

Topknot News

The newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.

Summer 2011



Photo by Bohm-Marazzo Photography

AFGHAN HOUND AGILITY
Pages 16 & 17

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from that meeting.)

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Editor's Note:

This is a special issue highlighting the performance events. Special thanks to Lynda Hicks who suggested this issue and put everything together for your enjoyment. Thanks also to the authors for their entertaining and informative articles and the wonderful photos they submitted.

This issue of TN is dedicated to the beautiful and smart Afghan Hound, whose brains were disparaged by psychologist Dr. Stanley Coren in his popular and well-known book *The Intelligence of Dogs*. This book lists the Afghan Hound as the least intelligent of 110 breeds. We, who know and love the Afghan Hound, strongly disagree, and believe that Dr. Coren did not thoroughly research this topic before sending it to press. A copy of this issue of TN has been mailed to Dr. Coren with our compliments.

Sue Hamlin went to the circus and had a marvelous time. Read all about it on pages 14 & 15.



Rita Hendrix discovered she bred a smooth Afghan Hound. You will find her article on page 11. Rita and "Suede" will be at the 2011 National and will be found at the Library Table for a couple of hours during the Dog Class judging, on Tuesday. Stop by and visit with Rita and see Suede. You won't be disappointed!

Barb Bornstein, Editor

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TOPKNOT NEWS REPORT
By Barb Bornstein, Editor

This is a one-time report. I wanted to share with the AHCA membership the process of producing Topknot News.

Three times a year, following each AHCA Board of Directors meeting, we solicit committee reports from all committee chairs. It is through Topknot News that committees inform us, the general membership, of their activities past, present and future. Once these reports are received, I put them into the computer and do a quick read through. Next, the reports are emailed to Sue Hamlin and Mary Blacker for proofing. Each gal has her own method of proofing and if one misses an error, the other usually catches it. Once these ladies have completed proofing a report, they send it back to me and I make their corrections in the computer. After each correction, I really do hit the "save" key. It is then up to the computer to follow my demand or not. Quite often the computer tells me it is saving a correction, but then kicks that correction out on the way to the printer. This is why there are errors in your copies of Topknot News. Computers are not always compatible when sending, and receiving, information through the airwaves. (This is the reason we use only two font types in TN - Arial and Times New Roman - for compatibility.) Over the years of living with a computer person, I thought I had seen the computer do just about everything but just the other day I called Lee to view the latest computer antic. Unbelievable as this may sound, everything I was typing for TN was appearing on the computer screen UPSIDE DOWN! That was a new one to me!

We try to include interesting articles and photographs to stimulate membership interest and keep you reading from front to back. Sue Hamlin has become the true investigative reporter searching for interesting facts and figures to make these articles a bit more interesting. Working with Sue has been a dream. She knows how things should be done and does not hesitate to make recommendations. She is also my sounding board. Quite often Sue will make a recommendation that I imagine won't work. Each and every time this has happened, I think about it and then do exactly as she recommended in the first place. When I get down, Sue starts telling me about her childhood and I laugh so hard that I cheer right back up and get back to work on TN.

Mary Blacker is wonderful in her TN duties as well, and finds great photos and articles, from the past, for us to use. Mary is outstanding at keeping things above board and clean. She recently caught a spelling error that both Sue and I had missed and when I read the typo the way it was written I laughed for hours. If the computer decided not to accept Mary's correction, I guarantee you would be laughing for hours too.

Once we have the reports together, I proceed with the general layout. This is time consuming because each page must be pre-designed, prior to inserting the report. One page may take only five minutes to lay out, while another page may take three hours. It all depends on the space available, the photos submitted with the article, and the font size. When the layout is completed, a committee chair will often email and ask to change something in their article. Their changes/corrections, etc. are always inserted into their reports, but doing this can change everything accomplished so far in the layout. We allow these addi-

tions/changes because these are important to the committee chair's report.

When it comes to visual appearance, Lee steps in. He uses his critical eye moving through TN page by page to make certain everything is properly in line and that we haven't hidden text outside of the printing parameters of the software. Lee has become invaluable to TN and without him we would be nowhere!

Suzanne Eaton Duay receives the final copy of TN. Suzanne has the final word on everything and she is always the last "fresh eye" to see TN prior to publication. She manages to find all sorts of things that Sue, Mary and I have missed. Suzanne is possibly the easiest person in the world to work with. Her soft-spoken soothing approach, always relaxes me prior to TN publication.

Melinda Brown is the most organized person I know and her duties of TN distribution are the most crucial. When all goes well (meaning no screw-ups by me or the printer), Melinda takes the bull by the horns and gets TN distributed to you, the membership. First, she purchases the required number of envelopes necessary for mailing TN to the membership. Then she hand-stamps each and every one of the over 330 envelopes with a return address stamp and then hand-labels each of these envelopes. When Melinda receives the boxes of the printed TN, one copy is inserted into an envelope, along with the Members Only Page and any additional inserts. Next, she drives to the post office to have that envelope and its contents weighed. There she purchases the necessary number of postage stamps required for mailing each TN. She drives back home, stuffs the TN, and other inserts, into the already hand-stamped and hand labeled envelopes, seals the envelopes and places the proper postage on each envelope. Then she loads the car with the ready to mail boxes of TN, drives back to the post office and stuffs the Unites States Post Office mail boxes full. Confused? Melinda's not and that's why you receive your copy of Topknot News in a timely fashion.

Linda Jackson is vitally important to the TN team. Melinda and I spend significant dollars of our own money in order to print and mail each TN publication to you, the membership. When TN is completed, Melinda and I submit our receipts to Linda, who is, without question, the most efficient Treasurer in the world. Linda never makes us wait for our money, immediately mailing checks to us in order to cover our expenses. We love Linda Jackson!

Lynda Hicks joined the TN team for this issue and is a marvelous person to work with. It was Lynda who suggested featuring the performance events in this issue of TN. She solicited and organized all the performance event articles. Her hard work will be evident as you scroll through this issue. Lynda may be one of the hardest workers we know.

As Editor of Topknot News, it is usually me who receives the wonderful and complimentary emails from the AHCA membership. In the future please include all of the above ladies, and Lee, in your compliments. They put as much work into TN as I do and each one cares deeply for our breed. They, along with you, the contributing membership, are the real heart and soul of Topknot News.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Submitted by AHCA President,
Brenda Brody

AHCA SURVEY RESULTS
Submitted On Behalf Of
The Constitution and By-Laws Committee

One of the major topics continues to be the length of time required for an applicant to have owned Afghan Hounds before applying for membership to the AHCA. The By-Laws Committee is working to address this and other issues within the club. They sent a survey to the membership and because the majority responded that they prefer a 7-year time, the board changed their guideline from 4 years to again 7 years. It is hoped that there will be a By-Laws amendment ballot soon so that the membership will actually have the opportunity to vote on this issue and it can be put to rest.

At the last board meeting the written legal opinion was presented from Michael Malamut, a lawyer licensed in NY and a teacher of parliamentary procedure. He was asked to respond to the membership time issue and if the board's time guidelines were valid. He reiterated that the board has the right to set guidelines for their use and that the membership has the right to override a negative vote on membership at the general meeting. In addition, if the membership wants to set the requirement for a time limit, then it must do so in a By-Laws amendment. This repeats what was reported at the last specially called general meeting. His opinion was that the board has the authority to set and change the guidelines, as they deem necessary. If the membership wants to set the time qualification then a By-Laws amendment to include the time is necessary.

Consequently, those people with less than 7 years experience had their application fees refunded with the explanation that the membership would be making the determination through a By-Laws amendment ballot soon. They were also encouraged to resend their application fee, as we are holding their applications until this decision is determined by the membership vote.

The 2013 Breeder's Cup was approved for the Detroit area and we hope to have a decision for the 2013 National scheduled for the western region at our next meeting. If any of you have ideas or places that should be considered, please contact Cal Evetts at cal.evetts@gmail.com

In September, our next big event, the AHCA National Specialty will be the 25th – 29th. Please see the special section devoted to the upcoming event in Ohio and chaired by Jody Gardner. She and her committee are diligently working to make this 75th Anniversary Show very special and one you will not want to miss. In addition, there will be a CHIC health clinic for all dogs over 1 year for thyroid testing and over 2 years for hip and eye testing. Be sure to bring your dog's registration info and permanent ID info. A microchip scanner will be available. See page 42 for further info on this event.

Brenda Brody
President
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On May 27, 2011, Tim F. Tjaden, CPA, Inc., certified the results of the survey that was sent to all members regarding the number of years of active participation in the breed required to be considered for membership in the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. The following are the results:

We hereby certified that we have counted all of the ballots to be postmarked no later than May 20, 2011, for the AHCA Survey #1 of May 2011. The results are listed below, following your policies and procedures from 703.2, 703.3, 703.4 and 703.5

Length of time for continuous participation & Number of Votes Received

Seven (7) years for membership in AHCA	145
Four (4) years for membership in AHCA	78
Other years:	
Zero (0)	9
One (1)	2
Two (2)	18
Three (3)	3
Five (5)	14

Total Number of Ballots Postmarked by May 20, 2011:	269
Total Number of Ballots Invalid (improperly marked):	0
Total Number of Ballots Invalid (no return address):	0
Total Number of Unopened Envelopes (no return address):	0
Total Number of Unopened Envelopes (after deadline):	7

We hereby certify the results of the AHCA Membership Survey # 1 for May 2011, on this day, May 27, 2011.

Sincerely,
Tim F. Tjaden, CPA

MEMBERSHIP AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

The ad hoc committee on Membership/By-Laws was appointed by the AHCA Board after the Special Membership Meeting in March. The Committee consists of Betty Stites, Lex Robertson, Darlyn Pfeiffer, and Connie Butherus. We have conferred on a regular basis by email and conference calls. Our goal is to determine the wishes of the membership using surveys, communicating the survey results to the AHCA Board and general membership, working with the AKC to formulate appropriate and required content for the By-Laws and recommending to the Board the By-Laws changes regarding membership.

The first survey was sent to the general membership in May. The results were sent to the AHCA Board in time for their June 4th meeting. The general membership was sent the result by email on June 17, 2011 by AHCA Board member Sandy Nelson. (See AHCA Survey Results Above)

We are now working on the next survey that will request the membership's response to the possibility of additional non-voting categories of membership. Also we are in consultation with Club Relations at the American Kennel Club as any and all By-Laws changes must be approved by them.

As members of the AHCA, it is vital to the outcome for you to respond to the surveys. This determines the result, and thus the future of our Parent Club. We urge you to respond and be counted. It is you, the members, who lead in this matter.

In the first survey of the 400 sent, only 269 were returned by the required postmark date. LET US DO BETTER NEXT TIME.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Committee on Membership/By-Laws



WHAT DO ALL THOSE LETTERS MEAN?????

Submitted by Lynda Hicks

Ever see something like this:

DC Royal Afghan Prince, CD, RAE, MC, LCX, TD, NA, OAP, FCh, ORC and think, “That looks like an impressive stream of titles . . . I wonder what on earth it means?”

While most of us are familiar with the prefix title CH and are becoming more familiar with GCH and the new subsequent levels of that, many of those “other” initials still remain a mystery. I’ve tried to present here simplified explanations of some of the abbreviations of titles that you may see attached to Afghan Hounds’ names.

There are two kinds of titles – those that go before a dog’s name (prefix) and those that go after a dog’s name (suffix).

AKC LURE COURSING:

FC (p)	Field Champion	15 Points, 2 majors under 2 different judging panels
JC (s)	Junior Courser	Running alone, 2 qualifying runs, 2 judges
SC (s)	Senior Courser	4 additional Qualifying Scores after earning JC, with competition, 2 judges
MC (s)	Master Courser	25 additional Qualifying Scores after earning SC, with competition
LCX(s)	Lure Courser Excellent	45 additional Points after earning FC, cumulative – each additional 45 points = next level (LCX2, LCX3, etc.)

(p)=Prefix Title / (s) = Suffix Title

A dog who has earned an AKC Conformation title PLUS an AKC Field Champion title is designated a DUAL CHAMPION (DC). 104 Afghan Hounds have earned the Dual Champion title in the 20 years since AKC Lure Coursing began in 1991.

OTHER COURSING/RACING (prefix):

A number of Afghan Hounds also compete in lure coursing events offered by the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) and/or Oval Track racing offered by the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA). Two Afghan Hounds were ranked in the Top 25 NOTRA all breeds for the years 1998 thru 2003.

FCh	ASFA Field Champion	100 points / 2-1 st place or 1-1 st and 2-2 nd placements
LCM	ASFA Lure Courser of Merit	Additional 300 points and 4-1 st placements earned after FCh. – cumulative – each addl. 300 points + 4 - 1 st placements = next level (LCM2, LCM3, etc.)
ORC	NOTRA Oval Racing Champion	Run 3 heats of 4 dogs on oval track, coming out of a starting box. Points are earned on a graded system based on speed and experience.

COURSING ABILITY TESTING (suffix):

AKC recently started offering a new titling event - Coursing Ability Testing. This is a coursing instinct test open to all breeds of dogs, and since Afghan Hounds ARE a breed of dog (even though many won’t admit it), I expect we’ll be seeing these titles at the end of Afghan Hounds’ names soon. Each qualifying run is a dog running alone for 600 yards with 4 turns in under 2 minutes.

CA	Coursing Ability	3 Qualifying runs under 2 judges
CAA	Coursing Ability Advanced	10 additional Qualifying runs
CAX	Coursing Ability Excellent	25 additional Qualifying runs after CAA, cumulative – each additional 25 points = next level (CAX2, CAX3, etc.)



The front dog in the photo is: "Nike" - Am Can Ch Kabik's My Nite in Shiny Armer, Am & Can FCh, ORC, SC

OBEDIENCE (suffix):

Each subsequent level contains more difficult tasks

BN	Beginner Novice	3 Qualifying Scores, under 2 judges (all on-lead)
CD	Companion Dog	3 Qualifying Scores, under 2 judges (some off-lead)
GN	Graduate Novice	3 Qualifying Scores, under 3 judges
CDX	Companion Dog Excellent	3 Qualifying Scores, under 3 judges (starts all off-lead)
GO	Graduate Open	3 Qualifying Scores, under 3 judges
UD	Utility Dog	3 Qualifying Scores, under 3 judges
UDX	Utility Dog Excellent	Qualifying scores in both Open B and Utility B at 10 trials. Cumulative – each time a dogs receives 10 additional qualifying scores in both classes = next level (UDX2, UDX3, etc.)

There is a prefix title for an Obedience Trial Champion "OTCH" but no Afghan Hounds have earned that title as of 5/1/11.

RALLY (suffix):

Each subsequent level contains more tasks, and more difficult tasks.

RN	Rally Novice	3 Qualifying Scores, under 2 judges (all on-lead)
RA	Rally Advanced	3 Qualifying Scores, under 3 judges (starts all off-lead)
RE	Rally Excellent	3 Qualifying Scores, under 3 judges
RAE	Rally Advanced Excellent	Qualifying scores in both Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent at 10 trials. Cumulative – each time a dog receives 10 additional. qualifying scores in both classes = next level (RAE2, RAE3, etc.).

TRACKING (suffix):

TD	Tracking Dog	Pass a tracking test, under 2 judges; follow a track 440 to 500 yards long with three to five changes in direction. The track is "aged" – that is, there is a wait between 30 minutes to 2 hours after the scent track is laid before the dog begins its test.
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There have been 5 Afghan Hounds to earn the TD title. Subsequent more difficult levels exist, but as of 5/1/11, no Afghan Hound has progressed past the TD title.

Continued on Page 8....

AGILITY:

Agility is the most confusing, because there are 3 different areas in which a dog can earn a title, and two different jump height options (regular and preferred). In the **Preferred** (P) classes, the dog does everything the regular competitors do, except jumps a reduced jump height for the “preferred” titles. This is very useful for young or old dogs, or those new to the sport, or who may be injured or infirm but who still love to participate.

The classes are:

Standard Agility (A) - in Standard competition, in addition to jumps, weaves and tunnels, the dog takes obstacles such as the “A Frame,” “Seesaw,” “Dog walk” and “Chute” in a sequence determined by the judge, and within an allotted time frame.

Jumps with Weaves (JWW) - the field for this event does not contain any obstacles, but only jumps, weave poles and a tunnel, which the dog takes in a sequence determined by the judge, and within an allotted time frame.

Fast (F) - just what it sounds like - the judge sets up a course where the dog earns a certain number of points for each obstacle taken, in a sequence to be determined by the handler - basically, the dog that accumulates the most points within the shortest time wins!

The first four levels of competition, (Novice, Open, Excellent, Master Excellent) all require that a dog earn “Q’s” (Qualifying scores) under 2 different judges. As a dog advances through each level, the number of “Q’s”, difficulty and speed of the course increases, and the number of allowable errors decreases.

