

TOPKNOT NEWS

Official Publication of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.

Fall/Winter Edition 2021



AP
APRIL JOHNSON PORTRAITURE

Shining Mountain's Tempest CDX BN RN



#1 Rally Novice Afghan Hound

*Tempi is Loved, Trained, and Owned by Tisela Bailey
and Bred by Brian & Laura Wood*

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ON THE COVER....

GCHG Exlysta Aries Ciel Noir CGC, "Ryder" elegantly painted by April Johnson; commissioned by Lucia Brown as a gift for Philip Schafmayer, NCMG. Here is the testimonial Lucia wrote for April's website about the painting: "I recently commissioned April to paint a portrait of a very special dog as a gift for my friend. She has captured the spirit and soul of Ryder and the true essence of this breed. The portrait is simply breathtaking. April has amazing talent and I can't thank her enough. Ryder was a very special boy. With 17 specialty Best in Shows and 14 all-breed Best in Shows, he was America's #1 Afghan Hound in 2014. With very limited breedings he has produced several offspring who have excelled in the show ring in multiple countries. More than that he was an incredibly sweet and loyal companion for Phil. Truly a once in a lifetime dog."

April has dual BFA degrees, one in fine arts from Kent State University and the other a fine art photography degree from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. After twenty+ years as a professional photographer she has rediscovered her passion of creating hand rendered mixed media art work. She has an undeniable passion for animals and humans, capturing and celebrating them with her portraiture. You can see more of her portfolio at www.apriljohnsonportraiture.com

An Editorial Word



The Fall is a wonderful time of year when we gather together for holiday celebrations and stop to take time to count our many blessings. As the leaves fall and the temperatures cool our hearts are warm with the love of our friends and family.

Fall is also the time of farewell. Farewell to outgoing AHCA President, **Helen Stein**. My personal thanks and deep gratitude to her without whose mentoring, hand holding, assistance and patience I would not have been able to get through this first year as Editor.

As always, suggestions, comments and especially articles and photos for consideration are most welcome. Please reach out to me at editortopknotnews@gmail.com

Enjoy this festive time of the year!

Virginia Katilus



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**AHCA RESCUE HOTLINE
877-237-3728**

AHCA Website
www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

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Harry Bennett



Dorma Sue Busby



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Eddie Kominek



Amy Mero



Darla Miller



Christine O'Connor



Christine Pinkston



Martha Powell



Carol Rivette



Anna Stromberg



Jennifer Taylor



Anna Tyler



With Sympathy

It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of the following Members: **Jerry Bazar, Donald Martin, Ruth Weddle, Sandy Weinraub** and long time Afghan Hound fancier/breeder **June Matarazzo.**

Cards have been sent to family members. A number of get well cards have also been sent out to members. We also extend our sympathies to **Dorma Sue Busby's** family and **Ivy Logue's** family for their loss.



Orval Sydney Busby, husband of Dorma Sue Busby

Orval was born on January 31, 1945 to Orval F. and Irene P. Busby (nee: Piper) in Detroit, Michigan. Orval proudly served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged July 22, 1971 and received the National Defense Service Medal and was awarded as a Sharpshooter (Rifle M-16). He graduated from Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan and was an accountant at Ford Motors. Beloved husband of 44 years to Dorma Sue Busby (nee: Yocapetta). He was loved and cherished by many people including his parents, Orval F. Busby and Irene P. Busby; and his siblings, Barbara A. Franchi, Raymond R. Busby and Mary Jane Guznak.



Brian Logue, husband of Ivy Logue*

Brian Mitchell Logue, 64, of Mechanicsburg, PA, passed away Thursday, September 30, 2021 at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Brian was born in Ridgway, PA on February 4, 1957, a son of the late Allen L. and Mary Ellen (Ferraino) Logue. He was a Salesman for Turner Hydraulics, Carlisle, PA. Brian was a guitar player for the Basement Boys Band for over 40 years and the Friends Basketball Club. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, playing golf and basketball. Brian opened his heart and home for 17 years as a Foster Dad and transport volunteer for Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue. Brian is survived by his loving wife, Ivy Kay (Houck) Logue, a daughter, Christine Adell Logue, a brother, Wayne Logue, of Marysville, two sisters, Andrea Alsippi, of Palmyra, Lynn Beth, wife of Rick Scida, of Johnsonburg, PA, also numerous nieces and nephews.

*Ivy has been active as an Afghan Hound owner and Rescuer (she was instrumental in the Chambersburg PA rescue effort).

President's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

I hope that you enjoy this issue of Topknot News. I thought that the previous issue - showcasing the work of wonderfully talented artists - would be difficult to match. I hadn't considered that we have our OWN art ~ the beautiful dogs who came to Wilmington Ohio to leap, chase, sit, climb, weave, trot and pose...for their enjoyment and ours. Their images are in this issue, captured by the masterful **Dean Lake**. Kudos to Editor **Virginia Katilus** and her really super Topknot News team for a smashing third issue in 2021.

With the National Specialty fresh in our minds, I'd like to congratulate *everyone* who attended. I had great reports from many who were at the show, and those of us who couldn't be there were able to watch almost everything — including the Art Auction, Annual Awards presentation and Breeder Education Seminar on live streaming video. Thank you to **Eddie Kominek** for coordinating the video streaming, and thanks to the volunteers who did commentary during the breed judging. The dogs looked beautiful and it was exciting to watch friends in competition and in the Parades. Good turnout of Afghan Hounds in both companion and performance events and it was great to see that many of those Hounds were entered in conformation as well. Congratulations to all!

Welcome to our new AHCA Members!

- Trina Divoky
- Libby Nesvold, DVM
- Julie Szymanski
- Kathleen Vrabel
- Gary Wimberley

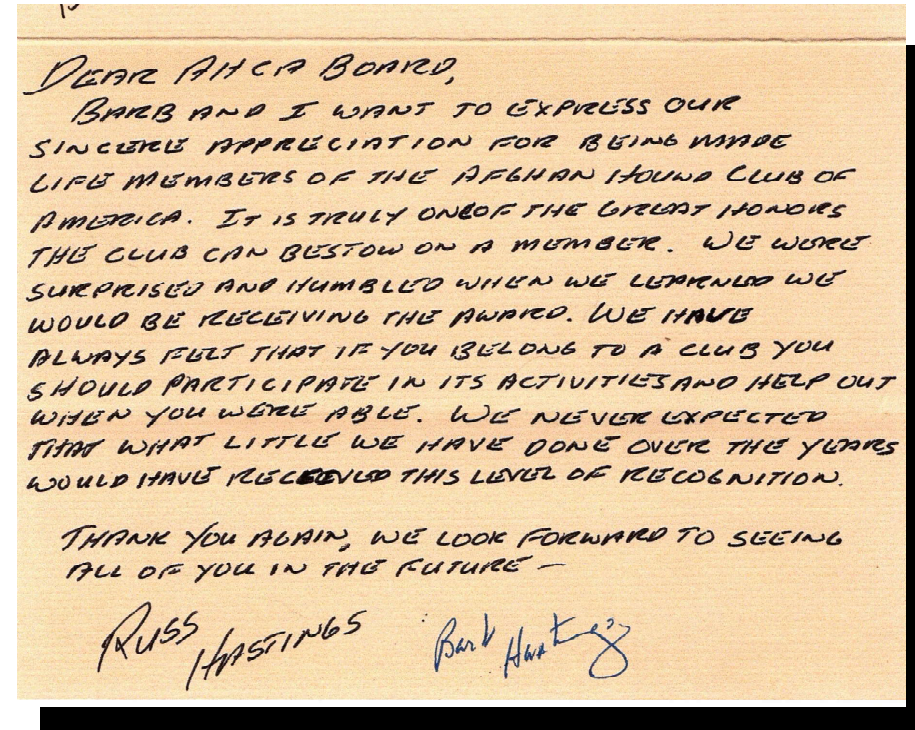
I also wanted to share this from our newest Lifetime Members, **Russ and Barbara Hastings:**

This will be my last note to you as President.

I thank the membership for electing me to this office and I wish you all the best in the year to come.

Look forward to seeing everyone in 2022.

Warm regards,
Helen



Really Reliable Recall ... *really!*

By David Hall

The weather was fabulous, and the venue could not have been better!

In June 2021 the **Potomac Afghan Hound Club (PAHC)** hosted an educational seminar, “Really Reliable Recall” (RRR), presented by **Bonnie Peregoy***.

“Really Reliable Recall” is just that. It is a training program that can result in your Afghan Hound’s prompt recall the first time he/she is called! The Really Reliable Recall is a training technique of longtime Afghan Hound enthusiast **Leslie Nelson**, motivated by her desire to enjoy her Afghan Hounds off leash and running free SAFELY.

