

TOPKNOT NEWS

The Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America

Spring 2000

NATIONAL 2000

*Celebrating our memories
and our future at the
64th National Specialty*

*November 5- 9, 2000
Jacksonville, Florida*

*Make reservations directly
1-800-874-3000 or
904-724-3410
fax 904-725-1454*

*Ramada Inn
Conference Center
5865 Arlington Express way
Jacksonville, FL 32 211*

*Lure Coursing and Agility
will be 5 minutes away.*

*Lure Coursing-
Saundra Newton ,Chair*

*Agility-
Claudia Jakus, Chair
All Conformation and Obedience
judging will be held in the hotel ballroom.*

Sweepstakes- David Giordano

*Dogs /Inters ex- Janis Reital
Bitches - Gene Vaccaro
Juniors - Rachel Rehberg- Gongre
Harry Bennett , Show Chair
(904) 720-0691
1404 Arlingwood Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32211-6385
harryonly@aol.com
afnat2000@aol.com*

*Trophy donations gratefully
accepted by:
JoAnne Buehler
Trophy Chair
(301) 590-9056
One Turkey Foot Court
Darnestown, MD 20878
tazihound@his.com*

Substance and "Bone" in the Afghan Hound

by Conni Miller

Commentary by Dr. William Waskow

*Published November 1961 in the
Northern California Afghan Hound
Club Bulletin.*

We got our first Afghan, over 10 years ago, after seeing very few in the flesh, but with the Standard fairly firm in our minds. The male in question was a year old, with long head and Oriental expression; a mixture of Kubla Khan ferocity and Confucius wisdom. He was a pleasing dog with powerful rear quarters, a "straight front" and inspired great affection in us.

Having a yen to show him off, we entered a few matches. He received early consideration and kind comment, but no ribbons. What was wrong? We had gotten a full-grown male, 27 inches tall, that barely hit 45pounds in weight. He was seriously "light-boned", a prevalent fault in those days.

As the only reference to "substance" in the Standard, is quietly implied in the stipulation;

MALE SIZE 27 inches plus or minus one inch – weight approximately 60 pounds.
BITCHES 25 inches, plus or minus one inch –weight approximately 50 pounds.

It is understandably difficult for Afghan fanciers to appreciate what proper Afghan "bone" should be. The fact is, that any lean Afghan male of 27 inches must carry a good deal of substance to make the 60 pound weight. This is also true in bitch requirements, and as heights veer away from the ideal, weights must also be adjusted at rough rate of about 3 to 5 pounds per inch.
(Ed note: $60/27=2.2'50/25=2$)

In the past, and to some extent today, many of the really "typey" Afghans have been "light-boned", possibly because the desirable long narrow muzzle with refined backskull is more easily achieved in conjunction with a similar long thin type of leg and body bone. Conversely, well-boned animals, correct in size and weight ratio, usually carry added weight in the

head area, and may be somewhat coarse in structure. Great extremes exist within our breed. This has been the logical

basis for many matings involving one Afghan of substantial bone and power, to another of great type and refinement, but lacking in proper substance. There is no point in arguing the merits of either type as neither represents the Afghan ideal, but both touch the ideal at dissimilar points.

It must be remembered that the entire history of Afghans since exportation from Afghanistan has been a constant mating of opposing physical types in search of the perfect "blend". While this type of breeding is certainly frowned on by "experts", any student of Afghan pedigrees is forced to conclude that this system has produced a large number of successful exhibition Afghans. Never the less, this brings up breeding problems when trying to establish a reliable strain from these dogs with such diverse backgrounds.

