

TOPKNOT NEWS

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

Summer Edition 2026





89th National Specialty Show

AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

OCTOBER 20-24, 2026

Tuesday, Oct. 20th

Day - LGRA Racing and Fast CAT

Wednesday, Oct. 21st

Day - Lure Coursing

Evening - Agility Show and Go

Thursday, Oct. 22nd

Day - Fast CAT walk in; Performance Events (Agility, Obedience, Rally)

Evening - Vendor Party, Sweepstakes, Triathlon, Veteran Sweeps, Annual Awards Event

Sweepstakes Judge: Laura Mauldin

Friday, Oct. 23rd

Day - Judges/Breed Education Combined Event, Annual Meeting, Conformation Judging

Conformation Judge: Michael Canalizo

Evening - Art Auction and Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 24th

Day - Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club Specialty

Sweepstakes Judge: Christine Pinkston

Conformation Judge: Joanne Buehler

- Midwest Afghan Hound Club Specialty

Conformation Judge: Jan Swayze-Curry

A CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF AKC RECOGNITION

Roberts Centre • Wilmington, Ohio

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ON THE COVER

The artistry of

Lucia Brown



"Ty and Friend," stunning sculptures by Lucia Brown featuring a beautifully detailed pair of Afghan Hounds. The piece captures the spirit of Joanne Sternhell's red brindle, Ty, standing alongside his striking grey companion. Intrigued by her remarkable ability to bring these hounds to life in clay, I asked Lucia to share how her journey into sculpting, painting, and drawing Afghan Hounds first began.

I became interested in Afghan art in the late 1990's after having owned the breed for 15+ years. Starting out as a self taught sculptor I quickly realized I wanted to learn about high firing methods and I enrolled in Silvermine School of Art. It was there that I became comfortable working with stoneware and porcelain. I have created statues in both mediums and also Raku firing methods. After purchasing a kiln I was able to set up my own studio at home and continued refining my artwork at my leisure. I have enjoyed working with different glazes and after a day of firing unloading the kiln is always a fun surprise to see the final results!

2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President - Michael Canalizo
First Vice President - Russ Hastings
Second Vice President - Amy Mero
Corresponding Secretary - Helen Stein
Recording Secretary - Janet Lenobel
Treasurer - Ann Nicholson

Board of Directors:

Connie Butherus
Beth Erisman-Thomas
Beth Anne Hall
Rick Martin
Christine O'Connor
Christine Pinkston



COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AKC Gazette Column: Harry Bennett
ASFA Delegate: Bob Jordan
Awards: Rachel Hastings Howard
Breeders Cup 26: Billy Webb & Joy Atkins-Miller
Canine Health: Anna Tyler
Companion Events: Beth Erisman-Thomas
Judges Education: James Donahue
Junior Showmanship: Darla Miller
Library/ Archives: Helen Stein
Mailing List Coordinator: Eddie Kominek
Membership: Jennifer Taylor
Mentor Program: Christine Pinkston
National Specialty 26: Rachel Hastings Howard
Parliamentarian: Connie Butherus
Performance Events: Eddie Kominek
Policies and Procedures: Lynda Hicks
Public Education: Susan Weatherhead
Purina Parent Club Partnership Program: Helen Stein
Regional Clubs: Amy Mero
Rescue: Barb Hastings
Social Media: Erica Jantos
Statistics: Carol Rivette
Topknot News: Virginia Katilus
Webmaster: Eddie Kominek

SUMMER 2026

TOPKNOT NEWS

TOPKNOT NEWS PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Spring - Statistics	Deadline: March 18
Summer - Breeders Cup	Deadline: June 28
Winter - National Results	Deadline: Nov. 30

In Memory

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

Michelle DuCote
John (Jack) Fahey

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

From the Editor

Welcome to the Summer Issue of Topknot News!

Can you believe August is already here? As the season begins its gentle slide toward autumn, I hope your summer has been filled with ribbons, memorable moments, and plenty of quality air conditioned couch time with your regal—and beautifully silly—hounds.

Congratulations to all the winners and magnificent contenders at this year's Breeders' Cup! It was a truly inspiring showcase of our breed. You can read Judge **Rita Figg's** full critique on page 21. Every single entry brought something special to the ring, so a sincere *bravo* to the breeders, owners, handlers AND volunteers who made the event such a success. Your hard work and devotion absolutely shone through.

We are also thrilled to debut a brand-new feature: *Meet the Members* on page 23. A huge thank you to **Janet Lenoble**, our very first spotlight member for sharing her wonderful story with us. We want to make this an ongoing tradition, but we need your help! We want to hear from you next. Whether you are a longtime breeder or a new companion owner, please consider sharing your journey with our community.

Reach out at editortopknotnews@gmail.com to be featured in an upcoming issue—and don't forget to send photos!

While it is always bittersweet to watch summer draw to a close, we all know that autumn brings the crown jewel of our calendar: the National Specialty! There is nothing quite like the electric anticipation that builds as we finalize travel plans and prepare for the exciting week ahead.

What makes this upcoming National even more historic is that we are continuing our grand Century Celebration. Marking 100 years of AKC recognition is an extraordinary milestone. A full century of unforgettable glamour, legendary hound history, and deep camaraderie is an incredible legacy we inherit and build upon together. This year's National promises to be a remarkable gathering, packed with high-caliber competition, wonderful social events, and plenty of time to catch up with friends old and new.



Finally, a sincere thank you to our advertisers. Your support and active involvement create a legacy for future readers, permanently preserved in the archives of the Afghan Hound Club of America.

So dive right into this summer issue, enjoy the photos and results, and start counting down the days until we gather for our historic National!

