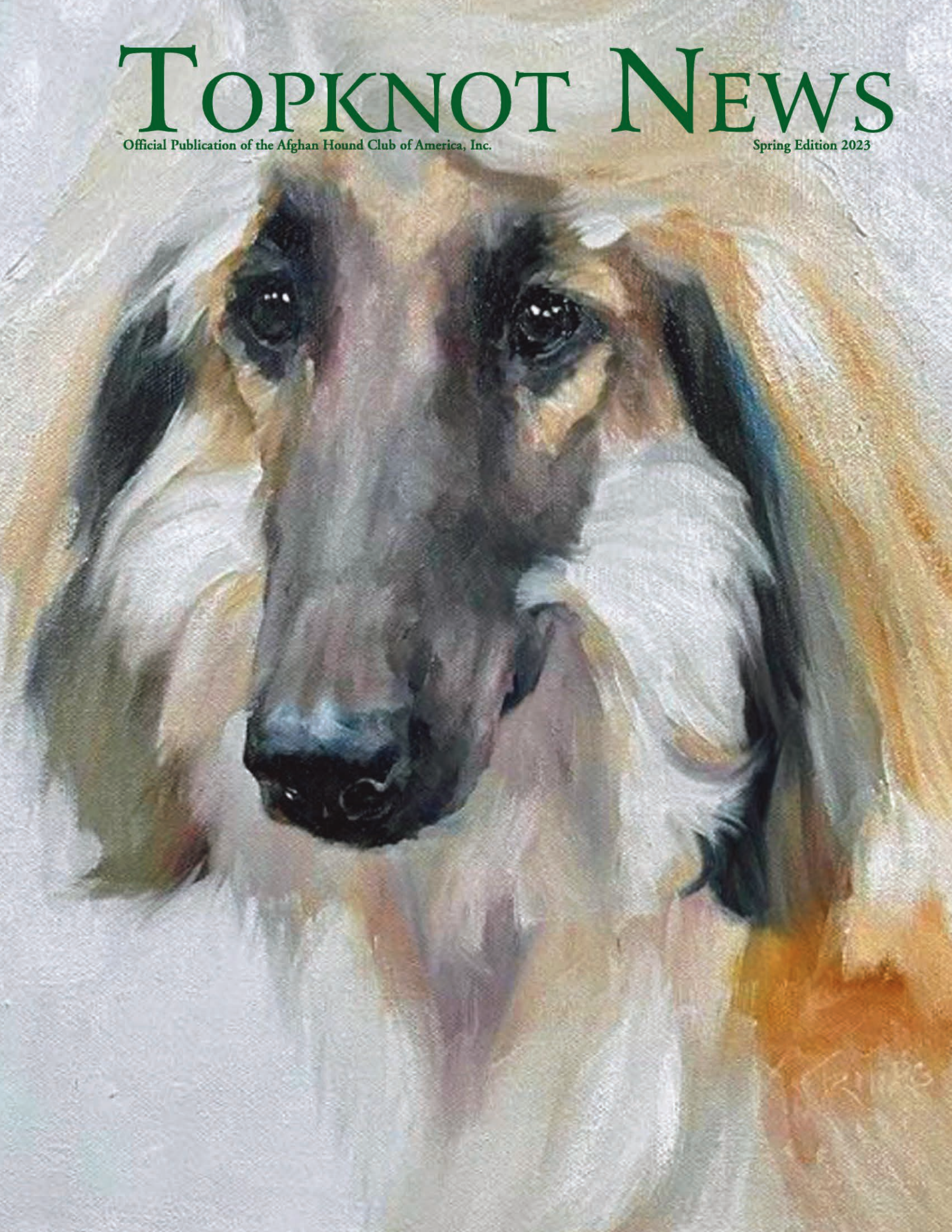


# TOPKNOT NEWS

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

Spring Edition 2023



# RILEY

*bred by*  
KAREN WAGNER, ANN  
GALLOWAY, TARA SCHULTZ  
& SHELBY ROBERTS

*Owned by*  
SHELBY ROBERTS,  
KRISTINA LENCEL &  
BOO DONOHO

*A.A.B.Y.*  
C.O.

#2

**NOHS**  
AFGHAN HOUND  
2022

**NOHS GOLD**  
AKC LURE COURSING MAJOR POINTED  
MULTIPLE OH RBIS  
GROUP PLACER



Courtesy by  
Karin Marie Caserio



We look forward to continuing Rileys specials career in 2023,  
along with working towards his field championship

**GCH CH XOTICA BY INVITATION ONLY AT PAHLAVI JC CAA DCAT**

GCHG CH Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo - GCHS CH Jakar An Affair Most Wicked

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## On the Cover....

Our Spring cover is an award winning\* painting by Michele Trifiro of a lovely, seriously soulful puppy. According to Michele: "It's a bitch owned by Nayef Homs. I saw this photo he took of her and asked if I could use it for a painting. He said yes. We all love our dogs and want to create beautiful Afghan Hounds in the breed ring and in the whelping box. After 20+ years, I have decided I can best announce our incredible Afghan Hound breed to the world through my paintings! My contribution to the sport of purebred canines." You can see more of Michele's wonderful art work at [www.micheletrifiro.com](http://www.micheletrifiro.com)



\*Michele is the 2023 TOP DOG Winner in the Artist's Magazine second annual Best In Show/Pets Art competition. [www.artistsnetwork.com](http://www.artistsnetwork.com)

# An Editorial Word



**S**pring has sprung! Here is to many sunny days ahead! So happy to hear the birds singing and hope the weather is wonderful - or will be soon - in your part of the world.

A big thanks to all who shared their wonderful candid photos from the Breeders' Cup: **Mary Morris, Dale Boyd, Erica Jantos, David** and **MaryAnn Girodano**. Much appreciated!

Shout out to **Russ Hastings**. He found Dr. Pilarczyk's article A NEW WAY OF DETECTING CANCER IN DOGS AND CATS (page 18) in one of his "non dog-related" magazines and thought it would be perfect for TKN and it is! If you find something that you think may be of interest to the general membership, let me know by sending an email to [editortopknotnews@gmail.com](mailto:editortopknotnews@gmail.com) Articles, suggestions, photos and comments are always most welcome.

See you at the shows!

*Virginia Katilus*



## 2023 Officers and Directors

President: D. Scott Pfeil  
First Vice President: Jennifer Taylor  
Second Vice President: Lynda Hicks  
Corresponding Secretary: Helen Stein  
Recording Secretary: 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: TBD  
ASFA Delegate: Robert Jordan  
Awards: James Donahue  
Breed & Public Education: Anna Stromberg  
Breeders Cup 2023: Amy Mero & Erica Jantos  
Breeders Cup 2024: TBD  
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](http://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 Program: 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: Sue Busby  
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Advertising Layout: Devorah Hayman

**NEXT DEADLINE: JULY 28, 2023**

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

Payment to: [Paypal@afghanhoundclubofamerica.org](mailto:Paypal@afghanhoundclubofamerica.org)

Submit ads online <http://bit.ly/3IBqJQ6> (preferred) or send email with text and attached image files to: [Advertising@topknot.news](mailto:Advertising@topknot.news). If print ready; email in PDF format (8.75"x11.25" 300dpi sRGB *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](http://www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**



Harry Bennett



Dorma Sue Busby



James Donahue



Connie Butherus



Lynda Hicks



Erica Jantos



Robert Jordan



Eddie Kominek



Amy Mero



Darla Miller



Christine O'Connor



Christine Pinkston



Martha Powell



Carol Rivette



Anna Stromberg



Jennifer Taylor



Anna Tyler

# President's Message



D. Scott Pfeil  
AHCA President

Dear AHCA members!

Welcome to another wonderful edition of Top Knot News! **Virginia Katilus** and her team have once again delivered a high-quality publication!

