

TOPKNOT NEWS


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

Summer Edition 2023




Watch Out for Blue-Green Algae!

It's summer and warm weather conditions promote the growth of **cyanobacteria** that can make your pet seriously sick! Here's what to watch out for if your pet will be around bodies of water this season.

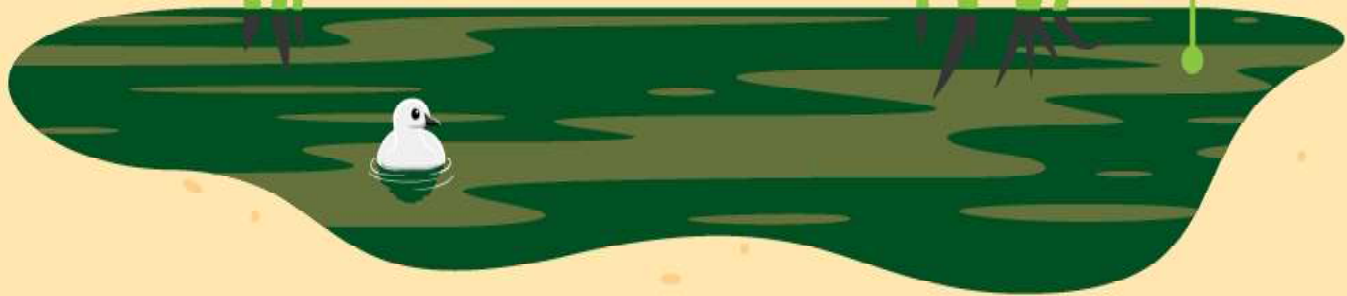


Dogs can become poisoned when they drink from or swim in contaminated water sources.



Cyanobacteria is most likely to thrive in bodies of water when the weather is warm (over 75 degrees) and sunny.

It is typically found in ponds and lakes, but can also be present in oceans, fresh water, damp soil, backyard fountains and even on rocks.



The bacteria itself is invisible to the eye, but water may appear pea-green in color or have a slime on surface.

ASPCA

Animal Poison
Control Center
(888) 426-4435

If your pet is exposed to blue green algae signs may develop in as little as a few minutes or may take up to 12 hours to arise. Your pet may present with signs such as drooling, disorientation, weakness, vomiting, panting, collapse, seizures, respiratory failure and even death.

For more information, please visit aspca.org/apcc

CONTENTS

Departments

An Editorial Word	4
President's Report	6
AKC Delegate Report	9
AKC Gazette Column Report	10
ASFA Delegate Report	10
Breed & Public Education Report	10
Breeders' Cup 2024	10
Canine Health Report	10
Companion Events Report	10
Inventory/Ways and Means Report	10
Judges Education Report	10
Junior Showmanship Report	11
Library/Archives Report	11
Membership Report	11
National Specialty Report 2023	11
Performance Events Report	11
Policies and Procedures Report	12
Regional Clubs Report	12
Rescue Report	12
Social Medica Report	12
Statistics Report	12
Sunshine Committee Report	12
Topknot News Report	12
Ways & Means Report	12
Website Admin Report	12

Features

An Afghan Hound's Day in Afghanistan	13
<i>Gina Nicole DiPanfilo</i>	
American Kennel Club Agility Invitational	16
<i>Lynda Hicks</i>	
Why Title a Dog?	17
<i>Claudia Jakus</i>	
86th National Specialty	18

Advertisers

D. Peters "Windigo"	15
---------------------------	----

ON THE COVER....

Our Summer cover duo come from Ukrainian artist **Christi Teliman**. Currently living away from her war torn homeland, Christi gave some background on the happy pups she painted via Facebook*.

"I did this watercolor in 2014. I don't remember anything anymore. I've been working a lot since 2010 on portraits of different dogs and sometimes I see my paintings on the Internet and remember with surprise, "Oh, I did it!" The Afghan Hound is one of my favorite breeds and I used to do a lot of them in oils and watercolors and to order - from a photo and from my head - for my soul. Their charm, movements and royal lines of the head fascinate me. I love different hounds, both smooth - where the construction of the body is visible - and those in which the coat emphasizes this construction. Now I temporarily live with my cockers in a foreign country and work mainly to order, since it's hard to live not at home, where I have everything. There is no time to create for the soul unfortunately now."

A page showcasing the artwork of animal artist- Christi Teliman can be seen by typing this link. <https://www.facebook.com/telimanart> Contact Christi to commission pet and wildlife portraits.

**Christi's words are published exactly as she wrote them. – Ed.*

An Editorial Word

Virginia Katilus



WOOF! The Dog Days of Summer are upon us! Hope all four (and two) footed creatures are staying cool.

When it's THIS hot (yo Arizona!) moving takes effort. Best to hang in the air conditioning and relax. My boys are spending the summer "bellies up" on the couch. Smart.

