

Topknot News

The newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America Summer 1999

No divine intervention in creation of the Afghan Hound Standard

By Karen Armistead
AHCA Librarian

I have many enjoyable memories of Don Smith (the longtime AHCA President who died last spring), including working with him and Dorothy Macdonald on the revised breed history of the Afghan Hound for the AKC "Complete Dog Book", and consulting with Don about what Afghan Hound had been the most influential sire and dam in this country. Now I want to share with you some information Don gave me about our Breed Standard.

In 1926 the American Kennel Club opened its Stud Book to Afghan Hounds and adopted a brief, descriptive Standard from British sources. The Afghan Hound Club of America, which began forming in 1937, applied for membership in the AKC and the application was accepted in early 1940. Many people wanted the Standard "clarified" or rewritten, but it was not until February 1946 that the AHCA established a committee for the study of the Standard.

The committee chairman, Mrs. William Porter, submitted two versions of the Standard in September 1946. Much discussion and argument followed. Action was postponed at the February 1947 membership meeting so that more

members could present their ideas to the committee. In August 1947 a new committee was appointed: Charles Wernsman of Arken fame and Mrs. Muriel Boger, another noted breeder; the chairman of the committee was Charlotte Coffey.

The controversy about the Standard had ripped the club apart, and Charlotte was determined to produce a Standard that would be approved by the membership. This meant getting Mr. Wernsman and Mrs. Boger to agree on some compromises: Arken Afghan Hounds had level bites, so Charlie Wernsman wanted a level bite to be required. Muriel Boger wanted a scissors bite to be required. Look at the

slip inside and rest against the teeth of the upper jaw should not be penalized."

The Standard sounds as though the people who wrote it could not make up their minds. It almost seems to contradict itself. *"... a scissors bite is even more punishing."* Wouldn't you think the more punishing bite would be the most desirable? But first preference seems to be given to a level mouth because it is listed first. And the even more punishing scissors bite *"... should not be penalized."* Saying it should not be penalized implies that the level mouth is preferable.

I remember saying to Don, "You mean Moses did not go up to God

Much discussion and argument followed ... controversy about the Standard had ripped the club apart...

compromise that Charlotte Coffey worked out: *"... the jaws long and punishing, the mouth level, meaning that the teeth from the upper jaw and lower jaw match evenly, neither overshot nor undershot. This is a difficult mouth to breed. A scissors bite is even more punishing and can be more easily bred into a dog than a level mouth, and a dog having a scissors bite where the lower teeth*

and come back with a written Standard?"

Don laughed and said, "No, Karen. People wrote the Standard."

I don't know what other compromises influenced the wording of our Standard, which was finally approved in April 1948, but I think we should remember indeed that God did not write it. People did. ♦

Visit the AHCA web site at www.akc.org/clubs/ahca

Rescue hotline: 1-877-AF-RESCU (237-3728)

AKC Delegate's Report

By Connie Butherus, AKC Delegate

The quarterly meeting of the AKC Delegates was held on June 8 in Raleigh, N.C. Nearly 270 delegates were in attendance. Delegates attended pre-meeting functions scheduled on the days before the actual meeting, including a tour of the AKC North Carolina site an entire building.

AKC DNA video now available

The morning forum on the 8th included the new AKC/DNA Video, which was well-received (Note: A copy of this video has been sent to each Delegate and is available for use as Club programs and breeders education).

Dr. James Holt, the AKC's lobbyist, spoke about pending Federal legislation related to breeding and owning (having) dogs. This is otherwise known as the Doris Day Animal League issue (*Editor's note: see Legislative report below for an update of this matter*). He also presented the proposed cropping/docking position to be considered by the American Veterinary Medical Association at their July meeting.

Merriam, Cheaure' address the Delegates

Board Chair David Merriam reported on topics being explored by the Board. His report has been published elsewhere (Gazette, Dog News, etc.). AKC President Al Cheaure' spoke on the new, improved and color coded registration application, gave an update about the DNA program and the staff action item to develop a proposal regarding frequently used sires and DNA profiles.

Other items addressed were judging procedures for "table breeds"; co-ownership disputes; weekend delegates meetings; AKC actions concerning the negative items in the media regarding the AKC (a PR positions has been created and a search is in progress); problems associated with the corresponding date calendar; the hidden agendas of some animal rights groups.

The next meeting will be September 14 in New York. ♦

Legislative report

Doris Day petition denied by USDA; breeders' homes remain off-limits

AHCA Legislative chair JoAnn Alft sends along the following news from Mary DeBlasi of the California Federation of Dog Clubs (www.cfodc.org):

The USDA announced on July 20 that it will NOT change the definition of retail outlet as requested in the petition by the Doris Day Animal League.