(all suffix titles)

Novice 3 Q’s	Open 3 Q’s	Excellent 3 Q’s	Master Excellent 10 Q’s	
NA	OA	AX	MX	Standard Agility
NAJ	OAJ	AXJ	MXJ	Jumpers with Weaves
NF	OF	AXF	MXF	Fast
NP	OAP	AXP	MXP	Standard Agility Preferred
NJP	OJP	AJP	MJP	Jumpers with Weaves Preferred
NFP	OFF	XFP	MFP	Fast Preferred

THEN YOU GET TO THE HARD PART! There are three advanced title levels which include the only 2 prefix titles offered in Agility. Each of these titles requires that a dog achieve 20 “DQ’s” – no, this doesn’t mean Dairy Queen! “DQ” means Double Qualifying scores, and is earned each time the dog qualifies in both the Excellent Standard and the Excellent Jumpers With Weaves class on the same day. They must do this with a perfect score of 100 - NO errors - and within a certain time limit.

PAX (p)	Preferred Agility Excellent	20 Double Q Scores
PACH (s)	Preferred Agility Champion	20 Double Q Scores PLUS a minimum of 750 Championship Points from the Preferred Class.
MACH (s)	Master Agility Champion	20 Double Q Scores PLUS a minimum of 750 Championship Points from the Regular Jump Height Class.

(p)=Prefix Title / (s) = Suffix Title

MACH is the ULTIMATE Agility title, and is cumulative with a numeric designation indicating the number of times the dog has met the MACH requirements, i.e. MACH2, MACH3, etc.

There have been at least 3* Afghan Hounds to have achieved the coveted and very difficult MACH title. The highest level of MACH earned by an Afghan Hound as of 5/1/11 is 5.

Obviously, I haven’t covered all possible titles, and I only included an overview of requirements for earning titles. If you are interested in more in-depth information, please go to the appropriate website:

- AKC <http://www.akc.org/events/titles.cfm>
- ASFA <http://www.asfa.org>
- NOTRA <http://www.notraracing.org>

*Author’s Note: *AKC wasn’t able to provide exact statistics on the MACH because of the way their records are kept and the cumulative status of that title.*



HAVE FUN WITH YOUR HOUND

Submitted by
Julie Messersmith

It's probably safe to say that most of us were initially attracted to Afghan Hounds due to their exotic look, dignified character and interesting coat pattern. Once in our lives, however, we discover they are more than just hair. They are intelligent, funny, mischievous, athletic thieves with a propensity to chase small furry or feathered animals. Many of us choose to concentrate on cultivating their luxurious coats and exhibiting them in the conformation show ring or enjoying them regally reclining on the couch. While you are grooming for hours at a time, do you ever feel you would like to do more and explore some of the other interesting aspects of the Afghan Hound? As you know, Afghan Hounds are represented in many doggy activities such as lure coursing, obedience, rally obedience and agility. If this sounds like fun to you, let's take a look at some of the training tools you might need in order to get started with your Afghan Hound in some of these activities.



1. First and foremost, it's all about a positive attitude. If we think they can do it and we project that attitude, then they will! Their responses may be creative, but they'll be happy and you'll both have a lot of fun. Our hounds are not the easiest breed to train but every breed has its challenges. We aren't alone in that respect. Believe in your Afghan Hound and discover how to work around his innate characteristics, and enjoy the process. It's also very important to work with a trainer who has a positive attitude about teaching you and your hound. If you show up with your hound and the trainer rolls his eyes, run the other direction!



2. Second, try to approach training from a hound perspective. We are all aware of the need to use positive training methods with our hounds but also consider things from an Afghan Hound's point of view. Remember they were bred to hunt independently from their owners, so they have no use or

desire for any directions from their humans. As we are all aware, they really don't care if they please you - they are all

about themselves and what's in it for them. Knowing this, you must make learning worthwhile for them or they will do what they believe is best for themselves. Of course, they may do this anyway on occasion! To keep my guys motivated, I mix my food rewards up and carry a buffet of delectable goodies during training so they never know what is next - steak, chicken, liver or...? The variety certainly keeps them interested! If you can get your Afghan Hound to play with toys, that is even better than food. Rozie has been my only Afghan Hound who enjoyed toys in training and went crazy for her bunny fur rat. Try to think outside the box and invent ways to stimulate their innate chase instinct. Lure whips and long soft toys are fun motivators for them to chase through tunnels, chutes or even the weave poles to build drive. Anya loves to chase thrown food or her bunny fur treat bag, the best of both worlds! The more creative you are, the less creative they will be.



3. Specific physical characteristics to keep in mind are their far-sightedness, great peripheral vision and motion sensitivity which are all useful in hunting. It's taken me a long time to realize how these affect their responses in agility. No wonder they resist going into a dark tunnel from a foot away, they can't even see it! Give them some room to see what they are going to do and they will be much more cooperative. With their peripheral vision, they also seem to like some lateral distance. I have a

tendency to babysit and if I get too close, I can easily push them around a jump or off to another obstacle by inadvertently crowding them. I have also noticed they are very sensitive to my body movements, one twitch of a shoulder too soon or too late and we miss something. As I am not typically very coordinated, this happens a lot!



4. An extremely important tool you must have is a sense of humor. Your Afghan Hound sure has one and he will invent all sorts of ways to perform tasks his way if he so chooses. The description in the standard stating, "Aloof and dignified, yet gay," is there for a reason! Linus discovered the more he did things his way, the more the audience laughed and it was downhill from there. He had a great time entertaining us.

There will be times when what you thought was your perfectly trained hound may act as though he has never learned a thing in his life. In my experience, my Afghan Hounds enjoy doing this in very public venues such as the National. You should learn to expect the unexpected - one day they are perfect and the next day they are clowns. I've learned to laugh along with everyone else and enjoy my independent, funny hounds. Did I mention a sense of humor is important? I'm sure I will be demonstrating this with my next agility prospects, they are both characters.

Continued on Page 10....

Continued from Page 9...



5. Next, patience and persistence should definitely be in your toolbox since training our hounds takes time and effort. Our intelligent Afghan Hounds learn quickly and typically do not tolerate repetition so you will need to keep training sessions short, energetic and fun.

It's much better to train more often for shorter periods than to train in longer sessions. If your hound performs the task well, reward him profusely and quit while you are ahead. Always leave them wanting more, Rozie and Anya will stand in the middle of the agility field while I walk back to the house. They can't believe we are done! If your hound is not understanding what you are trying to teach, break the task into smaller steps and reward for success or just go back to what they know so you can reward them and end on a positive note. You will both be happier for your next session!

Finally, plan your training session ahead of time so you aren't wandering around deciding what to do while your hound gets bored watching you. Another idea is to work on something different each time to mix it up and keep things interesting. This also keeps you from getting bored! Classes can be difficult because they are usually an hour long with some down time. I will crate my dogs in between turns or tie them to the fence to keep them from standing around and wilting while our classmates work through their own issues. By their turn, they are usually ready to go and participate in anticipation of those wonderful treats I carry around!

Our special hounds are more than just couch covers and I hope this will motivate you to partner with yours to explore the many unique aspects which embody the Afghan Hound. Armed with a positive attitude, you and your beloved hounds can have a lot of fun!



Therapy Dogs Submitted by Claudia Jakus

Do you have an Afghan Hound with a rock solid temperament? Are you the type of person who enjoys helping children learn to read, visiting with elderly people and bringing just a few minutes of joy into their lives? If you can answer "yes" to these questions, perhaps you should look into working with a therapy dog program.

I have had 4 therapy dogs over the years and it has to be one of the most rewarding disciplines I have ever participated in with my dogs.

It does not take a whole lot of work to become a therapy dog. I like to say "basic" obedience is about all they need. Sit, down, come on leash, stand to be brushed, watch children run by, be around wheelchairs and walkers, let something drop on the floor and not have the dog get out of hand, leave the room by yourself

and not have the dog suffer separation issues. These are a few of about 20 different exercises they must pass.

My dog and I go to a local hospital every other week. We are granted access to every unit in the hospital except obstetrics and nursery (mothers and new babies), and of course, surgery. We go into ICU, Cardiac ICU, and the Emergency Room, to mention a few areas where you would not think dogs would be allowed. This particular program is probably the hardest because we are working with 2-4 dogs per unit so the dogs must be well behaved around each other.

Reading programs through the schools are popular in the winter. Reading is the most important skill a child can learn – all you need is to participate in one of these programs to realize how difficult it is for some children to read. If the children don't keep reading through the summer, when school goes back into session in September they will have lost considerable reading skills. Many libraries now sponsor reading programs just to help children keep reading, especially through the summer months.

Nursing homes and assisted living facilities are also areas where therapy dogs are working and are needed.

I just inquired about a program in our area in which the dogs go into a courtroom setting with either children who have been physically abused, or veterans returning home from the war who have gotten themselves in a little hot water. Having the dogs in the court tends to relax everyone - including the judge.

I visit a nursing home for elderly priests and brothers of the Jesuit order. Just think about it, these gentlemen have no wives, no children, and few have living siblings, so who comes to visit them? These are very educated individuals, most with master degrees or PHDs. The stories they tell can be fascinating, and the joy the visit brings to their day is immeasurable.

While an Afghan Hound doesn't usually give kisses or do tricks, they do stimulate conversation and that is what many elderly people are looking for - just someone to spend some time with them. I have had people tell me the dogs' visits are better than medicine, especially hospital patients who are missing their own animals. One lady told me, "Sometimes you just need something to hug" as she reached over to hug my dog.

Just this week the AKC has instituted a new program for therapy dogs. If your dogs are tested with an approved Therapy Dog Program and have done 50 documented visits, AKC will award one more set of letters to put behind their name. I am not sure what those are going to be as they certainly cannot be "TD" which is tracking dog.* I am proud to say **Encore**, my guy, has done his 50 visits since May 2010 - one year ago. So his application will be sent in (along with my \$20.00 fee, of course). This will be a title that I will be extremely proud of having achieved.

The two most active therapy dog programs in the U.S. are Therapy Dogs International (TDI) www.tdi-dog.org, and Delta Society – www.deltasociety.org Find out which is doing work in your area, and start participating. It will be one of the most gratifying things you can do with your dog. You will not receive a ribbon, but the rewards will be much greater than you could ever expect.

**Ed's Note: The new title will be a suffix THD, effective June 27, 2011. Learn more at: www.akc.org/akctherapydog*

SUEDE THE LUCKBAK
Submitted by Rita Hendrix

Luckbak, also called Loghaar – a smooth-coated Afghan Hound.



A little bit about us. Mark and I have owned and loved Afghan Hounds since 1977, most of his US Navy career. We saw our first Afghan Hound late in 1977 while stationed in Mayport, Florida. Her name was Rapunzel. She was the most beautiful creature I had ever seen. A little short and slightly overweight, a black and tan pet—however, it was love at first sight.

It wasn't until our three sons were grown that I had the opportunity to pursue one of my dreams, showing an Afghan Hound. I had gone to many shows to watch, my beloved breed but I



found it was very difficult to acquire one. I did acquire one however, and had our first litter in 2000. All the puppies went to pet homes except one, and she is Cher, now 10 ½ years old.

In 2001 I acquired our "Kat" from Woody and Sue Russell of Topflite Kennels. Many of Kat's littermates went on to become AKC champions. In 2003 I bred Kat to her uncle Hap. The puppies were placed in both show

and pet homes. Two became AKC champions, one of which is the sire of the famous "Dream Team" bred by Brenda Burns in Ontario Canada and whelped in 2005. Our pick puppy from that litter, Jazira, is my first owner/handled Afghan Hound champion, and our first Afghan Hound to lure course. She obtained her Senior Courser Title at the 2009 AHCA National in Lancaster, Pa.

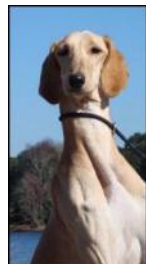
In March 2010 we bred Jazira to a dog owned and bred by Meg and Bill Turner of Silkwood Hounds. The "Purple" litter arrived on May 9, Mother's Day, and to his credit, my husband Mark whelped his first litter! There were 7 puppies, two males and five females. Two of the cream girls looked like identical twins, and we needed to look at the paw pad markings to tell

them apart. Later one of these two puppies would be named Suede.

At three weeks of age, we noticed that six of the puppies had started growing puppy fuzz and one cream female didn't. She just looked a little different. By week four to five, I was panicked that something was seriously wrong with this little girl. I called my good friend, Colleen Feldman to ask her what she thought. Colleen assured me that it was OK and that although this little girl was a rare surprise, she was a smooth coated Afghan Hound! Mark and I were relieved to hear this because we had never heard of a smooth coated Afghan Hound. However, I have found over the past year many others in our breed have never heard of a smooth coated Afghan Hound either.

We have become involved with two different companies and their ongoing genetic and DNA testing as to the cause of smooth coats. Actually, I should say, what causes the coats to grow long. The research is indicating the smooth coats are the original Afghan Hound. It seems the sequencing of the FGF5 gene for a normal longhaired Afghan Hound has a mutation in the gene that almost certainly causes the Afghan Hound's long hair. I found this news to be very exciting and enlightening indeed.

Our girl, named Suede, is a wonderful addition to our family. She is swift and agile in our back yard when running free with her littermates. Only last week she was walking and hopping behind me, and as I looked over my shoulder there she was at eye level on legs that are very much like and comparable to springs! She is gentle and loving, but does enjoy rough housing with her litter sisters in a good game of tag.



We do watch over Suede to protect her at times because her lack of coat does allow nicks in her ear leather and a scrape mark in her coat that her coated sisters escape. The length of her coat is approximately one fourth of an inch long all over.

She is the old type apricot/cream color with pale cream to white underbelly. She stands twenty five and one half inches at the shoulder. Her bark is a high pitched squeal that can be ear piercing at times. When she squeals, the others seem to follow suit with their somewhat lower pitched howls. It is quite the hound chorus at our house sometimes. She does have a tendency to chill easily and often requires a fuzzy blanket in air conditioned rooms. Her body to touch seems extra warm at times.

We have had many compliments on how beautiful Suede is, and I have had many who have asked to purchase her. They are mostly Afghan Hound people who no longer want, nor are able, to take care of those stunningly beautiful long coats but still want to live with the charm of our breed. I would love to see the Afghan Hound community accept these smooth coated elegant creatures which the most recent genetic testing is indicating perhaps are the origin of our beloved breed.

Interesting Articles On Smooth Coats:

www.afghanen.nl/surpriseseng.htm

Also google "smooth afghan gallery" for more photos and articles on the smooth coated Afghan Hound.

Ed's Note: Rita and Suede will be at the Library Table, in the main ballroom, during dog class judging at the upcoming AHCA National Specialty Show. Stop by and see Suede and ask Rita your questions about this delightful Afghan Hound bitch.



CARSON...
NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE
 Submitted by Sandy Frei

Carson, officially known as Ch. Stormhill's Look N' Good In Red, CD, RN, CGC began his work as a therapy dog two years ago when we enrolled in the Reading With Rover program in Seattle. Reading With Rover was started in our area by Becky Bishop who was also Carson's teacher when he went to puppy kindergarten.

He first had to pass a therapy dog test similar to the Delta Society test that they use for therapy dogs. Then we had to do 10 hours of in-service training at the libraries and bookstores that put on the Reading With Rover program. He has now been an official Reading With Rover dog for almost a year.

Early this year a good friend of mine who works with the Reading With Rover program asked me if I would be interested in working with the special needs kids at Woodmoor Elementary school in Bothell, WA. I shadowed her one day with the kids she was working with to see if I thought Carson could handle it.

In March, we began working with Miss Heidi's class of fourth grade special needs students. All of the students were boys. Several of the children were autistic, one boy had Down's syndrome and another was confined to a wheelchair. Every Wednesday morning at 10 am we would go to the school and walk with each boy individually. Carson had two leashes on him. I would hold one and the boy we were working with would hold the other. We would take a loop around the inside of the school. Whenever we met someone in the hallway who would want to meet Carson, the boy would have to tell the person his name and give permission to pet him. Carson, became that boy's dog for the short period of time that we would walk together. By the end of our year together I could really see a difference in the boys' verbal skills when they talked about Carson.

Carson usually wears his snood when we would go for our walks. One day I took it off for the boys to see his long hair on his ears. One of the boys had a startling revelation when he realized that Carson's ear was actually attached to his head!

We even used our time together to practice sits and downs. I would ask the kids which trick would they like to see Carson do. They always got a kick out of seeing him do what they asked of him.

Our time at Woodmoor was very rewarding and Miss Heidi has asked us to return to her classroom next year in the fall. It was a wonderful experience. Each child had his own trials to deal with and each child always had a smile on their face when they were with Carson. It was also interesting when we would go up and down the stairs, Carson would always adjust his pace to that of the child he was walking with.

This summer Carson is signed up to be a Reading With Rover dog at the Woodmoor elementary school summer reading program. He will be back in school on July 13.

Carson is five years old and no longer in conformation but will soon be entering Advanced Rally.



Ode to an Afghan Hound
 by ~rt|artic

Ode to an Afghan Hound

What glorious waves!

What air of nobility!

O, you are a work of art!

Straight fur! More straight fur!

There's never such thing as too much straight fur!

You stand with a regal air,

Your slender snout hides a warm smile.

Or is it an aristocratic swagger?

Along with a little wag of your curly tail?

Did I sense aloofness in your eyes?

O, no matter!

O, just sway yourself again!

And again!

And again!

Your fur! O, your fur!

Their languid sway!

O, Every single strand, moving in concert!

Like the waves of some ocean.