The Really Reliable Recall originated at Camp Gone to the Dogs where Leslie and Bonnie taught the class for 27 years, to dogs of all breeds. In 1997 Bonnie produced a video outlining the steps of the technique (available by DVD or direct download at Dogwise.com) which has been used by tens of thousands of professional dog trainers, competition dog enthusiasts and pet

dog owners. Bonnie and Leslie regularly get testimonials from people all over the country relating how training the Really Reliable Recall has saved their dog’s life in an emergency situation.

Bonnie’s own story of such an event occurred on Capitol Hill in Washington DC when her Afghan

Hound, Folly, escaped from the car while she was unloading a rug and took off at top speed down the center of 15th Street. Using her RRR signal, Folly flipped around and came racing back just as fast. She says “everything I did to train that recall

was repaid a million times over in that moment.”

The center point of the technique is training a new recall signal which the dog has never heard before and a class favorite was Bonnie’s presentation of “Fast Food vs Fine Dining”, where Bonnie showed the way to really reinforce the signal to make it memorable for the dog. This training starts in the house and only gets practiced three times a day. The added bonus of training the new RRR signal is following the rules for training will make ALL the “everyday” recall signals you now use with your dog more effective. Most trainers who follow the program report that they never actually have to use the RRR signal because now their dog always comes when called, but those are also the trainers who still, regularly, train and reinforce the RRR signal.

An important part of training the RRR to Afghan Hounds, other sighthounds and most Nordic breeds is necessary because as Afghan Hound owners know, for their dog



Class instructor: Bonnie Peregoy



Attentive students

there isn’t any food reward that is more valuable than the freedom to run free. Outdoors, in open space there isn’t any food treat that is as rewarding as running and most Afghan Hounds won’t even take a food treat in that situation. Using a dragline and finding places to let your dog run free in a large enclosed fenced area becomes critical to success for training a recall for our Afghan Hounds. The drag line enables the trainer to call, step on

The seminar is two half-days, separated by three weeks for home-practice.

Afghan Hound owners were instructed about the “dos” and “don’ts” for recalling.

The rules necessary for all recalls:

- Teach your dog the NAME Game and play often.
- REWARD all recalls anywhere and anytime, even the “easy” ones in the house.
- Play recall games every day.

the dragline, and then release to run free; call and release to run free. The “call and release to run free” repetition actually teaches the dog that coming to you is the way to get the reward of running again. The drag line is the tool that makes this possible.

- Try not to call your dog if you think he won’t come.
- Never call your Afghan Hound to you to do anything unpleasant or that they don’t want to do (crate, stop playing, etc).

Videos of highlights are posted under “Education” on the PAHC web potomacafghanhoundclub.com.

** Bonnie has been both a PAHC and parent club member for over 40 years and has owned Afghan Hounds since 1973! She trained and competed with several dogs in AKC obedience, including Afghan Hound BIS, SBIS, Ch Elation’s Moonshadow of Sheimar CDX. Over the years Bonnie has owned two boarding kennels, been a featured speaker at Groom Expo multiple times, served as President of two AKC kennel clubs, won the Dog Writers of America Maxwell Award (1993), was a staff member of Camp Gone to the Dogs for 27 years and bred multiple champions and obedience titlists. Bonnie has produced a series of training videos, featuring positive reinforcement behavior shaping.*



Right to left: Magnus and Teri Thomas; Never and Bonnie Peregoy; Violette, Beth Anne Hall, David Hall and Caspian; Linda Jordan, Bob Jordan and Dundee; Gemma and Ann Nicholson; Lisa Folb and Simcha. Photos courtesy of David Hall

Best Wishes For



A Wonderful Holiday Season!

Virginia Katilus & Hounds

Portrait of Eli and Copper by Lois Stanfield

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AKC DELEGATE REPORT

By Connie Butherus
AKC Delegate for the AHCA

The September meetings of the AKC Delegates were held September 13th and 14th. These meetings were the first in person meetings in the past year and a half. The last was in March of 2020. Masks were required in all meetings and areas of the hotel with strict COVID precautions observed.

These meetings coincided with the 20th year anniversary of 9/11. In 2001 the attack occurred during the Delegate Meeting. Of the 288 Delegates present that day 71 continue to serve. The President, Dennis Sprung, reviewed the events of that horrific day and all of the projects the AKC developed in response to those events.

Throughout the meetings several important subjects were covered. These matters have been woven into the meeting content over the past year as well.

The first item is the positive trend in AKC registrations. Increases in both dog and litter registrations have been reported. As registrations are the core business of the AKC (and represent no less than 46% of incoming revenue) this is a highly favorable trend. Dog registrations were up 21.6% from the same month last year and litters increased by 19%. These represent a combined yearly increase of 25% over 2020.

Events and entries were also reported as increased from the 2020 numbers. That year, as we all know, being the year COVID arrived. Events have realized a 109% increase and entries an 86% growth.

Performance and Companion events realized the most significant increases in entries. One might correctly assume these reported gains reflect the decline in the COVID curse as our sport returns to the norm.

The need to attract, develop and nurture the juniors has been stressed repeatedly and for obvious reasons. A subcommittee has been formed with its members representing all areas of AKC sports from Parent Clubs to performance, field, and companion events. There is now a video presentation available which outlines the many things Clubs can do to further in-

no instructions regarding the stored semen represents another loss. As this endeavor goes forward there will be legal, procedural, financial and political issues presenting challenges which must be resolved. The preservation of semen may not be significant today to a particular breed but in 20 years it could be the salvation of that breed. An excellent article regarding this program is available and if any member wishes a copy please let me know.

In the area of Canine Health it was noted that CHIC is now 20 years in existence. There are 154,000 individual

place throughout the U.S. and 12 additional in the pipeline. To date 437 individual Clubs have contributed funds to this important program. We were informed on September 14th that two trailers were dispatched to the Houston area in response to the hurricane.

The AKC also responded to the tragic building collapse in the Miami area. Shipments of cooling collars, cooling packs, towels and other need supplies were sent to first responders and search and rescue teams and their dogs working at the site.

The AKC Parent Club Breeder Education Committee continues its work and projects. Parent Clubs will receive two surveys with regard to their breeder education programs/activities and one dealing with membership. The breed brochure that is included in the registration packet continues to be a concern as many of them are in need of updating. Letters are being sent to all Parent Clubs as some do not have a brochure, others are developing theirs as in the newly recognized breeds. The brochure is a tool that Parent Clubs can use as outreach as well to recruit members.

An updated Specialty Show Site locator is available from the AKC Club Development Department. Parent Clubs are reminded to use the Specialty Show Site Survey in order to keep the information current. This Department also has a webinar for Show Chairs "AKC Show Chair Seminar" available.

The AKC Marketplace now has 183 Parent Club health statements on line. These statements are the most current version of the requirements and are intended to inform potential puppy owners of health clearances recommended and/or required for

The need to attract, develop and nurture ... juniors has been stressed repeatedly ...

volvement of juniors. At the Delegates' Forum, which preceded the Business meeting, this challenge was the topic - "Bringing Juniors to the Sport - What can your Club do?"

The development of an AKC All Breed Purebred Preservation Bank (a.k.a. "Semen Bank") is now in the planning stages. The involvement of the Parent Clubs will be crucial to the success of the endeavor which in envisioned to preserve the genetic heritage of the breed. Of the 196 recognized breeds 98 are determined to be low entry breeds. Thus, preservation is a critical need. Every month approximately 1,000 breeding units are lost due to abandonment, failure to pay the fees or in some cases forgotten. The death of the breeder with

dogs in this system. We were informed that in the future (no specific date) that CHIC numbers will be included on the AKC registration papers as well as on the certified pedigrees.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation will hold its "Canines and Cocktails Gala" preceding the Annual AKC show in Orlando again this year. If you are in the area be sure to attend. The date is December 16th and it will be held at the Rosen Center hotel.

Veterinary Outreach to veterinary schools continues using virtual seminars, many of which are conducted by our Dr. Jerry Klein.

The Disaster Relief Trailer program continues with a total of 95 trailers in

each breed by that breed's Parent Club.

It was reported that the AKC legislative efforts continue at a fast pace. They are tracking 2,300 bills at the State and local level, have provided in person testimony on 220 bills and published 65 legislative alerts and blogs. Their work is essential to our ability to continue in our chosen canine avocation.

The next meeting will be held December 16 and 17 in Orlando preceding the AKC show.