As I write this message, Spring is finally on its way in. We celebrated the future of our breed at our Annual Breeder's Cup in York, Pennsylvania this March. The Breeders' Cup had a large, well supported entry as did the associated regional specialties and all-breed shows held with the Celtic Cluster. We all owe the Breeder's Cup co-chairs **Amy Mero** and **Erica Jantos** a huge thank you for taking on this event. The enthusiastic support of this event and the large number of entries show that we still have a healthy group of dedicated breeders and exhibitors keeping our traditions alive!

We now turn full steam ahead toward the National Specialty which will be held again at the Robert's Center in Wilmington, Ohio this fall. **Russ** and **Barb Hastings** are hard at work planning an exciting show that you won't want to miss! If someone reaches out to you to volunteer or help with the National Specialty, please consider taking this opportunity to give back to the breed. It may sound cliché, but hosting an event like our National Specialty truly does take a village.

Finally, while the glory days of publications like the *Afghan Hound Review* and *Our Afghans* may be a thing of the past, this newsletter continues to grow and evolve into something truly special. Please consider supporting future issues of Top Knot News with ads celebrating your wins, litter announcements, and memorials. 🐾

# Welcome 2023 Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. Officers and Directors

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## President

D. Scott Pfeil

*Term expires: 2024*

## First Vice President

Jennifer Taylor

*Term expires: 2024*

## Second Vice President

Lynda Hicks

*Term expires: 2025*

## Recording Secretary

Eddie Kominek

*Term expires: 2024*

## Corresponding Secretary

Helen Stein

*Term expires: 2025*

## Treasurer

Ann Nicholson

*Term expires: 2025*

## Board of Directors

Connie Butherus

*Term expires: 2026*

Rita Figg

*Term expires: 2024*

Israel Garcia

*Term expires: 2026*

Beth Anne Hall

*Term expires: 2025*

Christine O'Connor

*Term expires: 2025*

Christine Pinkston

*Term expires: 2024*

## AKC Delegate Report

Connie Butherus

The AKC Annual Meeting and election of Board of Directors members was held March 14, 2023. The Delegate Committee meetings were on the preceding day. Election to fill the three positions on the Board was all the buzz as there were four candidates for the three positions to be filled. The slate from the Nominating Committee included three incumbents. There emerged an additional name nominated by endorsements. The Delegates received emails letters and phone calls in support of one or the other of the four. My vote was instructed by the AHCA Board.

The die was cast in one vote which was a bit of a surprise considering the amount of communication encumbering our collective email boxes. The three incumbents were all reelected.

**Charles Garvin, Steve Hamblin and Dan**

**Smyth** prevailed and will serve another four years.

The Board Chair, **Tom Davies**, and Vice Chair, **Dominic Carota** were also retained. The leadership team at the AKC continues unchanged.

In official reports some were reminded of the HR term “Hero Sheet” used for job assessment reviews.

As this was the Annual Meeting the accomplishments of the AKC were cited. The Chair, Tom Davies, reported on the success of the Orlando show and its related events. He further noted the contributions of AKC TV, the relationship with ESPN and its viewership re AKC events. He noted that the AKC now offers 26 different areas of the sport.

**Dennis Sprung**, President, continued with additional successful and growth areas of the organization. In 2022 events and entries increased, registrations continued to grow, the success of the recent Meet the Breeds (NYC) and the contributions made by Government Relations, Canine College and the PR areas. He announced that the AKC is developing a course to better prepare Stewards. He added that the Orlando events had an entry of 9,000 plus. One assumes that reflects entries not necessarily dogs.

The CFO, **Ted Phillips**, outlined the financial picture as of December 31, 2022. As noted, registrations continue to grow. Litter registrations have increased, however individual dog registration were down from the 2021 numbers. It has been previously reported that this area is the core business of the AKC and

he stated that it represents 69% of revenue. Events grew by 12 % with entries.

This proposed amendment change is to expand the awarding of three points to Reserve Winners Dog/Bitch at any Specialty Show with an entry of double the requirement for five points in the area/sex. This provisions is now permitted at the breed National Specialty shows exclusively. There was serious and emotional discussion with the pros and cons holding forth. The Parent Club Committee declined to vote on this at the time of the meeting. A final decision is pending further information. *Post Note - the AHCA Board has instructed me to voted in support of this change.*

Do not hold your breath regarding the change as it must be voted on by the Delegate body. This will not occur until later in the year. It will be the fourth time this award has been taken to the delegates. It failed the first two attempts and finally passed the third time a bit over 10 years ago. More to follow to be sure.

### AKC PC Breeders Development Committee

Connie Butherus

**P**urpose: To work with AKC Parent Clubs and breeders

in the development and dissemination of resources, information and programs that help and encourage the responsible breeding of purebred dogs.

Attendees - **Helen Prince, Connie Butherus, Katie Campbell, Doug Johnson, Alan Kalter, Michael Knight, Mari-Beth O’Neill, Peter Piusz, Larry Sorenson, Sharon Steckler, Fran Stephens**

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM EST by Helen Prince, Chair, presiding

Minutes of August 2022 and October 2022 Zoom Meetings - Motion to approve as distributed - Peter Second - Fran - Minutes Approved.

**Status of Interviews of AKC Breeders of the Year** - Katie reported that Bill Ellis had completed the first interview. This is to be distributed to all Committee members. The interview was with PluisDavern, an AKC Breeder of the Year awardee. The title of these interviews is now AKC Legacy Breeders Series. There was discussion regarding the title and possible use for the Parent Club interviews. Concern was voiced that the title may be copyrighted. Katie will seek additional information

regarding this item.

**Parent Club Interviews**

- Katie stated that several Parent Clubs have contacted her regarding conducting the interviews. It seems that several different procedures are in use. She advises them to keep it as simple as possible but to proceed in a timely manner in order to capture the interview. There have been discussions with these PCs regarding budget and funding, use of the National Specialty and regional shows in order to access the breeders. Katie will see to it that Helen has the information for the report to the PCC in December. Further discussion focused on the interview release form developed by Sharon to be used for the PC interviews. Peter, Michael and Helen will discuss this with Gina as it is apparent that there will need to be two types of forms. Also the need to be able to have the PC interviews become part of the AKC information bank. ( AKC.ORG ) and the use of the term “ Legacy Breeder “ Peter will bring this up at the Coordinating Committee,

**Update - PUPDATE ,** Breed Flyer Program and the AKC Semen Bank - These agenda items have been moved to the PCC,

**Update - AKC 5 Year Plan** - This has been deleted

**Breeder Education**

Webinars - Mari-Beth noted that two of these webinars were held. These will be held again in the Spring. It was suggested that a list of all available Breeder Education materials be provided to the PCs Breeder Education Coordinators. The need for a “ Job Description “for this new position was noted. Mari-Beth stated that this will be sent. She further noted the the paper by Dr. Bell will be available at the December meeting.

**Mentoring Juniors -**

Doug had sent a email to the Committee regarding the mentoring of juniors. He and Fran urged Clubs to work at the grass roots level in developing programs for Juniors, It is important for local clubs - ALL Breed and Specialty - to have programs for the Juniors in their area and to develop them into future breeders. Doug explained his work with his grandchildren in this area. Mari-Beth noted that 100 Clubs have Junior Coordinators.

**Delegate Forum June of 2023** - Helen stated that those working on this will meet in January 2023 to address the format and content.

**Pedigree Data Base -**

Peter sent an email today of the outline for a proposed PC survey regarding Pedigree Data Bases. He will limit the

responses to one per PC. There was discussion regarding doing this survey.

**Helping Clubs Develop**

Breeder Education-There was further discussion regarding Breeder Education Coordinator. Peter expressed concern that the AKC IT Department may not include the position in its annual club officer survey until May of 2023. The applications for the Eddy Awards are due in September which is the challenge.

The Committee will meet in Orlando on 12-14-22 at 7:00 PM in the hotel bar area .