With your Cappuccino-froth colour.

People turn heads when I walk with you.

You, with your aristocratic strut.

Your pointy snout held high.

Up, and proud to the sun.

You're the sly stealer of attention.

Even the yappy dogs stop barking.

To stare at you.

Frozen to the feet.

To gawk, and to be voyeurs of their own canine souls.

What glorious waves!

What air of nobility!



**THE HOWS AND WHYS OF
CHIC TESTING**
Submitted by Health Chair,
Eileen Laudermitch RN CCRN

At the general membership meeting in Sacramento, CA in 2010, the issue of “health promotion” was raised. One of the objectives of the AHCA is to “preserve and protect the breeding of pure-bred Afghan Hounds and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.” The general membership stated if the AHCA is to “talk the talk” we must “walk the walk.” This consensus led to the requirement of CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) testing for all future Breeders’ Cups beginning in 2013. The agreed upon requirements would be hips, eyes and thyroid. The results must be properly submitted to OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) to receive a CHIC number. Incidentally, a passing score is not required to receive a number; just the owner’s permission to publish the results.

HIP EXAMS: The hip x-rays are taken and processed at a qualified vet’s office and these films will be submitted, with the proper OFA form and fees, for interpretation. The OFA prefers the dog be under anesthesia for the exam to allow non-restrictive positioning, however this is not required. This information needed is included on the forms to be submitted with the films. Permanent identification in the form of a chip or tattoo is also required by OFA.

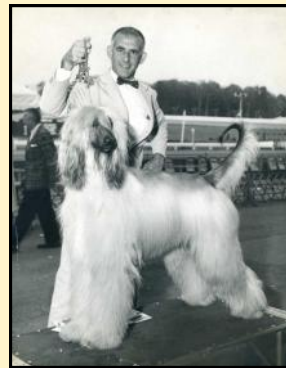
CERF TESTING: The eye exams are only to be done by a member of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology to be certified free of disease. Please remember that the dog’s pupils are dilated for these exams. Data is only submitted once a month to OFA and may result in some lag time. Certain conditions apply: 1. An existing OFA record; 2. A current CERF (Canine Eye Registration Foundation) exam; 3. Identical name and number information registered with each organization.

THYROID TESTING: This testing is to detect autoimmune thyroiditis which is a hereditary problem. This test will also detect idiopathic reduced thyroid dysfunction. These two types will be defined by the registry. All other abnormal results that are not definitive are considered equivocal. It is recommended to repeat the test in three to six months. At this time, there are no allowances for sighthounds in that they often are reported “low” but are normal for that breed. These differences are currently under study and as yet are not a consideration. The blood sample is collected at any vet’s office and submitted to an approved OFA lab with the OFA fees, the proper forms, and the lab fees. The vet must request an “OFA Thyroid Panel.” Two cc’s of serum are needed. The blood sample is allowed to clot in a plain tube and then spun to separate the serum. The serum must be sent labeled with the owner’s name, animal’s identification, date of collection and “OFA Thyroid Panel.” If the sample is to be stored more than 12 hours frozen storage is recommended. Serum arrived un-chilled, or at room temperature, within 48 hours of collection will be accepted. Samples arriving past this time limit must be either chilled or frozen when received or will not be accepted. Important things to note also are: 1. Female

dogs should not be tested during an estrus cycle; 2. It is preferred the dog fast for approximately eight (8) hours prior to testing; 3. Dates of latest vaccinations should be noted on the application; 4. It is advisable not to obtain samples on a Friday due to possible delays in the shipment time to the lab.

For your convenience, a CHIC clinic will be available at the 2011 National in Ohio. The hip x-rays will be off site. Please schedule your times in advance. Please remember that the CHIC testing is to protect our breed and the Breeders’ Cup is only one show in your dog’s life.

Note: I am hoping to develop a health link, in the future, on the Parent Club Web Site regarding different diseases. If you, or someone you know, has information on specific problems, please notify me directly at : herrhounds2@cox.net



Ned Kauffman
6/12/1915 – 4/28/2011

Written by Sue Hamlin (with thanks to Sharon Watson and Marg Patterson-Kauffman)

Edmund J. Kauffman (Ned) passed away in April, just shy of his 96th birthday. Born in Ohio, Ned was a cum laude graduate of Princeton class of 1938.

Known along with his wife Sue for their Holly Hill Afghan Hounds, the Kauffmans owned two bitches that were the top producers for many years (Ch. Samaris of Moornistan produced 17 champions, and Holly Hill Indus produced 15 champions). With Ned handling, they finished many champions. Both Ned and Sue became respected and popular AKC judges.

Probably not well known, Ned was a navigator on B-17s during WWII, his 350th Bomb Squadron a member of the 8th Air Force and the Bloody 100th Bomb Group. On his final mission, Ned’s plane was shot down over Germany and he was a prisoner of war for 6 months before the end of the war. Captain Kauffman settled in Youngstown, Ohio and owned the labeling business, Atlas Excelsior. Ned and Sue retired to Sarasota in 1972. After Sue’s death in the late 90s, Ned married Margretta Patterson, also a noted dog show judge. He is survived by his wife, Margretta, three daughters, three step-children and 11 grandchildren. Ned was a gentleman of the old school, in the ring or outside, his like will not be seen again.



SUSAN SHERYLL'S ROYAL AFGHAN HOUND CHAMPIONS

Written by Assistant Editor, Sue Hamlin

Quicker than the blink of an eye – yes, I did see an Afghan Hound on a TV ad, jumping through a hoop! Elephants, tigers and Afghan Hounds – oh my?

The circus was coming to town! The Royal Hanneford Circus sponsored by the Shriners was scheduled for a stop in Elmira on May 3rd! I logged on-line to learn what I could about Afghan Hounds in the circus.

Upon phoning the circus venue at our local arena, I was given Billy Martin's phone number and made a call. On Monday, May 2nd, I drove to the arena and met with Billy, a charming man who is vice-president of the Royal Hanneford Circus, the GM, ringmaster, jack-of-all-trades, and as it turns out, practically a local. He hails from Olean, NY about 100 miles west of Elmira. When I introduced myself and told him that I hoped for an introduction to the lady with the Afghan Hounds in order to interview her for **Top-knot News**, he told me that she was with another Hanneford circus unit in Maine and would not be performing locally. Then he explained with a twinkle that Susan Sheryll Zoppe would most likely be either training or brushing. He did call her and then shared her phone number with me, and I did connect with Susan later that day. She is a delightful lady who adores her Afghan Hounds and she shared her story with me.

Born in 1950 into a circus family, Susan at age 14, opened an encyclopedia to the page that just happened to show a picture of an Afghan Hound. That's when she knew she wanted to own one! (Does that sound familiar?) Susan's husband Dave was also born



into a circus family – his act is with rhesus monkeys. To see a video of their acts, log on to www.davidezoppe.com. To learn more about the circus, log on to www.hannefordcircus.com.

Susan presently has 6 dogs in her act, all intact males. They are: Rio (cream), Navarr (black), Arctic (white), D'Artagnan (black-brindle, the oldest at 14 years), Toma (black-masked apricot), and the newest member of the troupe, Avatar (black-masked apricot and just over a year old). Susan purchases her dogs as puppies, usually under a year old and keeps them until they die of old age. As the dogs age, she gives them easier tricks that do not include the jumps but they are still included as part of the act.

Susan has never bred a litter. Her first dog was of Crown Crest lineage. Subsequently she has purchased her dogs from Rosemary Sutton, Heather Sheriff, Anne Evans, Pat Stephenson, Phyllis Roe, Anita Richards and others.

Over the years, she has had a total of 40 Afghan Hounds in her act, each one a very precious and beloved member of her family. Earlier in her career with Afghan Hounds, Susan did have bitches, but their coming into season, and dropping coat made them problematic for the act. Since then, she has only used males in the act and besides, Susan likes the size and the look of the stallion males.

Susan explained that she is with her dogs 24/7, and spends a great deal of time playing with and giving each dog a great deal of attention and affection. She makes their training fun and playful, with lots of verbal praising and food treats. Food treats while in the circus ring are hot dogs, cooked and cut into very tiny pieces. These are the only treats the dogs will accept while working in the ring. They seem to know when they're "on" and that's their treat of choice. Otherwise, they like biscuits and other kinds of treats. Susan feeds Nutro Natural Choice lamb and rice, adding yogurt and supplements with vitamins and minerals, including Glyclo-Flex additive daily, to keep joints strong.

As we all know, the care of an Afghan Hound's handsome coat is very time consuming. Susan brushes all dogs a little every day to keep mats from forming. Each dog gets a thorough brushing weekly and a bath every 3rd week. She uses coat spray called "The Stuff" and her shampoo and conditioner is the "Spectrum Silk Supreme" line. She says it's fabulous, and keeps their coats in beautiful shape.



A life on the road can be very tiring, but Susan and Dave travel in relative comfort, hauling 18 tons. Their motor home, housing the animals, was specially designed by Dave for the care (including grooming and bathing facilities) and comfort of Susan's Afghan Hounds and the primates in his act. They tow a "Holiday Rambler" trailer with living quarters including bathing and kitchen facilities for the couple. On tour, performing in 5-6 or more shows a week, they hit the road the end of January and perform until the end of June. After a rest of a month or so, they play fairs.

At home in Indiana, Susan and Dave's house has a fenced-in 3-acre parcel for the dogs to run and play and exercise. The dogs play together, always supervised. Since she is with them, if any growling occurs, the dogs are chastised and no fighting takes place. There is no top dog. All are equal.

When choosing a puppy, Susan looks for an extremely outgoing, friendly curious puppy that likes to play and responds well to treats. A shy pup would never make the grade. Performing before thousands

on a regular basis, calls for an unwavering steady disposition. Susan noted that her dogs' tails are always up and wagging, a sure sign of a happy hound. She teaches them one trick at a time, and the first basic job each dog learns is to sit on its seat in the ring. That is a constant and is done for almost a year before a new trick is introduced.

Susan related a recent incident where Arctic had almost completed doing his hind-leg walk of almost 80 feet, when a child's balloon burst. Arctic came down on all fours, startled by the burst, looked around, stood back up, and then came down to a sitting position from the stand. Quite an unflappable dog, I'd say. The act consists of lots of jumping, hind leg walking, a Persian cat on the back of an Afghan Hound (wearing a jacket to prevent the cat's claws from digging in).

Susan told me, "the dogs are my life; they are my motivation to work as hard as I do in the business I am in. I want everyone to realize they are not just "long coats" but are actually extremely intelligent and have a remarkable learning capability. My Afghan Hounds are proof of it. What they do still amazes me after all these years. I can't give it up, because they bring so much joy into my life. I will always have Afghan Hounds, they are very special to me, and are very loyal and dedicated to me. It's a bond that cannot be described."



By the way, even though I didn't meet Susan in person, we have established a connection. I did attend the circus that afternoon and had a most wonderful time. It brought back so many amazing childhood memories of attending the circus! Afghan Hounds, elephants and tigers – oh my!

*Editor's Note:
Susan's Afghan Hound Champions are not AKC
Champions, but they are definitely champions in her heart.*

AA-AFGHAN (HOUND) AGILITY
Submitted by Diane L. Bauman



“Reine”

I belong to a club. We wear special T- shirts that say, “I belong to AA-Afghan Agility.” AA is a small group of people who have discovered the treasure of the Afghan Hound as a natural contender for the dog sport of agility.

Agility is a fast moving, team game, where the dog is in the ring for less than a minute. Afghan Hounds love running, jumping, climbing up high and even weaving as if they were on a “hunt” for some live creature.

Because this activity is full of action and short lived, it easily holds the attention of this hairy sight hound. Trained correctly, Afghan Hounds find the agility ring invigorating.

I have been training and competing with Afghan Hounds in agility since 1995 and have completed MX and MXJ titles on numerous dogs (including the first MX, MXJ title on an Afghan Hound in history). Over the years I have discovered which techniques work best for sensitive, intelligent, hounds with long strides, built to run more than jump.

My hounds never participate in group agility classes. Thoughtful and impatient, they do not appreciate standing around and waiting their turn. I train them for a very brief period of time with a lot of enthusiasm. My training sessions are usually no more than 5-10 minutes long. The advantage to working with the mind of the Afghan Hound is that once they understand a concept, they will know it forever. Truth be told, it takes very little practice to keep an Afghan Hound trained.

The biggest challenge with Afghan Hounds is maintaining their speed on course. It’s not difficult at the Novice level because the courses tend to be open and flowing allowing them to stretch out and run. Once the agility courses become more complicated at the higher levels, if there are too many lead changes and tight turns, the hounds naturally slow down because they are smart. They know there is no reason to run fast if you are going to have to turn suddenly. Border Collies (which I also own and train) never seem to arrive at this common sense conclusion.

Maintaining motivation and a desire to run, I am careful not to work too close to these tall, graceful hounds. I teach all my dogs to work at a distance which encourages them to run as opposed to trotting next to me. I balance teaching turns with straight line running sequences.

All my Afghan Hounds seem to prefer the standard agility class (with the contact equipment) to Jumpers with Weaves. I believe this is because Afghan Hounds are bred to run and not to jump. Repeated jumping is an effort for them and they feel as though they can never get up any speed. In a standard course they get to run many more straight lines as they perform a Dogwalk, A-frame and Seesaw.

Teaching weavepoles has become much easier since the onset of 24 inch spacing. Large dogs have a much easier time bending around poles with the added space and I am grateful for the rule change. I train all my dogs on the Weave-a-Matic tilted style of poles because I feel it is motivational, teaches good footwork for long legged dogs and instructs the dog how to make angle entries independently.

Afghan Hounds are cautious creatures. They will not move in any direction if they are not sure it is safe to do so. All obstacles are learned at a speed that the hound is comfortable with. As they gain confidence, they naturally speed up. Afghan Hounds need to understand what is going to happen and why before they will venture out.

I make sure to teach the See-saw by explaining to them how it works and what is going to happen as they walk over it, before ever expecting them to step foot on it. See *Agility Start To Finish* by Bauman/Ajoux (Alpine) for information on exactly how to teach the See-saw. This is the only book on agility that features Afghan Hounds in the photos.



“Chon”

At some point in the training of most dogs, but especially Afghan Hounds, you are going to experience what is commonly referred to as “zoomies.” This is when your dog takes off at a mad dash and runs laps around the ring. Zoomies, otherwise called “getting a bug up your ass,” occurs for different reasons. Some dogs “zoom” to relieve stress caused by confusion. In my experience, Afghan Hounds take off running for the sheer joy of running. How a trainer handles “zoomies” makes a big difference in the dog’s final performance and attitude toward agility.

“Chon”, pictured above, is also featured on the cover of this issue of Topknot News. All Agility photos are by Bohm-Marazzo Photography unless otherwise indicated.

Since it is my goal to have a dog *run* in the agility ring, I do nothing to discourage “zoomies.” In fact, I encourage the dog to run and suggest that they execute some obstacle along the way. Sometimes they do and sometimes they are going too fast to think. As the running subsides, I persuade the dog to do something, anything, on my command and reward at the end of the energy spurt.

Gradually, as the hounds learn more, there is a decrease in the frequency of “zoomies” and we start to see more agility and less mindless, wild running. Some day you will undoubtedly be in a trial ring when your dog takes off zooming. When this happens, respond the same as if you were in training and never scold for enthusiasm.



“Haillie” Photo by M. Nicole Fischer Photography

Once, as my Afghan Hound was reaching lure coursing speed in circles around the agility ring, I had a judge authoritatively instruct me to “get your dog!” I looked at her in disbelief and responded, “How? I can’t catch her. She will stop soon.”



“Tossah”



“Reine”

While it is true that I teach all my Afghan Hounds a recall command and use “Here” frequently while on course, a dog in prey drive at top speed is unlikely to respond until the adrenalin dissipates and the dog can once again think clearly. It never does you any good to call your dog when they are racing because they are so engaged they cannot hear you. Encouraging them to run seems to be a better way to connect with them. Eventually they calm down and what they remember is that running, agility and you are fun.

There is nothing more beautiful than an Afghan Hound in full coat gracefully negotiating an agility course. I call it “pretty agility.” While they will never beat the Border Collies in time, Afghan Hounds draw a lot of attention and admiration from the audience. I love training and competing with both my Afghan Hounds and Border Collies in the agility ring. The contrast between the two breeds keeps training exciting and challenging.



KOH-I-BABA, U.D.

Written by W. H. Withington for Kennel Review, May 16, 1953

Submitted by Sandy Frei



Pictured here in action is Koh-I-Baba, the first Afghan Hound ever to win the American Kennel Club obedience title of Utility, the canine college degree. Credit for this fine accomplishment goes to his owner-trainer Virginia Withington of Pasadena, Calif., whose patience, ingenuity and understanding of the Afghan Hound mind made it possible.

The training of an Afghan Hound is complicated by the breed's heritage. For 2000 years they have been unrestrained, bred only to chase and kill big game on their own over wild open country, living royally in the palaces of kings. Today they do not take kindly to such plebian orders as come, sit, or down. They are master bluffers who can easily fool many an unsuspecting trainer into believing them far too stupid to learn even the simplest commands.

