

TOPKNOT NEWS

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

Winter Edition 2025



THE AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.



Breeding Legends, Shaping the Future

The Thirty-Seventh Annual
AFGHAN HOUND BREEDERS' CUP

MAY 28, 2026

Purina Farms - Purina Event Center
300 Checkerboard Drive, Gray Summit MO 63039

DEADLINES AND FEES

November 29, 2025
Litter Nomination Due
\$25 *per litter*
Judge Nomination Due

December 31, 2025
Ballots to Breeders

January 30, 2026
Judges Ballots Due

February 10, 2026
Judge Announcement

March 1, 2026
Supplemental Litter Nomination Due
\$40 *per litter*

April 29, 2026
Individual Get Entries Due
\$25 *per entry*

May 8, 2026
Final Get Entries Due
\$50 *per entry*

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ON THE COVER

"Eli in the Snow"



Back in May, I got the nicest email from Ms. Kathryn Lehman about TKN (thank you, Kathryn!). She had some lovely things to say, attached one of her fabulous oils, and then asked, 'How can I submit one of my paintings for the cover?' Wow—someone actually answered my calls for material! I was thrilled! Kathryn and I started emailing to figure out which upcoming issue would be her cover. We landed on winter.

Since she lives in sunny Florida, Kathi didn't think she had anything that fit the season. I told her it didn't need snow—just something with cozy, wintery vibes. Then she asked if I had any photos of my Afghans in the snow. Did I ever! And that's where I'll let Kathi pick up the story:

It was a pleasure to paint *Eli in the Snow*, CH Exquisite Somewhere Beyond the Sea, JC. The painting is a watercolor of Eli pausing for a moment as he frolicked in the deep snow. I also paint in oils. For *Eli in the Snow*, I chose watercolor because the looseness of watercolor best portrayed the lightness of the snow.

My eyes and my heart fell in love with Afghan Hounds when I was 12 years old. It was love at first sight. My father told me he would get me an Afghan Hound puppy for my 13th birthday, if I made an "A" in Latin. I think he thought it was a safe bet. I got an A by the skin of my teeth and my love affair with our beloved hounds began with a black-masked silver puppy. Afghan Hounds have been an important part of my life and being a member of AHCA is an honor I hold dearly.

Currently, my hounds are Cirneco Dell' Etna. My work as a Grant Director for a non-profit educational organization and family obligations required finding a smaller breed with less grooming needs. These hounds are delightful and bring us much joy. Afghan Hounds still hold a very dear spot in my heart and I vicariously enjoy my friends' Afghan Hounds. Hope you enjoy it and look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando. Promise, we won't have snow! My email is kflehman01@gmail.com.

From the Editor

Virginia Katilus

What a year it's been in the Afghan Hound world! The top dogs owe their excellence not to chance, but to the skilled hands of the breed's most accomplished breeders, handlers and loving owners.

Stealing the spotlight everywhere she trotted was GCHG Ch Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman—a dog whose name is almost as impressive as her trophy collection - and this year's winner of the AHCA National.

Hats off to breeder Ramon Podesta Valenzuela and the American dream team of D. Scott Pfeil and James Donahue. Add in the magic hands of handler Willy Santiago and, well, you get a hound with more air miles than most of us!

But Zaida wasn't alone in the winner's circle. In May the Breeders' Cup rang in the next generation, with breeders showing off their best up-and-comers like Teri Tevlin, Ulrike Reinisch and Christine Pinkstons' BOB Ch Spice Hill in My PJs and BOS Ch Sunlit My Pennies Made Your Crown bred by Tara Richardson, Alexis Jones and Alicia Jones.

It was truly a year filled with ribbons, laughs, and more than a few well-deserved treats. But let's not forget the unsung heroes: the incredible volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep everything running smooth as silk. Without these devoted folks, our shows simply wouldn't happen! A heartfelt thank you to everyone in our wonderful Afghan Hound community.

Here's to 2026! May your hounds be mat-free and your holidays, happy, healthy, joyful and bright.

See you at the shows!