Virginia Katilus
Editor

editortopknotnews@gmail.com

-  **Editor:** Virginia Katilus
-  **Reporter:** Megan Joy Rice
-  **Proof Readers:** Toni King, Joann Tucker
-  **Advertising & Ad Layout:** OPEN

FULL PAGE COLOR AD: \$75.00
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AHCA RESCUE HOTLINE | 877-237-3728

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Robert Jordan



Connie Butherus



Darla Miller



Christine O'Connor



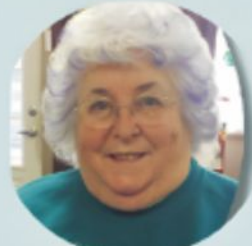
Harry Bennett



Amy Mero



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Barbara Hastings



James Donahue



Beth Erisman-Thomas



Carol Rivette



Helen Stein



Lynda Hicks



Erica Jantos



Eddie Kominek

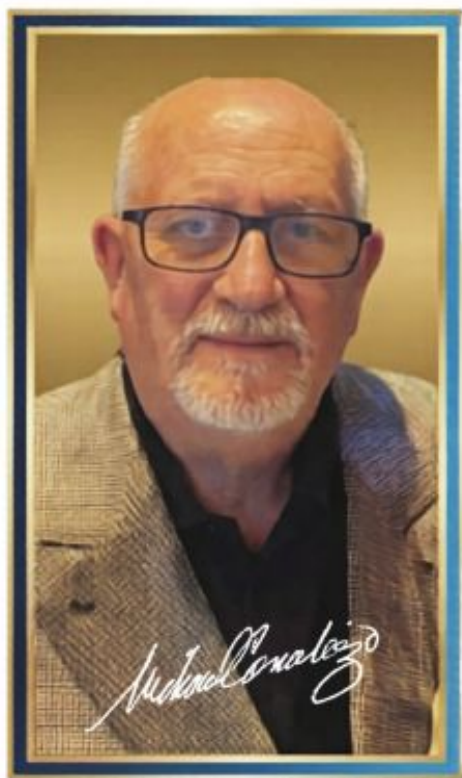


Anna Tyler

AHCA Website | www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org



President's Message



Dear AHCA members and Afghan Hound lovers:

As the saying goes: "Time Flies!" This is already my second Presidents Message, and our wonderful breed is celebrating their 100th year! And before we know it, the 2026 Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty will be upon us.

The club is very fortunate to have really talented and experienced members who have taken on important roles to bring this year's national events to the fancy.

While we are experiencing some modifications and adaptation in scope of the breed on some levels...we also have some welcome growth in other areas of activities the breed enjoys.

To address these subtle changes: we are streamlining the week of AHCA events in Ohio this October.

All our usual events and meetings will be offered with some adjustments of time allotments for the conformation dates. This will allow participants to attend all the AHCA events without extra days while trimming a day off from our past dates.

We welcome the Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club and the Midwest Afghan Hound Club as companion specialties this year. Please follow the AHCA website for all the particulars as they are confirmed.

Enjoy this issue of Topknot News. Be sure to read the inaugural "Meet the Member" page and we welcome your answers to the questions for inclusion in a future issue.

Now is the time to find something very special to the breed that can be shared to others through the amazing "AHCA Art Auction" and to make a trophy donation to the show. Look for an email about these special opportunities made possible by the membership.

Michael L. Canalizo
AHCA President



PROHPHECY'S VINCENT

VAN GOGH OF SHINING MOUNTAIN

SELECT

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
KENNEL CLUB
2025
#405170 R/MELIAE

Eleven month old Vincent won two majors to finish his Championship
and next day Select major at the Breeders' Cup
Judge: Desmond Murphy Owner/handler: Megan Baldinger

CH TARINA ADORAH EAGLE SCOUT x GCH PROHPHECY'S DESTINY

Bred by **BRIAN WOOD AND NANCY SHANDRE**

AKC GAZETTE COLUMN REPORT

Submitted by Harry Bennett

Shedding New Light on Pacing

As we know, in the show ring dogs are judged at a trot. I have always been aware of the stigma associated with a dog's ability to pace. The incidence of pacing by an Afghan Hound isn't necessarily common but is more than occasional. I'd like to talk a little bit about pacing in this column.

My findings are not based on any appropriated scientific research, only my own experience especially handling hundreds (likely more) of Afghan Hounds in the show ring and in life, and several related breeds over a period of time spanning 56 years. As well my observations of cats, horses, and some other domesticated and wild animals contribute to this essay.

It is a natural ability that quadrupeds can pace. It is a gait that may be trained, but with show dogs it is undesirable. In general, it looks awkward, however some dogs do it better than others.

I have seen this in dogs of different proportions, structure, and balance. I have seen pacing at different speeds. Very often I have observed a mental association of a dog's negative consciousness of the lead and the triggering of its pacing.

I believe pacing looks awkward because we usually see it out of context. It is a much more useful gait traveling over ground that is uneven, that has more depth, and that offers more resistance: *sand*, especially *deep sand*. Animals pacing over sand seem to exert less energy to travel. Here pacing appears rhythmic and smooth, *and* the is it actually diverts the hot sand away from the underbelly! In the desert this mode becomes desirable.

But yes, in the show ring dogs are judged at a trot. When we have a dog who we know has the capability to pace in the ring, often the first reaction is to utilize the collar, yanking the dog off his front "hoping" things will fall into place on the move. I have found just the opposite! Rather, encourage and get that dog to take the first step on his own accord, with *no* pressure from the collar, and the dog moves directly into a trot. It may be easier said than done, but I have found

this to be foolproof. Unfortunately, many dogs have already formed an opinion about the misuse of their collar and won't take the initiative on their own. This may be overcome by practice and skill on the handler's part, so don't give up. You already know your Afghan Hound won't give up!

