

TOPKNOT NEWS

Official Publication of the Afghan Hound Club of America.

Winter Edition 2023



THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT!



BREEDERS' CUP
LEWISVILLE, TEXAS

APRIL 26, 2024

- **December 26, 2023**
Judges Ballots Due
Announcement of Judges
- **January 26, 2024**
Supplemental Litter Nominations Due
- **February 26, 2024**
Individual Get entries due
- **April 5, 2024**
FINAL Get entries due

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ON THE COVER

A little Photoshop magic - courtesy of your editor Virginia Katilus. I took a standard stock photo, added some glittery holiday dust, snow flakes and produced icy, sparkly Afghan Hounds just in time for the holidays.

From the Editor

Virginia Katilus



Another year done. Farewell, 2023. As we bid adieu to this year, let's take a moment to reflect on the memories we've made, the challenges we've overcome, and the growth we've experienced. It's time to say goodbye to the past and embrace the opportunities that the future holds.

We also say goodbye and thank you to **Devorah Hayman** our fantastic advertising and ad layout maestro! She did a wonderful job for TKN. We are grateful and we will miss you! Anyone with a graphic eye and interested in volunteering to do ads *PLEASE* email me editortopknotnews@gmail.com.

Here's to new beginnings, exciting adventures, and endless possibilities. Have fun with all your new puppies and cherish your senior citizens. May the lessons learned in 2023 pave the way for a brighter and more fulfilling journey ahead.

Best wishes for the holidays and may the coming year bring joy, success, and fulfillment to us all.

See you at the shows!

In Memory:

Thomas Cozzoni
Chris Kaiser

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

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Advertising & Ad Layout: TBD

NEXT DEADLINE: March 15, 2024

Full page color ad: \$75.00 (basic design included)
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PDF format (8.75"x11.25" 300dpi RGB note: keep content area to
8.5"x11" otherwise it will get cut off.) This includes bleed.

**AHCA RESCUE HOTLINE
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AHCA Website
www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

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Christine Pinkston



President's Report

By: D. Scott Pfeil

It has been a busy Fall for our club! The National Specialty was a tremendous success. Our entries were strong, and I was so happy to see all of you who came out to support the National either with your dogs, or just to watch and celebrate our breed.

I of course must thank our show chairs, **Russ** and **Barb Hastings**, and their daughter **Rachel** who worked tirelessly to make sure things went off without a hitch. All our Committee Chairs really stepped up to the challenge and all events from lure coursing to companion events and conformation ran seamlessly.

Leslie Stoffels did an amazing job of coordinating the Art Auction. I know from experience what a huge undertaking that is. The lots included in both the live and silent auctions were remarkable this

year. To all of you who donated items, and bid so generously, THANK YOU. In addition to being an annual highlight of the National week, the auction is essential for raising funds to ensure that the Specialty is a financially viable event. We also had more vendors than I can remember in recent years. I loved seeing all the Afghan Hound wares on offer.

A common sentiment throughout the week was that we were returning to the atmosphere of what the national always was in the past - *the ultimate celebration of our breed.*

Next year we will be returning to the Roberts Center. I hope you will join in on the fun! **Dorma Sue Busby** and **Becky Morisette** have selflessly agreed to act as co-show chairs. Please consider reaching out to them to offer your time and talents so that we can ensure that we have another world-class event.

I know there has been much discussion of returning to a roving national. Now is your chance to make this happen! We are going to be accepting proposals for a different venue for 2025.

The Board is currently working with **Erica Jantos** to establish set criteria for what would make a viable proposal. This information will be coming soon, so please stay tuned.