One of the upcoming votes of significance to all Clubs is the proposed amendment that would provide "clubs the opportunity to divide the Bred-by Exhibitor Class by age. Puppy and Adult. Dividing the BBE class by age would be an option for clubs and not a requirement. Winners would be counted toward the BBE medallion as if advanced from the BBE class." A similar amendment to this was previously defeated by the Delegates and sent back to the Dog Show Rules Committee to be reworked. I will vote as instructed by the AHCA Board on this matter.
- Respectfully submitted

AKC GAZETTE COLUMN REPORT

By: Harry Bennett
Judges' Education
Coordinator, AHCA

The Bite and Muzzle

I have heard people wonder why the standard prefers a "level mouth" and allows a "scissors bite" but describes the latter as being "more punishing." Way back in my be-



Photo by Capri23auto from Pixabay

ginning in the breed, I too wondered what this meant. I held the standard like it was the Ten Commandments; I didn't question it but studied it and everything related to it, like a scholar studies the Bible.

I finally came to this conclusion: For as long as Afghan Hounds have existed (one may remember in writings that they were often referred to as the breed of dog representing the species on Noah's Ark), the breed was not discovered by Western civilization until the very late 1800s, in India.

In the early 1900s, some Afghan Hounds were brought back to England. This was at a time when people were already interested in and developing the whole process of selective dog breeding and dog exhibitions. This was also around the time that existing written descriptions of different dogs were being converted

right along with this. It works well on the Afghan Hound.

Putting all jokes aside regarding the brain of the Afghan Hound, these dogs have the same size brain as any dog of their size. It is shaped differently and so it is encased in a back-skull that is elongated to make up the difference of its narrowness. To the average eye, the Afghan Hound's forehead appears skinny, and some folks might even describe it as pointy. However, this is not so. The Afghan Hound's muzzle is narrow and certainly is so in comparison to most breeds of its size. The strength of

this muzzle is made up for in its length and depth, and there is a prominent under-jaw. This lower jaw squares off the muzzle at the nose. This squareness best accommodates a level bite.

I also want to add here that it is not uncommon for the Afghan Hound to develop what I call a "milk mouth," where the hairs on the chin (the front of that under-jaw) are white. This visually diminishes from view the prominence of that jaw, and so this area should always be inspected close up. As well, a Mandarin beard may enhance this area.

ASFA DELEGATE REPORT

By Bob Jordan
No report

to take the form of formal breed standards.

I believe that the "level bite" was simply an observation made regarding the actual Afghan Hounds that were brought to Europe. This was found to be unusual and odd as compared to what folks were already aware of seeing with the hunting dogs that these people had been familiar with for years. I don't feel that the idea of the scissors bite being "more punishing" is based on any scientific research but rather can be attributed to the established awareness of the hunting prowess of the Greyhounds, Wolfhounds, Deerhounds, Whippets, and various terriers and their scissors bites.

The Afghan Hound standard is all about unusual, peculiar, and exotic, and virtues difficult to breed. It is also and very importantly emphatic about strength and power. The very different level bite goes

AWARDS REPORT

By James Donahue
No Report

BREED & PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

By Anna Stromberg

Report for the Board meeting of 10/2 noted that AKC had postponed the AKC Meet the Breeds tour until 2022 for these cities: Dallas, Tampa, Philadelphia, Chicago and Raleigh.

Subsequent to that report the AKC has announced that the tour was also canceled for Columbus (Ohio) and New Orleans.

BREEDERS' CUP 2022

By Christine O'Connor

Dates: Our weekend is scheduled for week 12, Friday, March 25, through Sunday March 27, 2022.

Site: The Steam Pump Ranch in Oro Valley is run by the Oro Valley Parks and Recreation Department. They have not hosted a dog event but are eager to welcome us. Cost is \$200 per event day. The site has restrooms. Saturday we will share the Ranch with a farmer's market located in a different area from where we will have rings and tents. We can have stakes they will be marking their irrigation system for us. There is a stage and picnic tables. Unfortunately, since they do not yet have overnight monitoring, we can

not have overnight RV parking, but Catalina State Park is a mile away and some hotels will accommodate RVs for a fee.

SAAHA has put a deposit of half the fee (\$300 of \$600). The receipt was sent to all three clubs.

Hotel: After the expensive cost of their conference room and our struggle to get information out of the Great Western sales coordinator ended with pricing close to the regular cost online (but requiring us to make up anything less than 90% of the expected room nights), the decision was made not to have a host hotel. We had already decided not to have a hospitality event at the hotel hosting at the ranch, a local restaurant or a private residence instead. This was discussed at the AHCA board meeting and Christine also discussed with **Marilyn Domhoff**, Phoenix president, who was also at the National. For judges and a potential AHCA board meeting, we have reserved the conference room located at the Holiday Inn Express (NOT pet friendly), an easy walk from the Steam Pump Ranch and each club can make reservations for judges. AHCA can also reserve for board members if an in-person board meeting is scheduled – we will hold the conference room until a decision is made on that. The hotel may comp the conference room depending on the number of rooms booked (\$150 day rate).

Here is the hotel info that will appear in the premium list:
Pet friendly Hotels: Moderately priced options (10 miles from site):
• **Red Roof Inn** North Tucson, 4940 W Ina Rd, Marana, AZ Redroof.com

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• **Red Roof Inn** North Tucson, 4940 W Ina Rd, Marana, AZ Redroof.com

• **Motel 6**, 7977 N Camino De Oeste, Tucson, Az 85741 520.744.9300 Medium Priced (about 4 miles from site):

• **Best Western Inn Suites**, 6201 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, Az, 520-297-8111

Pet friendly resort options (3 to 10 miles from site):

• **El Conquistador** Tucson, 10000 N Oracle Rd, Oro Valley, Az hiltonelconquistador.com 520.544.5000

• **Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort**, 245 E Ina Rd, Tucson, Az 520-297-1151

• **Westin La Paloma**, 3800 E Sunrise Dr, Tucson, AZ 520-742-6000

Bathing: Christine did stop by the one near Trader Joe's on the south east side of Oracle and Magee, Rosie's, which has become self-bathing, and they are willing to work with us. Christine will need someone to work with them as we get closer to the event.

RV Parking: As already mentioned, we will need to seek accommodations at Catalina State Park. As Christine noted at the last meeting, that has filled up fast, so research may need to be done on other rv sites.

Rings: We will seek to borrow TKC's equipment again as we did in 2018.

Tents: The ring is outside, we will need all local tents.

Finance & Reporting: Site Costs - \$200 per event day Friday March 25-27, 2022 Thursday set up will be accommodated.

Oro Valley staff costs: if we need them to help with something the cost is \$20 per hour.

Hospitality: TBD

Decorations: TBD
AHCA Breeders' Cup
Chair: **Christine O'Connor**

Chair's responsibilities: I want to remind you all that AHCA policy and procedures separate the Chair and Secretary's responsibilities. The Chair, in effect, provides the setting and logistics for the event which is run by the Secretary who reports directly to the AHCA board. With Lila's move to assisted living, Christine will be listed as chair.

Trophies: Mimi Baker is creating the major trophies – best and best opposite. **Pam Patterson** will be doing first place painted glasses. We are working on a gift for all entries rather than 2nd, 3rd, and 4th who will still get ribbons. Trophy expenses at this point – approximately \$600 with possible additional charges for shipping.

Event Promotion: The Arizona Breeders' Cup weekend is now up on the AHCA Breeder's Cup Group. If you are not a group member (do not need to be a AHCA member), please join. Search on this: *AHCA Breeder's Cup*

Logo: The design is up on the Facebook page. As discussed, we will look at marketing ideas. Coloring contests with prizes were discussed. **Michael Albers** is taking the lead on this and will work on ideas with Charlotte and Bob for color blocking and making changes (the sheriff's badge). As discussed, Charlotte will try making it into black and silver or domino as a start. We looked at the items for this year's Breeder's and Amy supplied the for contact information on the vendor they used to create their swag – it was quite nice. Christine supplied Michael with the information forwarded by Amy. We want to do pre-order only, as they

did. **Sue Busby** wants to do black t shirts with the logo.

Facebook page: Christine will be responsible for posting content as appropriate and will work with **Erica Jantos**, AHCA media person and National event coordinator.

Finance & Reporting: Christine and Helen had a conversation about using this report for the monthly report (a new AHCA requirement since 2019) and discussed the need for journal entries and monthly budget reconciliation.

Show Secretary: Sue Busby: provides the premium list, catalogue, and program; takes entries; supplies ribbons; oversees judge selection; and reports results. She also supplies a special memorial trophy for best in breeder's cup.

Christine picked up the special memorial trophy and the winner's take home memorial trophy at the National.

Premium list: Prior to the onset of the closing for the National, Sue provided a draft of the premium list which still needed a schedule (Secretary's responsibility) with some items that needed to be filled in by the Chair. This included the hotel, location info, rv parking, and trophies. Christine suggested dates for the schedule but given both the problem with the hotel and Sue's responsibilities for the National (both Chair and Secretary), Sue and Christine at the National agreed to wait until one week after the end of National week. Christine sent the remaining info on schedule last weekend (October 17) as agreed and is waiting to hear (or see a draft premium list) from Sue.