This leaves breeders' homes off-limits to federal inspectors.

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped get the word out, those of you who wrote letters and every other little thing that you did to help get these results.

If you have some legislative issues in your area, contact JoAnn at 1171 Limerick Lane, Hartford, WI 53027, telephone 920-474-4166 or e-mail jalft@execpc.com. ♦

AHCA Officers

President: Linda Shipley

1st Vice President: Harry Bennett

2nd Vice President: Gill Ullom

Corresponding Sec: Barb Bornstein

Recording Sec: Christine Pinkston

Treasurer: Janet Lenobel

Director ('99): David Frei

Director ('99): Jay Hafford

Director ('00): Bruce Clark

Director ('00): Helen Dukes

Director ('01): Brenda Brody

Director ('01): Reggie Nesbitt

AKC Delegate: Connie Butherus

1999 Committees

Advisory, Regional Clubs - Harry Bennett

Afghan Hounds in America - Sheila Grant

Breeders Cup Secretary - Sharon Watson

2000 Chair - Chris Kaiser,

Western Hound Association

Budget & Finance - Gill Ullom

Canine Health - Dr. James Dickes

Complaints - Kathy Aure

Education

Judges/Breed - Betty Stites

Breeder – Sandy Frei, Jan Reital

Gazette Column - Georgie Guthrie

Jr. Showmanship - Reggie Nesbitt

Legislative Affairs - JoAnn Alft

Library - Karen Armistead

Lure Coursing Chair, AHCA and ASFA

Delegate - Ruth Reynolds

Membership - Helen Dukes

National Specialty

1999 - Jim & Sharon Roseland, St. Louis

2000 - Harry Bennett, Central Florida

Obedience - Claudia Jakus

Parleys - David Frei

Parliamentarian - David Frei

Pins & Awards - Lou Guerrero

Policies & Procedures - Harry Bennett

Publications - Julie Roche

Public Education - Bruce Clark

Public Relations - David Frei

Regional Clubs - Barb Bornstein

Rescue - Amy Peake

Topknot News - David Frei, Sharon Watson

Ways & Means - Brenda Brody

Web Page – Barb Bornstein, Lee

Bornstein, Paula Keller

Why I love LGRA!

The new fun racing sport for Afghans

By **DOUG BOLLEN**

ASFA Region 9 Director

*(AND dad of Afghan Hound Rescue
of New England alumnus*

*FC Super Cooper of Salem LCM 2,
CGC and 6.5 pts toward GRC)*

Being the ASFA Regional Director for Region 9, you can be assured I enjoy and promote lure coursing, but a new sport has attracted my Afghan Cooper and me, and we love it.

It's called LGRA (Large Gazehound Racing Association). LGRA held it's first trial in Utah in 1995, and is currently spreading all over the country. Coursing clubs are now hosting LGRA races and everyone is finding out how much fun it is.

LGRA consists of a 200-yard sprint starting out of a box with four muzzled dogs running at a time, on a contained track, 40 yards wide. They are chasing a drag lure made of a fur pelt with a squawking sound as it drags along the ground.

Each day of races consist of three programs, which means your dog runs three races. Points are obtained through placements in the races, with the highest average getting points for the day depending on the amount of entries. Dogs can earn a Gazehound Racing Champion title and a Supreme Racing Champion title.

This is a participatory sport. Everyone needs to work at the races, putting up the course, catching dogs at the finish, placing dogs in the boxes, line judging, lure operating, box operating and foul judging. Also earlier in the morning, help is needed to put the course up.

The dogs run with muzzles -- but don't worry about training your Afghan to wear the muzzle. I was worried Cooper would not wear a muzzle, but once he saw the squawker, he paid no attention to the muzzle. It also didn't take him long to become box trained., which is offered in the morning before the races.

The same breeds that participate in lure coursing also do LGRA except for the Whippets, which have their own Whippet racing sport. The differences I have noticed in coursing and LGRA is no one complains about the judges, lure operating or course design. Although many races are close, there really aren't any mistakes in the placement finishes.

It seems everyone goes home in a good mood, as opposed to many exhibitors in coursing who won't run under a certain judge or lure operator, or attend trials held by certain clubs.

Another great aspect of LGRA is that most dogs that have problems at coursing and have been excused, dismissed or DQ'd, can do LGRA without the same problems. It's a 200-yard sprint chasing not just a plastic bag, but something that seems more real with an animal sound. The dogs are judged at LGRA on pure speed, not some subjective category like follow agility or enthusiasm. Dogs are much more focused and have less boredom.