The next big event for our club is the Breeders' Cup, which will be held in Lewisville, Texas on April 26, 2024. **Billy Webb**, **Marla Capozzi**, and **Amy Mero** have done a fantastic job of getting people excited and I have been told that we have a large number of litters nominated so far! This bodes well for a fantastic event. Come showcase your rising stars in the Lone Star state! 🐾



BEST OF BREED

Ch. Mahali Licorice 'N Lace
(Mahali Orinoco Oklahoma x Mahali Royal
Crown of Pahlavi) Judge: Lou Guerrero



BEST OPPOSITE SEX

Ch. Pahlavi Puttin' On The Ritz
(ShirkdenShazam x Alarickhan'sJehada Pahlavi)
Judge: Lou Guerrero
"Taco" was Best of Breed at the 1989,
1991 & 1992 National specialties



WINNERS DOG

Myriad Not A Cloud In The Sky
(Genesis Red Cloud x Casbar Myriad
Puttin' On Airs) Judge: Betty Stites



WINNERS BITCH

Shekinah Tanzania
(Qamari's Flying Colors x Reve Viva
Applause) Judge: Lou Guerrero



BEST IN SWEEPS

Wynsyr Wizard Of Labyrinth
(Scimitars Traces of Persia x
Charlemagne Kiara) Judge: Jay Hafford



BEST OPPOSITE SWEEPS

Shekinah Tanzania
(Qamari's Flying Colors x Reve Viva
Applause) Judge: Jay Hafford



*Memories of 1993
Afghan Hound National
New Orleans, Louisiana*

From the AHCA Archives courtesy of archivist Helen Stein

A breed will stand or fall according to its breeders - not its loyal fanciers, not its judges and handlers, not its exhibitors and trainers. For the breeder is the only link between the past and the future; only through him can the breed stay alive.

Like the sculptor, the painter, the poet, he is driven by creative compulsion. But he, more than any of the others, is caught up in the race against time. The sculptor works in stone; his mistakes can be changed by the chisel. The breeder works with flesh; his mistakes may take generations to correct. The sculptor can put his work away and eventually come back to it; the breeder is a captive of his breed and can never really leave it.

Why then does a breeder stay a breeder? The answer is that of all the activities in the dog sport, he alone has the joy of creation and the pride of enduring handiwork!

When proud owners bring back a fine animal for him to see years after it was sold by him as a puppy, he notes with a thrill how it has developed in just the way he thought it would. While they are happily telling him what a marvelous creature this is he is scarcely listening as he stares at the dog; for he is not only seeing what they are, but so much more.

With mounting excitement, he watches that

imperious stance, so familiar, that proudly arched neck and the keen steady gaze right out of the past; he does not see just ONE handsome dog standing there before him, but all the wonderful ones which went into the making of this one - dogs which he loved and knew so well...and now sees living again. This is the fascination of the breeder. This is the treasure of eternal youth! 🐾

Why Become A Breeder?

By: Peggy Adamson, Damasyn Dobermans



Photo courtesy of My Way Afghan Hounds

Holiday Greetings
to all of our Friends in the ACHA
Wishing you all the best in 2024!

Bob & Helen Stein
Tiki Sue, Lily and Juliette



When you are in the ring and the judge is ready to make the final selection hearing the fateful words “Take them around one more time” invokes feelings of excitement and anticipation. That is what we hoped for when we selected the theme “ONE MORE TIME” for the 86th Afghan Hound National Specialty. The beautiful logo, designed and drawn by **Mary Ann Giordano**, was also intended to invoke those same feelings. We hope we succeeded and everyone who participated had a memorable experience.

The 86th Afghan Hound National Specialty began on Tuesday October 17, 2023, with LGRA Racing and Fast CAT on the grounds of the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio, and concluded on Saturday October 21, 2023, with Best of Breed Judging and the Annual Awards dinner. It was followed on Sunday October 22nd with two regional specialty shows held by the Detroit and Chicago clubs.

In the middle of those events, we enjoyed AKC and AFSA Lure coursing on Wednesday, Obedience, Rally, Agility and Sweeps Judging on Thursday, Dog and Bitch Judging on Friday, with Jr. Handling preceding BOB Judging on Saturday.

This was a compressed schedule that reduced the days devoted to conformation judging by one day. Also, Sweeps was held Thursday evening after companion events and in combination with a welcome/vendor party including heavy hors d’oeuvres. Junior handling was scheduled on Saturday with hopes that it would



encourage more participation. The result was six Junior entries - more than in recent memory at a National. These changes were inspired by member feedback asking for a shorter National. If you like/or do not like this format it is important that you provide feedback to the Board of Directors as they consider these and other proposed changes.

Our Judges did an outstanding job at every event and so did our exhibitors. There were no incidents and the mistakes made by the Chairs were accepted with the spirit of good sportsmanship that is characterized by the Afghan Hound Club of America members.