Baba was a perfect example. It wasn't hard to teach him obedience work, but it took a lot of high level figuring to out-manuever his never ending new ways of avoiding such work. A continuous battle of wits between dog and handler, in which about every known method of training was used plus many which Virginia invented as she went along.

Finally CDX and UD were down pat – outside the show ring – when a new problem came up. Because of his unusual appearance and sparkling personality, the spectators got a tremendous kick out of him, which they showed by loud applause. Sweet music for a hidden talent; overnight Baba became a full blown, first class comedian. His ever fertile imagination quickly taught him how to get laughs through many a non-rule-book stunt, the mildest being the high altitude “finish” which has become his trademark. Great fun for the crowd, but rough on the final score.

The solution of his problem came through combining the clown and the worker, rather than attempting to force him into an unnatural role of precision. He was worked at home before a group of friends who maintained an icy silence at any out of line stunts but went wild when he performed correctly till eventually the pattern set in his mind. He still hams it up, but he hams up the right things.

Outside the show rings his talents have delighted many thousands through fair and school exhibitions, television shows and two dog movie shorts in which he was featured. He will also be seen again in obedience at most of the big shows this year.

WINNING THE VIRGINIA WITHINGTON CHALLENGE TROPHY

Submitted by Lynne Miller

The Virginia Withington Challenge Trophy was first offered in 1992. It was awarded annually to the High in Obedience Afghan Hound at the National Specialty, and was retired in 2002 when won 3 times by the same owner, Lynne Miller.

The word “obedience” does not immediately spring to mind when thinking of the Afghan Hound. As we all know, Afghan Hounds have their own ideas about how to conduct their lives and obedience really is not on their list. Afghan hounds are very clever critters. Anyone hoping to train one in obedience has to attempt to be just as clever, no mean feat.

I took my first Afghan Hound to an obedience class because he dragged me into a thorn bush in pursuit of a cat. The rest, as they say, is history. My first trip to the “Big Show” aka the National was in 1987 in Chicago under judge Kent Delaney. Nice try, but no cigar. We did not go home completely empty handed. My girl Tess (Ch. Seven Veils the Enchantress, CDX) finished her championship under judge Betty Stites in 100 degree heat the day after the National.

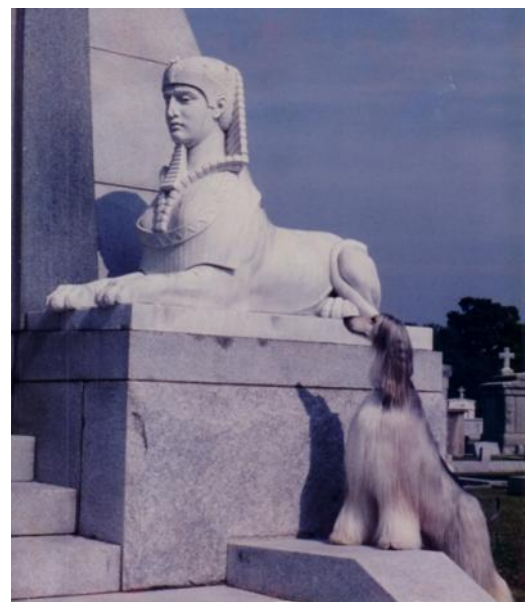
It was Tess’ daughter Aja (Ch. Utchati Herit Tchatcha, CDX) who helped me get a big start toward winning the Virginia Withington Memorial Challenge Trophy. Aja was a sweet-tempered girl with a great food drive and a need to please. I had high hopes for success with her, but those dreams took a big hit our first time in the Novice obedience ring. Once again showing to Kent Delaney, things were going along nicely until the leash came off. Aja just sat in one spot and watched me do the heeling pattern by myself! This was a big lesson in humility. My dogs had never received a non-qualifying score in Novice before. And to have it happen under Mr. D made it a double slam. With the New Orleans National looming in just a few weeks, we had our work cut out for us. I had to convince Aja that removing the leash did not mean we were done. With fingers crossed and no more shows in between, we headed to the Big Easy.

I did not really dream of taking High in Trial having seen Jeanine Rendon and her beautiful girl Tayer (Tokar’s Tayer Kasban) give an absolutely jawdropping awesome performance in Santa Rosa, CA in 1992. Tayer and Jeanine scored 199½ out of a possible 200 points and did it outdoors to boot! Jeanine and I had met a couple of times at obedience seminars where she used Tayer as a demonstration dog. It came as no surprise to me that they put on a nearly flawless performance. Tayer was the first dog to have her name inscribed on the Virginia Withington Memorial Challenge Trophy. As luck would have it, Jeanine was unable to attend the New Orleans National leaving the door open for us mere mortals.

Aja did a great job through the on leash exercises, but my hands were trembling as I unhooked her lead and handed it to the ring steward. Aja came through for me with a beautiful performance leading to High in Trial and she got her name etched on the trophy.

Our next trip to the National was in San Diego. In the meantime Aja had finished her conformation title, earned her Companion Dog title and had a litter of four beautiful puppies. The obedience ring was outdoors with all the challenges that can be present, including huge seagulls swooping down over our heads. Aja was competing in the Open A class that day. With her qualifying score, she earned her Companion Dog Excellent title and got her name on the trophy for a second time.

Even with my dog’s name on the trophy twice, I did not see a realistic chance of retiring the trophy. Diane Bauman, (a nationally famous professional obedience trainer) had an Afghan Hound who took High in Trial. Then along came Kathy Pugh with her wonderful boy Oliver (What a Twist of Fate).



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They were so much fun to watch. Obviously, these two were very much in love and having a great time in the obedience ring. Oliver and Kathy took High in Trial easily in 2000 with a score of 199½. They also were High in Trial in 2001. Going into the Chicago National in 2002 they were the obvious favorite to retire the challenge trophy.

Meanwhile, Aja's son Voodoo (Ch Utchati Unforgiven, CD, JC) had been working toward his CD. In Chicago under judge Kent Delaney (yikes) Voodoo finished his Companion Dog title and won High in Trial to retire the Virginia Withington Memorial Challenge Trophy.

This was the very first time one of my dogs had ever gotten a qualifying score under Mr. Delaney, and I had been showing my obedience Afghan Hounds to him since the mid 70s!

Winning the Virginia Withington Challenge Trophy had seemed to be an impossible dream to me. I had, of course, read the books and seen the Joan Ludwig photo of Mrs. Withington with her dog Koh-I-Baba flying over the high jump.

When Sandy Frei offered the challenge trophy, I was delighted because it brought much needed attention to the obedience competitors at the National. It was a very thoughtful and kind gesture from one of the paragons of the breed. It was a dream come true.

MY SPECIAL THERAPY

Cancer they said had come around again
Oh my God I thought, When will this nightmare end.

Surgery and Chemo were the treatments I was told.
How will I ever do this, who will my hand hold?

Into my room they came to brighten up my day,
Two black poodles and their sister, Katie Mae

Upon my bed they sat and couldn't care less
That their beloved Mom was such a mess.

Whenever tears were shed, around me they would be
My furry best friends and sad old me

A lick upon my face or a snuggle in my bed
Not caring that there wasn't a hair on my head.

The anger I would feel about this disease
Would disappear in a moment, When those furry friends
I'd see.

My life these months has changed for my family and me.
But those furry friends will always love me
unconditionally

Written for my best pals:
Timothy O'Hara 12 years old
Gibrien Sullivan 2 years old
Katie Mae 11 years old

Author—Heidi Nunes

Versatility Award Written by Awards Chair, Claudia Jakus



As I was an AHCA board member in the early 2000s, I read in the Policies and Procedures there was an award to be presented to any Afghan Hound that achieved 3 titles. There was no further clarification as to what was to be included, therefore, it was left up to the board to clarify the qualifications for this award.

The final result was at the suggestion of then board member Gil Ullom, to call it a Versatility Award since the dog had to be versatile in 3 different disciplines. So what events would be included was the next question? We decided to include conformation, lure coursing, obedience (which includes rally), tracking and agility.

And so the rules and regulations for the versatility award were born. Any dog that earns a title in 3 separate disciplines would qualify for the award. However, since we have events within an event it became necessary to clarify these events into categories. These are the basic titles in each category:

- *Conformation Champion - AKC CH - Conformation Champion
- *Field Champion - either AKC FC or ASFA FCh
- *Obedience/Rally - either Obedience CD (Companion Dog) or RA (Rally Advanced)
- *Agility - either NA (Novice Agility) or NAP (Novice Agility Preferred), or NAJ (Novice Agility Jumpers) or NAJP (Novice Agility Jumper Preferred)

Last but not least, we wanted to include tracking. You may well laugh-but there are 5 Afghan Hounds that have tracking titles, so TD (Tracking Dog) was also included.

Since RN (Rally Novice) and BN (Obedience Beginning Novice) titles are earned with the dog entirely on lead, we decided these would not be included.

We also decided since you needed 3 titles from what are now 5 events we would include any Afghan Hound that has an ILP number. I am happy to say at the 2011 AHCA Awards Banquet a Versatility Award will be presented to, I believe, the first Afghan Hound to qualify with an ILP number.

The plaque that is presented is not only beautiful but it signifies a great accomplishment both on the part of the dog as well as the owner for both have put in many hours of effort and training.

AFGHAN HOUND AMERICAN KENNEL GAZETTE COLUMN

JUNE, 1952

By Charlotte Coffey, AHCA President, Tower Pkwy, New Haven, Conn

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ABOUT 18 MONTHS AGO, a United States scientific expedition, led by the brilliant young archaeologist, Walter Fairservice, Jr., and sponsored by New York's Museum of Natural History, went into Afghanistan – “a mysterious land rich in archaeological treasure” that up to this time had been kept tightly closed against any advance made by the Westerners. Fascinating accounts of the exciting and sometimes hazardous experiences of this group – digging down and back into several thousand years of civilization – appeared this past winter in an issue of a current magazine. And among the many excellent photographs showing the character of the country and its native tribesmen, was a close-up of Walter Fairservice and his attractive wife, Jan, with a “royal Afghan Hound” that they had acquired in Afghanistan – the same lovely puppy, Besyar, that was so enthusiastically received when shown by Mrs. Fairservice at our New York Specialty last February. Here in part is a letter from Mrs. Fairservice in which she gives us, first-hand a “Glimpse of Afghan Hounds in Afghanistan:”

“We found Besyar, or Sirdar Jalalodin of Kubul, running around in the winter rain in the compound of a home we visited in Kabul. He was a tiny puppy covered with the soft fuzz of babyhood. His gangling legs and large feet promised that he would grow into a big, long-limbed dog. He was a little afraid of us at first, but soon came running “likkity split” whenever he saw us. We'd scoop him up and hold him, and the tiny chip of royalty would hold his head up high and haughty on a little thin neck.

“His parents had belonged to the King of Afghanistan who made a present of the pair to the wife of the Persian Ambassador. Their puppy was given to the American Embassy, and through the Americans, the little dog came to us.

“ ‘Besyar Hob’ which means “very good” in Persian, was a prince among princes for the Afghan Hound is treated with more respect than other dogs in Afghanistan. Dogs are considered unclean and drive angels away in the Moslem world, so they are never allowed in the house. A man will not pray in clothes that have touched a dog.

“Afghan Hounds are privileged, however, and they sleep in kennels. Their masters provide them with crude coats of felt or goat skin to protect their short haired backs in the cold mountain winters. They are led on light chains or on leather thongs. Though they have been prized and cared for above other dogs for untold generations, we never saw any sign of warm friendship between the dogs and their masters.

“The Afghan (Hound) line has been closely guarded for thousands of years in the East, so that the hounds are sure to be pure-bred. They are not bred for any particular trait, lest it be speed and general vigor.

“We saw none, even in the northern area, with the long hair of the British- and American-bred dogs. Virtually all of them, like Besyar, resembled the hounds that you see in the early photographs of imported Afghans (Hounds). I believe, however, that every once in a while, a longer-haired dog is found. We saw two quite nice Afghan (Hounds) owned by Americans in Kandahar. One was black, and the other one was a pale sandy color. The hair did not grow in long pants as it does here but more in what might be called chaps and bolero.

“The diet of Afghan Hounds over there is largely ‘nan’ – an unleavened whole wheat bread – and meat. Their appetites are not as unlimited as the carrion eating pie-dogs, but they could not possibly be called fussy eaters. There is little clean food left for dogs in the East, consequently, only those with the strongest constitutions can survive.

“At times we were a bit unhappy about the apparent sullen attitude of the hound in the East. Even our little puppy showed some displeasure with humans. But now as he grows up surrounded by dog lovers, we have been delighted to find that the surly personality was not inherent. He has bloomed with gaiety, gentleness, great intelligence, and a sense of humor surpassing any dog we have ever known.”

We thank Mrs. Fairservice for her interest, and we hope we shall be able to do something about the American Kennel Club's registering her Besyar. He is indeed a valuable addition to the Afghan Hound population in this country.



**AKC Gazette Column
Submitted by Betty Stites**

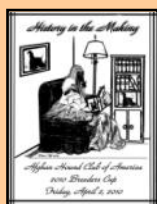
The Gazette will cease production as a printed magazine, and will go to an electronic format on the AKC site effective Oct., 2011. Here is a paragraph from the notice sent to all "Gazette" columnists:

As you may have heard, effective with the October 2011 issue, the Gazette will be reformatted, transitioning from a print magazine to a PDF electronic document posted monthly to the AKC website. This new incarnation of our venerable publication will include the breed columns, as well as the chairman's and president's letters, AKC Updates, and the Secretary's Pages. The electronic version of the magazine will be available for free and accessible by all club members, fanciers, and dog lovers. (Subscribers who currently pay for the print edition will have their subscription converted to AKC Family Dog or the option of a prorated refund.)



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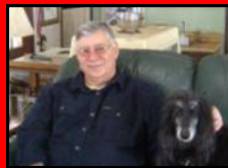


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**RESCUE REPORT
Submitted by Rescue Chairs,
Russ & Barb Hastings**



Toddy and Starry are litter brothers rescued from a neglectful home where they spent their entire five years. They were purchased out of a newspaper classified ad as puppies living in a back yard with minimal care. They came to me badly matted, overweight, under socialized, and in need of medical care. Both of these boys have skin and ear infections, pyoderma lesions, and rotten mouths.

Toddy and Starry have had their surgeries and dentals. They will require some time to heal and will soon be ready to place. We would like to see them go to a new home together, but is not a necessity. They are quite bonded. The cost for the dentals and surgeries was \$1500.00 for both dogs.

Donations can be made to AHCA Rescue, please note "Special Needs, Starry & Toddy" in the memo box.

Donations should be sent to: Russ & Barb Hastings
AHCA RCT, 4071 Gurnee Rd., Westfield, PA 16950

Calling all Afghan Hound Aficionados!

It looks as if 2011 is going to be a busy year for Afghan Hound Rescue. January isn't over yet and the floodgates have opened. To help with expenses, we are in the process of putting together a little book of happy Affie stories as a fund raiser for AHCA rescue.



Tentative title: *Affable Afghan Hounds ...an anthology of Afghan Hound antics that proves the King of Dogs is also the King of Comedy*

Zia "Hard Day's Rest"

Doug Vinson compiled a little book, *The Road I Took to You*, that had wonderful rescue stories, some that broke your heart. Now we would like to feature hilarious one liners, short stories, art work and photos of rescue, pet, and show hounds that demonstrate the comic side of our gorgeous breed. Profits from sales will go directly to AHCA Rescue.

Please start submitting silly Afghan photos, anecdotes, drawings and short stories for consideration in the book. Think about all your beloved Afghans, past and present. Thanks for your help! Joanne Anderson and Marilyn Danko (the folks who brought you the 2010 & 2011 AHCA Rescue calendars) will be doing both the book and the 2012 calendar. Email your photos, anecdotes, drawings, etc. to:

lineace@yahoo.com or mail to:

J. Anderson
15 Westbridge Drive
Babylon, NY 11702



Edgar Afghan Poe



AKC DELEGATE'S REPORT Submitted by Connie Butherus AHCA Delegate to the AKC

The quarterly Delegates meetings were held in Durham, NC. The June gathering is always scheduled out of the NYC area and this location seems to be favored – the AKC NC site being only minutes from the meeting venue. We arrived Saturday, June 11 and I plunged into no less than eight meetings over the next two days. Having been appointed to two new subcommittees dealing with Parent Club matters in addition to the regular sessions, it was quite a busy schedule.

Committee number one met Saturday evening until 10 PM! Our mission was to develop measurable objective criteria to assess the attributes of outstanding Parent Clubs. Our group of four has been working on this since March via conference call, email and carrier pigeons. So far so good regarding the content. We think the final product will benefit not only existing Parent Clubs but new clubs now in development.

Saturday morning, the Parent Club committee met in executive session to review the evaluation report of the August 2010 Parent Club Conference (held in the very same hotel – as I stated, a favored site). All aspects of the conference were covered from speakers to the food served (rave reviews). We discussed specific changes to be made should we be able to hold another event. The funding of such a conference - however worthy - is a huge concern in these economic times. All in all, the attendees are on record as having received valuable information, especially about the AKC and its many services.