As far as for safety concerns, I haven't seen an injury yet, even to a Greyhound. Afghans won't get caught in the string as LGRA uses a drag lure. Collisions don't happen as they are racing straight ahead. Although I think coursing is a safe sport with some risks, LGRA has almost no risks and the sprints are a good workout.

So, let's see, people are in good moods and camaraderie is the theme for the day and there's a coveted award for the last place dog in each breed called the "Turtle Award". What more could you ask!

A LGRA Newsletter is published called the Gazehound Sprinter. For information on subscribing, contact Denise Como at DComo@myhost.com or Reggie Tierney at greyhound2@aol.com.◆

4th Afghan Hound World Congress Sydney, Australia April 2000

Wednesday, April 12

Welcome Party and Art Exhibition

Thursday-Friday, April 13-14

12th Australian Afghan Hound

National Specialty

Friday, April 14

National/Congress

Presentation Dinner

Saturday-Sunday, April 15-16

4th Afghan Hound World Congress

Saturday, April 15

PAL-Ozdog Show Dog of the Year
All Breeds Competition/Gala Dinner

Sunday, April 16

Congress Finale Bush Barbecue

"Afghans Into The New Millennium", the 4th World Congress, will highlight nearly a month of Afghan Hound activities in Australia in April of 2000.

Our friends from "Down Under" promise "an event very different from those preceding it," and tell us that those attending can expect to be involved in the proceedings.

There will be a number of other dog shows before and after the Congress.

If you are interested in entering, you should know that dogs that are brought into Australia must do 30 days quarantine before release. For further information about quarantine considerations, contact Jim Hickie (jhickie@fastlink.com.au) for details.

For further information about the Congress, contact Edwina Thomas, World Congress Secretary, P.O. Box 869, Windsor, NSW 2756 Australia. Phone/Fax: Int. + 612 45726717. You can email Edwina at edwinathomas@compuserve.com.

You may also get more information or register for the Congress on line, by logging on to the following site:

<http://afghanhoundsoz.com.au/> ◆

1999 Afghan Hound Club of America

Breeders Symposium

“Embracing the Standard”

The Breeder Judge's Perspective

Featuring:

Lt. Col. Wallace H. Pede' – Scheherezade

Three Screen Presentation on the Afghan Hound

From Excellent to Average to Poor

Betty Stites – Hulabaloo

The Afghan Hound of Today

Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going?

Open forum following the presentations

Ramada Inn – Thursday, October 7, 1999

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Price \$10 (includes dinner, make checks payable to the AHCA)

Reservations must be submitted by September 15

For reservations and information, please contact:

Janis Reital – PO Box 998, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

(619) 756-2273 email: Tifarah1@aol.com

Sandy Frei – PO Box 1245, Woodinville, WA 98072

(425) 788-4794 email: Sstormhill@aol.com

National Specialty Schedule of Events October 4-9, 1999

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:

Ramada Inn at Six Flags,
I-44 & Allenton Road, Eureka, MO
(314) 938-6661

COMPETITIVE EVENTS held at
Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO
R=Ramada Inn P=Purina Farms

Monday, October 4

Evening - Pre-show hospitality (R)

Tuesday, October 5

Morning & Afternoon - Lure Field Trial (P)
Judges Phyllis Roe and Ed Granger
Evening - Sock Hop (R)

Wednesday, October 6

Morning - Obedience Trial (P)
Judge William Oxandale
Triathlon Conformation (P)
Judge Archy Clot
Afternoon - Sweepstakes (P)
Judge Julie Roche
Evening - Cocktail party at the Dog
Museum (*Transportation furnished*)

Thursday, October 7

Morning - Agility Trial (P)
AHCA Rescue Meeting (R)
AHCA Rescue Workshop (R)
Afternoon - Dog Classes (P)
Judge Jay Hafford
Evening - Dinner and
Breeder Symposium (R)

Friday, October 8

Morning - AHCA Annual
Membership Meeting (R)
Junior Showmanship (P)
Judge Archy Clot
Afternoon - Bitch Classes (P)
Judge Chris Kaiser
Evening - Judges Study Group (R)

Saturday, October 9

Morning - Judges Study Group (R)
Parade of Veterans (P)
Parade of Rescue (P)
Afternoon - Intersex Classes (P)
Judge Chris Kaiser
Evening - Annual Awards Dinner (R)

**Also plan to attend AHC of Greater St.
Louis Specialty Sunday, Oct. 3, and
Lincoln Land AHF Specialty Sunday,
Oct. 10. See page 7 for judges. ♦**

There's plenty to do at the National in St. Louis!