I spent part of it investigating these new fangled AI writers, ChatGPT and Byword and other freeware on BING and Microsoft. I was intrigued. How can a computer possibly come up with coherent essays, writings and musings and even answers accurate enough to pass a Bar Exam?

So I gave it try. I instructed my computer to "write a poem about the dog days of summer incorporating an Afghan Hound." In an instant this is what it came up with:

The Afghan Hound, with fur so long and fine,
Lies panting in the heat of summertime.

The dog days of summer are upon us now,
And even this regal breed must find a way to cool down somehow.

As the sun beats down and the air grows hot,
The Afghan Hound seeks out a shady spot.

Perhaps beneath a tree or by a cool stream,
Where the water sparkles and the sunlight gleams.

But even in the shade, the heat lingers on,
And the Afghan Hound's fur feels like a heavy gown.

So the dog must find other ways to beat the heat,
Like lying on cool tiles or taking a dip in the creek.

All take heed for the dog days of summer are not kind to any breed.

It's not Tennyson, but not bad for a machine. Best wishes to all, safe travels and best of luck at the National!

2023 Officers and Directors

President: D. Scott Pfeil
First Vice President: Jennifer Taylor
Second Vice President: Lynda Hicks
Corresponding Secy.: Helen Stein
Recording Secy.: Eddie Kominek
Treasurer: Ann Nicholson
Director: Connie Butherus
Director: Rita Figg
Director: Israel Garcia
Director: Beth Anne Hall
Director: Christine O'Connor
Director: Christine Pinkston

2023 Committee Chairpersons

Agility: Lynda Hicks
AKC Delegate: Connie Butherus
AKC Gazette Column: Harry Bennett
ASFA Delegate: Robert Jordan
Awards: James Donahue
Breed & Public Education: TBD
Breeders' Cup Show Secretary: Amy Mero
Breeders' Cup Chair 2024: Billy Webb
Breeders' Cup Co-Chair 2024: Marla Capozzi
Canine Health: Anna Tyler
Companion Events: Lynda Hicks
Inventory Control: Dorma Sue Busby
Judges Education: James Donahue
Junior Showmanship: Darla Miller
Library Archives: Helen Stein
Legislative Affairs:
www.akc.org/governmentrelations
Lure Coursing: Eddie Kominek
Mailing List Coordinator: Eddie Kominek
Membership: Jennifer Taylor
Mentor Program: Christine Pinkston
National Specialty 2023: Russ & Barb Hastings
Parliamentarian: Connie Butherus
Purina Parent Club Partnership: Helen Stein
Policies & Procedures: Lynda Hicks
Regional Clubs: Amy Mero
Rescue: Martha Powell
Statistics: Carol Rivette
Sunshine Committee: TBD
Topknot News: Virginia Katilus
Ways & Means: Dorma Sue Busby
Webmaster: Eddie Kominek

Editor: Virginia Katilus
editortopknotnews@gmail.com
Reporter: Megan Joy Rice
Proof Readers: Toni King, Joann Tucker
Advertising & Ad Layout: Devorah Hayman

NEXT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Full page color ad: \$75.00 (basic design included)

Payment to: Paypal@afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

Submit ads online: <https://bit.ly/3lBqJQ6>

or email ads to: topknotnewsads@gmail.com Submit print ready ad in PDF format (8.75"x11.25" 300dpi RGB note: keep content area to 8.5"x11" otherwise it will get cut off.) This includes bleed.

AHCA RESCUE HOTLINE
877-237-3728

AHCA Website

www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Harry Bennett



Dorma Sue Busby



James Donahue



Connie Butherus



Martha Powell



Carol Rivette



Lynda Hicks



Erica Jantos



Jennifer Taylor



Anna Tyler



Robert Jordan



Eddie Kominek



Amy Mero



Darla Miller



Christine O'Connor



Christine Pinkston



In the last issue of the Topknot News, we announced that Judy Newton has generously agreed to transfer copyright of the 6" bronze Gary Newton Medallions to the AHCA. These medallions are used for awards at the National Specialty as well as club service awards. This week James Donahue and Lynda Hicks worked with Judy to get the agreement finalized. Thank you, Judy! The AHCA looks forward to using these bronzes for many more years to come.

At the time of writing, the nomination ballots for the 2024 national specialty have already been sent out and are due to be returned at

the end of July. Final ballots should be coming out soon. Please note that for 2024 we are moving to only one judge for the regular classes.

I hope to see you all that Robert's Center this fall for our National Specialty. All of the plans are coming together and Barb and Russ Hastings are going to chair a wonderful event!

President's Report

By: D. Scott Pfeil

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and that those of you participating in shows and other events are finding much success.