Next meeting 1-24-23

**AHCA Awards and Pins Report**

James Donahue

It has been business as usual in the AHCA Awards Department.

Several clubs have requested BOW medallions for their regional specialties. Specialty chairs are gently reminded to send their medallion applications and premium lists to me approximately 30 days prior to the show date to ensure that your medallions arrive on time.

New AHCA membership pins have been ordered to replenish our inventory, and I will work to ensure

that all recently elected members receive their pins.

In the coming weeks I will be finalizing orders for the bronzes which are awarded annually at the National Specialty and other special awards.

**Breed and Public Education Report**

Anna Stromberg

I am going to say that since the Meet the Breed is moving around the county it’s virtually impossible for me to be a spider in the web. When it was stationary here in Florida it was wonderful to be able to partake and organize.

I would like the Board to know that I would love to continue the work but it’s not in the cards.

**Breeders’ Cup 2023 Wrap Up Report**

Amy Mero & Erica Jantos

**SITE/EQUIPMENT:**

**Cluster** was very easy to deal with. Cluster Chair was very responsive. We would not hesitate to recommend returning.

**Site** was well received by attendees, Exhibitors and Spectators alike.

**Grooming:** While there was MUCH discussion about grooming (or the possible lack of it) it was a NON-issue. Yes, Afghan



Hound Reserved Grooming was filled quickly. People arriving on Saturday had no issue finding undesignated spaces in view of the ring. 1. We needed to police some All-Breed Handlers who set up in the “Afghans Only” area. This was resolved professionally by all parties the first day of the cluster.

**Parking:** Ample for all Cars, Vans and RVs. No issue.

**PC Signage:** We had a lack of PC Logos, table runners, etc. from the National. They are being stored with a PC member. Recommend that the PC Runners are passed between Breeders’ Cup Chair and National Chairs so they may be utilized at both events.

**Regional Clubs** were great. They did everything requested and more. Neither Amy nor myself are members of Potomac or Lehigh but we had a great working relationship with both Clubs. With less and less members in our regional clubs we do not feel that the BC Chair(s) needs to be local members.

**Hospitality:** Due to late judging (3:15pm) and Concessions closing early, an inexpensive sandwich buffet was offered to all attendees. Very well received. Fed approximately 40-50 people.

**Judging:** Scheduled at 3:15 or 15 minutes after Afghan Hound Judging. BC started at 3:30. 67 entered, 40 exhibited. Judging spanned 2 hours and 15 minutes with one 10 min break. Concluded at 5:42 pm

**Live Stream:** Live streaming was the issue of this event. I was hoping that it would happen organically as it has at other area specialties. What actually happened was spotty at best. There should have been an assigned Chair to coordinate live streams. While it’s not required in our P&P’s, it is becoming more and more expected by our global audience. Equipment/small budget may be needed for this to be of a level expected at a Parent Club event.

**Show Secretary:** Amy Mero took over as Show Secretary and did a great job. Dorma Sue was an accessible resource to aid in her success.

**Entries:** Not aware of any issues with entries or the Catalog as offered.

**Stewards:** Had one PC member assigned at the site. Added second Steward to insure flow when the final counts were announced. Suggest two or more when classes have more than 8 entries each.

**Financials:** At the time this was written, a final financial report was still

being processed by our Treasurer. I am sure you will be apprised of final numbers.

**Logo sales:** Logo items were sold on a pre order basis. Four items: Mens and Womens t-shirts; Mens and Womens fleece. No significant revenue. Recommend limiting offerings for future events, if offered at all.

**Catalog Sales:** We sold eight catalogs. Given the significant cost \$312 (more than the aforementioned 50-person hospitality) we question the necessity of offering PRINTED catalogs when online versions can be made available. Recommending only printing enough for the Judges/Stewards. Amy printed up a separate Stewards Catalog that both Billy and Yancy appreciated. Offering a different incentive to donors (ie: logo note cards, etc) that is a cheaper printing option.

**Fundraising.** Trophy Donations

**Observations:** The Breeders Cup needs to remain rotating, separate from the National. Working with these local Clubs, the Breeders’ Cup impact on their numbers is undeniable. Regardless of where the event is held.

Regional Clubs MUST have this opportunity to create entries and create

community in their regions. As a Parent Club we need to support the Regionals.

There is an argument that “no one is putting in bids”. The Parent Club needs to do a BETTER JOB asking for the bids. I have been contacted by at least three different clubs/regions that want to host the Breeder’s Cup. The desire is there. This event has never cost our Club money. Let’s keep it rotating.

This event should be scheduled/assigned 18-24 months out. I feel Amy and I are seasoned PC Event Chairs and yet we struggled.

This is a half day event. Planning during the last nine months was an absolute sprint.

Most notable the Litter/entry schedule was unfeasible.

Personally, I feel this is a broken record. When it comes to National events it feels like we are putting out fires. We need to plan FARTHER OUT.

We want to set up our Regional Clubs and our Future Chairs/ Club members for success.

**NOTE:** Breeders’ Cup 2024 is scheduled for April 26, 2024 hosted by the Afghan Hound Club of Dallas. Currently still soliciting bids for 2025.

## Canine Health Report

Anna Tyler

**A**KC CHF Canine Health conference has an early bird registration option. It would be beneficial for the BOD to vote on the participation of the AHCA Health Chair to attend this conference.

I will let the BOD decide if I should attend in person or remotely.

The early bird enrollment is \$60. Remote attendance is very economical - no hotel, airfare, Uber fees or meals. Quite the bargain!

If you have any questions please let me know.

### AHCA Canine Health Report March 2023

1) The balance in the AHCA Canine Health Foundation's Donor Advised Fund – (DAF account) as of 5/31/22 is: \$6,481.41.

2) The AHCA Canine Health 501(3)c checking account is - \$ 6,556.41.

3) After the AHCA sent \$1000 to Hemangiosarcoma it was great to see that both the Evergreen Afghan Hound Club and the Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club have made \$500 donations to the research for Oncology – Hemangiosarcoma Grant 02946 – “Towards Curative Outcomes in

Canine Hemangiosarcoma”. We encourage other clubs to donate as well if they have the funds to do so. I would like to suggest that the AHCA send \$1000 each year to help fund the research of the members choice. We will run a survey online to decide on the research program.

*4) I would like to make a motion that the AHCA send \$1000 to CHF Research program of the members choice. Please let me know if this has been approved. Thank you!*

The OFA Health Testing for fourth quarter 2022 follows.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation and VetVine have teamed up to offer webinars on canine health topics. These webinars feature leaders in the field of veterinary health research and offer practical advice on common health concerns, as well as information on cutting-edge research to benefit our dogs.

The webinars feature a presentation, followed by a question and answer session if time permits. Each webinar is recorded and can be watched on demand from a computer or mobile device. All webinars require registration through VetVine. To view the webinar series type in: [akcchf.org/educational-resources/chf-and-vetvine-webinars](http://akcchf.org/educational-resources/chf-and-vetvine-webinars).

You can register for upcoming programs or watch a past webinar and there are many to select from. There are also Podcasts available to view and many great articles can be found in the location under Educational Resources.

### AHCA Canine Health Testing 4th Qtr 2022

**ADVANCED CARDIAC**  
NORMAL - 0

**BASIC CARDIAC**  
NORMAL - 0

**THYROID**  
NORMAL - # 12  
COMPROMISED –  
EQUIVOCAL - #1

**HIP**  
EXCELLENT - #8  
GOOD - #11  
MILD UNILATERAL  
RIGHT  
FAIR - #3

**EYE**  
NORMAL – #11  
W/BREEDER OPTION: #3

**ELBOWS**  
NORMAL - #7

**DENTITION:**  
FULL DENT - #1

**PATELLA – NORMAL**  
**PRACTITIONER - #1**

### Companion Events Report

Lynda Hicks

**C**ompanion events, Title recognition and Family Dog Program 2022 final titling numbers have been received from AKC. An impressive 96 titles were

earned by Afghan Hounds in the Companion and Family Dog events. Most popular were Agility (20), CGC (18), Rally (17), Trick Dog (14) and Scent (10). Kudos to all those folks out there *Doin' It All* with their Hounds!