In matings of dissimilar physical types the results will depend to some degree on the dominance existant in each parent. If neither emerges prepotent there will be considerable variation in the individual pups. With luck, some individuals within the litter may display some of the blended appearance desired, making these breedings profitable. Animals of this type of breeding are genetic question marks and never be assumed to "carry" any better qualities than they themselves display. Before attempting to correct a substance problem, the condition must be recognized and analyzed by the breeders. Wishful thinking must be discarded, and the dogs must be actually measured and weighed with allowances for obesity, or thinness. Backgrounds should be studied for trends in the matter. Bear in mind that increase in size and substance seems to be a dominant characteristic (in all dogs) and it is a known fact that some of the outcrosses may bring a surprising increase in size where it is least expected, due to the release of varied genetic suppressors.
(Continued on P.9)

SPECIALTIES 2000

Colonial Afghan Hound Club
June 2, 2000
Sweeps – Louise LaBrun
Regular Classes – Sandy Frei

Afghan Hound Club of Greater
Chicago June 9, 2000
Sweeps – Harry Bennett
Regular Classes – Lou Guerrero

Afghan Hound Club of America
Breeders' Cup June 28, 2000
Judge - Brigitte Crowe

Afghan Hound Club of California
June 29, 2000
Sweeps – Cindy Chandler
Regular Classes – Richard Souza

Afghan Hound Club of Greater
Portland July 7, 2000
Sweeps – Harold Greensill (Aust)
Regular Classes – Stephen Wheeler
(Australia)

Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club Inc.
July 7, 2000
Sweeps – Russel I Hastings
Regular Classes – Tom Cozzoni
Obedience – James R. Grimm

Afghan Hound Club of Greater
Milwaukee July 28, 2000
Sweeps – Jane Gaines
Regular Classes – Karen Armistead

Monterey Bay Afghan Hound Club
August 11, 2000
Sweeps – Bruce Clark
Regular Classes – Sandy Frei

Afghan Hound of Greater Denver
August 18, 2000
Sweeps - Terry Chacon
Regular Classes – Reggie Nesbitt

Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club
August 25, 2000
Sweeps – Mary Kelson LeFebvre
Regular Classes – Ingeborg James

Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club, Inc
September 1, 2000
Sweeps – Pam McQueen
Regular Classes – Kent Delaney

Greater Pittsburgh Afghan Hound Club
October 6, 2000
Sweeps – Laurie Goodell
Dogs & Intersex Classes –
Mara Lynn Mercer
Bitch Classes – Jane Jantos

Afghan Hound Club of America
November 5 - 9
Sweeps - David Giordano
Dogs/Intersex - Jan Reital
Bitches - Gene Vaccaro

AKC News
DELTA AIR LINE S ANNOUNCES
SUMMER EMBARGO ON SHIPMENT OF PETS
AS CHECKED BAGGAGE
Ca nine Legislation Department
May 15, 2000

On Friday May 12th, Delta Air Lines announced that it will embargo the acceptance of pets as checked baggage to all destinations on its worldwide system during the months of June, July, and August. Delta will continue to accept small pets for travel in the cabin, in kennels that fit under a passenger seat. In an effort to keep dog owners fully informed, AKC is providing the following information which appears on the Delta Air Lines web site: under Hot Weather Restrictions For your pet's safety, Delta restricts pet travel during hotweather.

These restrictions apply to all destinations in Delta's worldwide system. What you need to know about these restrictions:

- Restrictions apply to all tickets purchased with Delta on or after May 15, 2000 for travel on or after June 1, 2000.
- Pets will not be accepted as checked baggage during June, July and August, except for those customers who purchased tickets prior to May 15, 2000 and are on the return portion of their trip.
- Delta Air Cargo will accept animal shipments only from commercial animal shippers or licensed pet breeders during June, July and August.
- Delta Air Cargo will not ship any animal during extreme weather, when the temperature is forecast to exceed 85 degrees F at any point in the animal's trip. This restriction applies throughout the year.
- Delta Air Cargo will not ship pug- or snub-nosed dogs when the temperature is forecast to exceed 70 degrees F at any point in the animal's trip. This restriction applies throughout the year. See Health Guidelines for a list of dogs that fall in this category.
- Passengers who are unable to travel due to these pet restrictions will be allowed to change their travel dates or cancel their trip without penalty.

from JoAnn Alft

Legislative Affairs

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Update-Los Angeles: On March 29th the City Council approved a restrictive mandatory spay/ neuter ordinance that raises the cost of an unaltered dog license to \$100 and requires breeders to obtain a \$100 annual breeding license per animal.