As Chairs we have more thanks to give than we have room for in this publication but some of our helpers deserve special recognition. **Beth Collins** and **Sue Hamlin** for an outstanding effort in fund raising. **Erica Jantos** for always being ready to

help and to make sure we knew about the unknown issues that we had not considered. **Sue Busby** for all the advice and stepping in to take charge of procuring all the ribbons. **Susan Weatherhead** for all the selfless help during the entire event. **Helen Stein** for making sure we did the little things that made the event a success. **Leslie Stoffels, Ken Amos, and Linda Shipley** for putting on what may be the most successful Art Auction in National history!

Finally, to our daughter **Rachel Howard** who seemed to be everywhere doing whatever was needed whenever it was needed.

We can’t thank everyone enough; it does take a village and as usual the Afghan Hound Club of America membership stepped up to the task.

Barb and Russ Hastings
2023 National Chairs



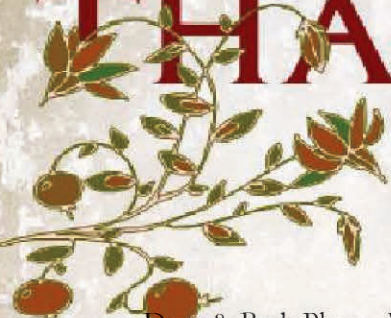
BEST OF BREED

GCHG EXQUISITE ROYAL MAJESTY OF ELATION, BCAT

Dog. Breeder: Bonnie Peregoy, Beth Anne Hall, Hartley Hall, David Hall. By GChG Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo - Ch Exquisite's Never Ending Elation. Owner(s): BETH ANNE HALL AND MARY BASS, DAVID HALL, SARA BASS. Agent: Teri Tevlin

THANK YOU

Due to an error on the part of the Show Chair, some of the 2023 National donors were not recognized in the show catalog. We apologize for the error and would like to take this opportunity to recognize all of our wonderful donors and thank them for their generosity! (Names are in no particular order.)



Dave & Barb Plum - Wyvern Kennel
John & Elaine McKiernan
Roger Brown - Candida Afghans
Jandona Afghans & Cresteds
Jan Lucree
William J Mines, Gary & Shery
Alligood, Bobbi K Blewett - Spirit Ridge
Ann Nicholson - Avelin Afghans
Evelyn Rechler - Afghans of Grandeur
Claudia Jakus - Oreia Afghans
Lynn Vining - Cosi Fan Tutte
Lou Marotta
Marlene Hart - Mar-Ru Afghans
D. Scott Pfeil & James Donahue, Wynsyr
Ms. Christine Swinehart
Tara-Airway
Shylo-Stephen Fisher & Bruce Clark
Afghan Hound Club of Austin
Russ and Barb Hastings - Overlook
Lucia Brown - Dragonfly Afghans
Joanne Sternhell - Joaige
My honey dogs - Olivia and Zeus
Mardi Johnston
TAZA Afghans, reg.
Sandy Nelson - Karizma Afghan Hounds
Alisa Vickers
Nanci Alderman
Nayef Homsy
James and Lynda Hicks - Suni Afghans
Dick Hafner & Patricia Silverman
Christine O'Connor - Ondine
Gill Ullom
Lourdes Cofino
Holly Jorgensen - Hounds in Concert

Wanderin' Afghan Hounds - Harry Bennett & S. D. Rowan Jr.
Ken and Lyn Valimaki - Atelier 5
Corinne Joyce - Ajah
Anna C Tyler - Inisfree Afghans
Fred and Rita Figg
Teri Holderman
Alan and Olga Hislop
Linda Christie
Robert and Helen Stein
Vickie Dauch & Lindsay Dauch - Kayan Kennels
David, Beth Anne & Hartley Hall - Exquisite Afghan Hounds
Lucy Orłowski - MAHAR Afghans & Salukis
Kamy Afghans
Amy Wendling
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Georjean Jensen - Pamir, reg
Lynda Farley - Hosanna Afghan Hounds, reg
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Afghans of Cyndhar
Joan Baukus
Connie & Duane Butherus - Ararat
Linda-Lee Jackson - in memory of Thاون's Oliver
Tony Saia - Beachbrook
Susan H. Hamlin - Ninth Turn
Joy Denise Atkins-Miller