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In Memory:

It is with heavy hearts we acknowledge the passing of the following Members:

Sharon Jackson
Gregory Jones
Nancy Leuba
Robert Stein

We will miss them and remember their contributions to the breed and the Club.

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Join Us!

Afghan Hound Club of St. Louis Show Specialties

Come join us for Specialties held in conjunction with the 2026 Breeders Cup. It's a fun cluster featuring the famous AHCSL raffle! Baskets chock full of wine, grooming supplies, liquor, dog items and more.

There are a variety of places to stay, from houses to hotels to RVs and a variety of places to sample local cuisine, fun things to do if you have time and the AHCSL's Judges dinner at the Hawthorne Inn on Friday night.

Superintendent for all (except the Breeders Cup which is being handled by Amy Mero extraordinaire) is Foy Trent Dog Shows

Thursday - May 28, 2026

Gateway Hound Club

Paula Bockman - Chato, Australia

Afghan Hound Club of America Breeders Cup
Judge TBA

Friday - May 29, 2026

Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club

BIS: Dr. Joseph Louis Pavro, Mexico
NOHS BIS: Jason, Hoke, WI
Hound Group: Kimberly Ann Meredith, OR
NOHS Hound Group/Breed: Paula Bockman-Chato, Australia

Afghan Hound Club of St. Louis Specialty

Regular/Jrs/Intersex: Nancy Edgington, CA
Sweeps Puppy/Veteran: Jordan Glodich, IL

Saturday - May 30, 2026

Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club

BIS: Charles Olvis, FL
NOHS BIS: TBA
Hound Group: Elizabeth Muthard, FL
Breed: Dr. Joseph Luis Pavro, Mexico

Afghan Hound Club of St. Louis Specialty

Regular/Jrs/Intersex: Dr. Thomas Kirstein, TN
Sweeps Puppy/Veteran: Sandy Nelson, MN

Sunday - May 31, 2026

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club

BIS: Desmond Murphy, NY
Hound Group: Dr. Thomas Kirstein, TN
Breed: Lesley Brobyn, CA

Monday - June 1, 2026

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club

BIS: Dr. Thomas Kirstein, TN
Hound Group: Jason, Hoke, WI
Breed: Lukas Cohen, TX

Afghan Hound Club of America

2026 Membership Dues

Dues are \$50. Please remit via the Club website at: <https://dues.ahca.club>. This secure website will allow you to pay directly with a credit card. No PayPal account required. If paying by check please mail to the address below.



Annual Dues Reminder

Deadline: February 1, 2026

If you have any questions or if need assistance with the link contact Ann at 301-502-7217

Voluntary contributions to other club accounts are welcome! Please specify where to allocate additional funds when submitting payment. Thank you!

Ann Nicholson -Treasurer

annaf@comcast.net
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13915 Kennard Drive
Glenelg, MD 21737

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.
88th National Specialty

October 20-23, 2025



BEST OF BREED
GCHG CH Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman



Breeder: Ramon Podesta Valenzuela

Owners: D. Scott Pfeil & James Donahue & Armando Sobrado & Ramon Podesta (Willy Santiago Agent)

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of the beautiful winners- what an incredible showcase of stunning hounds.

I would like to say thank you to my Co-Show chair Chris Belt he really helped me a lot.

A huge thank you to Maddie Mullis for the absolutely breathtaking trophies- they were beyond anything I could have imagined.

Thank you to Maddie Mullis and Betsy Schilling for their invaluable part in making the 2025 Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty such a success.

Show Chair Overview

Chad Alexander

Thank you to Ann Nicholson for being present for every event and helping sales go so smoothly.

Thank you to Barb Hastings for taking over as rescue chair. Thank you to you and your volunteers for making the rescue raffle a beautiful event.

A heartfelt thank you to Rachel Hastings for her amazing organization skills and for always being several steps ahead- I know you will have a magnificent 2026 National.

Special Thanks to: Jennifer and JW Taylor- for all of their work at the art auction.

David Hall and Alisa Vickers- For their fantastic live streaming.

Chris Pinkston- For being my national Liaison.

James Donahue- For his beautiful rendition of the National Anthem accompanied by his flute.