Speaking of events, it is interesting to note that we had more Afghan Hounds earning performance titles than conformation titles in the first part of 2023! This is certainly a new trend in our breed, which seems to reflect the changing demographics in dog sport participation across all breeds.

Through June, we had 97 conformation titles, and 107 performance titles. The new AKC FIT Dog program is gaining popularity with Afghan hounds earning 15 FIT Dog titles, including the first Gold Level. Congratulations to Criston Unexpected Light FCAT, CGC, TKA, MHMP, FITG, owned by Nichole Machado, Christine Pinkston, Patricia Warner, and Anna Stromberg.



In Memory:

Barbara Silverstone

We will miss her and remember her contributions to the breed and the Club.

THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT★



AHCA Breeders Cup 2024
Lewisville, Texas

April 26th, 2024

Closing Information & Fees

Litter nomination - Due 10/12/23 - Fee \$25

Judge nomination submitted with litter nomination

Ballots to Breeders for Vote (insert date)

Ballots Returned (insert date)

Individual Get Entries - Due 2/12/24 - Fee \$25

Judge Announcement (insert date)

Supplemental Litter Nominations - Due (insert date) - Fee \$40

Supplemental Get Entries - Due (insert date) - Fee \$30

FINAL Get Entries - Due (insert date) - Fee \$50

Donations to the trophy fund will be greatly appreciated. How to donate can be found on the parent club website at:

<https://afghanhoundclubofamerica.org/index.php/competition/conformation/breeders-cup>

Billy Webb - Show Chairman

214-514-1927

chefbw@yahco.com

Marla Capozzi - Show Chairman

631-514-5241

taylorsrun89@gmail.com

Amy Mero - Show Secretary

122 Rowland Creek Rd.

Wayock, NC 27956

508-517-7833

maxmero@comcast.net

Please plan on joining us for a stellar weekend of shows and Southern hospitality
at the same location as the AHCA Breeders Cup!



3 Specialties / 2 Sweepstakes

3 NOHS Shows

Pending AKC & AHCA approval



**Saturday -
April 27th, 2024**

Sweepstakes:

Deb Golden
Tulsa, OK

Regular Classes:

AM - Mr. Mario Martinez
Golddragon Kennels
Orihuela, Spain

PM - Ms. Deirdre Petrie
Leola, PA.

**Sunday -
April 28th, 2024**

Sweepstakes:

Den se Asaro Hall
Moyock, NC

Regular Classes:

Ms. JoAnne Buehler
Sankhya
Darnestown, MD

Show Secretary - Dennise Baker

delfornaio@aol.com

214-769-8510

AKC DELEGATE REPORT

By Connie Butherus

AKC Delegate for the AHCA

The quarterly meetings of the AKC Delegates were held June 12 and 13 in Newark, New Jersey. Usually the June meetings are the least well attended sessions but this year there was quite a good representation from the Member Clubs. The Committee meetings were well attended as was the Delegate's Forum and General Session.

The Parent Club Committee agenda listed 30 topics which we were able to address if not resolve. There were staff representatives from AKC who presented important information regarding their specific areas. From the Registration Department we were informed about the proposed revised format for Parent Club health statements.

Revised statements will require not only the specific test/screening recommended but the reason for it, i.e. naming the disorder or disease not the test such as "Progressive Retinal Atrophy" as opposed to "eyes" or CHIC is specified in the new format. Currently 176 Parent Clubs have submitted their health statements. These are requirements for the AKC *Breeder of Merit* and *Bred with Heart* AKC certifications. They also provide important information to prospective puppy buyers, breeders and owners.

The AKC Archivist, Jamie Fritz, outlined the services and holdings of the AKC Library. Going forward there will be digital archives available. The digital archives will allow clubs to store and share holdings. The

preferred formats for preservation purposes are AVI and MOV. She referenced the many historical holdings currently possessed by the American Kennel Club which includes all publications of the AKC Gazette from the first issue onward and all 147 of the Westminster Kennel Club catalogs.

From the Government Relations area, Sheila Goffe gave a legislative update. She cited concern regarding two specific bills at the state level. In Missouri a restrictive legislative bill was passed and is in effect. This requires special veterinary certification for a dog crossing the state line into the state. The certification must be obtained from a Veterinarian designated by the USDA and is good for 30 days. She stated that the legislation arose due to a disease outbreak that had occurred within the state. This legislation was also proposed in Pennsylvania but was not enacted due to the intervention of the AKC legislative representative in that area. She advised a HEADS UP regarding these types of legislations and the effect on dog show exhibitors.

The Economic Impact Statement of dog events to a community is being updated. This is an important document when, for example, local regulations such as venue restrictions or dog events are proposed. It states the financial gain to communities when dog events are held in the area such as to hotels, restaurants, etc.