The Parent Club Committee was next on my schedule. It was well attended as it always is. The agenda was long with several new items to be addressed:

- A straw poll of attendees was taken to find out how the parent clubs use the monthly AKC report of contact information regarding new AKC titles earned (by breed). Most indicated it is used for statistics and for awards, a small number use it to recruit new members and even fewer use it for publication of their yearbook. It is a good tool provided to each parent club – free of charge.
- John Wade of the Judge's Education Department addressed the iPhone app, available to judges and anyone able to access it, depicting each breed and standard. It was developed by a licensee, not the AKC, and intended for the general public. Parent clubs can change the pictures if they wish and a number (over 30) are in the process of doing so. One is reminded of "if you build it they will come." It may not have been intended for judges, but it has in fact become so used. The next app change is in August.
- The demise of the AKC Gazette is of no small concern for many reasons, but it is going away! So if you want access to the content, get ready to access it on line. Of interest however, is the impression that "Family Dog" will become the primary publication. It is intended for the pet community – AKA "Canine Partners"! We were advised that new features are in the works which will soften the blow. They are:
 - Archive the breed columns by breed and to be available on line in the future
 - More user friendly show calendarOf concern is the fact the Gazette will not be available to dialup users and there is no way to solve this problem. Good luck if you live in such an area – no access. Also there remain a number of subscribers who are not on line. They also are out of luck. Sure hope your public library can bridge the gap.
- The moratorium on approval for new clubs remains an issue. It seems that new breed clubs will not be able to hold independent events but must be associated with all breed shows. Also a new breed club cannot be in conflict with another same breed specialty club within 100 miles. That may be fine in the areas of the open plains but not so in metropolitan areas where the population (humans and dogs) is far more concentrated.
- The Parent Club Committee will be working with the Dog Show Rules Committee to reintroduce the proposal regarding the Major Reserve initiative at National Specialties which was first proposed (and defeated) in 2003. The proposal at that time, specified the awarding of 3 points to the RWD/B at an independent National Specialty where the number of dogs or bitches competing was more than double the requirement for 5 points for that sex in that region and limited to one time per year award. More to follow!
- The subcommittee on Parent Clubs of Excellence (see Saturday evening notes) reported on its work and progress.
- Meet the Breed events, parent club sponsored, medallions and related information was reviewed.
- The Dock and Crop breeds continue to experience much angst. The judging procedure for those breeds (which specify dock/ and or crop in their standards) but have an exhibit not so altered arrives in the ring, was reviewed. The AKC policy is to consider it a deviation from the standard and the judge is to weigh it as such. But the judge must examine and gait the dog. If it is a DQ, it remains a DQ.
- The Wikipedia content regarding the AKC and health is now better (reported the previous editor was removed) but not yet perfect. Parent Clubs can enter their own content to explain their individual programs and activities. Sounds like a plan.

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The Delegate Caucus was diverse and full of opinions (vs. facts) in its content as usual. The importance of the issue may not relate to the time spent on it, yet it usually reflects the mood of the delegates.

- Term limits for the AKC Board was at the top of the list as the vote to amend the bylaws was scheduled for the next day. Many delegates had been instructed by their clubs as to how to vote. Thus very few minds were changed by the discussion.
- The idea of a reserve best Junior Handler was proposed. Interesting idea and would further the support for Juniors.
- The HSUS Conference seemed to have been rather a non-event. Too bad we can't tap into their money tree as they are well funded but do little to deal with real problems, e.g., funding no-kill shelters, rescue, etc.
- There is new a app game which deals with simulated training of dogs to fight and kill. The AKC was asked to go on record as opposing this gross game.
- The death of the Gazette as we know it was lamented and mourned as was to be expected.
- It was stated (caution here) that rescue volunteers working with 501c3 rescue groups can deduct reasonable un-reimbursed expenses from their taxes provided they have a letter from the 501c3 IRS-recognized group so supporting the claim.
- The Dog Show Rules Committee was asked to consider proposing a class (or classes) for neutered/altered dogs in non-regular classes at specialty shows. Some breed clubs feel this would increase entries at their specialties.

Last meeting of the day was the Delegate Coordinating Committee in which all of the committee chairs report on their committees and action items go to the AKC. Nothing new to report as the relevant issues for Parent Clubs had been covered earlier.

Monday morning the first meeting was the Forum. The Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) presented a great overview of their structure, functions and grant funding operations:

- AKC/CHF established in 1995
- Major corporate sponsors are AKC (1995), Purina (2003) and Pfizer (2010)
- Donor Advised Funds provide substantial support as does the Parent Club Purina weight circles program (167 Parent Clubs participate) - \$2.5 million total to date.
- 550 studies have been funded
- Goal is to prevent, treat and cure canine disorders
- \$25 million funding for approved grants to date
- 85% of the canine and human genome are identical. This has great possibilities for translational medicine. Specific disorders impacted so far were cited.
- 25 specific genetic tests are now available
- Individual (\$30) as well as club (\$200) memberships are available
- The "Bricks Project" at Purina Farms yields 70% of the money to the AKC/CHF. BUY A BRICK!

The entire delegate body then went to work on the business of the AKC:

- Newly seated delegates were introduced
- The Chair reported on a new AKC title for Therapy Dogs. Requirements can be accessed on the AKC web site
- The President's Report had some positive aspects:
 - Entries are up over 50,000
 - The Grand Champion program has been a big plus for entries and money for clubs (estimated to be around 1.7 million total)
- Publications report – once again the demise of the Gazette, the emergence of Family Dog and future initiatives proposed.
- The new V/P for marketing (Lisa Gonzales) gave an upbeat – almost cheerleader-type report of the AKC's marketing efforts. Some were very specific and she gave a good fact-based assessment of how the AKC lost its market share. The plans for the future sound very promising, ranging from breeder outreach to the "occasional breeder" (up to 3 litters per year!) to poster campaigns, all stressing the great accomplishment and programs the AKC represents. One area that was not specific or covered – only mentioned as an initiative with a reported good response – was outreach to the Commercial Breeders. One must wonder about the specifics.
- The financial report as usual had good and bad news. Events and entries are up, but so are expenses and the resulting deficits. Investments continue to yield great results (up 4.4%) and times are difficult – as we know! (even Martha Stewart Corp is up for sale) Interestingly, neither the Endowment Fund nor the Reserve Fund balances were reported. Last we heard was that they totaled over \$50 million.
- The amendment on term limits required a 2/3 majority to pass. It was a stand up and be counted vote – nothing secret here. The proposed change was to expand the length of time required for AKC Board Members having served two terms (8 years total) ineligible re-election for a full four years. It is currently 1 year.
 - In favor – 100
 - Opposed – 144 The motion failed.
- The new business/old business/open forum discussion is always interesting and at time humorous. Issues presented were:
 - The impact of Limited Registrations on the decline of registrations and other unintended results. The president responded and presented the actual facts.
 - Additional concerns regarding the soon-to-be-gone Gazette.

The last meeting of my day was a joint group of two Parent Club representatives, the Canine Health Committee Chair, OFA and four AKC staff members. Our charge is to evaluate the health requirements (a la Parent Club specific) for the Breeder of Merit program. We reviewed the history of the program and its current status. There are 5300 breeders now in the program. The lack of belonging to an AKC club – any AKC club - seems to be the biggest obstacle for quite a number of applicants. AKC does random spot checks to verify the accuracy of the information given by an applicant. Also those deemed to be non-conforming by their peers – or a specific peer – are being outed as calls are made to the AKC to report the offending breeder. As we know, there are few secrets in the dog show world!

The concern we will first address is the lack of consistency stated by the Parent Clubs regarding required/recommended health testing. The CHIC requirements, the Parent Club approval flyer included with registration papers, the club home page/web site specifications and their Code of Ethics may all be different. Thus the need to sort it all out. This problem is to be first addressed at the August CHF/Parent Club health conference at which most parent clubs will have their respective Health Committee Chairs in attendance.

Again, more to follow and I will keep you posted as to our work.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Butherus
AHCA Delegate to the AKC



Above Photo:
Claudia Jakus and her Therapy Dog
Encore, are third from the left.

These group photos of the therapy dogs, in their costumes, were taken at the Mackinac Island 2011 Lilac Festival of the Therapy Dogs International.





JUNIOR CORNER
Submitted by Junior Chair
Jody Gardner

New Junior Support for 2011.

In the last issue of Topknot News I mentioned that the AHCA is offering \$25.00 to regional clubs that support junior showmanship and that I personally would provide a Best Junior Trophy for their show. Since then we have had several regional clubs take advantage of both the offers with great results. The combined weekend shows of The Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club, The Afghan Hound Association of Long Island and The Colonial Afghan Hound Club yielded great results with juniors entered every day. I would like to thank these clubs for offering and supporting juniors at their shows.

I would like to reiterate how this support works; the AHCA offers \$25.00 to regional clubs that offer a Best Junior Trophy. This \$25.00 is given to the club to help offset expenses for offering juniors. It can be spent any way your club wishes to support the juniors, purchasing trophies, ribbons or judges' expenses. The only thing you may not do with the money is give it to the junior. Juniors are not allowed to accept money in any form including master card or visa gift cards. Once a junior accepts money in any form it then changes their status and they are no longer eligible to compete in juniors. The \$25.00 is available to any regional club that offers a Best Junior Trophy at their specialty. To apply you must list the trophy in your premium list and send a copy of the premium list and the Regional Club Best Junior Trophy Support Application to the Awards Chair. The form can be found on the AHCA website in policy and procedures under the awards section. A check for \$25.00 will be mailed to the regional club from the AHCA treasurer.

In addition to the support of the AHCA for juniors, I personally will offer a Best Junior Trophy for all regional clubs. To apply you must list a "Best Junior Trophy - Afghan Hound Item offered by Jody Gardner" in your premium list and send it to me at least one month before the date of your show. Please send the information to me at: Jody Gardner AHCA Junior Chair, 333 S. Heather Dr., Newark, Ohio 43055. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 740-891-5046 or email me at jmgafghan@aol.com.

For all you juniors who will be attending the national this year, our junior seminar will be given by Nikki Gardner. Yes, she is related. She is my daughter. Nikki is a second generation dog show person with lots of experience in the ring. You just may learn a new thing or two along with having lots of fun.

Before you know it fall will be here. If you are a junior or know of a junior who is getting ready to go off to college this fall, the AHCA offers a \$500.00 junior scholarship. The information and forms to apply can be found on the AHCA website under junior showmanship.

Hope to see lots of you at the national.
As always, support or mentor a junior, the rewards are priceless.



AGILITY REPORT
Submitted by Agility Chair,
Lynda Hicks

Agility entries and success continue to increase within our breed. According to AKC's monthly reports for new titles earned between January 1 and May 1, 2011, Afghan Hounds have earned more titles in Agility than in any other AKC performance venue.

Agility	16 (including a MACH 3)
Courseing	15 (6 FC, 4 JC, 5 SC)
Rally	6
Obedience	1

The AHCA has been approved to hold an independent all-breed Agility Trial on Friday, October 21, 2011 at the Bell County Exposition Center, Belton, Texas. As approved by the AHCA board last year, this trial will serve to raise funds towards putting on Agility events at future National Specialties. Everything is in place and ready for the event, and we expect to have over 350 entries.

Afghan Hounds Only Agility will be held along with the AHCA National Specialty the morning of Tuesday, September 27. The host hotel has generously agreed for us to use a large grassy area adjacent to the host hotel for the event. Our judge is Mr. David Hirsch of Columbus, Ohio, and equipment will be provided by Brag Agility Group out of Columbus.



HISTORY OF THE TRIATHLON

Written by Claudia Jakus

Tri-ath-lon:

An athletic contest in which participants compete in three successive events.

In 1997 the AHCA General Membership was approached by Shelly Hennessey about establishing a Triathlon competition for Afghan Hounds to be held along with the National Specialty. Because a number of Afghan Hound enthusiasts were involved in obedience and coursing as well as conformation, a compelling argument was made to showcase the versatility of our wonderful hounds by offering a Triathlon event.

A vote was taken and it was passed to pattern our event after the American Whippet Club's already existing Triathlon. In 1998 the Afghan Hound Club of America offered its first Triathlon competition along with the National Specialty. Modifications have been made over the years in scoring and events offered, but the Triathlon still remains essentially the same as in 1998.

The Afghan Hound Club of America welcomes and encourages participation of all Afghan Hounds at the National Specialty, and decided that not only would AKC registered Afghan Hounds be eligible to compete, but also any Afghan Hound that had an AKC ILP number. By allowing this, it was with the hope that those who may have acquired their Afghan Hound through rescue, or some other source, would participate with their beloved companions. Our hopes have come true, as several rescue dogs have competed in this event.

Triathlon scoring is based on earning the highest accumulated score in three disciplines, with a potential of 100 points in each area. These three areas are:

Conformation

Lure Coursing (either AKC or ASFA) and

Obedience, Rally or Agility.

Tallying all of the points will determine placements in the Triathlon, such as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, however, the only way a hound can actually win the designation **High in Triathlon (HIT)** would be to have the highest combined scores, with a **qualifying score in each area.**

Triathlon conformation is judged just as any other conformation class, although instead of placing the dogs, the judge designates a numerical score for every dog in the competition based on that judge's interpretation of how closely the dog adheres to the standard, from a minimum of 50 points to a maximum of 100 points. Some judges assigned a certain value to each part of the Afghan Hound thus when scoring they totaled up the value and that was the score. Others just assigned an overall value. Since this is a non-regular class, any Afghan Hound, even those with an ILP number, may compete.

Lure Coursing scores from the AHCA National Lure Trials constitute the 2nd branch of the Triathlon competition. Final scores are adjusted to conform to the 100 point allowance. ASFA coursing allows a possible score of 400, so the final score from ASFA coursing would be divided by $\frac{1}{4}$ for Triathlon tabulation.



Lure Coursing

AKC coursing allows a possible score of 200, thus the AKC final score would be divided by $\frac{1}{2}$ for the Triathlon tabulations. In either case the most you could achieve for coursing would be 100 points, with 50 points constituting a qualifying score.

On to the third leg of the competition – obedience events, which include obedience, rally and agility. This is where it REALLY gets hard to get that qualifying score, and is one of the most difficult events to qualify in. It was back in the late 90s and still is in the 2000s.



Obedience

"Twyla" F.CH Twyla Twist, MX,MXJ,MDX
Photo by Bohn Marazzo Photography

A perfect obedience score is 200 points, IF the dog performed perfectly - (we all know the chances of that happening)!!!! Other than the obviously more difficult task of getting an Afghan Hound to agree to perform in obedience, a qualifying score in obedience is more difficult. In order to obtain a qualifying score, a minimum of 170 points must be earned. For Triathlon calculation, the total score is divided by $\frac{1}{2}$ to reach the 100 points. Scores for Obedience competition for Beginning Novice do not count toward Triathlon scoring, as that class is all on

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Continued from Page 27....

lead and therefore would not offer an even playing field with the other events.

Originally only Triathlon Conformation, Obedience and Lure Coursing were offered, but in recent years we have also seen Rally and Agility come on the scene.

Rally was included once it was introduced by AKC, causing the triathlon to become more complicated. A perfect score in Rally would be 100, so the full score would be used here. Advanced and Excellent only count toward the Triathlon scoring, as they are both worked fully off-lead. Novice Rally, although offered as a competitive class at the National, does not count towards Triathlon scoring since it is all on-lead.

Agility was included in the Triathlon for the first time at the 2010 National Specialty. With Agility growing in popularity many Afghan Hounds are now competing in agility rather than obedience. Over the years, people wanted agility to be included in the Triathlon, however, there was no easy way to score it as it is either a pass with a score (100 being the possible highest score) or fail without a score. Developing a scoring method that would be fair to all involved took some careful consideration. It was decided that if your dog competed in Agility but did not qualify, the dog would be awarded 30 points to recognize the effort. Of course, a non-qualifying score will not count toward that coveted High in Triathlon designation, but would count towards points for a placement in the Triathlon class.

Debbie Anthonijsz was kind enough to put together a wonderful Triathlon Worksheet which shows the scores of each dog competing in this event at the National. These score sheets are clearly posted, usually close to the stewards table or in some area that gets a lot of traffic, so all can see who is competing and follow their standings throughout the competitions.



**First AHCA Triathlon Winner
"Pasha"
Sanre Spirit of the Wild, JC**

Since the first AHCA Triathlon competition offered in 1998, we have seen the entries vary greatly in numbers, anywhere from 1 to 14. Most years we have had a High in Triathlon winner, but for three years there was no HIT awarded, because no dog received qualifying scores in all 3 areas. Since the beginning we have had 1 dog that has won HIT 3 times, two dogs (littermates) who have won HIT 2 times each, and one owner whose dogs have won HIT 4 times.

This year at the National, include time in your schedule to come out and watch these canine athletes and their dedicated owner/handlers compete in the Triathlon events. It takes the better part of a year in training before an Afghan Hound is prepared for competition in obedience, rally or agility, and ongoing dedication to condition a hound properly for competitive lure coursing. All this, plus coat care and preparation for conformation competition.

Happy Training!!!