**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS** to the following five Afghan Hounds and their dedicated owners/trainers that have qualified for the AKC Rally National Championship Invitational. Competition, to be held June 16 & 17, 2023 at Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio.

*Excellent Level Qualifier*  
GCH DC Suni's Prairie Rose at Stardrift, CD BN RAE FDC SC BCAT CGC TKN ATT  
Owner: Claudia Jakus & Lynda Hicks.

*Advanced Level Qualifier:*  
Circle of Hope, UD BN M2 RAE2  
Owner: Gisela Bailey

*Novice Level Qualifiers:*  
Bakura's Apollo Soul at Elysium RA CGC  
Owner: Toni King, Rudolfo & Alexis Moreno

CH Elgchase Far East AzsharGunzofelmoBN RN  
Owner: Sandra Coffman, Bruce Crawford Coffman, Aemon Bruce Coffman-Colyer, Cathy Chase

GCH CH Pahlavi Firesteed RN SWNE SWA SCE SHDN  
Owner: Patricia Price, Karen Wagman

# LAGERTHA OF SYNERGON

FCh, ORC, GRC

## 2022



#1 AFGHAN IN ASFA LURE COURSING

#1 AFGHAN IN NOTRA RACING

#2 AFGHAN IN LGRA RACING

#1 AFGHAN IN FAST CAT

- ASFA REGION 9 INVITATIONAL WINNER
- ASFA REGION 8 INVITATIONAL WINNER
- ASFA INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL -2ND IN OPEN

- TITLES CLOSED OUT:  
FCh - ASFA FIELD CHAMPION  
ORC - OVAL RACING CHAMPION  
GRC - GAZEHOUND RACING CHAMPION



Gazehounds of New England  
ASFA Region 9 Regional  
Best of Breed



AS SEEN ON AKC/ESPN



Breeder : ERNEST ABRESCH

Owner and Handler : DEVORAH HAYMAN

**SYNERGON** TRACK AND FIELD  
AFGHAN HOUNDS  
ERNEST ABRESCH • MIKE O'NEILL

Companion Events associated with the 2023 National are in the works.

Thank you to Agility Chair, **Ulrike Reinisch**, Obedience & Rally Chair **Claudia Jakus** and Triathlon Chair **Beth Erisman-Thomas**, as well as committee members: **Cathy Kirchmeyer**, **Susan Weatherhead** and **Sherry KinleyAlligood**.

### Judge's Education Report

James Donahue

**W**e have been busy at work with the ongoing development of the Online AKC Canine College Afghan Hound Course for prospective judges. In addition to dogs which had been photographed and recorded previously, we did further film in Orlando during the AKC National Championship this past December. **Helen Stein**, **Connie Butherus**, and myself, have been reviewing all collected media and working with the Canine College team to make necessary edits.

The Canine College Courses provide a comprehensive overview of the breed standard as well as important historical and functional concerns. At the end of each module there is a brief test to evaluate what has been learned. Prospective judges who successfully pass the course will receive two CEU credits

toward their application for Afghan Hounds. It is important to note that this is just one small piece of the puzzle in the education of judges interested in judging our breed and will not replace classroom seminars, ringside mentoring, kennel visits, etc. We will keep our membership updated as this course progresses toward completion.

In December we presented our seminar and hands on workshop at the AKC Advanced Judge's Institute in Orlando. This was very well attended, with the Afghan seminar sold out within 48 hours of registration opening! I would like to thank everyone who brought dogs to the hands-on workshop. The class had a wide variety of styles, coat patterns, and ages to see and evaluate. This environment can be a lot for our breed, especially the youngsters. I was very impressed with how all of the dogs handled themselves, including the puppies. You are all to be congratulated on your socialization and attention to temperament!

The next stop for Judges education is Louisville, Kentucky, where American Dog Show Judges is presenting an Advanced Institute on hound breeds. Unfortunately, this is the same weekend as the Breeder's Cup in York. With an entry of only five Afghan Hounds, it will be difficult to provide a

suitable hands on experience, but I am working to ensure enough dogs will be available.

Finally, there was some discussion on the AHCA Facebook page regarding the list of AHCA approved judges' mentors. The current list is due to be updated, but this is temporarily on hold. Connie Butherus, our AKC Delegate, has informed us that the AKC Delegate Parent Club Committee is in the process of addressing guidelines regarding parent club approved mentors. Connie has been appointed to chair this committee, and we look forward to having her report back to us. It is likely that the AHCA Board will want to address and establish guidelines for AHCA judge's mentors once we have a report from the delegate committee.

### Junior Showmanship Report

Darla Miller

**F**or the formal report I can say that as reported by *Canine Chronicle*, we have two juniors showing Afghan Hounds: **Annalee Milam** and **Isabella Ruffoni**. Annalee with four class wins and Isabella with one class win. The following are my thoughts about the idea that I have proposed to be shared with the Executive Committee.

I propose a "Help Wanted" article in the next Topknot News to follow up on my article about juniors not needing to own a dog to show. I was hoping to generate names of breeders/owners who would be open to allow a junior to show their Afghan Hound in Juniors at specialties, the National and matches.

Due to privacy regulations, the AKC will not provide addresses or other contact info for Junior Showmanship competitors so I have no way to contact them directly unless I know them.

If members are interested in matching up a dog and a Junior, please contact me. Darla Miller 513-706-2270 email: [darlam723@gmail.com](mailto:darlam723@gmail.com)

### Library/Archives Report

Helen Stein

**T**he AKC, as a service to parent clubs, offers contractual access to individual breed stud book files in PDF and delimited text formats.

Members in good standing of the AHCA may receive the monthly Stud Book entries for the breed, provided they have signed an agreement certifying that the use of this information is only for personal research or scholarship purposes.

The monthly Stud Book entries are sent to me for the AHCA Library and members who wish to receive copies should contact me. Currently six AHCA members are receiving copies.

**2023 National Update Report**

Russ and Barb Hastings



Here is the 2023 logo! **Mary Ann Giordano** did an outstanding job on this. She is not charging the Club for her work so please thank her when you see her.

Advertisements have been placed in the Breeders Cup catalog and the Spring issue of TopKnot News.

There is a signed contract with the Roberts Centre. Thank you to **Jason and Scott** for getting that done. The layout will be same as used for the Breeders cup held during the World Congress a few years ago. This will eliminate utilizing one of the two large ballrooms that were used last year; reducing the amount of wasted space and associated expenses. The room block should be opened for reservations in early April.

**Amy Mero** tells us that the Board has not given her instructions to solicit regional clubs for the Sunday Specialties. The AKC has approved a 500-mile limit for re-

gional clubs who are associating with a National Specialty. *We would ask the Board to give Amy direction* as the regional clubs need as much time as possible to react to the opportunity and plan an event.

We have all of committee positions filled except Art Auction Chair. We are continuing to contact prospective chairs for this.

All conformation Judges are confirmed and the Obedience/Rally Judge. Event chairs are still working on Lure Coursing and Agility.

The judges so far are:

Regular and Non-Regular Dog Classes and Best of Breed

- Nancy Edgington

Regular and Non-Regular Bitch Classes

- Lou Guerrero

Junior Showmanship Classes

- Marla Miendle-Capozzi

Sweepstakes Classes

(All), Triathlon

- Mary Ann Giordano

Obedience & Rally

- Kathleen Cook

- Lure Coursing TBD

- Agility TBD

We have purchased a couple items with the logo to use for welcome bag stuffers as well as the event pens. We continue to search for the trophies and have a tentative plan that needs to be finalized. **Erica Jantos** is working on clothing items for sale. Our plan is utilize Erie K-9 Event Services (Judy Lowther) as our full service secretary/superintendent for conformation events. We asked **Sue Busby** for a quote, but she declined. We also got a quote from Rau Dog Shows. We did not quote Dog Shows in a Box because of the issues last year and the need for an onsite secretary.