SAAHA Specialties Chair: Chris Leighton
SAAHA has a Specialty on Friday after the Breeders' Cup and one on Sunday (that

will be our two days of independents for 2022). Paperwork for the approval process

retary **Kathy Hand** for the event. Phoenix has their judges and beginning the ap-



is underway since all our judges accepted. **Russ Hastings** will judge Friday and **Marla Capozzi** will judge Sunday with sweeps **JoAnn Jones**.

Trophies: Christine picked up the trophies for the second specialty at the National. We had not ordered sweepstakes trophies so the only trophies needed are for Sunday sweeps: best and opposite for both puppy and veteran sweeps.

Phoenix Specialties
Christine has written and sent to **Marilyn Domhoff** (Correspondence Secretary, **Charlotte Bender**) SAAHA's approval of Phoenix's two specialties in our nexus. Christine and Marilyn have also agreed to use their show sec-

proval process. **Debby Mertl** was in town and Christine and she went to Steam Pump to look at the grounds.

CANINE HEALTH REPORT

By Anna Tyler

- 1) The balance in the AHCA Canine Health Foundation's Donor Advised Fund — (DAF account) as of March 31, 2021 is \$4,546.38.
- 2) The AHCA Canine Health 501(3)© checking account is as of the last BOD meeting - \$6,806.41
- 3) The AKC/CHF Parent Club Canine Health Conference was scheduled in Au-

gust 13-15 — they decided on a virtual conference this year. The lectures were on dermatology, immunology, canine cancer, neurology, epilepsy, and cardiology.

4) **Dr. Gary Johnson's** 2nd report from the AHCA Chylothorax Research is attached — he mentioned sending a final report in July 2021- this has not been received yet.

5) If Regional Clubs would like to organize their own Blood Draw Clinics, I would be happy to send them the supplies needed to do this. Just let me know.

6) A reminder to take the OFA Confidential Health Survey — Log In to — www.OFA.org, click on "About", "Health Survey", select the breed Afghan Hound and answer the questions. There have been 817 dog participants in the survey to date.

7) Below is the 2021 second quarter results of OFA Health Testing in Afghan Hounds.

AHCA CANINE HEALTH REPORT SECOND QUARTER 2021

- Results of OFA Health Testing:
- ADVANCED CARDIAC
 - NORMAL - #1
 - BASIC CARDIAC
 - NORMAL - # 2
 - THYROID
 - NORMAL - # 20
 - COMPROMISED - #0
 - HIP
 - EXCELLENT - #7
 - GOOD - #11
 - MILD - #0
 - FAIR - #1
 - MODERATE - #1
 - EYE
 - NORMAL - #17
 - W/BREEDER OPTION- #7
 - ELBOWS
 - NORMAL - #7
 - DEGENERATIVE
 - JOINT

- DISEASE - #1
- DENTITION:
- FULL DENT - #0
- BLOOD KITS DNA: #0
- DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY- #0
- PATELLA

NORMAL: #3 AHCA CANINE HEALTH (AHCACH) ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

First order of business is to review the financial history: As of 6.9.18 Chicago BOD the Canine Health budget was voted to increase to: \$1500. A year - from \$500.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation Donor Advised Fund (DAF) account balance is: \$4,546.38

The AHCA Canine Health 501©(3) checking account balance is: \$6,806.41

2018 — no expenses were paid

2019 — \$356.00 Paid 2.27.2019 — \$100.

Check was sent to Alabama for Canine Health 501©(3) Luxury Tax. State of Alabama, John H. Merrill, Secretary of State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that the name — AHCA Canine Health is reserved. **Martha Powell** filed this for AHCA.

Donations to AHCA Canine Health are now tax deductible.

— 10.28.19 — \$256. Blood Draw Clinic at the 2019 National - Fed Ex charge for overnight chilled shipping of 25 blood samples from Virginia Beach, VA to the U of Missouri — Dr. Gary Johnson.

2020- \$150. To date \$150. Was reimbursed

to **Lorianne Amadeo** to ship 5 healthy blood samples from Canada to Researcher.

2021 - to Date - \$187.94

4.11.21 - Blood Draw Clinic GTCACH - Fed Ex Charges to ship 19 chilled

healthy blood will be paid by AHCACH budget. FEDEX overnight charges - \$146.67
7.14.21- Shipping Chylo affected blood sample to U of Missouri Dr. Gary Johnson researcher. \$41.27 reimbursed to the owner.

Details on the AHCA Chylothorax Research — completed July 2021:

1/15/2020 - \$15,000.

Was sent to AHCA Chylothorax Research to Dr. Gary Johnson — U of Missouri - funded through July 2021. Grant #02804-MOU: Searching for a Genetic Risk Factor for Idiopathic Chylothorax in Afghan Hounds. The initial cost of the research was to be \$11,800. with the majority of it being funded by the Wlm E Dean III Trust sponsoring \$10,000. On 12/28/2019 - \$1800. Was paid to CHF from the AHCA DAF account.

Then in January 2020, **Andrea Fiumefreddo** (Director of Programs & Operations) contacted me that CHF would require an additional \$4,589. for the research and on 1/15/2020 the funds were transferred from the DAF account to CHF and the total amount paid was \$15,000. for the Grant #02804-MOU.

The first report from Dr. Johnson has been received and he has extended the research through July 2021. He may need to charge us to renew the research beyond this date with a new MOU but that will be determined in 2021.

William E. Dean III Charitable Foundation Trust for \$10,000 was granted to AHCA for the Chylothorax Research. Andrea Fiumefreddo is checking for me — should be available each 24 months as per this Grant is my understanding.

Andrea F. responded that CHF would not continue again with this trust on our behalf. Dis-

cussion took place regarding Andrea's response.

July 24, 2019 the initial costs for the program to utilize CHF and the Trust were broken down as such:

Indirect costs of 8% payable to the grantee institution - \$800.

CHF research management fee of 10% - \$1,000.

However, with the increase in cost of the research from \$11,800 to \$15,000 I am not sure what grantee institution and the CHF research management fee's ended up being as that was never broken down for me.

I thought it important to review this background of the fees paid to utilize the Wlm E Dean Trust and CHF — as I am not sure why Andrea would not want to continue to work with AHCA since the Trust is in place and CHF can charge fees in 24 month increments when we reapply for the Trust. That is why we set up the Canine Health 501©(3).

3.31.2020 AHCACH 501© (3) Checking - \$1000. Was sent to Bloat Research Study — Grant #01935-B Abnormalities in Stomach's Ability to Contract Predisposed large Breeds to Bloat.

This research found an abnormality in the Motilin Gene — a genetic link that causes GDV (Bloat) and hopefully in the near future a breeder marker can be found to offer selective breeding as an option to eliminate this condition.

INVENTORY /WAYS AND MEANS REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby

Parent Club Logo items on sale!
(Prices do not

- include postage)
- Dark Blue Dress Shirts in M, L, XL and 2X \$40.00
- \$40.00
- Baseball Hats
- Pink, Black, Beige, and Khaki \$20.00
- PC Lapel Pins -14K gold plated - with tie tac or Safety Pin catch \$15.00
- Mouse Pad
- black w/white logo \$5.00
- Purple Towels \$20.00
- Computer Travel bags black \$50.00
- Logo merchandise from Breeders' Cup. Many more items! Click over to the AHCA web store and take a look!

JUDGES EDUCATION REPORT

By Harry Bennett
No Report

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP REPORT

By Darla Miller

Kylie Luckinbill was named the Top Junior Handler for 2020. Her grandmother and AHCA Member, **Deb Ridley**, coordinated getting the article along with some pictures of Kylie (braces and cute as a button)! See the article on page 30.

LIBRARY/ARCHIVES REPORT

By Helen Stein
No Report



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION® PREVENT TREAT & CURE®

AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Health Conference 2021 Conference Report

This year will mark the 26th Anniversary of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The CHF is the largest funder of canine health research in the WORLD, having invested 44.6 million dollars in research grants to advance the health of our dogs. Currently, the CHF is funding over 10 million dollars in 23 research program areas.

The biennial parent club conferences bring together researchers, parent club representatives, veterinarians, and at least one veterinary student from each vet school to interact and discuss the latest discoveries in canine health. Many of the presentations from the meeting as well as other health topics are made available as a webinar series sponsored by the CHF. They are available at akcCHF.org/vetvine and I'd encourage you to take advantage of this rich resource.