2011 National Triathlon Schedule

Lure Coursing	Sunday 9/24
Obedience & Rally	Monday Morning 9/25 (at show site)
Triathlon Conformation	Monday Evening 9/25 (following Sweepstakes)
Agility	Tuesday Morning 9/25 (at show site – exterior grassy area)





REGIONAL CLUB SPECIALTY SHOW DATES

Submitted by Regional Club Chair, Bob Brown

CLUB / SHOW SECRETARY	SHOW DATE / SHOW LOCATION	REGULAR CLASS JUDGE/ JUNIORS /SWEEPS
Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club Ms. Dale Boyd	6/17/2011 Knights Inn Newburgh, New York	Stephen Fisher – Regular Classes Kazunari Shintaku – Sweepstakes Sulie Greendale-Paveza – Jr. Showmanship
The Afghan Hound Assn. of Long Island Dr. Barry Deitch	6/18/2011 Knights Inn Newburgh, New York	Jacqueline Quiros-Kubat – Regular Classes Jesus Llano – Sweepstakes Dr. Barry Deitch – Jr. Showmanship
Colonial Afghan Hound Club, Inc. Lois Smith	6/19/2011 Knights Inn Newburgh, New York	Tom Cozzoni – Regular Classes Norma Cozzoni – Sweepstakes Tom Cozzoni – Jr. Showmanship
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Portland Pending	7/8/2011 Southwest Wash Fairgrounds Centralia, Washington	Pat Gilbert – Regular Classes Robert Hutton – Sweepstakes Pat Gilbert – Jr. Showmanship
Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club Inc. MBF	7/8/2011 Hamlin Fireman's Field 1503 Lake Road, Route 19 Hamlin, NY	Loraine Gyenge – Regular Classes Pending – Sweepstakes Pending – Jr. Showmanship
Afghan Hound Club Of Omaha Onofrio Dog Shows	7/15/2011 Qwest Center 455 N. 10 th Omaha, Nebraska 68102	Douglas Johnson – Regular Classes Jerry Hastings – Sweepstakes
Evergreen Afghan Hound Club Barbara Chace	8/5/2011 Argus Ranch Facilities For Dogs 35612 – 212 th Ave. S. E. Auburn, WA 98092-9014	Betty Stites – Regular Classes John Fahey – Sweepstakes Betty Stites – Jr. Showmanship
Evergreen Afghan Hound Club Barbara Chace	8/6/2011 Argus Ranch Facilities For Dogs 35612 – 212 th Ave. S. E. Auburn, WA 98092-9014	Elizabeth Millward – Regular Classes Christine Pinkston – Sweepstakes Pending – Jr. Showmanship
Midwest Afghan Hound Club Holly Miller	8/13/2011 Lorain County KC Show Grounds 49979 St. Rt. 511 Henrietta Twp, Ohio 44070	Bobbi Keller – Regular Classes Bob Keller – Sweepstakes Pending – Jr. Showmanship
Afghan Hound Club of Memphis Kim Harwood	8/21/2011 Southaven Multi Purpose Arena 7360 Hwy 51 Southaven, MS 38671	Designated Specialty Joan Goldstein – Regular Classes No Sweepstakes
Afghan Hound Club of Memphis Kim Harwood	8/22/2011 Southaven Multi Purpose Arena 7360 Hwy 51 Southaven, MS 38671	Designated Specialty Lorraine Boutwell – Regular Classes No Sweepstakes

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Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club Onofrio Dog Shows	8/26/2011 Washington County Fairgrounds 12300 N 40 th St Highway 5 & County Rd 15 Lake Elmo, MN 55042	Garry Newton – Regular Classes Anna Tyler – Sweepstakes Garry Newton – Jr. Showmanship
The Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club Dorma Sue Busby	9/02/2011 Best Western Hotel Whitmore Lake, Michigan	Stephen Fisher – Regular Classes Stephen Fisher – Jr. Showmanship JoAnn Jones – Sweepstakes
The Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club Dorma Sue Busby	9/03/2011 Best Western Hotel Whitmore Lake, Michigan	Gill Ullom – Regular Classes Gill Ullom – Jr. Showmanship Eileen Wolfe – Sweepstakes
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver Jan D. Curtis	9/8/2011 Island Grove Park 14 th Avenue North & D Greeley, CO	John Roger Morton – Regular Classes John Roger Morton – Jr. Showmanship Mrs. Heather Lindberg – Sweepstakes
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver Jan D. Curtis	9/9/2011 Island Grove Park 14 th Avenue North & D St Greeley, CO	Amy Sorbie – Regular Classes Rosemary Sutton – Sweepstakes
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus, Inc. Dorma Sue Busby	9/30/2011 Roberts Centre 123 Gano Road Wilmington, Ohio	Bret Hamilton – Regular Classes Mary Blacker – Sweepstakes Mary Childs – Jr. Showmanship
Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio, Inc. Dorma Sue Busby	10/01/2011 Roberts Centre 123 Gano Road Wilmington, Ohio	Shelley S. Hennessy – Regular Classes None – Sweepstakes Helen Stein – Jr. Showmanship
Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Association Shaina Bates	10/09/2011 Clinton Elks Lodge Picnic Grounds 10 Lower Landsdown Road Annandale, New Jersey	Jan Jantos Sheppard– Regular Classes Nancy Cadawallader - Sweepstakes Jan Jantos Sheppard – Jr. Showmanship
Tara Afghan Hound Club, Inc. Janet E. Lucree	10/15/2011 Holiday Inn Select 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Road Atlanta, Georgia 30341	David Frei – Regular Classes David Frei – Jr. Showmanship Michael Liss – Sweepstakes
Tara Afghan Hound Club, Inc. Janet E. Lucree	10/16/2011 Holiday Inn Select 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Road Atlanta, Georgia 30341	Dr. Barry Deitch – Regular Classes Dr. Barry Deitch – Jr. Showmanship Michael Strockbine – Sweepstakes
Carolina Afghan Hound Club Eddie Kominek	10/22/2011 Piedmont Kennel Club Showplace 13607 Choate Circle Charlotte, North Carolina 28273	Karen Dumke – Regular Classes JoAnne Jones – Sweepstakes
Afghan Hound Club Of Northern California MB-F Inc.	10/22/2011 Alameda County Fairgrounds 4501 Pleasanton Ave Pleasanton, CA 94566	Scott Pfeil – Regular Classes Pat Kunich – Jr. Showmanship Alicia Jones – Sweepstakes
Carolina Afghan Hound Club Eddie Kominek	10/23/2011 Piedmont Kennel Club Showplace 13607 Choate Circle Charlotte, North Carolina 28273	Dr. Gareth Morgan-Jones – Reg Classes Kevin Carter – Sweepstakes

Afghan Hound Club of Austin, Inc Deanna Delesandri	10/22/2011 Bell County Exposition Center Belton, Texas	Hank Nave – Regular Classes No Sweepstakes
Sand 'N' See Afghan Hound Club of Florida MB-F, Inc	11/11/2011 Florida Classic Park 5360 Lockhart Rd., Brooksville, FL. 34602	Stephen Fisher – Regular Classes Christine Pinkston - Sweepstakes
The Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Assn. Jack Bradshaw	11/18/2011 Pima County Fairgrounds Tucson, Arizona	Designated Specialty Coyote Cluster Carol Riesman - Reg Classes Loran Morgan – Sweepstakes
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus MB-F, Inc	11/20/2011 Ohio State Fairgrounds 717 East 17 th Ave Columbus, Ohio	Designated Specialty Central Ohio Kennel Club Lt. Col. Wallace H. Pede- Reg Classes Victoria Jordan - Sweepstakes
Colonial Afghan Hound Club, Inc. Moss-Bow, Foley	12/02/2011 Trade Center at Courtyard By Marriott Fitchburg, MA 01420	Pending – Regular Classes Pending - Sweepstakes Pending – Jr. Showmanship
Greater Pittsburgh Afghan Hound Club	No Show in 2011	

PURINA PARENT CLUB PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (PPCPP)
For the period January-December, 2010
Submitted by Helen Stein

From 1/1/10 through 12/31/10, 61 Pro Club members (who designated “for The Afghan Hound Club of America”) submitted weight circles resulting in a total of \$1,088.27 earned by the AHCA for the 2010 program. Half of that money - \$544.14 was donated to the Canine Health Foundation for use in our *AHCA donor advised fund*. The other half was sent directly to us, and I recently forwarded a check to Linda Jackson, Treasurer, in the amount of \$544.14.

The money given directly to AHCA from Purina is to be spent only on Rescue Efforts, Education Campaigns, or Health and Wellness Research. The Donor Advised Fund is held by the Canine Health Foundation, and the money in our account may only be used for Grants or Health Studies that the AHCA selects.

As of 12/31/10, there were 174 National Parent Clubs participating in the PPCPP. The Afghan Hound Club of America has been given credit for **348 individuals** who are enrolled in the PPCPP. Not all individuals are AHCA members; any Pro Club member may designate that his weight circles be credited to AHCA.

How does this work? If you are a Pro Club member, you still receive benefits for the weight circles you submit, and the donation to AHCA and the Canine Health Foundation is a bonus. *Your earned points are not touched*. If you’re not a Pro Club member, you can send the weight circles to someone who is (or to the AHCA) and those weight circles will be credited to AHCA.

I have renewed our participation in this program through December, 2011.

Interested individuals may contact the Purina Parent Club Partnership program by calling 1-800-778-3375 or e-mail purinappcp@purina.com.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make this program a success!

Helen Stein
PPCPP Committee

LURE COURSING
A History of Lure Coursing
 Submitted by,
Nicci & Max von Broembsen
& Vicki Fogre



Nicci



Vicki



Although coursing with hounds goes back at least to the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs, Lure Coursing is a relatively new sport.

Lure Coursing as we know it today, was conceived in the early 1970s when a group of California coursing enthusiasts recognized that barbed wire presented a significant danger

to the hounds coursing live prey in open fields; and the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) was founded. About 20 years later, in 1991, AKC developed their Lure Coursing program. The sport is now carried out in a structured and controlled environment, which significantly reduces danger of injury, but which still allows us to witness the functionality of our hounds.

Lure Coursing is a sport developed for SIGHTHOUNDS. It involves the hounds pursuing a lure attached to a braided line, powered by an electric motor. Through a system of pulleys, it simulates the way game would attempt to avoid and outrun the hunting hounds, over a course of between 600 and 1,000 yards or more. It is not a race, although speed is one of the components of the course. The first hound home is not necessarily the winner. The hounds are graded on several components of coursing: speed, agility, follow, endurance, and overall ability.

Are Afghan Hounds competitive on the coursing field?

Afghan Hounds of course are natural hunters. So, let's look at the components of lure coursing, which are supposed to simulate a hunt. **Speed** - we know that our dogs are extremely fast.



Agility - due to the pelvic structure of the Afghan Hound, they are able to pivot rapidly and are more agile than most other sight hound breeds. **Follow** is something that develops naturally; **endurance** comes from roadwork and other forms of exercise.

Finally, **overall ability** is something that each individual hound develops depending on life experiences, confidence and many other factors.

The answer to the question "are Afghan Hounds competitive" is YES, very much so. They often take the Best in Field title at coursing trials, and, in 2001 the AKC All Breed number one coursing hound was a young two year old Afghan Hound (Blurr). This dog, in addition to earning AKC Field Champion-

ship, also earned his conformation Championship and his ASFA Championship titles. He subsequently went on to become one of the most awarded dogs to date in both ASFA and AKC lure coursing. He continued coursing and winning up to his death at 11 years of age

Why should I take my dog lure coursing?

There can be many reasons to take your dog coursing. Of course if you have gone through the effort to obtain a conformation championship for your dog, you could continue and seek the Grand Champion and its various levels of titles, or you could take your dog coursing and earn an AKC coursing Field Championship title. Combined with the conformation title, it would result in your dog joining an elite group of, to date, only 104 Afghans that are DUAL CHAMPIONS (DC). For most of us, it is the enjoyment derived from participating with other coursing enthusiasts, and seeing the excitement and very obvious pleasure that the dogs display at a coursing event.

It is through lure coursing, we see our Afghan Hounds develop in so many ways. It brings them joy, lets them use the natural gifts they've been blessed with, and helps to develop their confidence and well-deserved pride in themselves. Although lure coursing is a simulated hunt, it's close enough to what Afghan Hounds were bred for over the millennia. The excitement our hounds experience whenever they arrive at the field and see the



lure instills an excitement in the human handlers. The dog strains at the end of his leash to get to the line, focuses energy for the hunt, and then takes off in an explosion of power and speed "on the T of Tally Ho." It is so exciting to witness the magnificent bursts of speed, power and agility on the field. You cannot help but be

awed as they trot off the field with tremendous confidence and pride after they have put every fiber of their being into the course.

Lure coursing your Afghan Hound allows you to participate in a canine sport which does not have many of the conformation restrictions, disqualifications and deviations from the standard. The only Afghan Hound breed disqualification is a monorchid dog, however neutered hounds may participate, as well as dogs with brown eyes, or lack of topknot etc. Your rescue with no known pedigree, but with an AKC PAL or ILP registration can participate in both AKC and ASFA trials.

Lure coursing is a great way to enjoy a weekend with your dogs; but it is not for the couch potato. Conditioning for the show ring and the coursing field is different. Show ring trot is a fairly stiff backed gait. On the coursing field a double suspension gallop requires the use of quite a few extra and different muscles. So, if you plan on participating in Lure Coursing, be certain to make sure your dog is fit and not carrying too much weight. Road work and fast walks to condition the cardiovascular system is recommended.



Advantages of Lure Coursing.

Performance events are showing an increase in participation, and becoming an increasingly popular way to spend time with your dog and have a great weekend. It is fun for the handlers and the dogs in a very relaxed atmosphere without the formality of the show ring.

The advantages of Lure Coursing are: no handlers' fees, no problem of what to wear, no lugging of crates, grooming tables, dryers and grooming equipment, etc. There are even gate entries on the day of the Trials, in case you wake up and decide to get out for the day. There are a number of veteran Afghan Hounds out there coursing, enjoying it, and winning! We have had 11 year old dogs participating very competitively.



Unfortunately there are seasonal restrictions, the summer months are too hot for running. There are two seasons for Trials, in the Spring and the Fall. Make no mistake however, the hounds run in rain, sleet and winds. In fact they seem to enjoy the mud more than the owners do.

After a weekend of Trials the advantages will become very apparent...a very relaxed and contented hound/hounds lazing around, not looking for trouble, and just dreaming of the next time they hear "Tally Ho."

How to begin participating.

Participation is easy. Finding trials near to you is just a click away. For AKC sponsored trials, go to <http://www.akc.org/events/search/>. It will list the trials by States. For ASFA trials, go to www.ASFA.org. From there you will be able to choose a club to contact. Most Clubs enjoy mentoring newbies, and there are of course many chat lists for advice.

Most important make sure you have a good recall on your dog, and a micro-chip in case you don't. Although, after a good hard run on the coursing field, most hounds will happily come back to their owner for a rest and a drink of water!

Looking forward to seeing an increase in the number of Afghan Hounds coursing and having fun in the Fall. Tally Ho.

A LURE COURSING TALE AS TOLD BY A FRIEND Submitted by Nicci von Broembsen

At 5:30 in the morning, she wondered what was she thinking when she decided to do this? Why must it be so early and now, driving on a very small winding road, why is it in the middle of nowhere? Well, it didn't really matter now, she wasn't so far away and she began to think about what had brought her here. The Afghan Hound that she rescued seemed so different from any dog she had known before, and the attachment she felt now seemed to have sneaked up on her almost insidiously. Not like the dogs she had known growing up to be sure.

She had tried the dog show scene and it was fun to meet the other breed people and hear their tales, but it was just a bit too much for her. Still, she wanted to find a way to have more time and enjoyment with her dog, so here she was.

She had been here before to do what they called "certs" or a test to see that her dog would run safely with others but this was her first real lure trial. She was nervous before as she let her Afghan Hound run loose for the first time, but she saw right away that the attraction of the lure was more than enough to keep her dog on the field. Now, after roll call, she felt a new nervousness. She wanted her Afghan Hound, above all, to have fun but she wanted her to do well also. Having rushed up here to this place in the middle of nowhere to arrive in time for roll call she now wondered why all the fuss? She had been sitting in the car now for over an hour as she watched various people do seemingly the same thing out on the field over and over as they went back and forth.



Suddenly, everyone seemed to be yelling at her, "Afghan Hounds to the line!" Quickly she grabbed her hound, and was having a terrible time getting the slip lead on the way she was taught. At the line, the huntmaster seemed not so pleased that she was not ready, but another Afghan Hound owner gave her a hand and soon she was ready to release. She wondered though, was this just all a bit too much? "Tally Ho!" she heard and knew that meant to let go but the lead got all tangled up and she was sure this would ruin her dog's run.

Off she ran anyway and as the lure turned her dog followed as if on a rail. Time seemed to stand still as she watched, and it was better than she could have imagined. She was so proud of how her Afghan Hound seemed to become something she hadn't known before. Confident and determined! Her body language was unlike anything she had seen of her before. As she turned so close to the ground, dirt seemed to fly above her head.