Barbara Davis
Shadowynde
Giordanos - My Way Afghans
Kathryn Lehman - dedicated to the preservation and love of hounds - Houndcrest Farm
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Bo Arlander - Choice Afghans
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Kristina Lengel
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Duet Afghans - in remembrance of Duet's Paradise Beach - "Dizzy"
Abbe R Shaw - Abaca & Terry d
Chacon - ShaCone
Roland Rodriguez
Darla Miller - Blu Hill Afghans

CONGRATULATIONS!



Winners Dog/Best of Winners

SAKS RED BARON. HP65650101. 5/15/2022. Dog. Breeder: Pam Winkelmeier, Tara Richardson. By GChB Sunlit's Lites, Camera, Action of Summerwinds CGC - Ch Sunlit's Queen Of Hearts. Owner(s): PAMELA WINKELMEIER AND JOHN WINKELMEIER.



Best of Opposite Sex

GCHG SURA FABELHAFT CANDY CRUSH. HP52762804. 8/1/2016. Bitch. Breeder: Suzanne J Neill and James Dalton. By GChP Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension of Sura - GChG Agha Djari's Eye Candy of Sura CGC. Owner(s): CHRISTINE O'CONNOR AND SUZANNE J. NEILL, JAMES DALTON.



Winners Bitch

DRAGONFLY ECCO'S LIP SERVICE. HP66276101. 10/21/2022. Bitch. Breeder: Lucia Brown & Philip Schafmayer. By Ch Dragonfly Ecco's If I Ever Fall In Love Again - GChB Dragonfly Ecco Aries Dangerous Seduction. Owner(s): LUCIA BROWN.



Reserve Winners Dog

SOVEREIGNS SHANTE DOG OF THUNDER. HP61648002. 11/23/2020. Dog. Breeder: Samuel McGeachy & Marilyn Domhoff. By Shante Chandon - Kzar Shante Hoodwinked. Owner(s): SAMUEL MCGEACHY AND MARILYN DOMHOFF



Reserve Winners Bitch

CAN GCH DELOUBELLE VIVA LAS VEGAS AT FIRST KLAS (CANADA). HP67125901. 3/6/2022. Bitch. Breeder: Louise Ouimet Lavigne. By Ch Raffica's Have It My Way - Can Ch Deloubelle Born To Turn Heads. Owner(s): LYNE MONTPETIT AND ALAIN GIGUERE.



Award of Merit

GCHB SPIRIT RIDGE SOMETHING SPECIAL OF CELEBRE. HP63697504. 7/9/2021. Dog. Breeder: Alisa Vickers, Beth P. Collins, Shery Kinley-Alligood, Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, William Mines. By GChB Jolie Show N Tell Sharja - GChG Spirit Ridge Something Royal of Rustic. Owner(s): SHERY KINLEY-ALLIGOOD AND BOBBI KINLEY-BLEWETT, WILLIAM MINES.



Select Bitch

GCh Taza Pixie Dust HP63697503. 7/9/2021. Bitch. Afghan Hound. Breeder: A Vickers, B Collins, W Mines, S Kinley Alligood, B Kinley-Blewett. By GChB Jolie Show N Tell Sharja - GChG Spirit Ridge Something Royal of Rustic. Owner: Beth Collins and P Silverman, R Hafner, A Vickers, W Mines



Award of Merit

GCHS ZIV HII'S YOU BLINKED FIRST. HP52669201. Dog. Breeder: Carla Helm. By GChG Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo - Zil Hii's The Fifth Element JC. Owner(s): LUCIE LANGLOIS. Agent: Daniel Magee.



BOB Owner Handled & Award of Merit
 GCH RUZKA'S GODDESS OF LOVE AT
 LEDGEHILL. HP65768702. 7/7/2022. Bitch.
 Breeder: Darla Hichborn. By Ch Ruzka's Big Bolt of
 Lightening - GCh Ruzka Azari The Enchanted One.
 Owner(s): KELLY FITCH AND DARLA
 HICHBORN



Best Bred By
 SOVEREIGNS SHANTE DOG OF THUNDER.
 HP61648002. 11/23/2020. Dog. Breeder: Samuel
 McGeachy & Marilyn Domhoff. By Shante Chandon
 - Kzar Shante Hoodwinked. Owner(s): SAMUEL
 MCGEACHY AND MARILYN DOMHOFF.