Beth and Dr. Ulrike- For everything they did to make this National so special.

Erica Jantos- For your meticulous coverage and outstanding advertising.

Sandy Nelson- For going above and beyond with trophy donations and your boots and rainsuit were perfection.

Lukas Cohen- for working tirelessly to gather catalog ads.

Maryanne Giordano- For doing such a great job coordinating vendors.

Kris Johnson at PicsByKris- For canceling his vacation to be our photographer.

Eddie Kominek- For running the website and Lure Coursing so effortlessly.

Jennifer Pearce- For all of the poop bags.

Susan Weatherhead- For the hospitality table and your continued support.

Sue Busby and Becky Morisette- For the beautiful welcome baskets.

Michelle Trifiro- For the beautiful logo.

Roberts Center and their amazing staff for making the building look fantastic and always being there to help.

Thank you to the Potomac Afghan Hound Club for joining us. Congratulations on your big 75!

A BIG thank you to Jason Taylor for being our talented auctioneer, our Master of Ceremonies and for stepping in last



minute as our announcer. You made things go so smoothly.

Thank you to Vellus for always supporting our national and donating your magnificent grooming items.

I want to give a special shout out to Helen Stein, who truly helped to make this national special. Especially with everything going on in her own life. It wouldn't have been possible without her.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped, and to all of the exhibitors who brought their beautiful hounds.

To say that being Show Chair for the 2025 Afghan Hound Club of America National under two legendary breeders/Judges was an honor is an understatement.

These are women Chris and I have admired since we first starting showing and breeding. I will cherish this moment forever.

I might be biased but I think the 2025 National was pretty great.

Thank you!



Best of Winners/Winners Bitch

Athena Shekinah Nike
 Breeder: Leslie Stoffels & Marilyn Gilley
 Owner: Nayef Homsi



Best of Opposite Sex

CH Tells Kjavi It's About Time
 Breeder: Jorgen Collinge & Marie Louise Tell-Collinge
 Owner: Brett Hamilton & Noriko Yamada



Select Dog

GCH CH Mozart's Yankee Doodle Dandy
 Breeder: Lisa Ashby & Robert Whipkey
 Owner: Lisa Lackey Ashby & Robert Godfrey



Select Bitch

GCHG CH Jabir Coup'd'e'tat Doja Kat
 Breeder: Gaspare Cassarino & Christina Farrar
 Owner: Christina Farrar & Gaspare Cassarino



Winners Dog

Agha Djari's Elysium
Breeder: Stefanie Boieck
Owner: Nayef Homsi & Stefanie Boieck



Reserve Winners Dog

Hortensia JP's Spring Breeze Duo
Breeder: Hitomi Shoda
Owner: Reiko Shimpo



Reserve Winners Bitch

Singh Shekinah Lavender Sky
Breeder: Leslie Stoffels & Toni M Richmond
Owner: Toni M Richmond & Leslie Stoffels



Award of Merit

CH Spice Hill In My PJ's
Breeder: Ulrike Reinisch & Christine Pinkston & Paul Da Silva Jardine & Karin Reinisch & Teri Tevlin
Owner: Teri Tevlin



Award of Merit / Best in Breeders Class

GCH CH Caymiko's Playful Jestress of Spice Hill TKN
 Breeder: Ulrike Reinisch & Christine Pinkston & Paul Da
 Silva Jardine & Karin Reinisch & Teri Tevlin
 Owner: Ulrike Reinisch



Award of Merit

GCH CH Ruzka Mav's Gift from Heaven
 Breeder: Darla Hichborn & Robert Godfrey
 Owner: Darla Hichborn



Award of Merit/BOB Owner Handled and Best Competitive Veteran

GCHB CH Jolie Show N Tell Sharja
 Breeder: Jennifer Taylor, Sylvia Krupp & Jason Taylor
 Owner: Alisa Vickers & Corinne Joyce & Beth Phillips
 Collins



Best Bred By Exhibitor

Kuhlbreeze Turn Up the Heat
 Breeder: Kelli S Kujawa & Deborah Ridley
 Owner: Ashley Maloney & Kelli Kujawa & Deborah
 Ridley