It is difficult to compare numbers because of how each one structures their quotes but we believe

Erie will be significantly less cost for equivalent service.

The tentative plan is for entries to close Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> with all entries going directly to Erie.

All premium list information will need to be at Erie no later than July 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will mail a very limited number of premiums, most of them being delivered via the AHCA Facebook page and Web site.

**2023 National Specialty/Roberts Centre**

Jason Taylor

The contract with Roberts is now finalized. A few notes:

Room block is confirmed and Event Schedule (per Russ' submission and Board approval) is confirmed

Field for FastCat is now included. I negotiated a flat rate for FastCat field and Ballroom space and eliminating the sliding scale (and cheaper ballroom rates vs. last year)

Per earlier discussions, the conformation events will be held solely in Hall D. This is a better solution given vendor and grooming space needs, helps with cost and should create a better atmosphere. The new

# Shai

## CH DRAGONFLY ECCO'S IF I EVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN

BIS CH QAMARI'S RAINBOW RIDER x CH SUNLIT'S THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY



## WATCH FOR SHAI AND CARDI-B'S OFFSPRING IN THE RING THIS SPRING

CH DRAGONFLY ECCO'S IF I EVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN

x

MULTI GROUP RBIS GCHB DRAGONFLY ECCO ARIES DANGEROUS SEDUCTION

OWNED BY JOANNE STERNHELL

CO-OWNED AND BRED BY LUCIA BROWN AND

PHILIP J SCHAFMAYER

proposed layout is attached at the end of the contract, along with the Companion events layout. The Chairs can adjust the layouts, if desired, with Roberts. I will say we used this layout for the Breeders' Cup in 2016 and it worked very well.

Per Russ' note, AHCA will handle RV accommodations. Otherwise, the agreement is largely as last year.

Next steps: Room block is scheduled to open on Monday (they have already been receiving calls).

Other items have some time, i.e., banquet menus, A/V needs, other meals and all other details.

These can be confirmed as ready, targeting finalization by September 1.

### Policies/Procedures Report

Lynda Hicks

**P**roposed update to contracts for Companion and Performance Judges

Contract wording was clarified and made consistent for all judges

Proposal to modify P&P to include Breeders Class A trophy was approved for this class, to be consistent with other Multiple Entry classes.

### Regional Clubs Report

Amy Mero

Tara Afghan Hound Club  
*April 23 (2)/April 24*

- Russ Hastings
- Stephen Fisher
- Dr. Duane Butherus

Afghan Hound Club of Dallas - *April 29 (2) / April 30*

- Shaisa Nealy
- Russ Hastings
- Karrie Dollar

Afghan Hound Club of Northern New Jersey  
*May 5*

- Dr. Jerry Klein

Afghan Hound Club of St Louis - *June 3 (2)/June 4*

- Geir Flyckt-Pedersen
- Karen Kynek
- Lucy Orłowski

Monterey Bay Afghan Hound Club - *June 10*

- Juan Miranda

Colonial Afghan Hound Club - *June 16*

- Pam Arwood

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Portland  
*June 16*

- James Donahue

Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club - *June 17 (2)*

- Steve Kelly
- Jocelyne Gagne

Afghan Hound Club of Grtr Portland - *June 17*

- Mary Lynne Elliott

Afghan Hound Assoc of Long Island - *June 18*

- Richard Todd Jackson

Evergreen Afghan Hound Club - *July 7*

- Kristie Wheeler

Suncoast Afghan Hound Club - *July 8*

- Timothy Catterson

Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club  
*August 25 (2)*

- Thomas Kirstein
- Nancy Self

Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club- *Sept. 30*

- Joanne Buehler

Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Assoc.- *Oct. 8 (2)*

- Erika Wyatt
- James Donahue

### Rescue Report

Martha Parks Powell

**T**he winter has been a busy one for rescue. We have had several Afghan Hounds needing new homes either due to illness or passing of their owner.

Thanks to some amazing fosters, we have been able to get the Afghan Hounds into a safe environment. Having good fosters gives us the time that we need to fully vet our potential adopters, and perform the home visits to be certain the new family will be the right fit for the Afghan Hound.

Our Afghan Hounds in rescue need a lot of special attention and consideration. The dog has been through so much, and no one can explain to the hound what has happened or why. The people who adopt our rescues deserve our praise. When you adopt a rescue, you have to understand their special needs. This is a new home, a new environment, a new food bowl, a new bed, new people, and new dog buddies for this Afghan Hound.

It can take a long time for the rescue to adapt to the unfamiliar surroundings, and feel safe and loved.

If anyone is interested in helping with transport or fostering our rescues, I would appreciate you emailing me at [Affierescue@aol.com](mailto:Affierescue@aol.com), or texting me, or reaching out via Facebook.

I have a spreadsheet which helps me locate volunteers in the particular area of the country where I need help. So, if you would like to be on the list to be contacted when the need arises, please let me know. And, thank you!

If you haven't already ordered our beautiful Rescue calendar, please place your order now. You can mail a check or you can use PayPal to send the money. The Rescue calendar is a great way to honor not only the Afghan

Hounds whose pictures are in there, but the owners who have done so much to help the hounds who were in desperate need.

**Social Media Report**

Erica Jantos

**R**equesting information from REGIONAL CLUBS. I need copy for our Parent Club page. Do you have an upcoming show? Monthly meetings? Public outreach event that you want to promote? I want to hear about it. We have over 4k followers on the Parent Club Facebook page. I share the posts that I see, but please do not assume I see them all. Please let us help you promote your events. Send links to [ericajantos@live.com](mailto:ericajantos@live.com) and we will get them posted. Many thanks.

**Statistics Report for 2022**

Compiled by: Carol Rivette, Lynda Hicks and Claudia Jakus

**Top-Producing Sire  
7 Champion Offspring**

**CH Jorogz' Partyboy - HP53682205 - stdbk number:** Sep/2020  
Owner: John Roger Morton & Gregory Jay Byfield Breeder: Robert Lindberg & Heather Lindberg & Gregory Jay Byfield & John Roger Morton & Debby Mertl

**Top-Producing Dam  
7 Champion Offspring**

**GCHS CH Jorogz N Zia Waiting To Xhale SC - HP53624101 - stdbk number:** Sep/2021  
Owner: Billie Wilson & John Roger Morton Breeder: John Roger Morton & Billie Wilson & Libbie Flanagan

**Top-Winning Dog in Breed Competition - 1048**

**GCHP CH Sunlit's King Of Queens**  
Owner: T Richardson/P Winkelmeier/A Morrison Jones /J Souza-Bartlett/M Hunter Breeder: Ms. Tara Richardson & Pam Winkelmeier & Norma M Feldman

**Top-Winning Bitch in Breed Competition - 357**

**GCHS CH Charteroak Tra La La Of Grandeur**  
Owner: G Vaccaro/M Vaccaro/E Rechler Breeder: G Vaccaro/M Vaccaro/E Rechler