Best Veteran
 GCHS EXQUISITE SIGN OF THE MERMAID SC,
 DCAT, CGC, TKN. HP48068008. 8/28/2014. Bitch.
 Breeder: Beth Anne Hall, David Hall, Hartley Hall.
 By GChB Beaujon's Breaking News - GChS
 Komar's Wild Violette Skye SC, BCAT, CGC, TKI.
 Owner(s): BETH ANNE HALL AND DAVID
 HALL, HARTLEY HALL. Agent: Teri Tevlin.



Stud Dog
 GCHS DC JOROGZ' EMBER 'N ASHES AT
 LIEBRAN CGC. HP52301802. 8/13/2016. Dog.
 Breeder: Jorogz & M Schember. By DC Jorogz'
 Moonbeam MC - Ch Jorogz' Girl In The Red Dress
 SC. Owner(s): KAREN SHAVER AND KENT
 SHAVER, JULI SZYMANSKI.



Brood Bitch

GCH RUZKA AZARI THE ENCHANTED ONE.
 HP57528902. 3/20/2019. Bitch. Breeder: Darla
 Hichborn, K Smith, K. Irazab. By GCh Cynergy's
 The Magic Of It All At Ruzka - Ch Azari Ruzka
 Twilight Eclipse. Owner(s): DARLA HICHBORN



Best Brace

GCH SPICE HILL I'M A HOOT NAJ, CA, BCAT,
 TKN. HP60607905. 5/15/2020. Bitch. Breeder: Teri
 Tevlin. By Ch Criston Athena Shekinah Alydar - GCh
 Spice Hill Genesis. Owner(s): DR. ULRIKE
 REINISCH AND TERI TEVLIN & GCH SPICE HILL
 THE WISE ONE JC, DCAT, CA, CGC, TKN.
 HP60607904. 5/15/2020. Dog. Breeder: Teri Tevlin. By
 Ch Criston Athena Shekinah Alydar - GCh Spice Hill
 Genesis. Owner(s): TERI TEVLIN.



Triathlon

Total Triathlon Score 266.01 (SIOBHAN) GCH
 SPICE HILL I'M A HOOT, NAJ CA BCAT TKN
 HP60607905; Afghan Hound; 05/15/2020; Bitch;
 Breeder: Teri Tevlin; Sire: CH Criston Athena
 Shekinah Alydar; Dam: GCh Spice Hill Genesis;
 Owner: Dr. Ulrike Reinisch & Teri Tevlin.



Best Puppy Sweeps

BLU HILL CYNERGY'S ROCKY RACCOON.
 HP67790916. 4/2/2023. Dog. Breeder: Darla Miller
 and Janice Buttler. By GCh Blu Hill's Suit and Tie -
 GCh Blu Hill's Everlasting Love. Owner(s):
 DARLA MILLER AND LARRY MILLER.



Best of Opposite Puppy Sweeps

DRAGONFLY ECCO'S LIP SERVICE.
HP66276101. 10/21/2022. Bitch. Breeder: Lucia Brown & Philip Schafmayer. By Ch Dragonfly Ecco's If I Ever Fall In Love Again - GChB Dragonfly Ecco Aries Dangerous Seduction. Owner(s): LUCIA BROWN.



Best Veteran Sweeps

GCHG SURA FABELHAFT CANDY CRUSH.
HP52762804. 8/1/2016. Bitch. Breeder: Suzanne J Neill and James Dalton. By GChP Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension of Sura - GChG Agha Djari's Eye Candy of Sura CGC. Owner(s): CHRISTINE O'CONNOR AND SUZANNE J. NEILL, JAMES DALTON

The following award winners chose not take official show photos.

Select Dog

GCHP SUNLIT'S KING OF QUEENS.
HP55747001. 1/26/2018. Dog. Breeder: Tara Richardson, Pam Winklemeyer, Norma Feldman. By GChP Agha Djari Fifth Dimension of Sura - GChG Sunlit's Queen of Everything. Owner(s): ALICIA MORRISON JONES AND JAMIE SOUZA BARTLETT.