Best Puppy in Show and Best in Sweepstakes

Singh Shekinah Lavender Sky,
Breeder: Leslie Stoffels & Toni M Richmond
Owner: Toni M Richmond & Leslie Stoffels



Best Opposite Sex - Sweepstakes

Saks Drippin' in Finesse
Breeder: Pam Winkelmeier & John Winkelmeier
Owner: Pam Winkelmeier



Best Veteran

GCHB CH Jolie Show N Tell Sharja
Breeder: Jennifer Taylor, Sylvia Krupp & Jason Taylor
Owner: Alisa Vickers & Corinne Joyce & Beth Phillips
Collins



Best Brood Bitch

GCHS CH Exquisite Sign of the Mermaid SC DCAT CGC TKN
Breeder: Beth Anne Hall & David Hall & Hartley Hall
Owner: Beth Anne Hall & David Hall & Hartley Hall



Best Veteran Sweepstakes

GCHG Sura Fabelhaft Candy Crush

Breeder: James Dalton & Suzanne J Neill

Owner: Christine O'Connor, Suzanne Neill, James Dalton



Best Opposite Sex Veteran Sweepstakes

GCHS Ch Shante Chandon

Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff

Owner: Samuel McGeachy & Marilyn Domhoff



Best Brace

CH Province Untouchable

Breeder: Barb Plum & Dave Plum & Yvonne Ljungkvist & Erica Jantos
Owner: Goodner Grouser & Nancy Cadwallader & Loretta Hatz & Eugene Jantos

CH Province Unbridled BCAT

Breeder: Barb Plum & Dave Plum & Yvonne Ljungkvist & Erica Jantos, Owner: Erica Jantos & Jane Sheppard & Ramon Infante & Goodner Grouser



Best Junior - Arabella Hilla

CH Eskashem Nardin at Bella Roe

Breeder: Szilvia Bodnar

Owners: Rhonda Jesik & Arabella Hilla



Triathlon High in Trial Winner/High in Rally
GCH DCKominek's Hawthorn BN FDC SC BCAT CGCA
CGCU TKA ATT FITG
 Breeder: Edward and Selma Kominek
 Owner: BibinVarghese, Edward and Selma Kominek



High in Agility
GCHCaymiko's Playful Jestress of Spice Hill JC TKN,
 Breeder: Teri Tevlin, Ulrike Reinisch, Christine Pinkston,
 Owner: Dr. Ulrike Reinisch

Dog shows are the place where one can enjoy the thrill of competition while enjoying the beauty of the top dogs. It's about celebrating breeds, supporting breeders, and promoting responsible breeding. It's a place for dog enthusiasts, breeders, owners and handlers to share their passion.

For anyone who has ever loved a dog, you know that it's about much more than the tangible aspects of a show. It's also about a critical ingredient – it's about the connection that comes from deep within the hearts and souls of dogs and their humans.

This rendering of "The Connection" is dedicated to that critical ingredient, as exemplified by Willy Santiago and Zaida.

As a novice sitting ringside, one quickly feels the harmony, the elegance, the humility, the mutual love and respect between this handler and the lovely Afghan Hound he is presenting.

*Commentary and drawing by
 Frances Schuleit*



Lure Coursing Best in Event



“Jack”

CH Kominek’s Jacaranda JC BCAT SIN
Breeder: Eddie and Selma Kominek Owner: Julie Messersmith



AKC Best of Breed

CH Kominek’s Jacaranda JC BCAT SIN “Jack”
Breeder: Eddie and Selma Kominek
Owner: Julie Messersmith



ASFA Best of Breed and Breeder Stake

Kominek’s Lauda “Knuckles”
Breeder: Eddie and Selma Kominek
Owner: Ashley Hollgarth



High Scoring Dual Champion
DC Kominek's Jessamine SC "Jessie"
Breeder: Eddie and Selma Kominek
Owner: Katurah Hall

The following award winners did not take official show photos.