If you can't stay busy in St. Louis during the National Specialty week, it's not our fault! Show chairs Jim and Sharon Roseland have seen to it that, in addition to the competition, there will be many ways to keep you and your friends occupied.

Dog Museum Party

On Wednesday, October 6, the AHCA will host a cocktail party at the Museum of the Dog. There will be bus transportation available at no charge for those persons who do not have transportation or who do not wish to drive.

If you haven't been to the Museum don't miss this opportunity to attend. It's a wonderful salute to our fabulous canine companions throughout history.

The Afghan Hound Club of America has made a donation to the AKC Museum of the Dog again this year. This donation will help support the dedicated efforts of the American Kennel Club to the collection, preservation, exhibition and interpretation of the art, artifacts and literature of the dog.

The AHCA contribution further assists the purposes of education, historical perspective, aesthetic enjoyment and appreciation for the knowledge of the significance of the dog and the human/canine relationship. This donation will place the AHCA on the Dog Club's Honor Roll.

Annual Meeting Notice

This will serve as official notice to all AHCA members: the Annual Membership Meeting will be held in St. Louis on Friday morning, Oct. 8, at the Ramada Inn at Six Flags in Eureka, MO, headquarters for the National Specialty. Time and room will be announced.

All committee chairs are reminded that your annual committee report will be due at the Meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send Corresponding Secretary Barb Bornstein a copy of your committee report, which may be distributed at the meeting. This report must be received no later than Sept. 10.

Send all reports to Barb Bornstein, 6018 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85251-5476, Fax: (602) 423-3457, email: barb@trims.com.

At the Hop!

The Sock Hop was one of the highlights at last year's National in Tucson, and everyone's favorite Queen of the Hop, Sharon Pearce, is once again putting things together for a wonderful party and dance Tuesday night.

The party is financed by raffle tickets and donations, and Sharon would welcome your support of any kind. If you have a donation that would excite raffle ticket buyers, Sharon would appreciate it greatly.

Any funds remaining afterwards will be donated to rescue. Please send your donations to Sharon at W 5068 Hwy 20, East Troy, WI 53120-1530, Carol at 152 Breakheart Hill Rd., West Greenwich, RI 02817, or Denise Ross at 645 W. Good Hope Rd., River Hills, WI 53217. You can email Sharon with your questions or suggestions at wpearce@ibm.net.

Ring Stewards apply here

If you are interested in ring stewarding, please contact Barb Bornstein via email (barb@trims.com), fax (602-423-3457), or telephone (602-994-0150).

FURTHER INFORMATION: *Chairs Jim and Sharon Roseland, 4746 Wilbert Dr., High Ridge, MO 63049, telephone 314-677-0464, email SARoseland@aol.com or JRRoseland@aol.com. Show superintendent is Onofrio, P.O. Box 25764, Oklahoma City, OK 73125, telephone 405-427-8181. ♦*

There are a lot of people who work very hard for this club, and certainly no one works any harder for us and our dogs than Rescue Chair Amy Peake.

But after breaking up a dog fight, Any finds herself typing with just one hand for the moment. Let's all send good thoughts her way for a speedy recovery.

And while we're talking about hard workers, I hope that you've had the chance to look at our Web page. It's a great effort by Barb and Lee Bornstein to produce a complete source of information about the breed and the club.

Barb and Lee graciously share the praises with a number of others, including Paula Keller, Betty Stites, Sandy Frei, Julie Roche, Karen Armistead, Jim and Deb Coudriet and others for their contributions, as well.

The AHCA Regional Club Review Committee has published the new booklet "Guidelines for Regional Specialty Show Approval." This booklet will help Regional Clubs understand the process involved in receiving specialty show approval. If your club has not received its booklet, contact the AHCA Corresponding Secretary.

As has become tradition, the Afghan Hound Club of America sponsored the award for the best entry depicting an Afghan at this spring's "Art Show at the Dog Show" in Wichita. Megan Kieffer of Lincoln, NE won in the category with her ceramic sculpture entitled, "Praestrigrigiae."

As many of you may know, longtime AHCA member Joe Miller is one of the founders, chief advisor and a past chair of this wonderful event. This was the 13th year the fine arts competition was conducted.