There was extensive discussion regarding the proposal to allow all local specialty clubs the option to offer a three-point major for reserve winners when the num-

ber of dogs/bitches competing is at least twice the number required for a five-point major. This is currently available only to the National Specialty show. The motion was surprisingly defeated by the Committee. I voted in favor of the motion - that being the position of the AHCA Board. This matter now resides with the AKC Board to either endorse this motion and send on to the Delegate body for a vote - or not. More to follow to be sure.

The Committee voted unanimously to support the elimination of the mileage regulation regarding local breed specialty clubs having the ability to join with their National Specialty show. The mileage distance allowed is 500 miles. Parent Clubs using the same site year after year for their National Specialty show (e.g. the Roberts Center, Purina Farms, etc.) are restricted as to the local specialty clubs within the mileage limit and thus allowed to join the sequence and to benefit from an increased entry. This change was proposed by the AHCA Board and presented to the Committee. Again the AKC Board will determine the outcome.

The Delegate's Forum was an update on the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank - (PPB). Our own Dr. Jerry Klein was one of the speakers and he was outstanding! He cited important reasons for the establishment of this depository which could preserve breeds should catastrophic events occur such as wars, epidemics, weather disasters, genetic bottlenecks, etc. The need to preserve and protect our breeds is essential and having this sperm bank could insure the sur-

vival of purebred dogs. Particularly in breeds with small numbers, having access to this bank could increase their population numbers. For example, eleven breeds were cited in which less than 10 litters were registered last year. Dr. Charles Garvin, Chair of the PPB, expanded on the project.

It has been reported that currently there are approximately 1,000 breeding units discarded each month. A variety of reasons are responsible for this such as; failure to pay the fees, death of the breeder, the family not wishing to continue on, etc. Dr. Garvin will be the speaker at the AHCA breeders' education session at the National Specialty in October. The importance of the project cannot be overstated. We were informed that there will be no cost to breeders donating sperm for preservation to the PPB nor to the Parent Clubs participating. Following the Forum the General Session consisted of reports from the Chairman, President and CFO. AKC staff presented information regarding new registration technology for breeders and dog owners regarding the procedures and process. This was followed by the history and current status of the AKC Humane Fund.

The Delegates voted in favor of a proposed amendment which will permit "professional judges" - those who charge a fee in addition to expenses - to become Delegates. This had been prohibited and was voted down by the Delegates multiple times over the years. This time the Delegates seemed to support the concept that people should be paid for their work and judging dogs is indeed

work. Just ask a judge at the end of the day after he/she has assessed 175 dogs in heat, and/or rain and/or freezing cold/wind, - plus doing a Group or two at the end of the day which began at 8:00 AM

Please enjoy the balance of the summer months, earn many blue and purple/gold ribbons and delight in your dogs.

AKC GAZETTE COLUMN REPORT

By: Harry Bennett

I have some original works lined up for the upcoming issues of the AKC Gazette. I also welcome guest writers and if anyone has an interest please contact me. I also love to hear feedback from our readers.

ASFA DELEGATE REPORT

By Bob Jordan
No report

AWARDS REPORT

By James Donahue

New membership pins have been ordered and received. These are the pins that go out to new members upon acceptance of their application.

Other than the typical business of sending out medallions for regional specialties there are a few other things that are going on. New 6" Gary Newton Medallions and 3" Terry Chacon bronze

medallions have been ordered. These are for the National Specialty, Breeders' Cup, and service awards.

Judy Newton has graciously agreed to transfer ownership of the Newton medallion design to the AHCA which will facilitate the ordering process moving forward. Thank you, Judy!

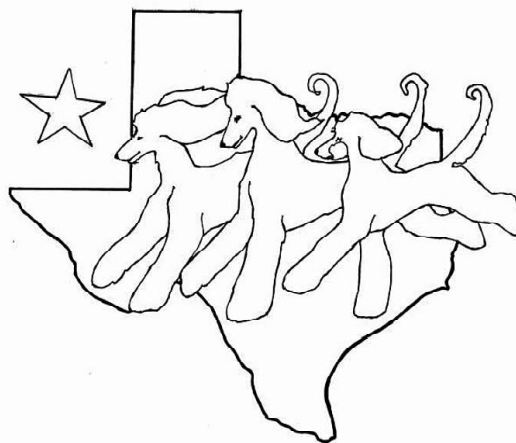
Last month I was in Portland, Oregon and Debbie Peterson brought me a supply of unused flat ribbons for AHCA agility trials. These are NOT dated and are in new condition so they would be suitable for use at future AHCA trials. These are from the leftover inventory for the Portland national.

AHCA member Mikki Razor has graciously re-donated four black enamel AHCA medallions with neck ribbons. These were won by her dog CH Xzotika's Rik-O-Shay CD AXAXJ RAE TKN UCD UR03. These are the medallions awarded for class placements at AHCA events. They are in like-new condition and will be added back into our inventory for future use. Thank you, Mikki!