When her Afghan Hound came into the finish she remembered all the concerns she had about this before and smiled. This could well be something they could enjoy together. She real-



ized though, as she started to walk away, that she hadn't really paid any attention to the other dog in the stake. So she turned to the person who was so helpful with the lead and asked. "Who won, how will I know if my Afghan Hound won?" The other owner turned to her, smiled and said "I usually look in their eyes." So she did, and clearly her dog had won! "I guess we'll be getting up early for tomorrow's trial too, huh?" She smiled.



**GIVING BACK
MENTOR PROGRAM**
Submitted by
Chair, Bobbi Keller

We currently have 61 members involved with our Giving Back program. Of the 61, I received 27 contact reports, and 17 didn't bother to get back to me. A couple of people wrote about their experience and they are included in my report. This is a valuable program, and I want all our members to get involved. When we give of ourselves, we let the world know how much we love the Afghan Hound.

Submitted by Mentor, Suzanne Eaton Duay:

In April I was contacted thru email by a couple in south Florida looking for a pet puppy. They had recently lost their 14 year old Afghan Hound. Not knowing of any puppies available myself, I referred them to the AHCA website for breeder referral and rescue, and to several other PC members to make inquiries. I learned that they did get a puppy, but I don't know the source.



Newcomer Jared Garner continues to be active in the breed. He has been conditioning and training a lady's Afghan Hound for show, and has been helping me socialize my puppies with walks in the park, car rides and lead training. He's looking forward to attending his first National Specialty this year! (A photo of Jared is attached.)

Submitted by Mentor, Valerie Stokes:

I have had three contacts since the last meeting. Two were for puppies and one for assistance with a behavior issue.

For the two puppy queries, I suggested they come to the Afghan Hound Club of California Specialty, held in conjunction with Western Hound Association's Hound Classic weekend. I told them they could talk to breeder/owners and that I would be available to assist them. I wasn't contacted at the show, so don't know if they came. Finding puppies for people is a bit difficult for me since I am no long actively breeding. However, the online AHCA Breeder Directory may prove helpful in the future.

This behavior issue came from Mexico.

Hello,

I found your contact information on the Afghan Hound Club of America and would like to request your help in a situation. I own a female Afghan Hound in Mexico which has been with me since she was 6 months old, now 7 years old. When she was around 1 year old, I received a female Pug and they became fully familiar and for us they were our children. We don't have any kids. On August 2010 we had an incident with the Afghan Hound as she bit my nephew on his face without any clear reason of harassment from the kid (9 years old). We were moving to another home and in the middle of the mess she did this. Fortunately, it was only superficial wounds and we assumed that she was stressed due to all the movement at home. We moved into a bigger house where she and the rest of my dogs (Pug, Collie) have a bigger place to run. Last Saturday the Afghan Hound attacked the small Pug inflicting external wounds but hours later we found that due to the attack the Pug had a blood in her lungs and finally it got complicated and we had to put her to sleep. Now we're very concerned as we don't know how to handle this. On one side our sadness is very deep as we lost one of our beloved dogs due to the attack from our other dog. We still have the 2 year old Collie (castrated male) and a 6 months puppy from the Pug (female). I have mixed feelings on this and need assistance to put them aside from any decision, in order to avoid any future incident that we may regret. Right now the Afghan Hound has no symptoms of being conscious of what has been done (I may be thinking as a human with her). We really love her and personally I don't want to lose another of my precious dogs (she or any of the others) but of course there's a matter in here that we have to take care. What do you think about it? Is this a characteristic of the breed? What should I do? Any assistance is very important. Thanks a lot.

Rodrigo Carrillo

This is an emotional issue, as you can imagine. I wanted to get a variety of opinions before answering.

My reply:

I discussed your Afghan Hound problem at a recent board meeting of the Western Hound Association of Southern California. Present were four long-time breeder judges. One of the participants, Mary Cutherell, is also involved with various forms of training, including providing dogs for movies and television programs. (Her Afghan Hound was part of the movie, Titanic.)

Below are her remarks (in italics) that she emailed me afterwards:

It appears that at 7 years old your Afghan Hound has become territorial and protective. Is she spayed? You must remember that Afghan Hounds are hunters. They are dogs that chase game by sight and are more than capable of bringing down that game that is being chased. I would be aware that my dog is a hunter by nature and keep her away from your small dog when you are not present. Taking her to an obedience specialist is also in order. She must learn that you are in charge. You are the leader of the pack and only YOU can tell her what she is

allowed to do. She doesn't get to decide on her own what she is allowed to do. Even though you love your Afghan Hound, you must be in control of her actions. It is your job to protect your other pets and the people your Afghan Hound comes in contact with also. Love her by keeping her out of trouble. She will be happier and so will you.

I have trained Afghan Hounds in obedience. At one time, every Afghan Hound in my home had an obedience degree in addition to being champions. It is not easy to train this breed as they are independent thinkers. They are aware that when off leash, you have little control of their actions. They become easily bored with repetition. The newer training techniques, however, seem to be more effective. Cesar Millan, the "dog whisperer," has some excellent suggestions regarding training. He also stresses that you, the owner, are in charge - the leader of the pack.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me again.

Valerie Stokes



AHCA LOGO ITEMS FOR SALE
Submitted by Inventory Chair,
Sue Busby



PARENT CLUB LOGO ITEMS AVAILABLE

- FLEECE SCARVES** **\$10.00**
Logo in Silver Threads—3 Blue
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NEW GRAND CHAMPION ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS



Grand Champions may now earn Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum designations at AKC shows.

At each level achieved, owners will receive a special recognition medallion and certificate.

You may check your Afghan Hound's status on the AKC website.

Requirements will be as follows:

- Bronze Grand Championship is awarded for 100 points earned.
- Silver Grand Championship is awarded for 200 points earned.
- Gold Grand Championship is awarded for 400 points earned.
- Platinum Grand championship is awarded for 800 points earned.



WAYS AND MEANS REPORT
Submitted by Chair,
Suzanne Eaton Duay

The only new products we are looking into are brushes with Marcia Van Woert's 2011 National logo art on the back and stainless steel combs with AHCA engraved on the spine. Details and prices will have to be approved before orders are placed.

In addition to Parent Club logo items for sale at the National, we will have fine-quality pin brushes with Marcia Van Woert's beautiful 75th Anniversary National logo art engraved on the back. These Greyhound Brand pin brushes will sell for \$45.95. If you can't wait till the National, they can soon be ordered online at www.greyhoundcomb.com.



CRAZY DOG LAWS
Submitted by Marcia Morelli
(Pictured with Marcia is
Charlie, CDC,TDI)

We all know about laws against barking dogs but, in some areas, there are also laws against barking people.

Norris Daniels, of Greensburg, PA, began barking at Ibo, a police dog, and continued barking at the dog even after being told several times to stop. Daniels was charged with illegal taunting of a police animal - a third-degree felony - and sentenced to two to twelve months in jail. Although the incident seems somewhat humorous, according to the dog's handler, there was a danger of Ibo becoming so agitated that he could have attacked Mr. Daniels.

In Ohio officers found Ryan Stephens teasing and barking at a police dog in a squad car in a Cincinnati suburb. After he refused to stop, Mr. Stephens was also arrested. When asked later why he was harassing the dog, Mr. Stephens replied - "THE DOG STARTED IT"!!

It comes as no surprise that alcohol was involved in both instances. So always remember - Don't drink and bark.

**NATIONAL INVENTORY AVAILABLE
DEEP DISCOUNTED PRICES**



2008 NATIONAL INVENTORY
(Prices do not include postage)

- DVD CONFORMATION SETS—2 \$20.00
- DVDs PERFORMANCE EVENTS—1 \$5.00
- DVDs LURE COURSING—5 \$5.00
- CATALOGS (MEMORIES) - 25 \$5.00
(Featuring all past Winners from 1940 to current/All Events)

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TO ORDER CONTACT SUE BUSBY:
barakiafs@peoplepc.com

PAYPAL/VISA/MC ACCEPTED

**NATIONAL INVENTORY AVAILABLE
DEEP DISCOUNTED PRICES**



2010 NATIONAL INVENTORY

(Prices do not include postage)

- POSTERS 18 X 22 (UNFRAMED) \$5.00
- SWEATSHIRTS (Silk Screened) \$5.00
 - Black—1 S, 7 XL, 3 2X
 - Brown—5 S, 2 L, 4 XL
- T-SHIRTS (Silk Screened) \$5.00
 - Green—4 Extra Large, 2-2X
 - Black—7 Extra Large
 - Chocolate—5 Medium, 9 Extra Large
- BROWN 1/4 ZIP SPORT-TEK JACKET \$10.00
(Silk Screened)
1 Small, 5 Medium, 4 Large, 7 Extra Large
- BLACK POLO SHIRTS (Embroidered) \$5.00
5 Large, 10 Extra Large
- TOTE BAGS (Silk Screened in Color) \$5.00
- NATIONAL LOGO CANVAS TOTE BAGS \$5.00
(Silk Screened in Color)
- NATIONAL LOGO & NATIONAL SPONSOR LOGO
VELUS ON EACH SIDE \$ 5.00
35 (Silk Screened in Color)



2009 NATIONAL INVENTORY

(Prices do not include postage)

- POSTERS 18 X 22 \$5.00
- T- SHIRTS (Logo Embroidered On) \$5.00
 - BLACK - 2 Small, 6 Extra Large
 - PURPLE - 5 Extra Large
- SWEATSHIRTS (Logo Embroidered On) \$5.00
 - GRAY - 7 Small, 4 Medium, 15 Large, 20 XL
 - PURPLE - 2 Small, 10 Large, 15 XL, 1 - 2X
- 1/4 ZIP SUEDE SHIRT \$10.00
BLACK - 5 XL, 1 2X
- 2009 CATALOGS (Includes Postage) \$5.00
- 3 MUGS \$5.00

**TO ORDER ALL INVENTORY
CONTACT SUE BUSBY:**
barakiafs@peoplepc.com

PAYPAL/VISA/MC ACCEPTED

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Submitted by Legislative Chair, Betty Salmon

This past spring, the Humane Society of the United States sponsored another conference. What made this particular conference different was the purported topic: purebred dogs. The conference was well attended and featured an international panel of animal rights advocates among others. Fortunately for us, one of the attendees was Sharyn Hutchens. Sharyn is well respected for her knowledge and efforts supporting breeders' rights and the human-animal bond.

She shared her notes and impressions regarding the various presentations and speakers and made them in a series of reports entitled "Purebred Paradox Impressions." Following is the final installment of her series, where she shares her insight about what this means, where things are headed, and what we might do about it. *-Betty*

*This article appears in Topknot News with the author's permission. You will find the entire series at:
<http://got50.blogspot.com/2011/05/purebred-paradox-conference.html>*

The first four parts of my Purebred Paradox Impressions post reported what I heard at the conference. In this final part I want to offer some opinions about what this means and what we should do. These thoughts are mine alone, not approved by any organization.

It's a standard HSUS (Humane Society of the United States*) tactic to announce a problem, get others to talk about their announcement, and then use all the talk as a springboard for an attack. It does not matter that there are few real problems or that existing laws would take care of them: They use the talk that they generated together with whatever seemingly awful events or situations they can find or invent to promote the idea of a general crisis demanding immediate attention.

Experts in the field are caught off-guard. Sure, there are some problems – there are problems in every facet of life - and current law is dealing with them. But HSUS is talking to people who know nothing about this field - lawmakers and the general public - using emotion rather than facts. It doesn't matter that there is no fire and all the smoke came out of an HSUS spray can. They have credibility and money and they use it to demand action.

Recognize the term "puppy mill"? How about "factory farming"? Those were earlier campaigns and some very bad laws were the result. Obviously, the point of these campaigns is the extremely successful fundraising that goes on around them.

It's safe to say that the Purebred Paradox Conference was the opening salvo of an HSUS attack on the breeding of purebred dogs. It does not matter that most presentations were balanced, or that several of them pointed out actions being taken to improve the health of purebreds. It certainly doesn't matter that no presenter that I heard endorsed the idea of laws about breeding dogs (with the possible exception of a couple of the British presenters, who hinted at "regulations"). The conference raised the profile of purebred health and HSUS will use selective quotes and pieces of the documentary to 'prove' that laws are needed.

Anyone with doubts about the future can check out Wayne Pacelle's blog at: <http://hsus.typepad.com/wayne/2011/04/purebred-paradox.html>

He says: "But perhaps the biggest dog welfare issue in America is the reckless breeding of purebred dogs, which produces an incredible laundry list of inherited disorders, congenital health problems, and welfare concerns for the animals. In *The Bond*, I take this issue head-on, calling out the American Kennel Club and other breed registry groups for their mania in valuing the exterior appearance of the animals rather than the underlying health and wellness of the dogs."

I don't think he could get any clearer than that. Only the details differ from what he said about commercial dog breeders when the 'puppy mill' campaign started or his thoughts more recently about 'factory farming.' And only the details will differ in the laws that HSUS and their various puppets will start introducing in the next legislative season.

The annual HSUS Taking Action for Animals conference will feature a workshop entitled "Health, Welfare, and Policy in Purebred Dog Breeding." Speakers are from Best Friends, Humane Society International, and the ASPCA. Less than three months will have passed between the Purebred Paradox conference and this follow-up. What's next?

We are about to begin a war with the general public over our right to breed dogs. They will be told that we are not stewards of our breeds but that we are breeding for appearance, with disregard for the health of our dogs. Just as they have been convinced that all commercial breeders are puppy mills, they will now be told that all show breeders are only out to win at the expense of our dogs.

How do we fight back? One thing that will not work is to keep shouting, "We don't have a problem!" Legislators and the public will not buy it.

So what can we do to protect our breeds?

Continued on Page 38.....

Continued from Page 37....

1. We need transparency. When HSUS attacked the farmers, their response was to say, "Okay, why don't you come SEE what we do?" We need to reach out to the public and show them that there are not dirty secrets hiding in the darkness of our kennels. This will not change anything HSUS is doing, but it will help show the general population that these claims are not true. The more people who actually know how show breeders operate, the harder it will be for HSUS to get traction.

2. Get informed and get involved. Okay, perhaps you aren't a commercial breeder so those laws didn't bother you. You're not a farmer, either. But if you're a breeder of purebred dogs, or ever hope to be one, this campaign will matter to you. A LOT. If you've been letting other people deal with "all that legislative stuff," those days are over. We can only defend our rights with INFORMATION to combat the lies that are about to start and NUMBERS of voters who tell lawmakers the truth.

3. Be prepared to make some changes. Forget "We've always done it that way." Nobody will care how you always did it. If Velma Voter calls her lawmaker and asks him to vote for HB 666 to stop breeders from producing defective dogs and you call him and say "We've always done it that way," that lawmaker will then most likely decide that a law to make you stop doing it that way would be a good idea. I'm not talking about compromise. I'm talking about improvement where it is needed.

4. Know what science says about your breeding practices. Some practices that were necessary or at least okay when breeds were being founded (say 100 years ago) no longer make general sense. If you have an exceptional situation so one or more of these breeding practices does make sense for your dogs, then be sure you know the reason and be prepared to explain it so the public can understand it; otherwise don't do it.

-- Inbreeding and linebreeding. To reduce the frequency with which inherited diseases appear, scientists and geneticists insist that we should be outcrossing, not inbreeding/linebreeding. (Linebreeding is a term coined by breeders, but geneticists say it is still inbreeding, though to a lesser degree.) This is a tough one for us. "But my mentor said...." Your mentor was not wrong, but we're in a very different place with our breeds than we were 40 years ago." We need to change course. They needed consistency, we need diversity. Remember, we may think inbreeding is "setting type" but genetic experts think "not healthy" and the general public thinks "Deliverance."

-- Use of popular sires. Nobody in the scientific community thinks this is a healthy practice. Even when no known bad trait is passed on, the unhealthy recessives that the sire carries (every animal carries some) will be more frequent in succeeding generations and if something truly terrible is discovered in a few generations it may be nearly impossible to breed away from it. It happened most famously in Dobermans (cardiomyopathy) and we're seeing it now in other breeds.

-- Breeding physical traits that are not good for the dogs. If the trend in your breed is to more c-sections, more of a trait that brings discomfort or danger with type, or anything else that you would have a hard time defending to the public, then it is time to reverse that trend.

I hope the parent clubs involved will be ready for this fight. Some breeds are believed by many veterinarians and (in some cases) by the public to be prone to problems due to traits specifically bred into them for appearance's sake. I am no expert in any of these breeds and don't know whether the claims are true or how many dogs are affected. But if your breed is one of those targeted, you must be able to explain either why these traits are not damaging to the dogs' health or what you are doing to change those traits. Again, transparency. If only two percent of your breed is affected by, say, brachycephalic airway syndrome, get the figures to prove it and be ready to talk about it. We cannot ignore these accusations any longer. We must be prepared to defend what we're doing...or change it.

-- Failing to give specific attention to inherited health in a breeding program. Are you doing the tests that make sense for your breed and line? Do you do pedigree research on health issues? Do you offer the best health guarantee practical for your breed and encourage your buyers to report any problems? And when the problems are reported, are you supportive? Put that information on your website, and when you talk to prospective puppy owners or anyone else, emphasize health.

Basically if you can't say "health and happiness" of our breed are the primary concern of our parent club, then you are going to be on the defensive. The heat will be on for laws to force you to change and that heat is going to include laws that will do much more damage than good.