BREEDERS' DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Tidewater Afghan Hound Club - Breeders' Cup 2027 Proposal

Location: The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County, Virginia, was once a family farm and is now a multi-purpose venue — it is home to the State Fair of Virginia and other notable events.

Located just minutes from Richmond and Fredericksburg, an easy drive from Hampton Roads/Virginia Beach and a straight shot from the D.C. area, The Meadow Event Park attracts guests from throughout the geographic area.

The 331-acre property is rich in history and features a mixture of newly constructed facilities and original structures. Thoroughbred racing legend Secretariat was born here in 1970. Three years later he blazed his way into Triple Crown history. Today his birthplace is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Show Chair: Billy Webb, Show Chair, local Co-Chair, Michele Friesen, Amy Mero Show Secretary and a member of Tidewater AHC. Members of the Tidewater AHC will be on hand to help out.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Please note that my volunteer role as Editor is dedicated to the layout, formatting, graphic design and overall production of Topknot News. **Every report submitted for this current issue has been included in its entirety.** If a specific committee or official report is missing, it is because the material was not provided.*

I have no control over which reports are submitted. A few committee reports were never received for this issue and, consequently, are not included.

*I appreciate your understanding and look forward to **all** of us working together to contribute content and make every issue of Topknot News a success!*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Proposed date of the event: Thursday, May 27, 2027. According to the AKC Corresponding Date table, this weekend is number 21. The Afghan Hound Club of St Louis is normally on week 22, which in 2027 will be June 5-6.

Associated Shows:

- *Friday, May 28, 2027*
Two Hound Club shows
- *Saturday, May 29, 2027*
Tidewater Afghan Hound Club Specialty Show
- *Sunday, May 30, 2027*
Richmond Afghan Hound Club Specialty Show

Other clubs holding shows that weekend are:

- Mid-Atlantic Working Group Club of MD;
- Mid-Atlantic Non-Sporting Club of Virginia
- Mid-Atlantic Herding Group Club of Maryland
- Sporting Dog Club of Virginia
- Virginia Toy Club
- The Hound Club of Maryland
(new Hound Club)

Ring equipment provided by MB-F, the weekend Show Superintendent. There may be reserved parking offered that weekend.

Campground - there is a KOA campground about one mile from the Event Center which has campsites and cabins

RV parking - plenty on site with hookups. All breed shows charge \$60 per night with reservation or \$70 per night without reservation

Dog friendly hotels - Red Roof Inn, Days Inn & Quality Inn are about one mile from the Event Center. The city of Ashland, about ten miles south, has many dog friendly hotels. I am sure we can get a block of rooms at any one of them. Richmond is about a 25-30 minute ride south down RT 95. Other hotels:

- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
- Woodspring Suites
- Quality Inn & Suites
- Hampton Inn by Hilton
- Red Roof Inn, Ashland

Maps/Directions - Exit 98 off RT 95. Farm

Bureau Center – Building #1. Enter through Gate 3

Food - the Farm Bureau building has a full kitchen and concession stand that we could work with to provide hospitality foods

Cost - An offer of \$150 for a double ring and reserved grooming space has been made to the club Show Chair in charge.

CANINE HEALTH REPORT

Submitted by Anna Tyler

AHCA Canine Health BOD Report July 2026

Dear Board and AHCA Members:

June 2026 \$500 was donated to the Morris Animal Foundation Stop Cancer Forever campaign to help fuel critical research to diagnose, treat and cure devastating cancers such as hemangiosarcoma, osteosarcoma, lymphoma and other life-threatening diseases affecting our beloved Afghan Hounds and other breeds.

The Evergreen Afghan Hound Club and other private donations were made as well. All donations made in June 2026 were matched by Bill and Rebecca Kamer up to \$50,000 for this great cause.

Financials:

AHCA Canine Health Foundation Donor Advised Fund Statement (1/1/2026 – 3/31/2026) \$11,526.90

AHCA Canine Health 501© 3 Checking account balance as of 6/2026 - \$5,497.65

I am requesting that the Board review the 304.0-Canine Health By Laws / Policy and Procedures. AHCA Annual Budget for Canine Health – (voted on 6/9/2018) to approve \$1500.

The tax accountant fees of \$500 each year should be paid for out of the AHCA budget rather than the Canine Health account. I am requesting that these funds be returned to the Canine Health Account that has been charged for the past several years.

As per the P&P - #7:

Donations to AHCA Canine Health checking account will be deposited by the Treasurer and monitored by both the Treasurer and the Executive Director. Ex-

penses and fees will be paid out of the AHCA Annual Budget of \$1500. (6/9/18 Chicago BOD). Any donations for the Canine Health Foundation, or money received from members and or individuals must go to pay for health – related research or causes that effect the Afghan Hound.

The money paid for the tax accountant should be returned to the Canine Health checking account and paid for by the AHCA annual budget according to the ByLaws and the P & P's 304.0.

PURINA PARENT CLUB PARTNERSHIP (PPCP) PROGRAM

Submitted by Helen Stein

DONOR ADVISED FUND STATEMENT

1st Quarter 2026

(1/1/2026 – 3/31/2026)

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. Donor Advised Fund

1/1/2026 Balance	\$11,768.80
Contributions	\$ 0.00
PPCPP Contribution	\$ 0.00
Investment Earnings/(Losses) (\$241.90)	
Research Support *	\$ 0.00
3/31/2026 Balance:	\$11,526.90

From the AKC Canine Health Foundation:

The Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.'s partnership with CHF continues to fuel research that transforms canine health.