We always welcome donations of AHCA medallions and other awards items if they are undated and in like-new condition suitable for future use.

I have the completed statistics report from our statistician, Carol Rivette. I will be notifying everyone who has a dog being recognized with an award at the annual Awards banquet at the National.

BREED & PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT
Chairperson Needed



BREEDERS' CUP 2024

By Billy Webb
Show Chair

I have attached a PowerPoint and PDF version of the Breeders Cup Logo. Both Marla Capozzi (my Co-Chair) and I are excited about it, hope you guys like it as much as we do. It is a collaboration between Julie Roche and myself.

Contact information:
Billy Webb
Show Chair
214-514-1927
chefbwebb@yahoo.com

Marla Capozzi
Show Chair
631-514-5241
taylorsrun89@gmail.com

Amy Mero
Show Secretary
122 Rowland Creek Rd.
Moyock, NC 27958
508-517-7839
maxmero@comcast.net

CANINE HEALTH REPORT

By Anna Tyler

Date: July 6, 2023

To: Andrea Fiumefreddo (AKC)

cc: Ann Nicholson
Subject: Afghan Hound Club of America research grants

Hello Andrea,

The AHCA has voted to donate \$500 to Bloat research and \$500 to Hemangiosarcoma research. Do you have two Grants that you could help us donate to?

Also, do you have the balance of our DAF – we may be able to use the funds from this account – that would be the easiest way I believe. Thank you so much!

Anna will be attending the 2023 AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference held in St. Louis August 11-13, 2023

COMPANION EVENTS REPORT

By Lynda Hicks
No report

INVENTORY /WAYS AND MEANS REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
No report

JUDGES EDUCATION REPORT

By James Donahue

There is not much to report in the judge's education department. We are still working with AKC on the Canine College Breed Course for prospective judges. Additional filming was done at the Kentuckiana Cluster in Louisville this past spring, but we still haven't gotten all the media that we are happy with.

Movement footage has proven difficult in the studio-style rings. We are currently reviewing footage in the AKC TV archives, past National Specialties, and the AKC breed video that was done in the early 1990s. It may be possible to have some filming done outdoors in Orlando this December, which may prove more fruitful than the indoor filming. I am hopeful that we can have a working draft of the course by the end of this year. Creating a course with quality educational content that reflects our breed standard in a way that is detailed and effective is no small task!

We will of course be offering our classroom seminar, hands-on workshop, and ringside mentoring at the National Specialty this fall. Registration information will be included in the Premium List.

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP REPORT

By Darla Miller

Thanks to all who got AKC to understand my request for reach-

ing out to Juniors who show our beloved Afghan Hounds. I understand from talking to Russ Hastings that AKC will be sending out invites to our National on a monthly basis until the show. I have received two responses back.

One from a young lady who has aged out of showing in Juniors last year - so we know the data base might have a fault there. I also heard from a young lady who shared that she showed a non-member's dog at a show. She would be interested in showing again but is unable to own a dog and lives out in the middle of nowhere.

So I would like to know if there is a way to communicate within our membership via an "all-call" email asking if you know or if you may know of someone willing to allow a junior (at share location) to show your dog (again sharing the date and location).

Someone from AKC did send me a survey to answer questions regarding Juniors. The individual did allude to the fact that the results of the survey would assist Junior Chairs but to date have not heard back. I am hoping this leads to a Junior Chair chatroom which was one of my request.

I have been monitoring the AKC Junior chatroom. I am concerned some of the stuff being posted is questionable. I am hoping that AKC is monitoring this more closely.

Based on Canine Chronicle (my only source of names and stats) we have 3 juniors showing Afghans Hounds in the ring as of May 2023 and none in companion events.

Unfortunately, I only know Annalee Milam since

she started with one of my Afghans but we have 2 more out there in conformation.

So here is my second request from AKC; would AKC send out an email to juniors asking if they would like to connect with the Junior Chairs of each national club? Personally I would like to know if they have questions, have a mentor, etc. I feel this would benefit all breeds, not just us.

LIBRARY/ARCHIVES REPORT

By Helen Stein

We've had several requests recently for copies of "Intro" - the AHCA's booklet *Introduction to the Afghan Hound*. May be ready for a reprint.

I will be reaching out to Sue Busby to see how many copies she has left. I also send these booklets to new owners and to Juniors who express an interest in the breed. If you would like a copy, please send an email: BeanieSue@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jennifer Taylor

No fully complete applications are pending at this time

NATIONAL SPECIALTY REPORT 2023

By Russ & Barb Hastings
Update as of July

At this point the premium is al-

most ready to go out once I can finalize menus with the Roberts Centre. They promised the new menu would be available at the end of June. Current promise is July 10th.