5. Join your breed's parent club (or affiliated regional club). Support their health program. Insist that they talk about and deal with these issues. Be willing to consider specific action to improve the health of the breed. For example, there are breeds with defects that are so common that they cannot be very much reduced. These breeds might need to open their stud books in a carefully planned, scientific program to bring in healthier genes. Neither the public nor lawmakers will care about the argument "Our dogs won't be pure anymore!"

Does your parent club have something like a 'guide to breeding healthy (name of your breed)'? It should. Health problems and what is being done to reduce them should be on every parent club's website.

6. Support the American Kennel Club. No, they're not perfect but they're making a serious effort and they're miles ahead of where they were even a few years ago. The AKC is the only organization with the horsepower, the name recognition, and the reputation to go toe-to-toe with HSUS. They cannot do this without our support and they cannot defend the indefensible.

Change is coming whether we want it or not. If we act now, we can assure that most - maybe even all - the change will actually benefit the dogs. Our specific actions will help with our defense but the increased knowledge of WHY we do what we do will be even more valuable.

If we do not act, then we will get change anyway. It will be led by those who hate us and don't care at all about the animals and it will be enforced by the ignorant.

Our choice. – Sharyn Hutchens

Sharyn lives in Virginia, where she and her husband, Walt, breed Whippets (Timbreblue). She is an occasional contributor to and co-moderator/co-founder of the preeminent list, Petlaw.

**The Humane Society of the United States - a Washington, D.C. lobbying group for Animal Rights, not affiliated with your local humane society or shelter. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is neither an umbrella group nor a parent company for local, hands-on shelters, despite what one might conclude from their name.*

LIBRARY REPORT
Submitted by Librarian, Helen Stein

The Spring, 2011 issue of *Sirius, the Newsletter of The American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog* has a nice mention of AHCA member Joe Miller in its featured story. Joe was President of the Wichita Kennel Club in 1987 when the club established the fine arts competition known as The Art Show at the Dog Show. Many Afghan Hound fanciers, including several AHCA members, have participated in this competition over the years, some winning top prizes. Joe has been a constant advocate and organizer of this fine competition since its inception. Congratulations to Joe and to the Sunflower Cluster on 25 years of success! For more information about the Dog Museum of America, visit the website www.museumofthedog.org

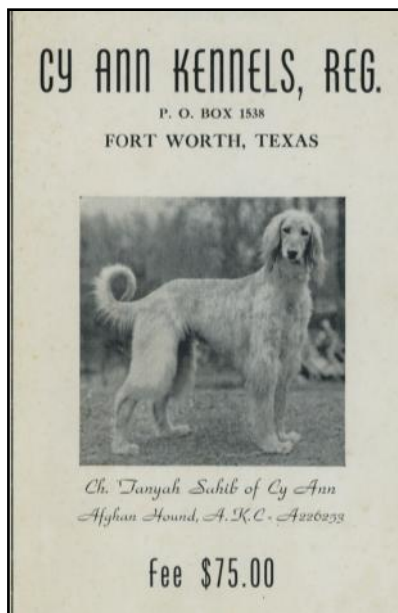
I recently received the following info from American Dog Show Judges:

The video tape **A Key to Movement** by Karen G. Armistead is no longer available on VHS, however it is now available as a DVD. The DVD price is \$39.95 plus \$6.00 shipping and handling for a total of \$45.95 (US funds only). To purchase, please remit \$45.95 to: ADSJ , 200 Lakeside Way, Greensburg, PA 15601 U.S.A.

While they may look like “odds and ends,” there were some very interesting additions to the archives this Spring. Norm Kattelman sent several copies of “Afghan Antics” ~ the newsletter of the Midwest Afghan Hound Club, including Volume I, No. 1 dated October, 1960. Interesting articles in this newsletter include “Judging the Afghan Hound” by Babbie Tongren, “Notes on Training an Afghan (Hound)” by Bill and Gini Withington, and a Breeders’ Directory including breeders Jay and Dave Ammon (Ammon Hall), Mrs. Ruth Tongren (ben ghaZi), Robert Stein (Charaj, reg.), Barbara Alderman (Alde-Barb), Marjorie Lathrop (Majara) and Ned and Sue Kauffman (Holly Hill).

Susan Zoppe (Susan Zoppe’s Royal Afghans) sent several beautiful color photos of her Hounds performing their captivating circus act. A great video of their performance can be viewed on the website www.DavidEZoppe.com *

We have recently added the complete set of books in the series “*Impact – A Tribute to the Creators of the American Bred Afghan Hound*” by Inge James – a great collection of photos and pedigrees dating from 1927 – 1961.



Dog fancier and writer Blackie Nygood donated a stud card featuring Ch. Tanya Sahib of Cy-Ann, owned by Cyrus Rickel of Ft. Worth, Texas. Ch. Tanyah Sahib of Cy-Ann was the Best of Breed winner at the Afghan Hound Club of America’s First Specialty Show held in 1940. Cyrus Rickel was one of the Incorporators of the Afghan Hound Club of America in 1950. He judged the AHCA National Specialty Show three times, awarding

BOB to Ch. Blue Arabis of Kuvera in 1951, to Ch. Shirkhan of Grandeur in 1959, and to Ch. Dahnwood Gabriel in 1968

SIRE	GRAND PARENTS	GREAT GRAND PARENTS
Ch. Amanullah of Kandahar No. 940570	Ch. Badshah of Ainsdart	Sirdah of Ghazni
	Zahera of Prides Hill	Kumari of Kaf
DAM Kali of Prides Hill No. 948774	Westmill Omar	Westmill Omar
	Westmill Omar	Azra of Ghazni
	Azra of Ghazni	Danenda of Ghazni
		Surkh of Ghazni
		Sirdar of Ghazni
		Shireen of Ghazni

All of the above-mentioned items will be on display at our booth at the National Specialty in Ohio. Please stop by!

Ed's Note: See pages 14 & 15



The 75th Anniversary AHCA 2011 National Specialty
Submitted by National Specialty Show Chair, Jody Gardner



The 2011 National Specialty Show is rapidly approaching when friends and their Afghan Hounds will be gathering at the Roberts Center in Wilmington, Ohio (half way between Cincinnati and Columbus on Interstate 71) for the 2011 National Specialty. The Roberts Center is a wonderful dog friendly facility with a Holiday Inn and restaurant located within the complex. The specialty will be in a ballroom that has approximately 28,000 square feet which will enable the show ring, vendors and grooming all to be in the same room unobstructed by pillars. The ample grassy areas around the facility will enable most of the performance events to be held at the facility as well. In addition to the conformation and performance events, there will be a breeders' forum and a

CHIC clinic scheduled. Additional information is available at the AHCA web site under "2011 National Specialty."

If you have not been contacted regarding trophy donations, please contact Jerry Bazar who will be happy to accept your donations. There will be raffles, auctions, and specially scheduled giveaways where you will have ample opportunities to walk away with "goodies." In addition to the 2011 AHCA National, September 25-29, The AHC of Greater Columbus will be holding their regional specialty on Friday September 30th, and the AHC of Southwestern Ohio is scheduled for Saturday October 1st. Note that the closing date for the AHCA National is Wednesday September 7th and for the two regional specialties it is Wednesday September 14th.

Rooms are still available at the Holiday Inn. Please indicate that you are part of the Afghan Hound Group by using the group code "AHN" for the special rate of \$99.00 plus tax. You can make your reservations by calling 1-800-654-7036 or 1-937-283-3272.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the final preparations for this year's national, please feel free to contact us.

Jody Gardner / Show Chair 2011
740-891-5046
jmgafghan@aol.com

Gill Ullom / Co-Chair 2011
419-864-3016
burrllom@earthlink.net

Show Secretary: Sue Busby
586-264-4292
barakiafs@peoplepc.com

AHCA 2011 National Tentative Schedule of Events



- Sunday, September 25*** - Lure Coursing, AKC and ASFA (off site)
- Monday, September 26***
- Obedience Competition, Rally Competition
 - Vendors Welcome Party
 - Sweepstakes and Veteran Sweepstakes in P.M.
 - Triathlon Conformation Judging
- Tuesday, September 27***
- Agility
 - Regional Club Meeting, General meeting
 - Thyroid Testing, Micro chipping, DNA Testing & Hip X-Rays (done off site)
 - Dog Conformation Judging, Winners Dog
 - Breeders Seminar & Dinner in P.M.
- Wednesday, September 28***
- Rescue Meeting
 - Judges Education
 - Junior Seminar
 - Cerf Testing, Micro chipping, DNA Testing & Hip X-Rays (done off site)
 - Bitch Conformation Judging, Winners Bitch
 - Art Auction & Dinner in P.M.
- Thursday, September 29***
- Junior Showmanship Competition
 - Parade of Veterans & Parade of Rescue
 - High Scoring dog in Obedience, Rally & Agility & Best In Field
 - Best Junior Handler
 - Best of Breed Competition, Best Puppy, Best Bred By Exhibitor, Best Stud Dog, Best Brood Bitch, Best Brace.
 - Awards Banquet in P.M.
- Friday, September 30*** - The Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus Specialty.
- Saturday, October 1*** - The Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio Specialty.

AHCA IS OFFERING A CHIC CLINIC AT THE 2011 NATIONAL!
Submitted by Betty Salmon

Testing includes:

Thyroid conducted by Nancy Rich, DVM September 27th starting at 9:00a.m.

CERF conducted by Terah Webb, DVM September 28th starting at 9:00a.m.

Hips/OFA conducted by Tracy Leonard, DVM

Hips/OFA will be held off site in the afternoon of September 27th and 28th

A shuttle will be available for your convenience.

Micro chipping and DNA kits also available

Schedule your appointments today!*

Instructions and details: 2011 Health Clinic

Thyroid Testing:

- You must bring a copy of each animal's AKC Registration certificate. It is required that a copy of the certificate be sent in along with the sample, so just bringing the registration number will not meet the qualifications.
- Your dog must be microchipped/tattooed for submission of thyroid test results (microchipping available at clinic).
- Certification is only possible on dogs 12 months of age and older. You may wish to test a younger animal, but those results will not be certifiable.
- Complete facsimile form prior to appointment and bring it with you. It is critical that you do so, as you must provide registration numbers for sire and dam, as well as other information which you may have on file at home. You can download a facsimile form at <http://www.offa.org/pdf/thyappbw.pdf>

When downloading, the form converts from PDF to a format that allows you to type in information (if you wish) prior to printing, instead of completing the form by hand. However, it is not possible to submit a completed form online.

- Bring a check payable to AHCA in the amount of \$95 U.S. for the test. You will also have to write a check payable to OFA for \$15 U.S. to be included with the submitted application form (or \$30 for litter of 3 or more dogs when submitted together).
- Bitches should not be tested during an estrus cycle (including two months following a season) as doing so may result in skewed results.
- Contact Betty Salmon at bettyalmon@columbus.rr.com or (614) 844-3834 as soon as possible to schedule your appointment time.

Ophthalmic Exam:

- Unfortunately, CERF does not offer a facsimile form for you to fill in prior to your appointment. And it may take you up to ½ hour to fill the form out. Bring your animal's AKC registration certificate with you so you can refer to it as you complete the CERF form. *Note: Each multiple-layer form is individualized for the ophthalmologist who will be performing the exam, and costs the vet \$2 per form. The cost of one form is included in your fee. The specialist will have to charge you the additional \$2 if you need to ask for a replacement form, so please be careful when filling in the information.*
- Bring a check payable to AHCA in the amount of \$40 U.S. for the test. You will also have to write a check payable to CERF for \$12 U.S. to be included with the submitted form.
- CERF exams performed on a dog/bitch that is not identified by microchipping/tattooing/DNA testing will be denoted by an "N" when listed.
- Contact Betty Salmon at bettyalmon@columbus.rr.com or (614) 844-3834 as soon as possible to schedule your appointment time.

OFA (Hips):

- Appointments are available to have the x-rays performed off-site at a veterinarian's office. Transportation and office visit will require approximately 2 hours.
- Sedation is not required for the x-rays.
- Bring a completed "Application for Hip Dysplasia Data Base" form with you. You can download the form at <http://www.offa.org/pdf/hdappbw.pdf>. You may wish to type in your answers prior to printing the form but you cannot submit the form online. It will be submitted along with the x-rays by the veterinarian.

OFA (Hips) Continued....

- The cost is to be determined. We will be able to provide that information once we receive the final details from Dr. Laurence.
- Contact Betty Salmon at bettrysalmon@columbus.rr.com or (614) 844-3834 as soon as possible to schedule your appointment time.

Microchipping:

- Bring a check payable to AHCA in the amount of \$35 to have your animal microchipped. You will have to pay a fee to the microchip registry used if/when you submit an application to register the chip number in your name.
- Microchipping will be available during the mornings of September 27th and 28th during the same hours as the other services.
- An appointment is not required for microchipping.

DNA Test Kits:

- Free DNA Test Kits will be available. There is a \$40 processing fee (per dog) due when the sample is returned to the AKC.



**AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA
\$1,000.00 VISA GIFT CARD RAFFLE**

Boy do we have a raffle for you! I don't know anyone who could not use an extra \$1,000.00. That is exactly what we are offering for this year's national raffle, a \$1,000.00 VISA GIFT CARD. In addition to the grand prize of the \$1,000.00 gift card, we will also do a daily drawing for a picnic time sports chair valued at over \$60.00. Winners of the daily prizes will be placed back into the drawing for the \$1,000.00 Visa gift card grand prize. So you have several opportunities to be a winner!

Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 tickets for \$20.00. The grand prize drawing will take place at the awards dinner. Winner need not be present to win.

If you wish to purchase tickets, or help us sell tickets, please contact Jerry Bazar.

Don't miss out. You could be a winner!

Jerry Bazar
4600 Casper Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

gbazar@aol.com
757-467-9556

2011 National Triathlon Schedule

Lure Coursing	Sunday 9/24
Obedience & Rally	Monday Morning 9/25 (at show site)
Triathlon Conformation	Monday Evening 9/25 (following Sweepstakes)
Agility	Tuesday Morning 9/25 (at show site – exterior grassy area)



2011 NATIONAL CATALOG ADVERTISING RATES Submitted by Michele Friesen

If you are planning to advertise in the 2011 national catalog, do we have a great deal for you! To celebrate our 75th anniversary, we have some very special advertising rates:

- \$50.00 for your first ad
- \$40.00 for your second ad
- \$30.00 for your third ad
- \$25.00 for your fourth ad
- Additional ads after your 4th ad will be \$25.00 each.

We are also giving you a very special price on loving memory ads and dogs from the past:

- \$30.00 for the first ad
- \$25.00 for the second ad
- Additional ads after your 2nd ad will be \$25.00 each.

The 75th Anniversary catalog will be an 8½ x 11 catalog and will feature all of the past Best of Breed winners. This catalog is sure to be a keepsake. Don't miss this opportunity to place your ad in this very collectable catalog. Don't miss out, place your ad now.

All ad materials need to be submitted to Michelle Friesen. If sent electronically, the photos need to be scanned at 300 dpi or greater. Please send to mgfriesen@verizon.net. If sending an actual photograph, please label the back with the dog's name and your name and address to ensure proper return. Ad will be formatted in black and white, and include one photo and 50-75 words of copy. There will be a \$5.00 charge for any additional photos and a \$5.00 charge for excessive text. Thank you for supporting the 2011 AHCA National Specialty Show Catalog.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ADS

Make checks payable to the AHCA
Visa / MC accepted

Send information and Payments to:

Michele Friesen
5947 Eagle Point
Portsmouth, VA 23703
Home 757-686-3987
mgfriesen@verizon.net



2011 NATIONAL ART AUCTION Submitted by Scott Pfeil

Hello Afghan Hound Lovers,

I have recently been asked to help with the 2011 Afghan Hound Club of America Art Auction, to be held in conjunction with the National Specialty Show. This year marks our 75th anniversary! We hope you will help us make this year's event truly special through your attendance and generous donations.

The Afghan Hound fancy is fortunate to have many talented individuals in our breed. Many of these gifted artists from around the world have donated in the past and I would ask that they please consider generously giving again this year.

Those of us who are less artistically inclined can also contribute! Many of us have had the opportunity to collect many extraordinary pieces of art, jewelry, and memorabilia. I am sure that some of these items that we all enjoy came from this very event! In fact this auction started my own collection (obsession) years ago. If you are anything like me then you probably have more art and Afghan Hound collectibles than you know what to do with! This is your chance to share a special piece of Afghan history with someone else! Please take a few minutes to consider if there is a part of your collection you can part with. With your generous donations we can work together to make this year's art auction a glorious success!

If you are unsure about an outright donation, an interesting second option is available! A minimum/reserve amount can be placed on your item. The item will only be sold if the reserve price is met. If the predetermined reserve is met you will be paid that amount for the sale of your item. Any additional money raised above the reserve will be kept by the Afghan Hound Club of America.

If you would like to donate an item, please let me know as soon as possible as we would like to start advertising. All items can be shipped directly to me at the address listed below. Also, please contact me if you need help with transportation of an item you can't ship. I am committed to making this auction the best yet, and I hope I can count on all of you as well.

Sincerely,

D. Scott Pfeil
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**The Next Topknot News Deadline is:
October 14, 2011**