**Top-Winning Dog in Breed Competition – Owner Handled - 755**

**GCHB CH Pyramyd's Don't Stop Believin' CA BCAT** Owner: Lynda Marx Breeder: Lynda Marx

**Top Junior Handler –121  
Annalee Milam**

**Top Lure Coursing dog  
AKC- 70 Points**

**FC Kominek's Ingvar Of Synergon MC LCX2**  
Owner: Edward & Selma Kominek Breeder: Edward & Selma Kominek and

**NFC FC Kominek's Fleura At Acires MC LCX BCAT**  
Owner: E.Seward/E.& S.Kominek Breeder: Edward & Selma Kominek

**Top Lure Coursing dog  
ASFA - 51 Points**

**Lagertha Xoransdottir Of Synergon FCh, ORC, GRC**  
Owner: D. Hayman Breeder: Ernest Abresch

**Top Lure Coursing Combined AKC and ASFA Total Points – 96 Points**

**FC Kominek's Ingvar Of Synergon MC LCX2**  
Owner: Edward & Selma Kominek Breeder: Edward & Selma Kominek

**AGILITY**

**Top Agility AKC  
MACH Afghan Hound  
AND Best Agility  
Afghan Hound – Score 967**

**GCH CH MACH2 Stormhill Cosifantutte She B'Dazzl'N MXS**

**MJB2 MXF T2B4 BCAT**

Owner: Robin Kohen Robin Kletke & Sandra Frei Breeder: Lynn Vining & Sandra Frei

**Top Agility AKC PACH  
Afghan Hound -Score 182**

**Cayblu Coquette CD BN GN RE AX OAJ MXP MJP**  
Owner/Breeder Cathy Kirchmeyer

**OBEDIENCE**

**Top Obedience Novice & Best Obedience Afghan Hound\* - Score 579.5**

**Cayblu Coquette CD BN GN RE AX OAJ MXP MJP**  
Owner/Breeder : Cathy Kirchmeyer \*Also top Graduate Novice Afghan Hound - Score 563

**RALLY**

**Top Rally Excellent  
AND Top AKC Rally  
Afghan - Score 292**

**GCH DC Suni's Prairie Rose At Stardrift CD BN RAE FDC SC BCAT CGC TKN ATT**  
Owner: Claudia Jakus, Lynda Hicks Breeder: :James & Lynda Hicks, Debra Howard, Ruth Booker

**Top Rally Master  
Afghan Hound Score 275**

**Popovs Cosmopolitan CD BN RE SC AX OAJ, ASFA FCH**



Owner: Cathy  
Kirchmeyer Breeder:  
Faye Tromp

***Top Rally Advanced  
Afghan Hound Score  
288***

**Circle of Hope UD BN  
RM2 RAE2**

Owner: Gisela Bailey  
Breeder: :unknown

***Top Rally Novice and  
Intermediate Afghan  
Hound***

**Bakura's Apollo Soul At  
Elysium RA CGC**

Owner: Rudolfo &  
Alexus Moreno & Toni  
King Breeder - Toni King  
\*Scores: Novice - 288,  
Intermediate - 270

***Top NOTRA Racing  
Afghan Hound – NORC  
8.00***

**Lagertha Xoransdottir  
of Synergon FCh ORC  
GRC**

Owner: Devorah Hayman  
Breeder: Ernest Abresch

***Top LGRA Racing  
Afghan Hound – 21.00***

**NFC FC Kominek's  
Fleura At Acires GRC  
SC LCX BCAT**

Owner: Seward/Kominek/  
Kominek Breeder:  
Edward & Selma  
Kominek

### **Website**

#### **Adminstrator Report**

Eddie Kominek

**E**ddie is overhauling  
the website for  
Joomla 4 and PHP8

## *In Memory*

*Remembering their  
contributions to the breed  
and the Club. We will miss:*

Lee Canalizo

Edward M. Gilbert

Sandra Irwin

Christine McIntyre

Betty Richards

Lynne Schanzle

Linda Smith



# A New Way of Detecting Cancer in Dogs and Cats

Dr. John Pilarczyk, DVM

When they reach middle to senior age, most dogs and cats will experience some type of tumor or nodule in the skin or in the subcutaneous tissue just under the skin. These bumps or lumps can be very concerning to the pet owner as they may be malig-

nant. Most lesions cannot be identified as cancerous with just a visual inspection, so a biopsy or surgical removal is necessary. A histopathology is needed to see if the lesion is benign or malignant. Some skin lesions can be in a very difficult location, and the surgeon needs to know whether to take a narrow or wide sample for biopsy. The location can affect the cost of the procedure as well as the ability to suture the area, and can also put a strain on the patient by creating a painful healing

process after the biopsy is taken. The biopsy samples taken are often small, and the report may come back as inconclusive. This is not what you want to hear after putting your pet through the biopsy procedure. All these choices have consequences for both owners and

out cancer of subcutaneous and dermal masses quickly and within the clinic setting. Early diagnosis is the most important step in cancer treatment and improves the patient's prognosis. The HT Vista device can be used with any cutaneous mass that can be palpated. However, masses that are raw or bleeding are not suitable for scanning with

the tissue to see how it reacts. Because malignant tissue reacts differently than normal tissue to thermal stimulation, the device uses an algorithm and interprets the heat diffusion in selected adjacent areas.

The whole process takes one minute with results returned within minutes, and is supposed to be ninety-eight percent accurate. The HT Vista reads the signal and sends the data to a cloud-based database. Artificial intelligence analyzes the data and compares the new data with an existing database to give an accurate classification of whether the lesion is benign or malignant. At that time, a decision can be made regarding the need for a biopsy and whether to take narrow or wide margins.

Normal and abnormal tissues transfer heat differently due to their difference in metabolism tissue morphology and heat capacity. Results are presented using a numerical 1 to 10 scale. A reading of 1 to 4 means further investigation is needed, such as a biopsy, another scan, or scraping and cytology. A reading of 5 to 10 on the scale means the mass appears to be benign, with a 98 percent certainty.

Progress in veterinary medicine is going at a fast pace. Computers and other sophisticated devices coming on the market benefit our furry friends and make their lives longer and more comfortable.



*Reprinted by permission of the editor of Roughing It Smoothly.*



pet. For the pet, an unnecessarily wide incision can mean potential injury to surrounding tissue and nerves and delayed healing time. For the owner, it may mean higher costs for the procedure. Wouldn't it be nice if we could tell whether a lesion is benign or malignant before we do a biopsy or surgery? Well, there is now a device called the HT Vista from a company in Israel. HT Vista is the first non-invasive medical device that allows veterinarians to rule

this device, and it cannot be used on lymph nodes or any internal organ. How does this machine work? The machine must be turned on with an internet connection. An area under examination on the patient is clipped with a surgical blade along with an area involving normal tissue. The HT Vista device is placed over the lump and over some of the normal tissue next to it. The tissue over the lesion is heated for a few seconds. The device then scans

the tissue to see how it reacts. Because malignant tissue reacts differently than normal tissue to thermal stimulation, the device uses an algorithm and interprets the heat diffusion in selected adjacent areas.

The whole process takes one minute with results returned within minutes, and is supposed to be ninety-eight percent accurate. The HT Vista reads the signal and sends the data to a cloud-based database. Artificial intelligence analyzes the data and compares the new data with an existing database to give an accurate classification of whether the lesion is benign or malignant. At that time, a decision can be made regarding the need for a biopsy and whether to take narrow or wide margins.

The Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.  
*The 86<sup>th</sup> National Specialty Show*

**Shortened schedule featuring two days of Conformation  
Regular Classes and two days of FastCAT**

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

Roberts Centre  
Wilmington, OH

**"ONE MORE TIME"**



**AHCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY  
2023**

**Holiday Inn  
123 Gano Rd.  
Wilmington, OH 45177**

**TO RESERVE A ROOM:**

**Call: 937-283-3200**

**Press option # 3**

**NOTE: If you don't press 3, you'll get sent to central reservations and won't be able to access the room block  
The Block Name is Afghan Hound Club of America**

**Rate: \$139.00/night**

**Reservations may be made until September 25, 2023 – or until the block is sold out.**

***See Facebook and AHCA Web Site for detailed event schedule and Sunday Regional Specialty  
Information***

## Best in Breeders' Cup

# GCH SPIRIT RIDGE SOMETHING SPECIAL OF CELEBRE



A great big thank you to ALL of the participants of the 2023 Afghan Hound Club of America Breeders' Cup.