Conformation

Award of Merit

GCH CH Pahlavi One Night in Bangkok
Breeder: Karen Wagner,
Owner: Kathryn Murray & Karen Wagner

Best Stud Dog

GCHG CH Kuhlbreeze Don't Hate the Player Hate the Game
Breeder: Carly Kramer & Deborah Ridley & Demia Divis,
Owner: Kelli Kujawa & Alexis Kujawa & Deborah Ridley

Lure Coursing:

Single Stake

GCh Royal Legacy Opus One "Opus"
Breeder/Owner: Olga & Alan Hislop

Breeder Stake

FCKominek's Jujube SC BCAT "Juju"
Breeder: Eddie & Selma Kominek
Owner: Billy Dean Brady



Judges' Critiques

Regular/Non- Regular Dog Classes and Best of Breed

Judge: Sandra Frei

I was truly honored to be selected as the conformation judge for the 2025 Afghan Hound Club of America national specialty show. I really enjoyed my assignment and would like to thank each and every exhibitor who showed their beautiful dogs to me.

There were difficult decisions to make, but I am a firm believer on judging on the day.

Thank you to my friend and steward Israel Garcia, along with Billy Webb and Jason Taylor for helping get dogs into the ring, absentees, and keeping all the cuts straight in Best of Breed, which is no easy task.

The trophies that were created, handcrafted and donated by the artist Maddie Mullis were beautiful. The shadowboxes with the AHCA medallion and ribbon were lovely.

Judges hospitality was top-notch. Thank you to Chris Pinkston, Rachel Hastings, Russ and Barb Hastings, Israel Garcia, his spouse, Chris Liles and Rick Martin, who took me out to breakfast and/or dinner every day I was there. We had great fun.

Thank you to Rachel Hastings who picked me up at the Cincinnati airport and to John and Elaine McKiernan for taking me back to the airport for my flight home.

Kudos to show chairman Chad Alexander and his committee for putting on this year's national. I thought it was an excellent national and loved all the banners with the logo that they put throughout Robert's Center.

Observations about my winners:

Definitely the most difficult decision I had was in the Best of Breed class between the bitch that I ultimately selected for Best of Breed and the dog that I awarded Best Opposite.

It truly was an honor to have two of the top Afghans in the world and both excellent representatives of our breed in my ring at the same time. The national specialty should showcase the best of the best.

My final decision was like splitting hairs as both exhibits were on the top of their game and shown to perfection.

While both my final choices for Best of Breed were excellent movers I felt that she was more balanced front and rear on the move than the male which earned her the win.

Before I go into my critiques, I would like to explain what I am looking for.

I always have them go around for an initial Impression of each dog in the class. When I go over each dog I first stand back to look at outline and overall balance when standing. From there I proceed to have the handler show me the teeth first. If the dog backs up for any reason I allow the handler to reset their dog and I ask them if they are ready. When they are ready I then examine the head by looking at the overall look of the head. I measure from the occiput to between the eyes to the nose to check for occiput and the balance of the head. I then check ear leather and look for underjaw. After that I run my hands down the neck into the shoulder. From there I check the layback of shoulder, prosternum, return of upper arm and depth of brisket. After that I return to check the topline, spring of rib, hipbones, croup, tailset, the tail itself. I check the thigh muscles and feel down to the hocks to see if they are perpendicular. The last thing I look at is the foot to check for size and thickness of pad. I am happy to say that all the feet I felt in both the class dogs and specials were good. I do not ask the exhibitor to reset the dog after I look at the foot to restack their dog as looking at the foot can throw off the balance, and I no longer need to look at the dog stacked.



Of note, if I have a dog that pulls away from me when I first start examining them I allow the handler to reset the dog and then start examining the body first and go back

to the head last.

Now it's time to move.

I start by having them go down and back. I take a look at them when they come back then send them around to the end. Type, balance when standing and moving are of utmost importance to me as well as, soundness coming and going.

When it comes down to making cuts and final decisions, I like to have dogs go into the center of the ring, freestack so I can see the profile of the dog and then take a turn around the ring to the end of the line. If there are dogs that are in final consideration, I like to move them around with one leading then switch and have the other lead.