The following persons were voted into AHCA membership at the June meeting of the board of directors: Alice Hastings, Jerry Hastings, Janie Getz, Pam Arwood, Mannie Glazer, Eadie Glazer, Karen DeVon Herman, Lorraine Tayib, Bobbie Connor, Everett Bollen Jr., Jennifer Erickson, Mike Erickson and Nancy Self.

Attention AHCA members: please notice that a change of address form (if you want to add email info and fax numbers, use this form, too) is enclosed with this mailing. If you have some updates, please complete this form and return to Recording Secretary Chris Pinkston for the new directory.

In spite of all the special challenges the AHCA and Show Chair Barb Bornstein faced in Tucson, the 1998 National was a financial success, according to final accounting. The show netted nearly a \$9,000 profit, with most of that coming from merchandise sales and vendors.

But before you start thinking about ways to spend that money, remember three things: first, excess trophy donations "roll over" for the following years (through the years that fund is still in the red); second, show operations (entries, catalogs and advertising, etc.) often produce a

deficit; and third, we must always be ready to cover for a loss (1995 in San Diego, for example).

The Specialty also raised nearly \$1,700 for rescue through the art auction and flag sales, and made another donation of \$800 to the AKC's Canine Health Foundation.

Former President Norm Kattelman raised a point of order regarding the inclusion of non-members at the annual meeting, which was among the recommendations received and accepted by the Board from its ad hoc membership committee. While the history and the establishment of the original policy many years ago is not clear (no one could find it in the minutes), President Linda Shipley accepted Norm's recollection that this was originally determined by the general membership, and ruled the point of order well taken. For background, any policy determined by the Board can be changed at any time by either the Board or the general membership. Any policy determined by

the general membership can only be changed by the general membership.

After agreeing with Norm's point of order and supporting Linda's ruling, the

Board then asked for a ballot of the general membership to determine the issue. Results of that vote will be announced before the next annual meeting, and determine whether or not non-members may attend the annual meeting in St. Louis.

As you may have read elsewhere in this issue, the AHCA Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of longtime treasurer Sally Frank. Janet Lenobel was elected by the board to fill Sally's position, and Brenda Brody was elected to fill the remainder of Janet's term as director.

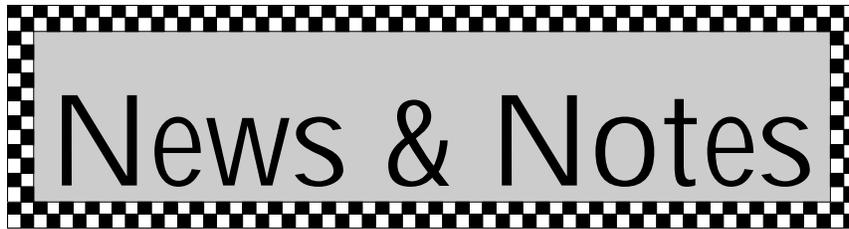
Well, folks, it's been nice. I've enjoyed my stint as Topknot News editor, but now let's allow someone else to enjoy the job. Thanks to everyone for their support and their contributions through the first four issues. We really do have a lot of talented and bright people out there, both members and non-members, who have helped make this work.

It's time to take it to the next level, and Sharon Watson will be taking over duties as editor with the next issue. You've all seen her wonderful efforts through the years for this club as AHCA recording secretary and as secretary of the Breeders Cup. I'm sure that she'll bring that same dedication and approach to Topknot News.

You can contact Sharon via e-mail at salem@netsync.net, telephone 716-483-3893, or via U.S. mail at 490 Fairmount WE, Jamestown, NY 14701.

See you all in St. Louis!

— Dave Frei



Evergreen AHC

Thanks to EAHC members Bob Chace and Sandy Frei for providing this information.

AREA SERVED: Western Washington, with members from Eastern Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Canada.

MEMBERS: 46. Dues are \$10 for single or \$15 for a couple, which basically goes to cover the cost of the newsletter and other mailings.

PRESIDENT: Barbara Chace
(email: bobc@wolfenet.com)

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Debbie Bigelow, 44114 SE 149th PL., North Bend, WA 98045, 425-831-7961.

NEXT SPECIALTY: 25th Anniversary Show will June 9th, 2000 at Robinswood Park in Bellevue. Peter Frost will judge regular classes, Anne Evans will judge sweepstakes. Show chairs are Carl and Joan Miner.

Through the years, our site and event have received praise for the grounds and setting, facilities, the club lunch and art auction.

MEETINGS / SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS: Board meets once a month, general membership meets 3-4 times per year at a show site; potlucks at selected shows, occasional parties after shows at member's houses; Specialty show dinner at a nearby restaurant.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: Several, the main one being that EAHC sponsors a booth at the Seattle Kennel Club show each February.