We had exhibitors and spectators traveling for days to participate. Without the fancy's support an event like this would never happen.

I had the best partner I could ask for, **Amy Kruser Mero**. As our Co-Chair and Secretary she made this event nearly flawless. She is my voice of reason, fixer of my typos, my therapist, my

grunt worker that never complains and the best friend I could ask for. We are lucky to have her quiet dedication to our Parent Club. Amy, you are amazing and I can not tell you that enough.

Thank you to Members of the Potomac and Lehigh Clubs, especially **Beth Anne** and **David W. Hall**, **Ann Nicholson**, **Karen Wagner** and **Teri Seip Holderman**. Your Clubs worked so hard to make this a very special event. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

You have true supporters when you call and ask a favor and they say yes with NO hesitation. **Yancy Russell** and **Billy Webb**, thank you for not only being those awesome supporters and equally awesome Stewards but also for flying in from Florida and Texas to help!

**Carla Helm**, your trophies were better than described. Thank you for taking the theme and GOING WITH IT!

It is always an honor for me to be a part of an event like this. Nothing brings me

more joy than bringing people together that I have known for my whole life and creating space for us to share our passion for our dogs.

We come together for the breed but it will always be the COMMUNITY that will keep this sport alive. Yes, there will be ribbons awarded, but its perpetuating our relationships that makes us ALL winners. Congratulations to us ALL!

Erica Jantos  
Co-Chair

# Judge's Critique

David Giordano

Thank you to the breeders, exhibitors and the Show Chairs, **Amy Mero** and **Erica Jantos**.

## 6-9 Month Puppy Dogs

The 6-9 month Puppy Dog class, was one of the largest dog classes of the day.

First #31 *Arabah Adesa Absolute* - This lovely cream boy was such a complete package.

Good body, nice head carriage, tail set, balanced and light on his feet.

My second place #33 was his brother. *Arabah Adesa Classic Chrome*, who was a blue brindle, with very easy movement.

## 9-12 Month Puppy Dogs

First #77. *Duet's Party On the Beach*, was first in this class. He was a light blue brindle who was well bodied and had nice foot placement.

Second #43. *Eden Private Party*, had the same sire. Square body with easy

### *Best in Breeders Cup:*

#### **GCH SPIRIT RIDGE SOMETHING SPECIAL OF CELEBRE**

bred by Alisa Vickers, Beth Phillips Collins, Shery Alligood, Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, William J. Mines  
By: GCHB Jolie Show N Tell Sharja CHIC# 138734  
- GCHG Spirit Ridge Something Royal of Rustic CHIC# 128399 Owner: Shery Kinley-Alligood, Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, William Mines

### *Best of Opposite Sex in Breeders' Cup:*

#### **CH TAZA PIXIE DUST**

Bred by: Alisa Vickers, Beth Collins, Shery Kinley-Alligood, Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, William Mines  
By: GCHB Jolie Show N Tell Sharja CHIC# 138734 - GCHG Spirit Ridge Something Royal of Rustic CHIC# 128399 Owner: Beth Collins, Patricia Silverman, Dick Hafner, Alisa Vickers & Bill Mines



Best Opposite Sex - CH TAZA PIXIE DUST



**15-18 Month Bitch Class**

*First # 70, Baraki 's Poi-son Ivy of Obsessions* Was a very feminine, black masked silver, that was put together well, with balanced movement.

**18-21 Month Bitch Class**

*First - #70, Ch. Taza Pixie Dust* First in this strong class. She was a very feminine bitch, with dark pigment, correct size, pretty head, strong topline and balanced. She had a very nice outline.

movement, and a nice outline.

**12-15 Month Dog Class**

*First- # 53, Singh Majestic Sharja Sunrise Sunset.*I would like to mention, this young boy, was in contention for Best in Breeders' Cup until the end.

A beautiful black masked red, who covered the ground easily. Balanced, sure footed, nice angles, and a pleasing head piece.

**18-21 Month Dog Class**

Was a very competitive class.

*First #67, GCh. Spirit Ridge Something of Celebre* was my first place winner and Best In Breeders' Cup.

He was a very solid boy, with a beautiful head, and dark pigment.

Nicely proportioned, good length of upper arm, and a balanced gait.

There was nothing extreme about him. He was ready to show, polished from head to toe!

**6-9 Puppy Bitch Class**

*First - #16, Polo's It's All About The Bling* Pretty black masked red who was square, and had a strong arched neck, nice front assembly, good croup and tail set.

She started out slow on her individual but as she was worked she kept getting better and better!

**9-12 Month Bitch Class**

*First - #48, Duet's Solution Song*(She was a littermate to my first place dog, in his class.) Very similar easy movement, liked to show, stood out in her class.

Her half sister was second #44 *Eden Star Party*, who was also, very nice. Good movement.

**12-15 Month Bitch Class**

*First #56, Zen We Are Stardust @ Southern Charms* was my first place winner, it was the most competitive class of the day!

Classic cream, who had a beautiful chiseled head, balanced movement and good showmanship! She was also in my top four picks for the BC.!

Second and third placements were littermates. # 76, *Singh Shekinah Scarlet Ribbons*, was a black masked red, with a lovely head, square, strong mover.

Her sister #54, *Singh Shekinah Paisley Stockings*, was a black and Tan, who showed flawlessly and also moved quite well. She was a little more substantial.

I'd like to mention that all three of these bitches were handled to their full potential!!

My second place winner was # 66, *Jabir Coupd'E'Tat Doja Kat*. She had a beautiful head and eye, good muscle tone and a very good mover!

I would also like to mention, my third placement, #68, *Ch Exquisite Always Be a Mermaid* and fourth placement # 72, *Exquisite Avelin Make a Wish on a Starfish* who were lovely moving sisters.

I was very pleased with all my class winners, seeing them down the line, on the ¾ angle! Thank You Exhibitors!

My end consideration came down to two dogs and two bitches. Any of these four could have easily won on another day but, ultimately, Best in Breeders' Cup was from the 18-21 month Dog Class, #67 and his litter sister was my Best of Opposite, #70.

Congratulations to all!



# The Fault That May Come Back to Bite Us!

By James Donahue,  
AHCA Judges' Education Chair



**T**he Afghan Hound is first and foremost a hunting hound. He must be capable of running down and killing large, often powerful game. For the King of Dogs to function in this way, his dentition and strength of jaw are of paramount importance. Recently, I have had reports from multiple, well-respected breeder-judges indicating an increasing number of faulty bites being seen in the ring. That a number of these faults were seen on finished champions is especially concerning.

First let us remember what the official AKC breed standard has to say about this:

“...the underjaw showing great strength, the jaws long and punishing; the mouth level, meaning that the teeth from the upper jaw and lower jaw meet evenly, neither overshot nor undershot. This is a difficult mouth to breed. A scissors bite is even more punishing and can be bred more easily into a dog than a level mouth, and a dog having a scissors bite, where the lower teeth slip inside and rest against the teeth of the upper jaw should not be punished.”

Most Afghan Hounds seen today possess a scissors bite. This bite is very functional, and as the standard says, scissors bites are relatively easy to breed true, minimizing but not eliminating the chance of breeding faulty mouths. When I was first starting in the breed, my earliest mentor, Carl Sanders (Zebec Afghans), was a proponent of level bites. He felt that dogs with level bites were more likely to have a strong underjaw. In my opinion, this appearance of stronger underjaw is an illusion, created by the fact

that jaws with a level bite do not close as tightly as they do with a scissors bite. What I learned from observing these level bites is that there is a strong tendency for one or more incisors to “pop” out of line. While popped teeth represent more of a cosmetic flaw than an actual bad bite, it is still not a desirable trait. I have also found that in a level bite, the teeth tend to wear down more with age, leading to increased dental care needs in aging dogs. As a breeder, my preference is for the scissors bite, but when I judge, scissors and level are judged equally. It is worth noting that the British and FCI standard calls for a scissors bite, with level “tolerated”.