Best of Breed

GCHG CH Zaida Bint Multi

Von Haussman

This bitch is stunning. She is a Queen. Beautiful head, good length of neck, well-angled front and rear, good topline and beautiful tail. She is very balanced on the move with great extension front and rear. Sound coming and going. She gives you that total picture standing and moving.

Best Opposite Sex

CH. Tell's Kjavu it's About

Time

This dog is truly a King. This dog owns the ground he stands on. Beautiful head, nice long arched neck, nice angles front and rear, good topline and pretty tail. Lovely coat. He is in beautiful condition. Sound coming and going. He has a big sidegait but even though he has good reach he tends to have more kick in the rear.

Select Dog

GCH, Mozart's Yankee

Doodle Dandy

Handsome dog. Very showy, Nice outline. Good topline Beautiful coat. Good angles front and rear. Big sidegait. Sound coming and going.

Select Bitch

GCHG JaCoup'd'E'Tat Doja Kat

Beautiful bitch. Loved her overall outline. Good balance, nice topline, pretty tail. Excellent on the move with good extension front and rear and sound coming and going.

Awards of Merit

CH. Spice Hill in my PJ's

Very nice, young dog. Nice outline. Good overall balance when standing and moving. Pretty tail.

GCH. Pahlavi One Night in Bangkok

Handsome dog. Pretty head, nice long arched neck, very balanced front and rear. Big sidegait. Excellent carriage. Sound coming and going.

NOHS/Best Veteran - GCH.

Jolie Show N Tell Sharja

Handsome dog. He is in excellent condition. Nice outline. Very balanced front and rear. Good topline. Very good mover with good carriage and nice reach and drive.

GCH. Ruzka Mav's Gift from Heaven

Very pretty bitch. She is as white as snow with inky black pigment. Pretty head. Nice square body. Well-angled front and rear, Nice sidegait.

GCH. Caymiko's Playful Jestress of Spice Hill, TKN

This bitch was beautifully balanced. Loved her neck into her shoulder, good topline, nice balanced movement,

I wish I would have had one more Award of Merit that I could have awarded to my Veteran Bitch

GCHG Sura Fabelhaft Candy Crush.

Winners Bitch and Best of Winners

Athena Shekinah Nike

Lovely black masked red bitch. She has a very pretty head. Nice long neck into shoulder. Very pretty mover with lovely carriage and great extension front and rear.

Winners Dog

Agha Djari's Elysium

Nice outline, pretty head, good length on neck into shoulder. Nice topline. Powerful mover with good extension front and rear. Sound coming and going.

Reserve Winners Bitch and Best Puppy

Singh Shekinah Lavender Sky

Pretty black masked red puppy. Nice outline. Well-balanced standing and moving. Good extension front and rear. Very promising.

Reserve Winners Dog - Hortensia JP's Spring Breeze Duo

Pretty head, nice long neck into shoulder. Good topline. Nice tail. Very balanced sidegait. Nice silky coat.

Best Bred By

Kuhlbreeze Turn up the Heat

Nicely balanced youngster when standing and moving. Pretty head. Very promising.

Best Brace

CH Province Untouchable and CH. Province Unbridled

It was so nice to have three brace teams in my ring.

Having shown a brace myself, I can tell you that it is no easy task. All three handlers did a really good job presenting their braces. My first place showed hers to perfection. Those two black and tan dogs could not have been more evenly matched standing and moving.

Best Junior

Arabella Hilla

I thought both my juniors did an excellent job showing their dogs. I felt my winner was more on top of making sure of having her dog always look his best. Damien Grouser who was second in the class also did a wonderful job moving and presenting his dog.



Sweepstakes/ Triathlon Conformation Classes

Judge: Julie Roche

It was my honor to be selected by the membership to judge the Puppy and Veterans Sweepstakes and the conformation portion of the Triathlon competition at this years National Specialty.

The dog show scene is dramatically different now than the previous time I had this same honor in 1999. The entries were much larger then but I was pleasantly surprised at the overall quality of both the puppies and the adults that were shown to me this year.