This year's conference featured speakers on: Dermatology, Immunology, Canine Cancer, Neurology, Epilepsy and Cardiology. Of special note the Chagas Cardiomyopathy was fascinating and concerning — please Google Chagas in canines. In addition, one of the discussions was on the Life and Times of the Hero dogs of 9/11 with keynote speaker **Dr. Cynthia M. Otto, DVM, PhD, DACVECC, DACVSMR** (*2021 Asa Mays DVM Award Recipient). This was a very special tribute to the hero dogs of 9/11.

As an AHCA member, I am incredibly proud to represent our club as AHCA have been supporters of the CHF from the very beginning. CHF was instrumental in guiding the AHCA through the first ever research into Chylothorax disease in Afghan Hounds and your donations of money, blood samples and health information have been vital to this project.

Thank you!

Anna Tyler
AHCA Canine Health Committee Chair

LURE COURSING REPORT

By Bob Jordan
No Report

MAILING LIST REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
No Report

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jennifer Taylor

The Board conducted a first review of four new candidates on October 2, 2021 and welcomed five new members:

- Trina Divoky
- Libby Nesvold, DVM
- Julie Szymanski
- Kathleen Vrabel
- Gary Wimberley

MENTOR PROGRAM REPORT

By Christine Pinkston
No Report

NATIONAL SPECIALITY REPORT 2021

By Dorma Sue Busby

National Results start on page 20

NATIONAL SPECIALITY REPORT 2022

Jason Taylor will chair the 2022 National Specialty in Wilmington, Ohio.

PERFORMANCE EVENTS

By Lynda Hicks
No Report

POLICIES & PROCEDURES REPORT

By Lynda Hicks
No Report

REGIONAL CLUBS REPORT

By Amy Mero

I have received packets from approved shows for three clubs since the last report: Listed in show date order:

- **Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Association**
November 19, 2021
Judge: Polly Smith
- **Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix**
February 3, 2022
Judges: Allan Reznik, Robert Cotes
- **Potomac Afghan Hound Club** (designated)
March 19 - March 20, 2022
Judges: Luis Sosa, Jean Boulinguez
- **Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix**
March 26 2022
Judges: Roberta Keller, Lisa Young
- **Potomac Afghan**

Hound Club (designated)
June 25 2022
Judge: Nancy Edgington

RESCUE REPORT

By Martha Powell
No Report

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

By Erica Jantos
No Report

STATISTICS REPORT

By Carol Rivette
No Report

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
See page 6

TOPKNOT NEWS REPORT

By Virginia Katilus
No Report

WAYS & MEANS REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
See page 15

WEBSITE ADMIN REPORT

By Eddie Kominek
No Report

DESIGNATED FOR SPECIAL REPORTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Toni Richmond
Chair

At the meeting of the Nominating Committee there was unanimous consent to submit the following slate of candidates to fill the Officer/Director positions that are expiring in January 2022:

President:

- D. Scott Pfeil

First Vice President:

- Jennifer Taylor

Recording Secretary:

- Eddie Kominek

Board of Directors (3 year term):

- Beth Ann Hall

- Christine O'Connor

Board of Directors (1 year term):

- Jody Gardner

AKC Delegate:

- Connie Butherus

All of the above candidates have submitted a consent to be nominated with an agreement of understanding of Article III, Sections 3 and 5 of the By-Laws of the Constitution.



Once upon a Time

THERE WAS A HANDSOME King named

Caspian

AND A LOVELY MERMAID KNOWN AS

Moxie.....

Messages from

GCHS EXQUISITE SIGN OF THE MERMAID

OWNED AND BRED BY BETH ANNE,
DAVID AND HARTLEY HALL

a Mermaid

GCH EXQUISITE ROYAL MAJESTY OF ELATION

OWNED BY MARY AND SARA BASS, DAVID AND BETH ANNE HALL
BRED BY BONNIE PEREGOY, BETH ANNE, DAVID AND HARTLEY HALL

Moxie

Caspian

EXQUISITE
AFGHAN HOUNDS

PROUDLY BRED BY BETH ANNE,

DAVID AND HARTLEY HALL

EXQUISITE
AFGHAN HOUNDS

2021
NATIONAL
SPECIALTY
WINNERS

Best of Breed



GCH CHARTER OAK TRAXX OF GRANDEUR

Owner: Evelyn & Bill Rechler & Gene & Michelle Vaccaro.

Agent: Teri Tevlin.



Winners Dog
KAMY LET ME FLY
 Owner: Masahiko Shimamura



Reserve Winners Dog, Best Bred By Exhibitor
JOLIE BORROW OR ROB
 Owner: Pegi Berryhill & Jennifer Taylor
 Breeder: Jennifer & Jason Taylor & Sylvia Krupp



Select Dog
GCH SUNWARD CENTURION.
 Owner: Margaret Robertson.



Select Bitch
GCHS SURA FABELHAFT CANDY CRUSH.
 Owners: Christine O'Connor, Suzanne Neill, James Dalton
 Agent: Loran Morgan.



Winners Bitch, BOW, BOS
SUKUB BINT MUTI VON HAUSSMAN
 Owner: Juan Pio Milano Ruiz



Reserve Winners Bitch and Best Puppy
WAY UP MARSALA AT BELEXANDER
 Owner: Chad Alexander & Christopher Belt.



Award of Merit
SBIS GCHB JOLIE SHOW N TELL SHARJA
 Owner: Alisa Vickers & Beth Collins & Corinne Joyce



Award of Merit
GCHB SINGH NAZIRA EVENING RENDEZVOUS
 Owner: Ken & Lin Valimaki & Toni Richmond
 Agent: Bobbi Kinley Blewett.



Award of Merit
CH SEBRING CALLOWAY MOONSHINE
 Owner: Dr. Jerry Klein & Daniel Wangler
 Agent: Milton Lopes



Award of Merit and Best Veteran
GCH. EXQUISITE SIGN OF THE MERMAID SC
 Owner: Beth Anne Hall & David Hall & Hartley Hall
 Agent: Jennifer Pearce

Congratulations to the Winners!

Thank you to our Judges:

- **AKC/ASFA Lure Coursing:** Shelley Hennessey/Holly Hamilton
- **Obedience & Rally:** Catherine Thompson
- **Agility:** Ron McClelland
- **Juniors:** D. Scott Pfeil
- **Sweeps & Triathlon:** Michael Liss
- **Dog Judging:** Tom Cozzoni
- **Bitch Judging:** D. Scott Pfeil
- **Best of Breed:** D. Scott Pfeil

Thanks to Dean Lake Photography for the win photos* and a special *thank you* to the AHCA Show Staff, Members and Volunteers - could not have done it without you!



Best Of Opposite To Best In Veteran Sweepstakes
GCH BLU HILL'S SUIT AND TIE
 Owner: Darla & Larry Miller



Award of Merit
GCH SINGH NAZIRA SOME ENCHANTED EVENING
 Owner: Toni M. Richmond
 Agent: Dr. Jerry Klein



Best Junior Handler- Teah Menough
CH BELEXANDER'S SHOT OF TEQUILA
 Owner: Teah Menough & Chad Alexander



Best In Sweepstakes
SUKUB BINT MUTI VON HAUSSMAN
 Owner: Juan Pio Milano Ruiz



Best of Opposite Sex In Sweepstakes
KAMY LET ME FLY
 Owner: Masahiko Shimamura



Highest Scoring in Regular Obedience Classes
 GCH DC SUNI'S PRAIRIE ROSE AT STARDRIFT, BN
 RA SC BCAT TKN DC
 Owner: Claudia Jakus & Lynda Hicks



High In Triathlon and First Novice Rally
 EXIMUS LILI'S 'N' PEARLS
 Owner: Beth Erisman-Thomas



Best in Field and BOB ASFA
 FC Kominek's Ingvar Of Synergion MC LCX
 Owner: Edward Kominek, Selma Kominek



Best of Breed - AKC
 FC Kominek's Freya SC
 Owner: Edward Kominek, Selma Kominek

*We do not have official win photos but wish to acknowledge and congratulate:



First Advanced Rally
 CH ZAVIN'S FAST LOVE, RI JC BACT
 Owner: Beth Erisman-Thomas, Steve Cory,
 Michael Quinn & T. Thomas



High In Agility Trial
 MACH POPOVS PURRFECTON AT CAYBLU CD
 RM SC MXC MJC RAT
 Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer



High in Obedience (left)
 GCH DC Suni's Prairie Rose At Stardrift CD BN RA
 FDC SC BCAT CGC TKN
 Shown by Claudia Jakus - co-owned with Lynda Hicks

High in Rally and High Triple Scoring (right)
 GCHG DC Suni Sir Viveur RE MC LCX2 BCAT CGC TKN
 Shown by Lynda Hicks - co-owned with James Hicks

Best Stud Dog
 GCHG DC SUNI VIVEUR RE MC LCX2 BCAT CGC TKN
 Owner: James & Lynda Hicks.
 Agent: Terri Galle

Best Brood Bitch:
 CH JOLIE PALINDROME JC
 Owner: Jason & Jennifer Taylor & Sylvia Krupp.