The trophy donation letter is ready to be sent out by Beth Collins and Susan Hamlin.

I have not heard anything from Royal Canin concerning bags or an ad in the premium. Will continue to follow up.

We have finalized the trophies. There will be similar value trophies for all events and placements. The significant trophies, BOB, etc. will be artwork by Walker Works. Individual placements will be National Logo memorabilia.

The education program will be a presentation by Dr. Garvin on the new AKC Semen Preservation Program.

Barb and Russ hope to visit the Roberts Centre the week of July 17th to look over the ballroom layout, finalize various details, and inventory the offsite storage room.

Ken Amos has already booked vendors for this year exceeding the number from last year.

Vellus will be our grooming sponsor and will be providing samples for the welcome bags.

PERFORMANCE EVENTS

By Eddie Kominek

The AKC National Lure Coursing Championship will be held in Ardmore, Oklahoma, December 1-3, 2023. This is the premier AKC lure coursing event held annually for championship level sighthounds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The AHCA will donate \$125 and will sponsor a Breed Finalist (Afghan Hound) for the event.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES REPORT

By Lynda Hicks

Updated Policies and Procedures through July 1, 2023 can be found on the AHC website: AfghanHoundClubofAmerica.org/Club/Policies,Procedures&Rules.

(*Corr. Secy. note:* Lynda is updating and refining the entire document and the P&Ps page is frequently updated.)

REGIONAL CLUBS REPORT

By Amy Mero

I have received packets from approved shows for 11 clubs since the last report: Listed in show date order:

September 7-8
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver
Robert Godfrey
Rachel Irvin

September 15-16
Northern California Afghan Hound Club
Chris Kaiser
Steve Kelly

October 27
Afghan Hound Club of Austin
Laurel Deptuch

November 17-18
Sand 'N Sea Afghan Hound Club
Anna Tyler
Rachel Irvin

November 17
Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Assoc
TBD

February 1, 2024
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix
Stephen Fisher
Karen DeVon

RESCUE REPORT

By Martha Powell
No Report

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

By Erica Jantos
No Report

STATISTICS REPORT

By Carol Rivette

Complete report for 2022 was published in the Spring issue of Topknot News

Statistics from AKC are available through May. Claudia has brought to Lynda's attention that so far Afghan Hounds have earned more performance titles than conformation titles this year.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
No report

TOPKNOT NEWS REPORT

By Virginia Katilus

As of Spring 2023 Topknot News is being published and distributed from a new short run printing company based in Tuscon, Arizona, Sundance Press.

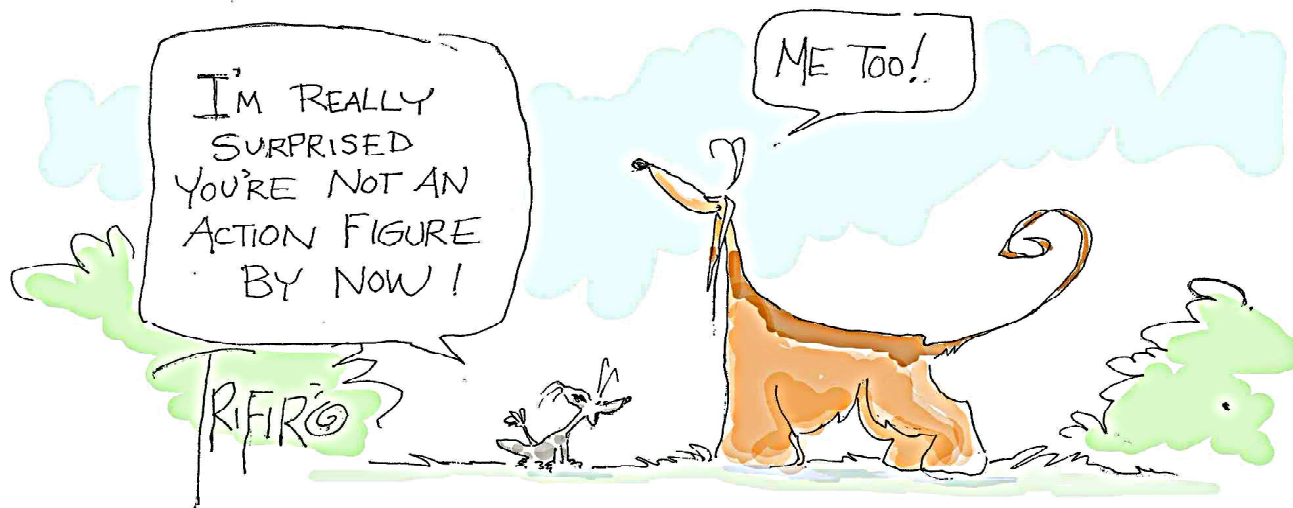
Their quality is comparable to our last printer in Florida. They are also less expensive and seem to have a faster turnaround. Win win!