Thank you for your active engagement with CHF through the work you've done to keep this fund serving canine health research.

A New Chapter for your Donor Advised Fund

After more than 20 years and over \$9 million raised for canine health research, rescue, and education, the Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) Program concluded on December 31, 2025.

To every breed club that helped build this program into what it became and your participation is what made \$9 million possible. The science it funded, the

breeds it has already helped, and the standard it set for collaborative giving in the canine community are real and lasting.

What you've built doesn't end with the program. Your 2025 PPCP participation and earnings will be deposited into your donor advised fund in 2026, joining the balance you've grown over the years. That fund remains every bit as active, invested, and ready to direct toward research that matters to your breed — on your terms, on your timing, and toward the studies you choose. We're grateful for the partnership Purina and every participating club gave to this program, and we're looking forward to what your fund can do next.

Putting Your Fund to Work in 2026

Sponsoring a CHF grant at \$2,500 or more recognizes your club as a sponsor on that project's page at akcchf.org and unlocks a private club dashboard with research progress updates every six months, creating visible impact you can share with your members.

The [Health Liaison microsite](#) is your hub: this quarter's research and fundraising campaign, just launched projects, scientist spotlights on funded researchers, and fast-facts handouts and social media your members can share. Each grant page on akcchf.org lists the grant amount and the sponsoring clubs already supporting it. When you're ready to direct funds, the [DAF Transfer Form](#) makes that simple to become one of the sponsors.

Questions about specific grants or your fund? Email chfgrants@akcchf.org or call 888-682-9696. If you'd like to talk through your fund's strategy for 2026, whether interested in multi-grant sponsorship or new research areas to support, please book a time with me at [Book time with Andrea Fiumefreddo: CHF Research Funding Consultation](#).

Your leadership in this work is appreciated and felt across the canine health community.

Warmly,
Andrea Fiumefreddo, MS
Chief Operating Officer

Stephanie Montgomery, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Chief Executive Officer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AHCA JUDGES' EDUCATION REPORT

Submitted by James Donahue

I have several things to report regarding Judges' education.

Canine College Breed Course

After several years of development, the online Afghan Hound Course is complete, and available to the fancy. The photos and video footage used were sourced from three categories:

1) New photo and video media captured by the Canine College development team. These photos and videos follow standard formatting used across all breed courses.

2) Previously approved media that has been included in the AHCA judges' education seminar for years.

3) Media from the American Kennel Club's archive (including images from past AKC National Championship shows).

A special thank you is due to **Helen Stein** and **Connie Butherus**, who made up the committee that developed and reviewed this course. Their decades of experience with the breed were invaluable in this endeavor. Additional thanks to **D. Scott Pfeil** and the late **Bob Stein** who sat for interviews and serve as the breed experts for this course. Both provide insightful and educational points of view for students of the breed.

The canine college course can be accessed at https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/user_dashboard The standard cost for the course is \$75, and successful completion counts as two CEUs toward a judges' application for Afghan Hounds.

2026 National Specialty

As directed by the Board, I am planning for the 2026 National week to include a combined Judges' education and breed education event. This will be a presentation of the usual 90-minute AHCA approved breed seminar for aspiring judges.

This comprehensive overview of the official breed standard is equally valuable for both new and longtime

fanciers of the Afghan Hound. The reasons for combining the two educational events this year are twofold.

First, we are trying a condensed schedule for the first time, and therefore, time is slightly more limited than in the past. Secondly, this is a hound year at the annual AKC Advanced Judge's Institute in Orlando. Further, there will NOT be a hands-on workshop this year, which will reduce the available number of CEUs for judges. Due to this, I expect attendance by prospective judges to be at a minimum. They are more likely to go to Orlando to get the most "bang for their buck."

In contrast, the National seminar will provide an excellent opportunity for fanciers to review the seminar, become familiar with the content of the Judges' education program, and ask questions about the standard.

2026 Advanced Judges' Institute in Orlando

As mentioned above, this year the AKC Advanced Judges' Institute will cover hound and terrier breeds. The curriculum will offer both the AHCA 90-minute classroom seminar, as well as a one-hour hands on workshop.

The Afghan Hound seminar is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, from 11:00-12:30. The hands-on workshop will follow from 1:30-2:30, after the lunch break. I will start soliciting volunteers to bring dogs to the workshop this fall.

Attendance at these seminars is capped at 25 students in each breed. Afghan Hounds typically sell out quickly once registration opens.

Attendance at an Advanced Institute offers the same number of CEUs as attending a National Specialty seminar and workshop. Orlando has historically worked well, as Afghan Hound entries tend to be both large and deeper in quality than many shows (excluding the National Specialty).

JUNIOR SHOW REPORT

Submitted by Darla Miller

At the current time, *Canine Chronicle* has reported the following Junior names with placing wins:

Illusion

GCH Grand Illusion of Shining Mountain, CGC TK1
Major Select Breeders Cup Weekend!



Illusion is owned and handled by Megan Baldinger
bred by Brian Wood and Nancy Shandre

GCH Prohphecy's Command Performance Jaada X Sunshine Lollipops N Rainbows of Shining Mountain

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Arabella Hilla
- Annalee Milam
- Isabela Rusch
- Alizay Iwamoto-Capenia
- Victoria Avila
- Sarah Benson
- Natalie Holland

Of those listed, I only have contact information on Arabella and Annalee.

There is no activity planned for Juniors at the National considering the time restraints.