Among other provisions, the ordinance restricts breeders to one litter per household per year and directs breeders to provide the Department of Animal Service with the name, address and phone number of anyone who buys or receives an animal or face a \$500 fine. Although most of the above was done to help curb the overpopulation of dogs and cats, it will hurt the hobby breeder. The two-year battle fought by many concerned fanciers and organizations including the California Federation of Dog Clubs, the Animal Council and countless purebred dog owners. You may not live in LA, but please stay on top of any ordinance like this in your home town. Be alert in Palm Beach, FL, or NY, PA, or TN, all of which are considering laws like the one above.

Another update, this time on the Pet Travel bill in the House and Senate. Conferees have reached agreement on language addressing air shipment of animals as part of a broader agreement on a bill to reauthorize the FAA. Animal rights activists attempted to use the FAA reauthorization bill to severely restrict air transport of animals by amending the Senate version of the bill proposed by Senator Lautenberg which would have imposed extreme requirements on all airlines that ship animals. The House version did not include a similar provision. The President is expected to sign the House/Senate compromise.

AKC Delegate Report from Connie Butherus

The Quarterly Delegates meeting was held in New York on March 13 and 14. This being the election meeting, it was very well attended. On Monday, the Delegates Caucus featured the four candidates for the three Board of Directors positions. They responded to questions put to them from the Delegates. Following the caucus, I attended the Parent Club committee. AKC staff were present to respond to questions. Of concern is the direction the yet to be scheduled Parent Club Conference is apparently taking. The request from the Parent Club Committee (at least two years ago) to the AKC was to sponsor a conference for Parent Clubs on rescue. We are now told that rescue will be a part (probably one third) of the conference with the balance of time and content to focus on "other areas". As yet there is no date, no location and no funding (sponsor). I will keep you informed as this develops or continues to be stuck in neutral. Tuesday the 14th was the actual Delegates meeting. The usual reports and business items were presented. However the big ticket item was the election. Each of the four candidates gave a 3-minute speech (our own Dennis Sprung was the time keeper). Thus Tom Davies, Walter Goodman, and Tom Menaker, the three nominated candidates as well as Bob McKowan, the additional alternate candidate spoke to the 356 Delegates in attendance. The vote was history-making. We elected the Class of 2004 in only one Ballot! Davies, Goodman, and Menaker were elected and we were on to other matters. As the word for word transcript of the meeting has been published in the AKC Gazette, I will not rehash the meeting item by item. You can read the content as printed, however, I call two items to your attention:

1. The "Frequently-Used Sire" Program. This program goes into effect July 1, 2000. However in response to a question, Al Cheaure stated it is retroactive for the life of the dog and the number of litters sired. Those with frequently used stud dogs will need to plan accordingly. The DNA sample kits are now widely available and the cost of the identification is currently modest.

2. Handler Certification. At the end of the meeting those delegates still present were blindsided by an effort on the part of some individuals to sink the proposed handlers certification program proposed by the AKC Board. Unfortunately after much discussion which generated heat but little light, the remaining delegates voted the AKC Board consider rescinding the entire plan. I was stunned. This issue is a consumer and animal protection program and I fail to comprehend how anyone concerned with the well being of dogs could not support the program! I will keep you informed as this issue evolves.