Veteran Sweeps

Each and every veteran shown was an outstanding Afghan Hound and a credit to their owners for keeping them in such immaculate

condition. They were a sight to behold and literally brought tears to my eyes. After much hand wringing by me, the best in veterans sweeps award went to a dynamite, as well as correct, brindle bitch who showed her heart out and demanded all of the attention as she floated around the ring with correct outline and ground covering movement.

Best of Opposite Sex went to a masculine brindle who was also a very elastic ground covering mover with a long neck and great outline on the move.

Puppy Sweeps

So many of these youngsters had a quality I just love, they were elegant and beautiful at first glance but when you got your hands on them they were substantial and muscular, just as they should be to live up to their heritage as coursing hounds.

My eventual Best in Sweeps went to the 6-9 month old puppy bitch. She was in a class of two with, what I later learned, was her littermate. It was a difficult class to judge as both were long boned forward moving hounds.

In the final best in sweeps line up it was easy to gravitate to the more finished more mature entries but as I worked everyone my eye kept being drawn to the red puppy with the long lined outline and the fluid ground covering movement, with not an ounce of wasted effort. For one so young she was a standout in my eye.

Best of Opposite Sex went to a jet black puppy with the most

magnificent head and eye I have ever seen. He had a well maintained but huge coat that was doing him no favors at this age.

He had a detailed topline and super front assembly. He moved around the ring with ease in a totally Afghan Hound like manner.

I should note that I had two stand out youngsters who were overwhelmed with the show situation. I tried to make their experience more comfortable and hope they can find their feet in the show ring in the future.

Triathlon Conformation

All of these Champion dogs are a credit to their breed as are the owners who spend so much time and effort to train them. I thoroughly enjoyed judging my portion of this competition.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this years AHCA National Specialty. The hospitality was superb and I love the unique judges gifts.

Happy Holidays

Shannon Griffin, Dale Boyd and Ted



Multi Group placing

**GCHB CH Exquisite Always Be a Mystery of the Sea
CGC, TK1, FCAT**

GCHP Exquisite Royal Majesty of Elation DCat X GCHS Exquisite Sign of the Mermaid SC DCat CGC TKN

Everyone was so impressed by the beautiful trophies created by Maddie Mullis that we invited her to share her story. From all - a heartfelt thank you for your incredible work!

- Ed

Maxine “Maddie” Mullis has been a member of the AHCA for many years as well as a member of the Tara Afghan Hound Club in the Atlanta area. The trophies for the 2025 Nationals were created by Maddie.

Having always been intrigued by Afghan Hounds and their thoroughbred-like qualities...the flowing hair and high-spirited nature, she acquired her first Afghan through rescue in 2007. Her love for the breed blossomed. Since her first one, there have been nine more lucky hounds that have called the Mullis household their home, including the three they currently have. Her dedication to the breed and her support for rescue has continued through the years.

Maddie has always been a woodworker, whether it is building furniture, restoring old structures or creating intricate handcrafted works of

art. Her first attempt at an Intarsia was a prototype in 2011 as an idea for the Tara club. Although the members liked it, Maddie thought it should be thrown on the burn pile! (It was not and is currently safely



pieces of wood. They are individually saw cut, hand sanded and painted. Next the pieces are assembled back into the original design and attached to a painted backerboard before framing.

One Intarsia takes about 25 hours to create from start to finish. Maddie's pieces are never for sale. You can ONLY get one by winning it as a trophy or bidding on it at auction and they are always generously donated by her for those events.

Maddie also has a love for horses that began at a young age. She became a successful horse trainer and still holds her Level III Hunt Seat Instructor Certification. She also has a Lifetime Membership to the American Riding Instructors Association.

So, these days if she isn't in the workshop or working around her 100-year-old farm or snuggling with her Afghans after a hard day's work, you'll find her at horse shows, showing her stunning Welsh ponies.

As you can see, she has yet to learn...Sit. Stay.



hanging in a friend's living room where she can't get it!)

She persevered and the result was an instant success that started the original “Take Flight” series of Intarsias. They would go on to raise thousands of dollars in support of the breed at future art auctions. Each masterpiece is created on paper from an image in her head or inspired by the artwork of others. It is then enlarged to the size of her choice, and the tedious work begins. Each large image is made up of numerous small



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