As you might be aware, I have volunteered to help **Barb Hastings** with rescues. Currently living in my home are four beautiful pups - 10 weeks of age. Both parents are AKC registered and we are trying to get the paperwork signed off on the male so we can register the litter. This is complicated. The husband has the dogs and is divorced from the wife whose name is solely on the registration papers. We do have a placement for the adults with a person picking two up at the end of this month. This brings me to the connection with Junior showmanship.

I shared with Russ and Barb that, given the opportunity, would we consider placing a puppy with a Junior handler. Agreed! We have our FIRST placement with a 13 year old Junior Handler who is so excited that he will be able to show an Afghan Hound! Barb and I confirmed this with his mother who is a handler herself. The little pup will be shown in Sweeps, 6-9 and Juniors provided we can get the paperwork completed in time.

Sadly, articles placed in the last *Topknot News* generated NO interest in Juniors. I feel strongly that the lack of acknowledgement is because the parents of these juniors or breeders who have sold dogs to them, are NOT members of our Parent Club (exception is **Erica Santos**)

When I sponsored four juniors I knew of no one else, besides myself and two other individuals, who were members of the Parent Club. How can we change this? I appeal to the Board/membership for ideas.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Submitted by Lynda Hicks

P&P's are updated through the March, 2026 Board Meeting, and were provided to all Board members, and to Eddie Kominek for posting on the AHCA website.

I am relying on the report of the March Board meeting (that was provided along with the most recent *Topknot News*) and will reconfirm once I am provided with a copy of the actual March Board minutes from that meeting.

REGIONAL CLUBS REPORT

Submitted by Amy Mero

Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club 7/10
Bonnie Linnell Clark
Jorge Nallem (FRA)

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus 7/11
Russ Hastings
Kim Leblanc

Carolina Afghan Hound Club 7/18-7/19
Helen Stein

Midwest Afghan Hound Club 8/7
Dean D'Aquila

Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club 8/7
Karen Dumke

Midwest Afghan Hound Club 8/8
Jeffery Bazell

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus 8/9
D. Scott Pfeil

Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club 8/21
David Miller
Marla Capozzi

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver 9/4
Patricia Clark
Jose Luis Payro

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Chicago Sandy Frei Steve Kelly	9/4-9/5	Midwest Afghan Hound Club Jan Swayze-Curry	10/24
Northern California Afghan Hound Club Israel Garcia	9/12	Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Assoc. TBA	11/6
Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Assoc. Lukas Cohen Israel Garcia	10/4	Afghan Hound Club of Omaha Fred Hyer Barbara Scherer	11/21-11/22
Afghan Hound Club of Austin Terry Chacon	10/23	Suncoast Afghan Hound Club of Florida Rev. Rick Martin	12/11
Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club Joanne Buehler	10/24	Afghan Hound Club of So. California Rev. Rick Martin	1/8/27



D.O.B. JUNE 15, 2025
5 BOYS AND 3 GIRLS

Zara

GCHB CH
ABSOLYUT BO
SC CA DCAT ATT

HEALTH
OFA Hips: EXCELLENT
OFA Thyroid: NORMAL
OFA Eyes: NORMAL
OFA Chic#: CHIC - QUALIFIED
OFA : NORMAL/CLEAR - CARE



Breeder: Olga Hislop

facebook.com/olga.scroggins

KENNEL ROYAL LEGACY



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Little R Royal Legacy




Caspian
EXQUISITE ROYAL MAJESTY
OF ELATION

 AM/GR CH
PAHLAVI ITZ NOT MY FIRST RODEO

 AM/CH
EXQUISITE NEVER ENDING ELATION

 AM/CH
PAHLAVI PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ
 AM/CH
PAHLAVI ON BRODWAY

 AM/GR CH
BEAUJON'S BREAKING NEWS
 AM/GRS CH
KOMAR'S WILD VIOLETTE SKYE

 SHIRKED SHAZAM
 ALARICHAN'S JEHADA PAHYALI
 LYRIX HALL OF FLAME
 PAHVALI OOPS I DID IT AGAIN
 BEAUJON SWEET METALIC
 TRINITY BEAUJON BEDAZZLED
 KOMAR'S JOKERS'R WILD
 KOMAR'S KRIMS'N SKYE


Zarah
ABSOLYUT BOMBINA

 AMAL SALANG KONSTANTIN'S GOLD

 AMAL SALANG FLOWER POWER

 INT/RUS FIN/GRS NOR HU CZ/BY LT LV EST BALT CH
AMAL SALANG COEURS D'COEURS
 CB/RUS/GR LT BLR CH
AMAL SALANG ALIA

 FIN SE CH
RAFFICA'S DANCE OF A
THOUSAND VELS AT GOLD'NCOPPER
 CB/RUS/GR LT EST LV LT BALT BLR BG MD ARE UA CH
AMAL SALANG SAGADAT

 AVIVA COEUR A COEUR
 AMAL SALANG SAGADAT
 KABIK'S THE MANDATE
 SUNNY SIDE AMALGAMA
 JAPONICA'S BARREL OF A GUN
 RAFFICA'S TAKES MY BREATH AWAY
 INGENUE SEBAZTIAN
 SUNNY SIDE AMALGAMA



Ahava

Breeding for beautiful type and balanced movement



Daughter: Chandi

Ahava's You Can't Sit With Us

Dam: Leia

Ch. Ahava's You Got It Flaunt It
Sire: Spirit Ridge Something Special of Celebre



Grand Dam: Snips



Great Grand Dam: Kashia



*Bred by Cherie Bruckman
Georgetown, IN*

BEST IN BREEDERS' CUP

ROYAL LEGACY AHMAD SANJAR

MBIS MSBIS MNBIS GCHP AM CH & CAN CH Exquisite Royal Majesty of Elation DCAT x GCHB CH Absolyut Bombina SC CA DCAT ATT
Breeder/Handler: Olga Hislop Owners: Ksenia Palagina, Olga Hislop



Breeders' Cup Overview

By: Billy Webb

As the Show Chair for the 2026 AHCA Breeders Cup, I have to give HUGE KUDOS to Purina Events Center for being an outstanding venue for a National event!!