Award of Merit

CH TAIFA'S SUNDARA-WINDTALKER.
HP59194501. 6/11/2017. Dog. Breeder: Jose Vincente Grau Barbera. By Taifa's De La Siesta A La Fiesta - Taifa's Maria Calamidad. Owner(s): JEFFREY BRACKEN AND S CHRISTIANSEN, JOSE VINCENTE GRAU BARBERA.

Award of Merit

CH TELLS KJAVU IT'S ABOUT TIME.
HP64473801. 7/9/2020. Dog. Breeder: Jorgen Collinge, Marie Louise Tell Collinge. By Xenos Sandor - Ch Kjavu Tell Me I'M It. Owner(s): BRETT HAMILTON AND NORIKO YAMADA.

Best of Opposite Veteran Sweeps

CH CREEKSIDE IN BLOOM. HP51860307. 8/1/2016. Dog. Breeder: Jacqueline Pendygraft. By Wynsyr Hashtag Summerwinds - GCh Kingsleah Fire Queen. Owner(s): JACQUELINE PENDYGRAFT.



Best Junior

Mary Grace Kocab 58958196001. ARABAH ADESA CLASSIC CHROME. HP66757103. 8/16/2022. Dog. Breeder: MaryJayne Szczurek, Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, Jan Buttler, Ria Wagner. By Ch Sura's Hollywood Nights JC - GCh Google Me Of Meadow Valley. Owner(s): BOBBI KINLEY-BLEWETT AND MARYJAYNE SZCZUREK.



Reserve Best Junior

Riley Dean 52459769001. CH AHREABIC'S ELEMENTS FROM HEAVEN. HP65873805. 7/21/2022. Bitch. Breeder: Juli M Szymanski & Jorogz. By GChS DC Jorogz' Ember 'N Ashes At Liebran CGC - GCh Jorogz' Beach Party SC, CHIC #154903. Owner(s): JULI M. SZYMANSKI AND KAREN SHAVER



High Score in Optional Obedience Class - 181

CH KOMINEK'S HAWTHORN, JC BCAT CGCA CGCU TKN HP61531609; Afghan Hound; 11/17/2020; Dog; Breeder: Edward & Selma Kominek; Sire: Alaqadar Btxd N Btwh; Dam: DC Kominek's Celaeno, MC, LCX2; Owner: Bibin Vanghese, Edward & Selma Kominek.



Highest Combined Score/Highest Triple Qualifying Score/High in Rally

GCH DC SUNI'S PRAIRIE ROSE AT STARDRIFT, CD BN RAE2 FDC SC BCAT CGC TKN ATT FITG; UKC CH. HP53123905; 11/10/2016; Afghan Hound; Bitch; Breeder: James & Lynda Hicks, Debra Howard, Ruth Booker; Sire: GCHG DC SUNI SIR VIVEUR, RE, MC, LCX2, BCAT, CGC, TKN, FITG; UKC GCH URO1; Dam: CH Deeses Kindred Kalamity at Suni, RA, JC, BCAT, CGC, TKN, ACT1; UKC GCH; Owner: Claudia Jakus & Lynda Hicks.



Agility/HIT
 (SIOBHAN) GCH SPICE HILL I'M A HOOT, NAJ
 CA BCAT TKN HP60607905; Afghan Hound; 05/15/
 2020; Bitch; Breeder: Teri Tevlin; Sire: CH Criston
 Athena Shekinah Alydar; Dam: GCH Spice Hill
 Genesis; Owner: Dr. Ulrike Reinisch & Teri Tevlin



High Scoring Dual Champion:
 DC Kominek's Hyacinth SC
 Owner: Melissa Chadbourne



AKC Coursing Oldest Qualifying Veteran:
 CH Zavin's Fast Love RA SC BCAT CGCA CGCU
 Owner: Beth Erisman-Thomas