FUNDRAISING: We have two major fundraising activities, each of which raises about \$2000 per year: Art auction, held during the lunch break at our Specialty, and weekly all-breed handling classes. Proceeds from the art auction go to rescue and specialty show expenses. Handling classes have been held for a number of years at a local boarding kennel facility. These classes are taught by EAHC members, and proceeds have been earmarked for the 2000 Specialty Trophy fund, which will cover all trophies for that show.

CHALLENGES: Wide geographic base of the membership makes it a challenge to get people interested in helping the club, through volunteer effort or donating of cash or art items or raffle items. Publishing the newsletter four times a year is also a challenge.

SUPPORTED SHOWS: This year the club is supporting two all breed shows by holding sweepstakes at those shows in April and September. Our club also supports the Greater Portland Afghan Hound Club in the form of entries, trophy donations, etc.

DONATIONS: The club regularly donates to a number of organizations such as the Canine Health Foundation, Dogs For the Deaf, Morris Animal Foundation, Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue, the AHCA Rescue fund, etc.

RESCUE: We are active in rescue (Sandy Frei is rescue chair), but we are fortunate in that our rescue numbers are relatively small (1-6 per year). We have a good working relationship with Bev Davenport, rescue rep for the Portland club. ♦

Regional Specialty Show Schedule

Approved Specialties
as of July 10, 1999

1999

Friday, August 13
Monterey Bay AHC

Colleen Koury, Regular classes
Libbey Leone, Sweepstakes

Friday, August 20
AHC Greater Denver

Betty Stites, Regular Classes
Ann Bearden, Sweepstakes

Friday, August 27
Grtr Twin Cities AHC

Shelley Hennesy, Regular classes
Joanne Buehler, Sweepstakes

Friday, September 3
Greater Detroit AHC

Glorvina Schwartz, Regular Classes
Leslie Stoffels, Sweepstakes

Sunday, October 3
AHC St. Louis

Rita Van Mechelin, Regular classes
Steve Tillotson, Sweepstakes

Sunday, October 10
Lincoln Land AHC

Regular classes, pending
Emmet Roche, Sweepstakes

Saturday, October 16
Northern California AHC

Reggie Nesbitt, Regular classes
Val Hiller, Sweepstakes

Thursday, November 18
AHC Greater Phoenix

David Frei, Regular classes
Rita Hendricks, Sweepstakes

Friday, November 19
Southern Arizona AHA

Sandra Frei, Regular classes
Linda Korstad, Sweepstakes

Friday, November 19
AHC of Omaha

Muriel Newhauser, Regular Classes
Ylla Carson, Sweepstakes

2000

Saturday, February 12
Nutmeg AHC

Jacqueline Quiros-Kubat, Regular classes
Janet Lenobel, Sweepstakes

Sunday, February 13
AHA Long Island

Ute Lennartz, Regular classes
Pam McQueen, Sweepstakes

Save this date and make your plans now:
Afghan Hound Club of America Breeder's Cup
Wednesday, June 28, 2000 in Long Beach, California
In conjunction with the Hound Classic Weekend

Shutting down the nightmares of puppy mills and pet stores

By AMY MERO

Puppy mills can be a rescue person's worst nightmare. It is a known fact that many puppy mill puppies end up in pet stores to be sold. If they don't sell and start to get to big, the price drops and the first soft-hearted person walks in and buys themselves an Afghan puppy without realizing what it will grow into.

There is much discussion about how to stop the sale of puppies in pet stores, and how to shut down the puppy mills themselves, but no easy answers. One concrete step we can take is to closely monitor the registration and pedigree information provided on pet store dogs, and watch closely for inconsistencies that would point to falsified paperwork. On the basis of inaccuracies detected by Scottish Deerhound fanciers, AKC was notified and at least one puppy mill was put out of business.

My project, under the guidance of Amy Peake and AHCA Rescue, is to keep a database of all 'pet store Afghan Hounds'. This is for ALL pet store Afghans, not just those that come through the rescue program.

I currently have almost 100 dogs in

my database. Forty (40) of these dogs are the actual 'pet store' dogs, the remainder being the names on the pedigrees belonging to the 40 dogs. Some of the pedigrees I have gotten have been four and five generations so I am able to enter all the names.

If you know of someone who has a 'pet store Afghan' please see if you can get a pedigree from them. If you can't get a multi-generation pedigree, then the names of the sire and dam along with their AKC registration numbers would be sufficient. The AKC number of the 'pet store' dog is also important.