There wasn't a request that went unanswered, with team members at the ready to accomplish everything that needed to be accomplished. Excellent flexibility with our event and the hospitality event afterwards.

This showsite is so very dog friendly, for a central location, which is not far from being smack dab in the middle of the country.

I am glad to speak to anyone about my experience with this venue when it comes to choosing it as a national site.

Thank you to Gateway Hound Club, the Afghan Hound Club of St. Louis and the all breed clubs for picking judges that appreciated our breed. We were pleased with the entry that showed up for our Judge, Ms. Rita Figg. Rita provided us with a critique of her entry (in this issue also).

Congratulations to the owners and breeders of



BREEDERS' CUP 2026

our winners, Ms. Olga Hislop - Best in Breeders' Cup and Ms. Cherie Lane Greer-Bruckman for Best of Opposite.

Congratulations to the Tidewater Afghan Hound Club on being selected to host our 2027 Afghan Hound Club of America Breeders Cup in Doswell,

Virginia. Exhibitors will have two Hound shows on Friday, one Hound show on Saturday and Sunday.

There will also be a Tidewater Afghan Hound Club specialty on Saturday and a Richmond Afghan Hound Club specialty on Sunday. Six chances for Majors!

BEST OPPOSITE SEX BREEDERS' CUP

AHAVA' YOU CAN'T SIT WITH Us

GCh Spirit Ridge Something Special of Celebre

x

Ch Ahava's You got It
Flaunt It

Breeder/Owner/Handler:
Cherie Bruckman



37th Annual Breeders' Cup 2026 Critique

Judge Rita Figg

My first impression — WOW! WOW!! AND MORE WOW!!!

First, many thanks to Billy, Amy, Joy and all the hard workers who put this wonderful event together! Very classy, well organized and a pleasure for exhibitors, dogs and the gallery! We had a nice large ring with excellent footing for the dogs. For me, it was a privilege and honor to be a part of this presentation of young Afghans who are carrying our breed forward into the future! I thank the breeders and exhibitors who provided me with this opportunity!

Ours is an elegant, intelligent, free working hunter, strong and agile runner, physically fit, and owns the ground he walks on!

Our standard covers the qualities needed to fulfill these requirements. That, plus the exotic details, are what I want in an Afghan!

The overall quality of the entry was exciting! These youngsters displayed correct proportions, level topline with sloping croup, plenty of balanced angulation front and rear, very pleasing heads, good conditioning, good feet, light easy movement, and stable temperaments! My decisions were not easy, and it came down to minute details.

My only concern was the longer length of loin with shorter chest length in some of these youngsters. We cannot sacrifice length of chest, i.e. less lung and heart room, in our physically active breed.

Even with that concern, I see a great future for our beloved breed in these who are carrying our ancient Afghan Hound genes forward!



DOG - First Place Winners

6-9 mos. Valshamars Meant To Be

Black - square, well balanced, lovely male head with underjaw, exotic patterning, expressive and happy dark eyes, light lifting side gait, very sure of himself

9-12 mos. Royal Legacy Ahmad Sanjar

Black and tan - a full package - elegant masculine head with chiseling and underjaw, square, balanced, well angulated front and rear, solid level topline and smooth flow of outline standing and moving with lift, good condition, happy attitude

12-15 mos Singh Shekinah Roustabout

Black - lovely long head, well balanced front and rear, strong level topline, easy side gait and an attitude of "look at me"

18-21 mos Ch Designer Kuhlbreaze The Usual Suspect

Black and tan - beautiful detailed head, nice size and substance, balanced, easy mover with light lift, did things his way and was happy

6-9 mos Ahava's You Can't Sit With Us

9-12 mos Royal Legacy Aurora Dealinuit Au Ballet
Black and tan - pleasing refined head, nice angles with sloping croup and tail set, level topline, comfortable with herself standing and moving

18-21 mos GCh Designer Kuhlbreze Endless Love
Black mask red - very pretty with patterning, feminine head with expressive eyes, square and balanced, smooth outline moving, light easy gait .

9-12 mo dog ROYAL LEGACY AHMAD SANJAR

6-9 MO Bitch AHAVA'S YOU CAN'T SIT WITH US



Meet the Members

Janet Lenobel

Le Nobel Afghans

Hello All:

A worthwhile suggestion from BM Christine Pinkston was shared and I have made a draft of 10 questions that could be included in upcoming issues of Topknot News. Here is that result – MEET THE MEMBERS

I fully encourage any line of communication and interest of/on our members. This is especially important to newer members who are yet to meet other AHCA Members. Anything we can share with the membership would/should be welcome. Thank you in advance for your contribution(s)!

---Mike

Featured Spotlight: AHCA's Recording Secretary, Janet Lenoble

1. Where do you live? How many years in Afghan Hounds, and how many years as a breeder?

Brian Lenobel and I live in the Ocala, FL area and bought our first Afghan in 1974. After many years of trying to learn their ways, we had our first litter in 1981.