Best Brace:
 KOMINEK'S HEATHER. Bitch
 Owner: Eddie & Selma Kominek

 KOMINEK'S HICKORY. Dog
 Owner: Terilynn Thomas & Eddie & Selma Kominek

Best In Breeders' Class
 GCHG DC SUNI SIR VIVEUR RE MC LCX2 BCAT
 CGC TKN
 Owner: James & Lynda Hicks

Best In Veteran Sweepstakes
 GCH ENARKI FAIREST OF THEM ALL
 Owner: Marilyn A. Domhoff

New AKC Report : Bi-Annual Parent Club Registration Statistics mid year 2021

By Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President and Vanessa Skou Executive, Breeder Development

We are including, for the first time, Parent Club Membership data relating to breeder and litter counts. This data, from 2016 through 2020, gives a general picture of the breeding activity of Parent Club members relative to the overall breeding activity within the breed. ****NOTE:** This data is only as accurate

as the membership lists submitted by each Parent Club through the web-based Club Membership Upload Tool and our ability to use email addresses to match members to litters. To ensure accurate information for this and similar projects please make sure your membership data is current. If your club submits household data (not individuals) please note we are

counting a household as a member.

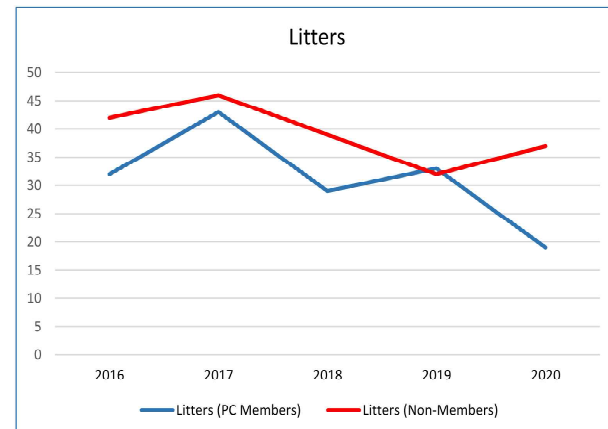
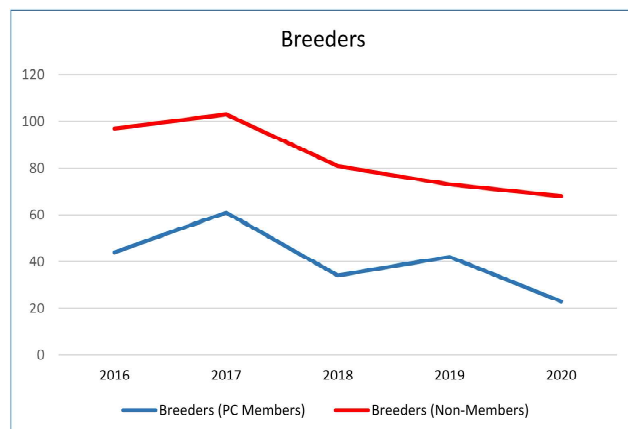
As with previous distributions of the Parent Club Registration Stats data, please feel free to share the attached information with your club membership as you see fit in order to stimulate discussion about registration and possible changes or improvement initiatives.

Breeders	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Breeders (PC Members)	44	61	34	42	23
Breeders (Non-Members)	97	103	81	73	68
Breeders (Total)	141	164	115	115	91
% Breeders (PC Members)	31%	37%	30%	37%	25%

All breeders are counted for each unique litter

Litters	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Litters (PC Members)	32	43	29	33	19
Litters (Non-Members)	42	46	39	32	37
Total Litters	74	89	68	65	56
% Litters (PC Members)	43%	48%	43%	51%	34%

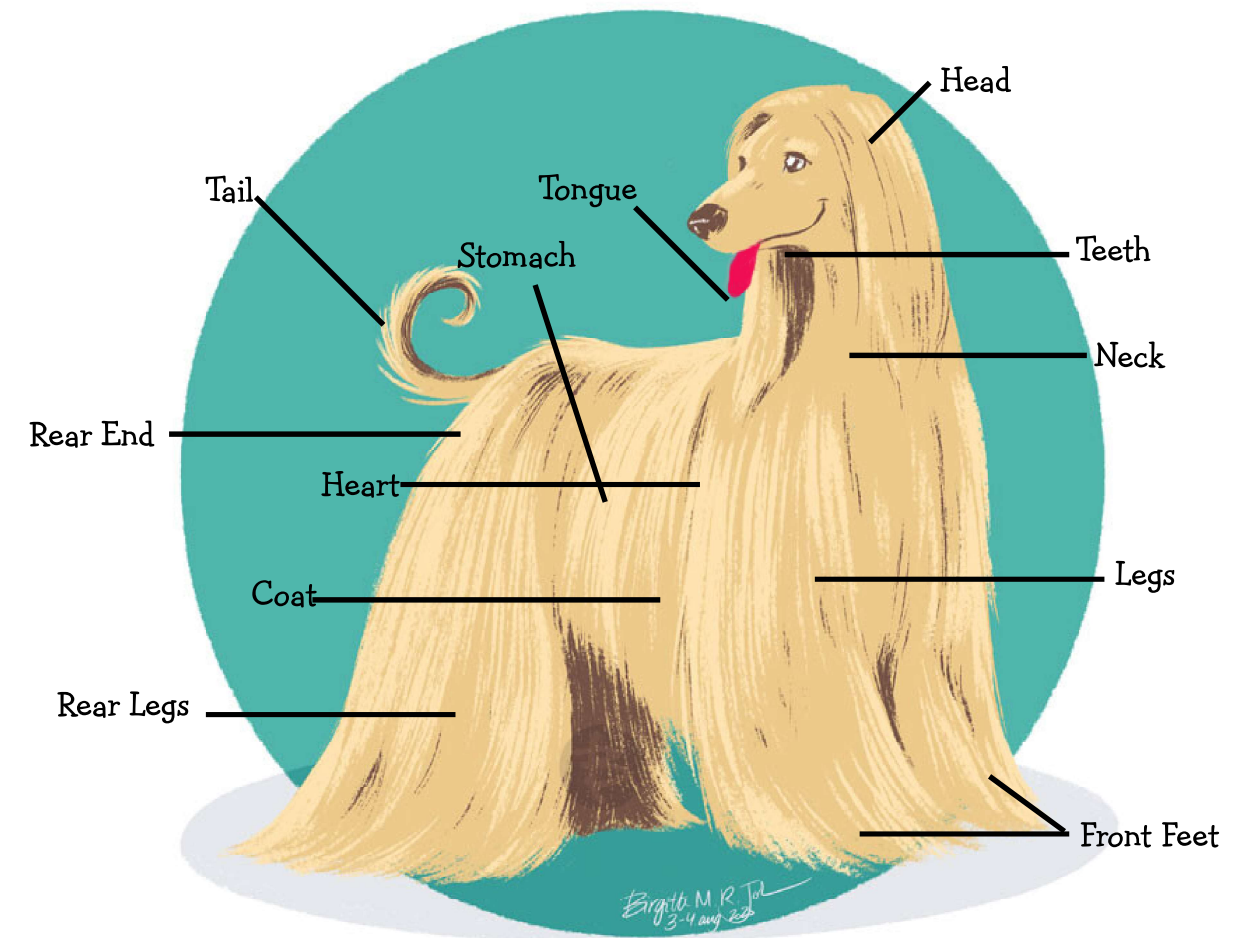
Unique litters



Notes:

- Breeders are unique individuals, counted only once, regardless of how many litters they owned/co-owned within a given year
- A single litter may be owned by PC Members and Non-Members, each of whom will be included in the count of unique individual breeders.
- Each litter is only counted once.
- Each litter with at least one PC Member owner is counted as a PC Member litter, regardless of its number of Non-Member co-owners
- This data is only as accurate as the membership lists submitted by each Parent Club through the web-based Club Membership Upload Tool and our ability to use email addresses to match members to litters.

Anatomy of the Afghan Hound



Head: Highly sensitive devices that react to the rattle of feeding pans.

Tongue: Cleaning device for children's faces.

Teeth: Sharp objects for converting fine furniture into junk.

Heart: Pure gold.

Stomach: Cast iron receptacle for stones, rocks, bones, dog food and plastic toys.

Front Feet: Excavation tools used to uproot plants, bushes and flowers and to bury bones, wallets and car keys.

Coat: Hairy covering in a variety of colors, shades and lengths. Also found on rugs, suits and chairs.

Rear Legs: Lifting devices activated automatically by fire plugs, tree trunks and pant legs.