I can be reached via email at maxmero@worldnet.att.net. I will respond personally to each and every inquiry and provide a mailing address if needed. I also have access to a fax machine in my office during normal working hours.

Let's all band together and make a concerted effort. Putting even one puppy mill out of existence would make a tremendous difference to our breed.◆

**AHCA Rescue, P.O. Box 60241,
Northampton, MA 01062
(telephone 413-268-0208)**

1999 Nominating Committee appointed by AHCA Board

The AHCA Nominating Committee was elected by the Board at its June meeting. The Committee will nominate one candidate for each open position on the Board for the 2000 elections.

Offices up for election this year include President, First Vice President and Recording Secretary, each of which are two-year terms; and two director's positions, each being for a three-year term. In addition, the position of AKC Delegate, a two-year term, is also up for election.

All members of the Board (and the AKC Delegate) are responsible for their own expenses involved in serving. For Board members, that means attending three meetings per year, one of which is held at the National Specialty, the others usually held in conjunction with the Breeder's Cup or regional specialties.

If you are interested in being considered, or if you know of someone who you feel would be a good candidate, contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Anne Evans, chair; Reggie Nesbitt, Board liaison; Le Hedstrom, Mary Jean Odron and Chris Kaiser. Alternates are Rita Figg and Sharon Watson.◆

Breeders' Cup Results

At Clinton, NJ – May 7, 1999
Judge Bruce Clark

BEST IN AHBC -- Fabelhaft Paladin Babydoll; Breeders James Dalton, Michael Liss, Margrete Stanski; Owners Lynn Faro, James Dalton, Michael Liss.

BOS to BEST IN AHBC -- Anrob's Killing Time; Breeders Shirley & Randy Haggerty, Donna Bates; Owners Robert & Angela DiNicola.

CLASS WINNERS:

6-9 DOGS -- Boanne's Battle Star O'Rustic; Breeder Anne Evans; Owner Eileen Wolfe and breeder. **9-12 DOGS** – BOS above. **12-15 DOGS** – Alemkah Dark Victory Image; Breeder Anita Richards; Owners Anita Richards & Robert Springer. **15-18 DOGS** – Majestic's Holiday On Ice; Breeders Patricia Kageals, Eleanor McCoy & Rachel Goodson; Owner Pat Kageals.

6-9 BITCHES – Cobra Carpe Diem; Breeders and owners Brigitte & James H. Crowe, Leslie Stoffels. **9-12 BITCHES** – Best In AHBC above. **12-15 BITCHES** – Alemkah Dragon Lily of Empyrean; Breeder Anita Richards; Owners Robert Keefer, Leonard Roedk & breeder. **15-18 BITCHES** – Excel's Calendar Girl; Breeders Eleanor McCoy, Patricia Kageals, Rachel Goodson; Owners Seldon & Eleanor McCoy. **18-21 BITCHES** – Charter Oak Irresistible Impulse; Breeders Gene & Michelle Vaccaro, Jay Hafford; Owners Gene & Michelle Vaccaro.◆

Publication Information

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All editorial correspondence and submissions should be sent to David Frei, Editor, P.O. Box 1245, Woodinville, WA 98072. E-mail submissions accepted at zoomsdad@msn.com. Unsolicited materials will be considered, but we reserve the right to edit as we feel appropriate.◆

AHC of Canada National Specialty Sept. 11 in Ontario

The Afghan Hound Club of Canada's National Specialty will be held September 11 in Carp, Ontario. The AHCC National is part of three days of shows, which includes five separate shows: the Afghan National, a Sighthound Specialty and three all-breed shows.

Alan Ledger of London, England, will judge regular classes at the National, and Don Pichette from the USA will judge Sweepstakes. Closing date for entries is August 24. Show secretary is C&A Show Services, 7 Vin Vista Dr., Ingleside, Ontario, Canada K0C 1M0, telephone (613)537-2634 (<http://www.ca-showservices.on.ca>).◆

World Show winner is from Uruguay

Ayin of Kari's Hope, a 3-year-old bitch from Uruguay, captured Best of Breed Honors and Group 3 at the FCI World Dog Show in Mexico City on June 6.

Owned by Karina Ptasevich of Montevideo and handled by Pablo Miraballes. Her sire is Ch. Ext. Ch. Ur. Geinnsu's Ashaam, her dam Ojala Salina del Jebel.