2. What is your kennel name? How many dogs do you currently keep?

Our kennel name is **Le Nobel Afghans**. We currently (May 2026) have 6 Afghans, 3 newborn Afghans, and 1 Pumi who is trying to be an Afghan—he has the howl down pretty good for a herding dog!

3. Which show dogs from the past have been your noteworthy winners? Which have been your most influential sires and dams?

The following are a few of our dogs we consider to be influential— influential because they are remembered to this day by so many people:

Ch Karzak's Chroma Key (1981) – who some people to this day still think Chroma-Key was *OUR* name!

Ch Genesis Nobel Obsession (1992)

Ch Le Nobel's Surprise Attack (2001) (*Son of Genesis Nobel Obsession*)

DC Lenobel Sophisticated Siloette RN, SC (2003)

GCHB CH Le Nobel's Poetry In Motion FD, CGC, ATT (2018–present)

4. How do you prepare your pups for the show ring? Does your breed require any special preparation?

Socialization is the most important training we do in preparation for the show ring, and of course, so much goes into that. The Afghan Hound requires special preparation



because, as stated in our Standard, they are the king of dogs—and they know it!

5. What is your process for selecting show puppies? At what age do you make your decisions?

At the age of 4 weeks, unlike what most people say, we can usually tell who they will become—not only in structure and movement, but also in personality.

7. What are you seeing now that you don't want to see more

of... and what aren't you seeing now that you do want to see more of?

I don't like seeing sickle hocks. Unfortunately, today I find that many people don't even know what sickle hocks are. Maybe that's the problem.

However, more recently, I am seeing dogs with more substance, which to me means they could hunt all day long as they were originally bred to do—instead of being pretty couch potatoes or pretty long-haired dogs in the show ring. But remember, the pendulum swings back and forth. With the help of breeders who do their research, what is a negative one year becomes a positive in the next few years.

8. Can you share your thoughts on how the Afghan Hound is currently presented in the show ring?

I think most people try their best to present their dogs properly in the show ring. Of course, there are the few who are totally outstanding!

9. In your opinion, is the breed in good condition overall? Any trends that warrant concern?

The Afghan Hound Club of America, unlike other breed clubs whose standards have been changed to match what they're breeding, has maintained the standard which was thoughtfully written in 1948.

The Afghan has also proven to be one of the few breeds whose history is over 5,000 years old and still

retains the same core characteristics: prominent hipbones, large feet, arched neck, peculiar coat pattern, and exotic expression as seen in the Egyptian tombs of the Pharaohs. All can be summarized by what is stated in the Standard: *"eyes gazing into the distance as if in memory of ages past."*

10. What's the most amusing thing you've ever experienced with an Afghan Hound?

The most amusing thing we've ever experienced while living with the Afghan is living with the Afghan Hound! My initial response was to burst out laughing because, with a few exceptions along the way, they have brought a smile to our faces even when we're mad at them. 🐾

Meet the Member:
It's your turn in the spotlight!

Hi Everyone,

A huge thank you to Janet for sharing her wonderful insights with us! Now, it is your turn to step into the spotlight. We want to feature you in our upcoming 'Meet the Member' section so the club can get to know the faces and stories behind our community.

Below are 10 questions covering your journey, your dogs, and your perspective on the breed.

INCLUDE A FEW FAVORITE PHOTOS!
Pictures always bring these features to life and make the piece extra special.

You can email your responses and photos directly to me at editortopknotnews@gmail.com, or over to Mike Canalizo at topounds@aol.com.

1. Where do you live? Years in Afghan Hounds? How many years as a breeder?

2. What is your kennel name? How many dogs do you currently keep?

3. Which show dogs from the past have been your noteworthy winners?

4. Which have been your most

influential sires and dams?

5. How do you prepare your pups for the show ring?

6. What is your "process" for selecting show puppies? At what age do you make your decisions?

7. What are you seeing now that you don't want to see more of...and what aren't you seeing now that you do want to see more of?

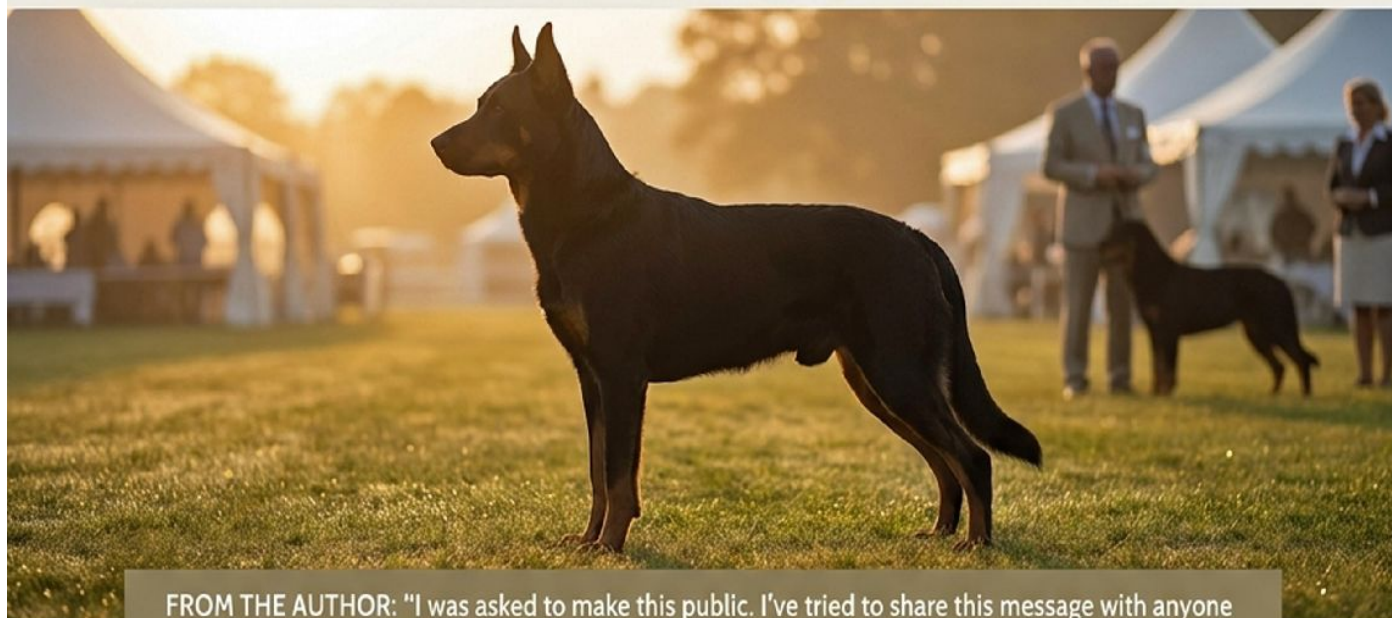
8. Can you share your thoughts on how the Afghan Hound is currently presented in the show ring?