WAYS & MEANS REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
No report

WEBSITE ADMIN REPORT

By Eddie Kominek
No Report



An Afghan Hound's Day...



...In

“Afghanistan”

By Gina Nicole DiPanfilo

In July, 17 month old “Daphne,” Lady Daphne Starr Of Chandelle CGC TKPE ATT VHMA VSWI FITS, earned her AKC Trick Dog Elite Performer title becoming the very first Afghan Hound to do so! Beautifully trained and guided by her owner, Gia Nicole DiPanfilo. Congrats!
- Lynda Hicks

I've been interested in sighthounds for most of my life. There's something so elegant and sleek about the structure of sighthounds. I started leaning towards Afghan Hounds because of the coat. The idea of getting a dog with high grooming needs appealed to me since I enjoy grooming. And then the more I learned, the more I fell in love with the breed. I'm particularly fascinated with their history.

Stock Image by wirestock on Freepik

I want to continue learning as much as I can about native Afghan Hounds and get into coursing so Daphne can do what she was bred to do - speaking of which - she just earned her lure coursing QC certificate!

Now as to the Elite Performer title. We had to perform a routine that had a story/script and consisted of at least ten tricks with at least five involving props.

Our story is about Daphne acting out what a fictional day in Afghani-



Gia and Daphne

away; cover your eyes; go hide; turn on a tap light; play the piano (minimum of four taps on one cue); unroll a rug; read index cards (sit, down, stand); identifies the flag of Afghanistan (from a group of three flags); pivot around a disc; carry a stuffed animal on her back for 15 feet;

ride in a wagon for 10 feet; and bow. I think my favorite trick was teaching her to identify the flag of Afghanistan. That one always impresses people! We only started trick training back in February of this year and I never thought we'd come this far.

On March 27th, Daphne earned her Novice trick title. I hoped that she might earn her Intermediate trick title by the end of the year, but wasn't sure if we'd make it any further than that. Yet, just three and a half months later on July 6th, Daphne became the first Afghan hound to earn the title of Elite Performer! I am so proud of how far she's come and can't wait to see what the future holds for her. 🐾

stan might look like. This includes her playing some folk music, studying the Pashto language, hunting a rabbit and riding a camel.

Five tricks of the ten had to be at the "Performer" level. The remaining five were allowed to be at the "Advanced" level but not at lower levels. The routine had to be filmed as one continuous video with no edits. Baiting with treats/toys was not permitted. We ended up performing 12 tricks so Daphne would have some room for error.

During her routine she performed the following tricks: down from 15'



*Here's a link to Youtube video of Daphne's winning performance.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp2yha5_Z18*



OUR STARS ALIGNED, AND WE HAVE **BABIES**

ANNOUNCING OUR INCREDIBLE LITTER BY
GRCH SHYLO BLACK AND BLUE ALL OVER x CH WINDIGO WHEN STARS ALIGN



PHOTO BY GREYHAUS PHOTOGRAPHY

BRED BY DEB PETERS - WINDIGO

✉ WINDIGO_AFS@ATT.NET

18th Annual American Kennel Club Agility Invitational

Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
December 16-17, 2023

Submitted by Lynda Hicks

Congratulations! Good luck to all and have fun!



American Kennel Club 2023 Agility Invitational Top 15 by Breed*

RANK	CLASS	NAME
1	Regular	GCH CH MACH2 StormhillCosifantutte She B'Dazzl'N MXG MJB2 MFB T2B5 BCAT <i>Owners: Robin Cohen/Robin Kletke/Sandra Frei</i>
2	Regular	GCHB DC Komar'sRis'N Smoke MC MX MXB MXJ MJB XF BCAT <i>Owner: Janet Massy</i>
3	Regular	MACH PopovsPurrfectionAtCayblu CD RM2 RAE SC MXB2 MJC RATO <i>Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer</i>
4	Regular	Cayblu Coquette CD BN GN RE AX OAJ MXP MJP <i>Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer</i>
5	Regular	Popovs Cosmopolitan CD BN RE SC AX OAJ <i>Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer</i>
6	Regular	GCH CH Sootaan's Let's Give Them Something To Talk About AX AXJ NF DCAT TKP <i>Owners: Sue McDonald/Ylla Carson/William D Carson</i>
1p	Preferred	Cayblu Coquette CD BN GN RE AX OAJ MXP MJP <i>Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer</i>
2p	Preferred	Cayblu Suni LaFayette BN RA SC AXP OJP <i>Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer</i>

*Only invited Afghan Hounds as of 7/19/23 are listed

WHY TITLE A DOG?