Dr. Espen Engh of Norway judged the breed and the group, which was won by the Greyhound. ◆

Tips from the 'Lists'

Compiled by Sherre Christiansen

Your Af had an accident? Fill a spray bottle with white vinegar. Saturate the accident spot with straight vinegar. Let it sit for about 5 minutes and then vacuum with a wet/dry vacuum. The vinegar will neutralize the odor.

Never use ammonia to clean where your Af has soiled. The ammonia will intensify the urine and other smells which encourages your Af to return to that spot. ◆

They said it ...

Animals as Guides for the Soul, by Susan Chernak McElroy:

A commitment to living a genuine life with animals cannot help but lead to richer human relationships...No living creature defines a life of devotion and loyalty better than the dog. When we take the time to thoughtfully observe the lives of animals, these qualities speak to our spirits, inspire us, warn us, heal us.

Showsight Magazine, Oct. '98, "A Word to the Wise" by Seymour Weiss:

Our wonderful community of the dog fancy is no better than the attitudes we bring to it. The #1 asset any of us can provide to the dog game is an open mind. It is our sovereign obligation to learn from our dogs, our mentors, our competition, our adversaries, our successes, our failures, and to take all that and make it a legacy for every tomorrow the dog sport can anticipate.

You may simply aspire to buy one or more good dogs and have fun showing for a few years and go no further. You may be motivated to breed high quality animals according to your interpretation of your breed's standard. Your aim may be to make an honorable livelihood in the conformation dog sport or you may find judging to be sufficient reward in itself. Whatever the reason you are in the community of the dog fancy, never accept ignorance as a voluntary misfortune. It is a luxury even the wealthiest among us can ill afford.

AHCA Bulletin 1943-44, President's message from Mrs. Sherman R. Hoyt:

(Congratulations to) the Afghan breeders who have caused our breed to reach its present stage of perfection and popularity. I do not mean that the breed is by any means perfect, but I think that the average Afghan today is better than the average Afghan of yesterday. Nor do I mean that there were not some extraordinarily fine specimens in the past which should still be taken as a model for the future, and that there are not some poor specimens being promoted in the show ring today, but the average is improved and the knowledge of the Afghan, which after all must come through the breeder, has been extended. The public understands Afghans better and so do the judges.

... If our magnificent breed is to hold its own in the Group, and also in that final six for Best In Show, we must as club fellows – and as a body – promote the general interests of the breed. This means less criticism, more praise of the other fellow's dog. When a good Afghan wins, let us who own other good Afghans be first to rejoice, for in winning, all Afghans are promoted. Let us not grudge any victory to any dog! Above all, let us be tolerant, sportsmanlike, and gracious toward those who are brave enough to judge us. We do not ask them to agree with us – we ask for their opinion, and it may be a good thing for some of us to remember this after the opinion has been given.

I suggest that in 1944, right through 1950, or perhaps 2000, we present a united front; and, if we have any criticism to offer, let it be at our own meetings, among ourselves, and last, let us be inclined to criticize criticism.

From the Secretary Reports, same issue (the Secretary is not identified):

The Club is growing slowly and healthily. We welcome to our membership all those who are sincerely interested in the furtherance of our breed. This club is first, last and always a dog Club – not a social organization. We want no politics – we feel that politics have no part to play in Afghans. We desire sincere and honest members, who do not think of self, but who strive with might and main to preserve the integrity and structure of our ancient breed. ◆

President's Message ...

Events of the past few weeks have really brought home the fact of how important friends are to us in this sport of dogs. In the time that most of us have been in the breed, dogs have come and gone, but our friends endure. They are there to cheer us up when we lose, encourage us when we lose heart, and lend a shoulder to cry on when tragedy strikes.

We see them week after week at the shows and we come to take their steadfast loyalty for granted. In reality, dog showing wouldn't be much fun without our friends. Wins would seem very hollow indeed without an entourage of friends to help us celebrate. We need to really look at and appreciate this most valued resource that is, in every sense, an extended family.

The 1999 National Specialty is rapidly approaching and we have lots of exciting events planned for this years' "family reunion"! We hope to see all of you there and that you will bring lots of new and exciting dogs for us to ooh and ah over. After all, that's what friends are for!

Linda Shipley
AHCA President

Subscription information

Looking for a gift for your veterinarian, rescue and foster homes, new puppy customers, obedience and training instructors, boarding kennel, or pet sitters?

"Topknot News" can help give them some insight into this wonderful breed.

"Topknot News" is available by mail subscription to non-AHCA members.

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Send payment by check or international money order in U.S. funds to Janet Lenobel, AHCA Treasurer, PO Box 359, Orange Lake, FL 32681-0359. ♦

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... and much, much more!