9. In your opinion, is the breed in good condition overall. Any trends that warrant concern?

10. What's the most amusing thing you've ever experienced with an Afghan Hound?

BEYOND THE RIBBON: The True Purpose of the Ring

Facebook Perspective



FROM THE AUTHOR: "I was asked to make this public. I've tried to share this message with anyone I sell a puppy to. I think most of them have been great students."

1. This is a sport in which the purpose is to evaluate breeding stock.
2. Every standard, from every breed, no matter how precise you think it is, leaves room for interpretation.
3. Judges evaluate dogs based on their interpretation of the breed standard, not some ultimate truth. If there were an ultimate truth, then every breeder would be producing dogs of the exact same style and type. They don't; every kennel interprets the standard a little differently. Why would judges be any different?
4. You vote with your dollar. If you believe that a judge's interpretation of the standard is daft, don't show to them. Or, when you have a dog that's the same variety of ugly they seem to like, take it to them.
5. The purpose of dog shows is to evaluate breeding stock. Your wins and losses are not a reflection of your identity, character, likability, or worth. Your skills may have something to do with it, but they are, and should be, a small fraction of the equation. Even a great handler can't turn a parsnip into a cow. If you believe your wins are a reflection of your self-worth, you need therapy, not a dog show.
6. Dog shows are like any other setting in life. They attract all sorts of people, from the kindest to the most horrible. That goes for exhibitors, club members, judges, and staff. Pick your tribe. Enjoy them.
Find joy, because is the only thing that really matters—to you and your dog.
7. If you want real success at this game, learn as much as you can. Learn from the people you admire. Learn from the people you can't stand. Learn about other breeds and their history, function.

Learn about other breeds and their in and their history, function, and how that translates into form and movement. Learn from the nice; learn from the mean; learn from exhibitors, breeders, judges, and the grounds crew (you'd be amazed at what they've seen over the years and what they have to share). Be a sponge and use every opportunity to learn a little more about the sport you love, until you don't love it anymore. I pray that never happens...for the love of dogs.



Deirdre Doherty-Rahn | Svajoné Beaucerons



AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA 2026 NATIONAL TROPHY FUND

HONORING OUR PAST • CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE



A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE. *An Original Masterpiece.*

Thank you so much to Frances Schuleit and Larry Miller for donating this original piece to the Afghan Hound Club of America's National trophy fund. This fabulous sketch is a perfect tribute to 1926, the historic year our breed was officially accepted into the AKC. Your generosity will deeply impact our fundraising efforts.

FROM FRANCES SCHULEIT

To help commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the acceptance of the Afghan Hound into the American Kennel Club, I have been invited to create and donate my art to help raise funds for this year's AHCA National Specialty show.

I am so honored to help the Club to celebrate this centennial year and our beloved breed.

In an effort to create just the right thing, I decided to feature a couple walking down a New York City Street with their Afghan Hound, dressed in 1920s attire. Attached is a copy of the 'work in progress,' along with an image of the final drawing. The finished work will be an original pen and ink drawing, measuring 11x14" and when framed, 16x20".

Larry Miller has graciously offered to build a custom frame for the drawing. For each person who donates \$200 or more, their name will be entered into a raffle.

One person will be the winner of this original pen and ink drawing.

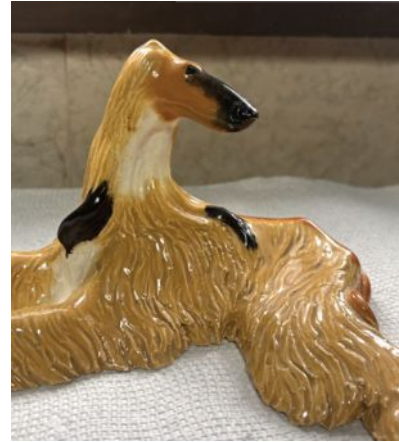


HOW TO PARTICIPATE DONATE \$200 OR MORE

Each donation of \$200 or more = one raffle entry
The more you give, the more chances to win!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
OUR BREED AND OUR FUTURE.

TOGETHER, WE HONOR 100 YEARS OF HISTORY AND INVEST IN TOMORROW.



Here is a sneak peek at the incredible lineup of items up for bidding at The National! We are thrilled to welcome back auctioneer extraordinaire Jason Taylor as our master of ceremonies.



Celebrating a Century of Style