AKC Best of Breed
 Luscious Louanne of Synergon
 Owner: Dr. J. McKinney



ASFA BOB and Best in Event
 Luscious Louanne of Synergon
 Owner: Dr. J. McKinney



LGRA Highest Scoring
 Lazul of Synergon
 Owner: Dr. J. McKinney



AKC Lure Coursing Trial
Best of Breed
 Kaatje Vlam of Synergon BCAT
 Owners: Michael O'Neill & Ernest Abresch

Winner of Kennel and Breeder Stakes
 Synergon Kennel
 Ernest Abresch and Michael O'Neill

LGRA Race Meet
Opposite Sex to Highest Scoring:
 FC Kominek's Ingvar Of Synergon MC LCX3
 Owners: Julie Messersmith & Edward Richard Kominek & Selma Zukic Kominek

Highest First Time Entry:
 CH Zavin's Fast Love RA SC BCAT CGCA CGC
 Owner: Beth Erisman-Thomas

Judges' Critiques

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to those judges who took time to submit a critique.

Regular/Non-Regular Dog Classes and Best of Breed

Judge: Nancy Edgington

Judging any National Specialty is an absolute honor for me, but judging my own National was the most exciting and fun filled assignment I could ever hope for. Since 1977, this was the 15th Afghan Hound Club of America Specialty I was able to attend.

My class dog entry was not large, but certainly quality filled. While my WD and RWD were different in look, both were balanced, clean moving and had the characteristics that make our breed one of a kind.

My Best Owner Handler was the breeder owner of an AOM winner, both well deserved.

My Best BBE was my smooth moving RWD.

My Best Puppy was a very nice moving bitch, also WB under Lou Guerrero.

Best Veteran was the showy nice moving bitch.

Best Stud Dog has produced very nice young dogs.

Best Brace was a delight to

watch, the more they moved the more in sync they were. I couldn't tell if the dogs or the breeder owner handler had the most fun.

My AOMs were beautiful breed specimens that have, and should continue to do, well in the ring and whelping box.

My Selects were outstanding moving and standing - such small differences between the winners, and choices of a lifetime for me.

Best of Opposite Sex excelled in movement and breed type. I was surprised to hear she had a severe injury AND whelped a puppy less than a year ago.

My Best of Breed winner has the breed attributes that are so important to me as a judge AND breeder: total balance, outline, soundness and a wonderful attitude. If I could change one thing about him, it would be his home address.

Sweeps

Judge: Mary Ann Giordano

I would like to thank the Afghan Hound Club of America, Barb and Russ Hastings, all my

stewards and especially, the exhibitors for their support. It was truly an honor!

I will start with my Veteran Sweeps exhibits. They were all in great condition and made their owners proud!

My Best In Veterans

Sweeps was # 120 GCh. Sura Fablehaft Candy Crush. She was a perfect size, great temperament, and a very nice mover! She loved being in the ring.

Best of Opposite Sex

was # 55 Ch Creekside In Bloom This was a very solid boy. He was clean coming and going and what a body!

Here are my class winners:

6-9 Puppy Dog

Blu Hill Cynergy Rocky Ragoon. This boy started off slow but kept getting better and better. He was a complete package. Lovely head and eye, arched neck into a good shoulder, and topline. He was balanced on the move, and clean coming and going.

9-12 Puppy Dog Class

was Dragonfly Ecco's Motorsport. He was a balanced brindle boy with an easy gait, and nice body. He needed some more ring time to settle in and a bit more confidence.



12-15 month Puppy Dog

#17 Jangel's Dark and Handsome. Was Very handsome! A well put together, black and tan boy, with nice ring presence, balance, good coming and going, and a pretty head. Strong contender for Best in Sweeps.

Second in this class was a beautiful cream male, Arabah Adesa Absolute. He was very confident and had nice timing, with his handler. Nice moving also!

15-18 month Puppy dog

27 was Ch. Duet's Seaglass

This blue brindle boy was very steady in the ring, nothing extreme about him.

6-9 month Puppy Bitch

8 Blu-Hill Cynergy's Silver Slippers Was a littermate to my 6-9 month 1st place male and Best in Sweeps Winner. Just like her brother, she was a complete package. Balanced, sound, and an easy mover. She had a pretty head and eye, topline, good croup and tail set.

9-12 month Puppy Bitch

14 Dragonfly's Ecco Lip Service was the winner in this competitive class. A striking black-masked red bitch, who was very steady and sound.