By: Claudia Jakus

When I first started in Afghan Hounds I was told that you only coursed your dog because it could not make it in the conformation ring...how sad. I finished my dogs in the conformation ring and attained AKC Field Championships on some.

Fast forward to 2020's (if not before) thanks to the AKC and other competition venues, there are now numerous events we can compete in with our dogs or test them for various things such as: temperament; farm dog; fit dog; canine good citizens; therapy dog and more!

With the current numbers needed to attain a championship title so many young dogs are finishing quickly. What to do with them? Have them sit home on the couch? Or perhaps you have a desire to get another dog to compete with, or even breed if you own a bitch. As we all know the Afghan Hound market is dwindling. It is much harder to place dogs into good homes and even harder if you are not a very well known person.

I did a tally from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 and found a very interesting fact. There were 98 conformation titles awarded BUT in companion, performance and other events, there were 107. I am so happy to see these dogs doing so much more than looking pretty in the conformation ring. If you take your dog into agility, obedience, rally, scent work or other events both the judges and spectators are so very happy to see that an Afghan Hound is not just a pretty face but a smart, intelligent dog and willing to work.

So get involved. Check the AKC web site and see what events are offered, what you might enjoy doing, and what is offered in and around your area.

I attended an awards banquet and wanted to share what was printed in the program. I think it speaks volumes as to "why title a dog."

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores, a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in record and in memory for as long as anything in this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better in that regard. And though the dog itself doesn't know or care that its achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count. A title says your dog was intelligent and adaptable, and good-natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do the things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed. And a title says that you loved your dog that you loved to spend time with it because it was a good dog that you believed in it enough to give it yet another chance when it failed, and that, in the end, your faith was justified. A title proves that your dog inspired you to that special relationship enjoyed by so few: that in a world of disposable creatures, this dog with a title was greatly loved, and loved greatly in return. And when that dear short life is over, the title remains as a memorial of the finest kind, the best you can give to a deserving friend, volumes of pride in one small set of initials after the name. A title earned is nothing less than love and respect, given and received, and permanently recorded.

~ Sandra Mowery



ITDC.COM

Ulrike Reinisch and Caeden

Photo by Olivier of ITDC



Join Us in Ohio

Afghan Hound Club of America

86th Annual Specialty

October 17-21, 2023

Roberts Centre, Wilmington, OH



Judges

[Nancy Edgington](#) Regular & Non-Regular Bitch Classes, Best of Breed, Best Puppy, Best Bred-By Exhibitor, Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, Breeder's Class, Brace

[Lou Guerrero](#) Regular & Non-Regular Dog Classes

[Mary Ann Giordano](#) Sweepstakes Classes (All), Triathlon Conformation

[Marla Capozzi](#) Jr. Handling all classes

[Ann Midgarden, Tracy and Jeff Leonard](#) Lure Coursing

[Tim Pinneri](#) Agility

[Kathleen A. Cook](#) Obedience/Rally

**Trophies for all events
Art by Walker Works**

Premium is available on AHCA
Website , Facebook Page and at
<https://www.eriek9events.com>

Schedule

Tuesday Oct. 17th—LGRA Racing & Fastcat

Wednesday Oct 18th—**AKC & AFSA Lure Coursing.** Agility
Show & Go in evening

Thursday Oct. 19th—**Agility, Rally, Obedience.** Vendor Set-up, Grooming Area Opens, Sweepstakes Judging and Vendor/Welcome party with Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar in evening during Sweeps

Friday Oct. 20th—Breed education in AM with Buffet Breakfast, Judges Ed., **Dog and Bitch Judging,** Annual AHCA Art Auction in evening with Buffet Dinner and Cash Bar

Saturday Oct. 21st—Annual Meeting, **Jr. Handling, Parade of Veterans and Rescue, Best of Breed Judging,** AHCA Annual Awards Banquet in evening with Buffet Dinner and cash bar

Bring your old National Souvenir clothing item to wear to our casual Vendor/Welcome party and join the contest for oldest National represented. A great prize will be offered for the oldest notional.

Catalog Advertising

Contact: JOY ATKINS MILLER
amonrih@gmail.com (636) 584-5656

Trophy Donations of \$50 will receive free catalog/
donation of \$125 or more will receive free catalog and
Original Afghan Art Work embossed journal. Contact Beth
Collins, PO Box 155, Naples , ME 04055 218-310-1446
ttazaafghans@yahoo.com

Chicago and Detroit Regional Specialties will follow on Sunday Oct. 22, 2023

A few Items
To Tempt You
Only Available at
This Years Auction



Gary Newton Bronze



Original Oil of Aries by C L Eudy 36x40



Hand Painted by Hounds
Of Avantique



By Nanse Apri Schleter



Print - Black & White Drawing - 3 Afghans (black & 2 cream)

By Michael



2011 - Connie Nibarger



Blanket

