Truffle BN RN

Breeder: Mary Freeman

Owner: Mary Freeman

RALLY NOVICE

GCH CH Merrigangs Wild N Crazy Guy RN MX MXJ ME EE2

Breeder: Heather Rife DVM & Susan Holsinger

Owner: Heather Rife

COMPANION DOG

CH Kambara's Aviatrix CD RN NAJ JE

Breeder: Anne Mitchell

Owner: Kim Floyd & Andrea Reyes

November 2013

CHAMPION

CH Shastakin Flying Dyson

Breeder: Mary Freeman & Esther Krom

Owner: Zoe Van Wyck De Ropp & Esther Krom

CH Tidewalker's Star Sapphire

Breeder: Caren Holtby

Owner: Susan Bachman & Teresa Schreeder

CH Wild West's Cat Dancer

Breeder: Eve Steele & Marjo Ahola

Owner: Eve Steele & Marjo Ahola

COMPANION DOG

Dreamtime Hocus Pocus CD CGC

Breeder: Marilyn Harban

Owner: Patricia Goshorn

COURSING ABILITY

Roachan's Surprise Party CA

Breeder: Ann Roache & Gayle Roache

Owner: Ann Roache & Gayle Roache

COURSING ABILITY ADVANCED

CH Shastakin Sky Dancer CAA

Breeder: Esther Krom

Owner: Esther Krom

November 2013

NOVICE BARN HUNT

Tak-A-Chance Turning 4 Home RATN

Breeder: Susan Saulvester

Owner: Susan Saulvester

CH Tak-A-Chance Time Honored RE AX AXJ NF CAA RATN

Breeder: Susan Saulvester

Owner: Susan Saulvester

OPEN BARN HUNT

CH Tak-A-Chance Time Honored RE AX AXJ NF CAA RATO

Breeder: Susan Saulvester

Owner: Susan Saulvester

December 2013

RALLY ADVANCED

Tak-A-Chance Song Sung Bleu RA NA NAJ

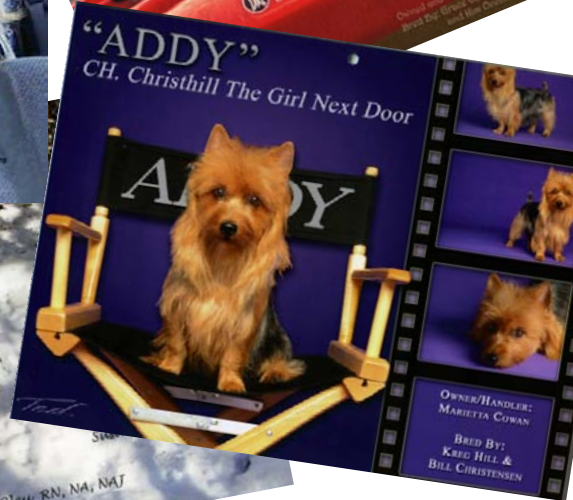
Breeder: Susan Saulvester

Owner: Susan Saulvester





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(Pictures must be high resolution for best results! **Pictures due June 15, 2014**)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Think you have the perfect picture for the **2015 Calendar COVER?**

Send your entries for the **Cover Contest** to Grace at firewalkeraussies@gmail.com

(Pictures must be high resolution for best results! **Contest closes May 15, 2014**)

Calendar Cover contest FREE and open to everyone! See ATCA website <http://www.australianterrier.org/> for rules.



*What's the point of breeding,
if each generation does not improve on what went before...*



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