She moved effortlessly around the ring, not a step out of place. She was of correct size, had a nice topline and in sync with her handler.

12-15 month Bitch Class

#22 Gold Dragon Nothing Else Matters was a stand out in her class. She was very feminine, pretty head and nice on the move.

15-18 month Bitch Class

32 Ruzka's Goddess of Love At Ledgehill. This domino bitch had attitude plus the whole time in the ring! Took her handler for a fun ride! She won her class easily.

I was very pleased with my

entries, overall quality and placements.

First and second placements were very close in some classes and could have gone a different way, on another day.

I always try to extend some courtesy to each exhibit and exhibitor by giving them a chance to settle in when they come into the ring. We all know there is always a lot of "energy," which travels down to the lead and your dog initially may not show to his/her full potential.

Best In Sweeps Winner

was 6-9 month Blu- Hill Cynergy Rocky Raccoon. He was my complete package - from a lovely head and eye to a pretty ring tail. Very sure-footed, sound movement and balanced all around.

Best of Opposite Sex

came from the 9-12 Class. Dragonfly's Ecco Lip Service. She moved with such ease around the ring! She had nice proportions, solid topline, not a step out of place. Nothing was extreme about her. Her showmanship and timing were great! She went onto to win AHCA Winners Bitch. Well done!

Thank you all again, for showing me your beautiful puppies!!

Juniors

Judge: Marla Capozzi

People talk about puppies as being the future of our breed, and while that is true; the future of our breed is our junior handlers.

I had the honor of having six amazing junior handlers in my ring. All were wonderful at handling their Afghan Hound.

When each junior handler presented their dog to me, I took

into consideration that we were at our National.

My Best Junior Handler showed subtle nuances that mark the hallmarks of handling our breed.

I was so very honored to have these young people in my ring! With these junior handlers our breed has a very bright future.

Agility Critique

Judge: Tim Pinneri

It was a my pleasure judging your Afghan Hounds in agility at your National this year.

The experience of witnessing the intersection between grace, agility, and handler patience in the Afghan world was impressive.

Here are some observations based on their performance:

Aesthetic Beauty in

Motion: Afghan Hounds, with their long, flowing coats and regal stature, create a striking visual spectacle on the agility course.

Their movements are characterized by a certain ethereal quality, turning each run into a graceful performance. The contrast between their elegant appearance and the dynamic agility required in the sport adds a layer of fascination.

Surprising Agility: Despite their aristocratic demeanor, these hounds demonstrate a surprising level of agility.

Their slender build and long limbs enable them to navigate through the agility course with unexpected speed and dexterity. It's intriguing to witness how their physical attributes - often associated with a more sedate lifestyle - translate into an ability to tackle the challenges of the course with finesse.

The handlers, experienced and novice, had the intelligence and the pride to navigate the course with the love of being a teammate with their four-legged family member.

Interplay of Independence and Collaboration: The Afghan Hound's independent nature is evident in their approach to the agility course. They may display moments of self-assured decision-making, occasionally deviating from the handler's expectations. However, there's also a visible interplay of collaboration, especially in well-trained hound-handler pairs. The moments of synchronization between handler cues and the hound's response showcase the potential for a harmonious partnership.

Variable Energy Levels: Afghan Hounds exhibit

bursts of energy, often seen in short sprints or bursts of enthusiasm during some of the agility runs. However, maintaining a consistent level of energy throughout the entire course was a challenge. It's interesting to observe how handlers manage and channel their hounds' energy to ensure a steady and focused performance. I was told by some to be prepared for some to have the ZOOMIES, but they were all controlled.

Handler-Hound

Bond: The agility course offers a platform for observing the bond between Afghan Hounds and their handlers.

In successful partnerships, there's a seamless communication between the two, with handlers providing cues and guidance that the hounds respond to with agility and enthusiasm.

In summary, observing Afghan Hounds in agility is a captivating experience that goes beyond the typical expectations associated with this breed. The blend of elegance, surprising agility, and the challenges posed by their unique characteristics contributes to a distinctive and memorable presence on the agility course.

Once again, Thank you for allowing me to judge your National Specialty.



BEST
WISHES
for a
Wonderful
Holiday
Season!



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