On to the next meeting in San Diego June 13 and 14.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

**This committee is responsible for a variety of assignments: writing the Dog News story about the National Specialty each year (with photos); overseeing advertising; hosting media at AHCA events (such as the Animal Planet show, "Breed All About It"); helping writers with stories in various publications; and generally promoting the breed and the club in a positive way. Many of the activities of this committee are coordinated through the Corresponding Secretary,
Barb Bornstein. Chairman Dave Frei (206-931-3283, zoomsdad@msn.com
Committee member: Deb Coudriet.**

AHCA OFFICERS 2000

President	Duane Butherus
1st Vice-President	Harry Bennett
2nd Vice-President	Gill Ullom
Recording Secretary	Janet Lucree
Corresponding Secretary	Barb Bornstein
Treasurer	Janet Lenobel

Board of Directors

Brenda Brody,
Bruce Clark,
Helen Dukes,
Betsy Hufnagel,
Reggie Nesbitt,
Helen Stein

COMMITTEES 2000

Agility	Claudia Jakus
Breeder's Cup Secretary: Sharon Watson / Wynne Kalish 2000 Chair 2001 Chair	Chris Kaiser
Budget & Finance Topknot News Canine Health AKC Delegate Judges Education Breeder Education Sandy Frei / Janis Reital	Gill Ullom Sharon Watson Dennis Eschbach Connie Butherus Betty Stites
AKC Gazette Column IT Coordinator Jr. Showmanship Legislative Affairs Librarian Lure Coursing, AHCA & ASFA Delegate Ruth Reynolds	Georgie Guthrie Jim Coudriet Reggie Nesbitt Jo Ann Alft Karen Armistead
Membership	Helen Dukes
National Specialty Show 2000, Florida, Harry Bennett, Chair 2001, Texas, Brenda Brody, Chair	
Obedience Publications Coordinator Parliamentarian Pins & Awards Policies & Procedures Public Relations Regional Clubs Chair Rescue Ways & Means Web Page	Claudia Jakus Selma Tenenbaum Helen Stein Melinda Brown Harry Bennett Dave Frei Harry Bennett Amy Peake Brenda Brody
	Barb Bornstein, Lee Bornstein

CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM: PREVALENCE OF POSITIVE TgAA