A more serious problem is the tendency for some of these once level bites to go undershot by the time the dog reaches maturity. An undershot bite is one in which the lower teeth are placed forward of the upper teeth. This is clearly described as a fault. Also faulty is the overshot bite, where the upper teeth are too far forward so that the lower teeth cannot rest against them as in a scissors bite.

Another fault we sometimes see in the breed is the wry mouth. This is a type of malocclusion that typically occurs when one quadrant of the jaw grows too long or short compared to the others. Normally a wry mouth can be observed when checking the bite



as some incisors will meet their opposing upper or lower tooth, but others will not. This is the bite fault I have observed most often in judging.

While not common, I have also observed crowding of the incisors on heads that were extremely narrow. The jaw must have enough breadth to allow the teeth to fit in a normal manner! Base narrow canines are also possible with long, narrow heads. This occurs when the lower canine teeth emerge at a straight upward angle rather than tipping outward. This can cause a painful situation where these canine teeth may contact the palette or upper gums, requiring some degree of orthodontic intervention for the comfort of the dog. While I have not observed this in Afghan Hounds, I am aware of several cases in Borzoi.

Our standard does not have any disqualifications and simply classifies deviations from a normally aligned level or scissors bite as faults. That said, I strongly encourage all breeders, exhibitors, and judges of the Afghan Hound to consider bite faults as they relate to the original purpose and function of the breed. An undershot, overshot, or wry mouth is less punishing and therefore diminishes the animal's ability to function as intended.

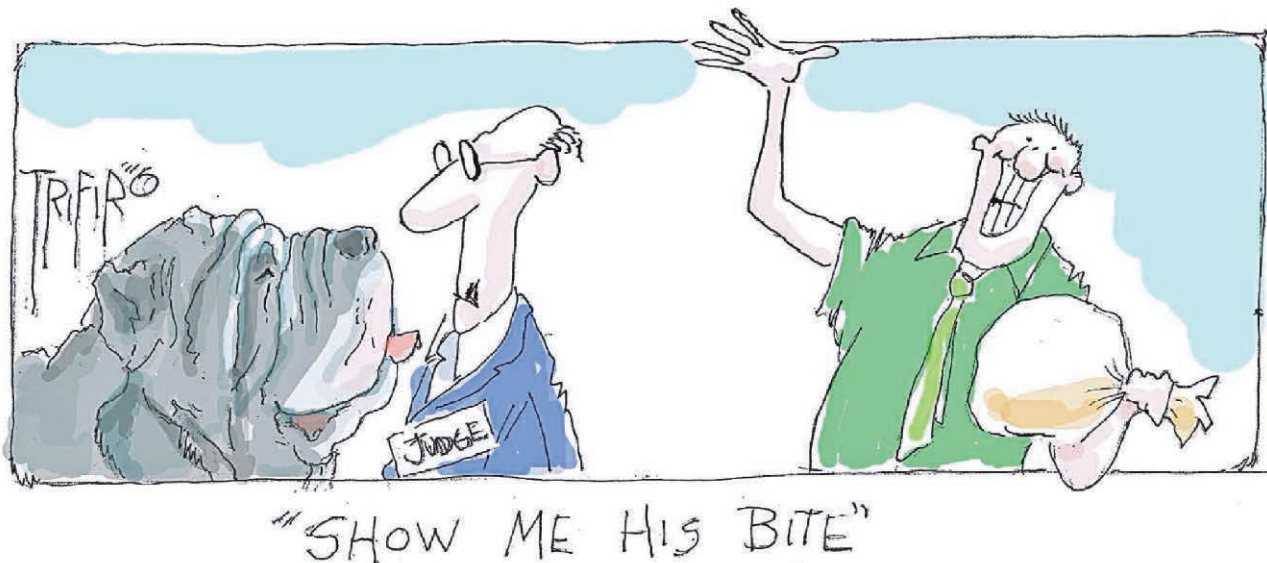
Also worth mentioning is the issue of missing teeth. Most commonly we see Afghan Hounds with missing premolars. Breeders should be aware that all dogs, regardless of breed, should have 42 teeth—20 upper, and 22 lower. The Afghan Hound standard does not address missing teeth, so judges, per AKC directive, are only to check the bite (front teeth). This

means the onus falls on breeders to pay attention to the importance of full dentition. While the standard may not explicitly fault missing teeth, a mouth full of holes will certainly be less punishing!

There was a time not long ago when a bad bite pretty much eliminated a dog as a show or breeding prospect. Those that were put in the ring anyway typically didn't get very far as there were far greater numbers and judges had plenty of alternatives in their rings. In today's reality we have fewer Afghan Hounds being shown. In some divisions it only takes four (the lowest point scale allowable) for a major. Therefore, some dogs finish today with relative ease when they would have struggled in the days of larger entries. This does not mean that we should become complacent about this and finish or breed these dogs just because we can.

As our numbers decrease, we must increase our resolve to keep the Afghan Hound true to tradition and most importantly to the standard. Breeders and exhibitors, please be honest with yourselves. Bite problems propagate all too easily and can take over our breed before you know it. Please think twice before you put these dogs in the ring or sell them to show homes as breeding prospects.

Judges, I implore you to consider how faults may hinder function and prioritize accordingly. When at all possible, please avoid awarding dentition that deviates from the standard. We must not allow faulty bites to become endemic in our breed. It will come back to bite us! 🐾





# Unsung Afghan Hounds

By Darla Miller

**Y**ou ask why I titled this article “UNsung” about our beautiful breed. Well it started with a person saying that if you Google breeds to serve as Service or Therapy dogs, guess where Afghan Hounds rank and the description they give our breed....dead last! The description gives the illusion that we have the dumbest and least trainable breeds on this planet. I feel this is such an injustice that I am asking Afghan Hound enthusiasts to rebel and show that is *so false*.



*Debbie and Jagger birthday celebration.*

Yes, I know the challenges of owning an Afghan Hound who has a mind of their own; they are being as selective as you and I. With that being said, I ask YOU to speak up and share your stories of Afghan

Hounds serving humans just like we share pictures and stories of our dogs in the ring, obedience trials, lure coursing, etc. To start this conversation, let me introduce you to our



*Jagger explaining how to do a puzzle*

BluHill's Love is Strong boy from my Ali and Elay litter.

I commend Debbie Smith from Parkersburg, West Virginia for her love and training of Jagger. Titles include BNRI BCAT CGCA CGCU TKI ATT But it is not those fancy titles that tell the story of this UNSUNG AFGHAN HOUND, but look at these pictures. Brings joy to my heart to share his story.

Jagger is six years old now. He was ready to serve before Covid hit so he and Debbie are determined to make up for lost time doing exactly what she saw in this gentle, intelligent, loving, patient beauty.

Jagger and Debbie go to the Parkersburg Public Library once a month for him to be read to. He is such a celebrity that the children line up to read to him. As a former educator, I can only smile seeing this. He also

goes bi-weekly to the VA hospital where Debbie has a relative in their convalescent unit but they frequent other wards. He also visits the local nursing home.

I beam with joy hearing Debbie share stories of him resting his head on people's laps and the patience he has with children wanting to read to him. He even has fan mail!

Okay, now it your turn to share! Make us all proud of our Afghan Hounds! I am so very proud of my Afghan Hounds who serve as therapy/assistant dogs. I will gladly continue as the point person for this column and gather stories (unless someone else wants to volunteer. Hint!) Send photos and articles to me at [Darlam723@gmail.com](mailto:Darlam723@gmail.com). 🐾



*BluHill's Love is Strong "Jagger"*



# Support Rescue

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**Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.**