Legs: Four speed drive: Low: Answering calls and commands; Medium: Normal activity; Fast: Bicycles, cars, rabbits and food. Reverse: Going to the Vet.

Rear End: In the city this section must be taken outside at least twice a day.

Tail: Signal device for removing ashtrays, vases, etc. from low tables; also known as a lethal weapon leaving black and blue marks on human legs.

Neck: Long extension to hold collar, leash, tags and head to body.

- Author Unknown



Mom and Kylie

*Kylie was named the Top Junior Handler for 2020. Thanks to her grandmother, AHCA Member **Deb Ridley**, who coordinated the article and photos. - Darla Miller*

By Kylie Luckinbill

For as long as I can remember I've wanted to be a handler. Some of my very first memories are traveling around the US with my Mom and Grandma. As close as Cheyenne, Wyoming to Orlando, Florida and everywhere in between! As soon as I could enter and run around the ring, I knew that show life was for me!

My Grandma started it all way back 40+ years ago. My Mom jumped in the ring when she was four years old, so I guess you would say that I was born into it. In fact, my first show my two week old self was bundle up ring side.

As a younger handler traveling around with my family, I just couldn't wait to be a junior! The day I turned nine years old the fire lit inside, and I was ready for the juniors ring. It took me little less than a year to receive my three 1st placements to move up to the open Junior class. I was blown away September of 2019 at the Cheyenne kennel club when I was awarded my 5th open win to qualify for the



Junior Spotlight

AKC National Championship that is held in Orlando FL. THE BIG RING!

The true highlight of being a junior handler is the time I spend ringside with my family and friends. As a junior you meet people from all over the country that have the same interest and goal in the ring. We push each other to do better, and are always there with hugs and congratulations.

Now, it's not always fun. There's a lot of early mornings, late nights, lots of grooming and

picking up dog poo. But that is the nature of the show life. With a little hard work there's always rewards that come along. We get to travel and see the country, sometimes other countries. Many people don't understand our sport, so you get labeled the "dog girl" or the "weird kid", but when I come back to school and share my adventures and awards they all get a bit jealous. I'll never stop showing.

My future plans are to continue showing Afghan

Hounds and work harder to build up on the KUHL BREEZE name that family has worked so hard to establish. I have a little sister that is one of many biggest fans and I look forward to taking on the big sister role and help her find the passion as it has with me.

Showing is in my blood and in my life to stay. I enjoy working with my dogs and making memories along the way.



Cornell Veterinary Students



Take a Deep Dive into the Finger Lakes Dog Show World

BY MELANIE GREAVER CORDOVA
PHOTOS BY CAROL JENNINGS/CORNELL CVM

On a clear Saturday morning in early October, a caravan of veterinary students winds its way through vineyards and the lush Finger Lakes National Forest, heading from the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine to Romulus, New York, where this year's Wine Country Circuit dog shows are on the third day of exhibitions.

The event is a unique opportunity for students to refine their understanding of dog breeds and explore how veterinarians intersect with the American Kennel Club (AKC) dog show world. Their objective for the day is to listen, watch and learn.

"Few veterinary students have a chance to work at a dog show like this," says organizer and event judge **Susan Hamlin**, who has been judging dog shows

for 50 years.

The Wine Country Circuit is one of the largest dog show circuits in the country. Four independent kennel club shows happen over four days at this yearly event at Sampson State Park: Elmira Kennel Club, Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Kanadasaga Kennel Club and the Onondaga Kennel Association. Each of the four shows feature conformation, obedience and agility, and averages a daily total of over 1,400 dogs. Many go on to compete at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

The 19 Cornell students arrive bright and early for their Saturday Elmira Kennel Club event. Students are assigned a mentor, and they spend the day getting an inside look into the world of breeders, exhibitors, field veterinary care providers and more.

"We were pleased to be able to send students to advance their understanding of different dog breeds and interact with the dog show community," says **Dr. Meg Thompson**, director of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

"I hope that this is the beginning of a long-term relationship, benefiting not only dog sports, but also canine health providers," says **Carol Srnka**, event liaison and agility coordinator for all four days. Srnka currently sits on the board of directors for the Finger Lakes Kennel Club and has been involved with the event since 1986.

Although this is the first year with student involvement, Cornell has had a presence at the circuit for a long time. Retired ophthalmology professor **Dr. Thomas Kern** runs an eye exam clinic for the dogs on the show grounds, and

Michelle Greenfield



Dr. N. Sydney Moise, M.S. '85, retired CV Starr Professor of Cardiology, holds a cardiovascular clinic. Not only did Cornell clinicians provide the on-site veterinary care, but Hamlin herself retired from the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine.

There are students present from each class year in the veterinary program. The event also functions as a way for them to get a fuller picture of what path — large or small animal — they might like to take when they're done with school. For many, the Wine Country Circuit will be the first shows they've ever seen.

"I had only watched the national dog show on television Thanksgiving Day, so I had no idea what to expect," says **Michelle Greenfield**, D.V.M. Class of 2023.

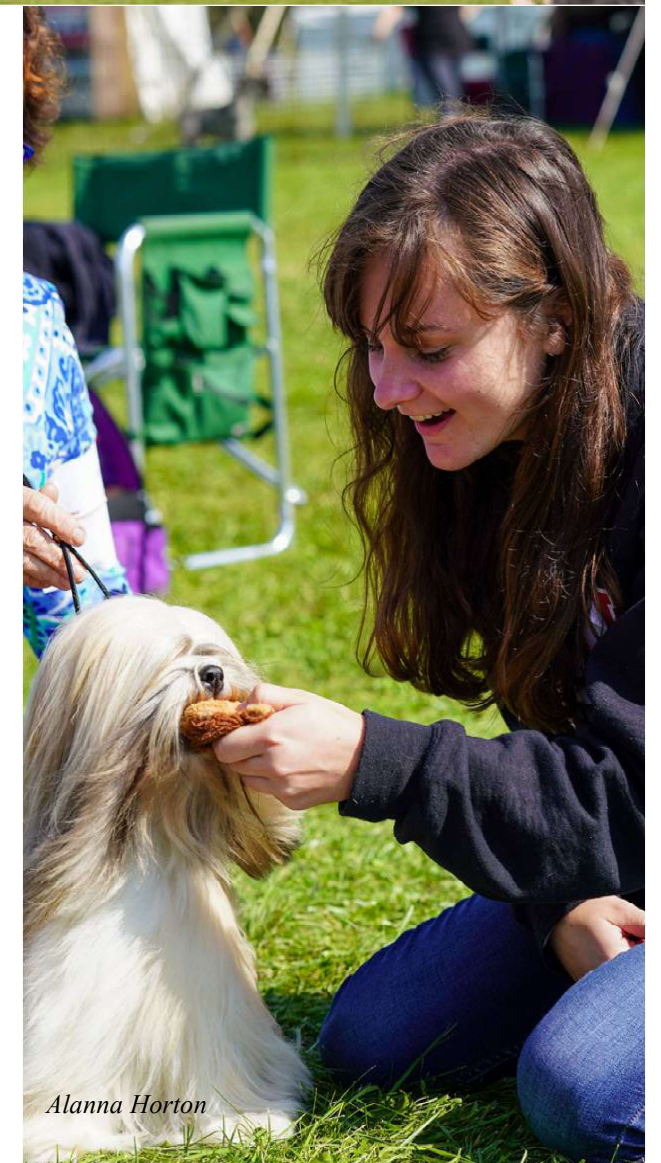
For Greenfield, the high point of the day was soaking up knowledge from her mentor, **Ereign Seacord**, president of the Finger Lakes Kennel Club and chief ring steward for the Friday show. "She was phenomenal," Greenfield says. "She not only took the time to explain all the intricacies of winning points and becoming a champion, but she also pointed out the various dog breeds so I could become more familiar with them — and there are so many." Indeed, there are 197 breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club that participate in these shows.

Seacord also enjoyed the

mentorship experience. "We visited the performance venues to see how much fun owners can have with their dogs," Seacord says. "I'm hoping that Michelle and the other students appreciated the bonds that exist between handlers and owners and their purpose-bred dogs."

Although Greenfield wants to become an aquatic veterinarian, she found there were principles from the show she could apply to other situations. "It was a unique experience to have as a veterinary student, and I'm truly thankful for the opportunity," Greenfield says.

Alanna Horton, Class of 2024, also had limited experience with dog shows. She says her mentor's enthusiasm was similarly contagious. Horton was



Alanna Horton



Students observe a competitor

partnered with mentor **Julie Luther**, Hamlin's daughter, who introduced her to fellow exhibitors and let her shadow the preparation process. "It was very clear to me how passionate the people at the dog show were about their dogs — and how much they loved talking about them!" Horton says.

Talking to the exhibitors about their motivation to enter dogs into shows like this was also a high point for **Vivian Shum**, Class of 2023. "I was surprised to find how much of a time and financial commitment it is to participate, and many of them do so because they love the entire process, from training to qualification," Shum says.

Hamlin likewise has been passionate about dogs since a young age, starting a junior kennel club at age 13. She says she was happy to facilitate this opportunity for the Cornell students. Over lunch, students were also able to meet with Kern as well as **Sandy D'Andrea**, the American Kennel Club field representative. "They were able to ask lots of questions and get a really good feel for the whole thing," Hamlin says.

While students basked in the excitement of the event and met an array of unique people, they also saw a door to a wider world open — a deeper understanding of dog breeding.

The show's mentors gave students an inside look at their own motivations and goals for breeding. Srnka, for example, notes that health, structure and temperament are equally im-

portant in a performance dog. "As a breeder and exhibitor, it's important to me to have all the genetic testing done for my breed to ensure that my dogs lead as long and healthy lives as possible," Srnka says.

Shum's biggest takeaway was hearing about responsible breeding, especially for breeds with a limited gene pool in the United States. "Their voices are largely overshadowed by less responsible puppy mill operations that dominate the news," Shum says. "I became more knowledgeable about the steps responsible breeders take, such as genetic testing their dogs and breeding to animals worldwide, in an attempt to maximize diversity."

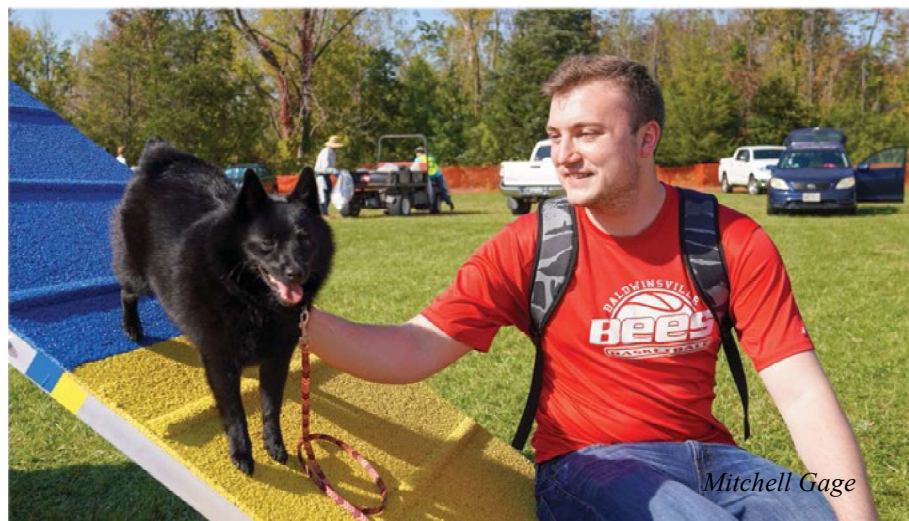
Greenfield says that, after experiencing the show, she recognizes the love and care these owners have for their dogs. "I also can appreciate that the dogs have

to fit certain standards, and many of these standards are developed for form and function," Greenfield says. "For example, we saw brachycephalic dogs — breeds with shorter skulls and snouts, like pugs and Boston terriers — breathing easily while competing in the show, which as the show mentors explained is critical since, if you're going to breed them, your goal is to provide them the

healthiest and highest welfare situation."

Horton is ready to take what she learned about the breeders she interacted with into her career. "At times we may see very irresponsible breeding practices in veterinary medicine and assume all breeders are like that, but I think it is important to take a step back when we have breeder clients and try to avoid predetermined judgments," Horton says. "At the end of the day, responsible breeders and veterinarians all want healthy dogs."

Even as the students drive home to Ithaca that Saturday evening, plans for next year are in the works. A few of the students even hope to dip a toe into the dog show world with their own dogs. "My crew was planning to register their own animals, investigate their next breed, set goals to trial their own dogs," says mentor and judge **Amanda Pough**. "They



Mitchell Gage

were hoping and planning to attend other dog shows, and learning where to go for resources for healthy purebred dogs, now and in the future."

"I would love to stay involved in veterinary care at dog shows as a veterinarian eventually. It's a great way to get involved in the community," Horton says. And while she would enjoy training her (future) dog in agility after seeing them have so much fun on the course, meeting the people at the show was still the best part.

"The best experience was to not only go to watch the dogs in the show, but also talk to a lot of people who have very interesting life experiences and perspectives."

With this first successful kickoff, this new partnership between Cornell veterinary students and the Wine Country Circuit dog shows promises to be an enriching opportunity for students to deepen their knowledge and professional skills.

"Their education is already so varied," Hamlin says. "They learn about

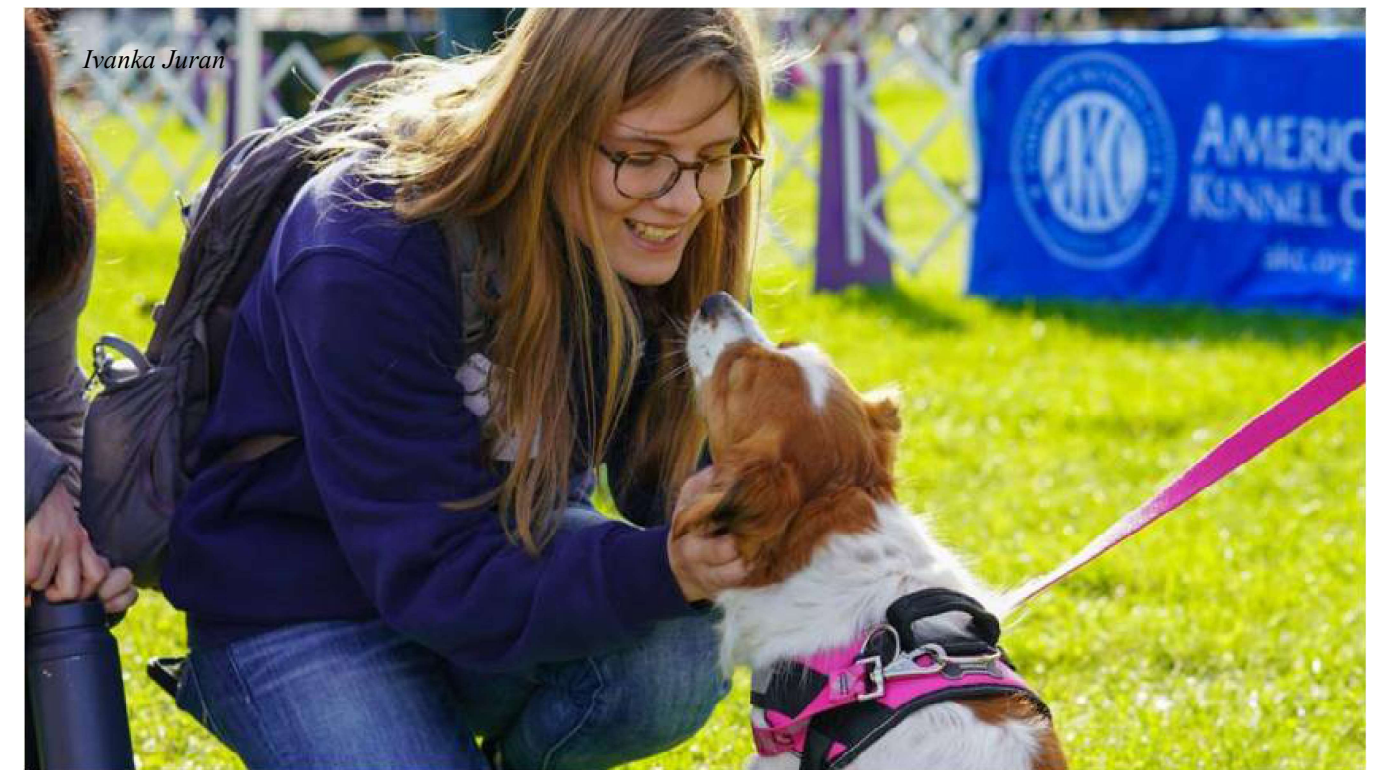


Vivian Shum and Leah Ramsaran

dogs, cats, cows, horses, swine, birds, sheep, wildlife — our show is a deep dive into one species with 197 some breeds."

The unique learning opportunity wasn't lost on any of the students. Says Shum, "My time at the Wine Country Circuit dog show was absolutely fantastic and I couldn't have asked for a better experience."

**Submitted to Topknot News by Susan H. Hamlin. This article was originally published in ShowSight Magazine November 2021. Reprinted with permission from the authors and publisher.*



Ivanka Juran



Porcelain plate sculpture. Photo courtesy of artist and photographer Carla Helm