Hypothyroidism is the most common endocrine disease in dogs. The thyroid gland controls the speed of metabolism of almost all body cells. When thyroid hormones are subnormal, many different body systems can be affected; so the clinical appearance of the disease can vary. The most common clinical signs include: weight gain, sluggishness, skin and hair coat problems (including hair loss), weakness, cold intolerance, and infertility. Although hypothyroidism is not life-threatening, the quality of life is subnormal. Veterinary testing procedures have improved over the past 25 years, and hypothyroidism and its therapy are well understood by most practitioners. Breeders, however, are faced with a dilemma. The disease seldom demonstrates clinical signs before 3 to 5 years of age, well into the showing and breeding years for many dogs. An economical and early detection procedure is needed. Progress is being made toward this objective. The 1997 AKC Parent Club Survey (all breed) found that breeders are quite concerned about this disease. In fact, it was ranked first, with hip dysplasia and epilepsy close behind. As a result of breeder and veterinary interest, a number of progressive changes have occurred in the past few years. AKC and other groups sponsored an International Symposium on Canine Hypothyroidism. Participants agreed that breeders should test their dogs for thyroid disease and this test profile should include Total Thyroxine (T4), Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH), Free T4 by Dialysis, and Thyroglobulin Autoantibody (TgAA) from Michigan State University Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) started a Canine Thyroid Registry and has certified a number of regional veterinary laboratories in the US and Canada qualified to perform the thyroid profile for registry purposes. Oxford Laboratories began producing a commercially available assay for TgAA so all reagents for the OFA profile are standard among certified laboratories. About half of canine hypothyroidism has been reported to be associated with autoimmune thyroiditis (positive TgAA). The majority of the remaining hypothyroidism is idiopathic (without apparent cause and TgAA negative), while a small fraction is from a pituitary disorder. Recent data from Michigan State University have shown that idiopathic hypothyroidism can be the end stage of autoimmune thyroid disease. Hence, the majority of canine hypothyroidism is the result of autoimmune thyroiditis. This makes testing for the disease marker in breeding dogs important for reducing its incidence. The best current marker for this disease is a positive TgAA test result. This is present when there is active thyroid disease (inflammation). Assuming a single gene disorder and recessive trait, TgAA will be positive only in dogs having both genes for thyroiditis. TgAA will not be positive in the carriers (having only one gene for the trait) and may not be positive early in the lives of some dogs that become affected later. A number of scientific publications have presented data to support the genetic transmission of autoimmune thyroiditis. Others have reported the familial (occurring among relatives) incidence of the disease. In addition to screening breeding animals, the TgAA assay has been useful for disease diagnosis. In June 1998, the Michigan State University Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory began running the TgAA assay as part of routine thyroid function testing, making it possible to detect autoimmune thyroid disease long before complete thyroid atrophy and clinical hypothyroidism (when clinical signs are present) occurred. Of course, most of the samples were from dogs with at least one clinical sign suggestive of hypothyroidism. A study done on the first 51,201 laboratory samples that were tested for thyroid disease using the new TgAA test indicate that 7.9% of samples were positive and 4.0% were inconclusive. There were 4045 dogs positive for TgAA and 2809 classified as having idiopathic hypothyroidism. Dogs less than 2 years of age had few (less than 5%) TgAA positive samples; samples from dogs 2-6 years of age were positive 9 to 11.5% of the time, while samples from dogs older than 6 were positive less often. It appears that autoimmune thyroid disease occurs earlier in life than idiopathic hypothyroidism supporting the concept that the idiopathic form may result from the autoimmune disease. Semi-annual thyroid biopsy results from a small group of affected dogs at MSU also support the conclusion that idiopathic hypothyroidism is the end stage of autoimmune thyroid disease. Another way of looking at these data is that over 50% of TgAA positive samples were from dogs less than or equal to 5 years of age, while it took 8 years to obtain more than 50% of the samples from dogs with idiopathic hypothyroidism. Since idiopathic hypothyroidism appears to be the end stage of autoimmune thyroiditis, the majority of primary hypothyroidism in dogs is most likely a result of the autoimmune disease. An important fact for breeders is that the TgAA test can detect this disease years before clinical signs of hypothyroidism occur. After 6 years, the TgAA test becomes less relevant, as dogs that were positive can become negative when the thyroid is destroyed, and there is no longer a stimulus for TgAA production. After that time, T4 and TSH become more important indicators of thyroid disease.

As one would expect from a genetically transmitted disease, 16 breeds had significantly higher laboratory prevalence of TgAA compared to the total number of dogs (over-representation) and 27 breeds had a significantly lower prevalence (under representation). Some additional breeds also had high or low percent positive, but the number of samples from those breeds may have been too small to achieve statistical significance. As additional samples are analyzed, presumably these additional breeds will become statistically significant as well. As groups, Herding and Sporting dogs were significantly over-represented for TgAA positive samples while Hounds, Non-Sporting, Terriers, and Toy breeds were under-represented. Within those groups, some breeds were significantly over-represented while others may be under-represented. The Hound group has 3 breeds with over 500 samples, 2 were under-represented, and 1 is over-represented. Since a number of publications have shown that the Beagle has a genetic component to autoimmune hypothyroid disease, it is not surprising that they are on the over-represented list. Some of the sighthound breeds, such as the Afghan, have been implicated to have a high incidence of hypothyroidism, but the disease may have been over-diagnosed in those breeds because of the lower normal ranges for AT3 and T4 concentrations in sighthounds compared to other breeds. Breeders should caution veterinarians to this fact when thyroid function

TRUE / FALSE

Afghan Hounds often have thyroid problems

TRUE / FALSE

As compared to other breeds, Afghan owners often test their dogs for thyroid problems.

Circle your answer

then read this article

Highlights of AHCA Board Meeting March 4, 2000, Atlanta, Georgia

Present: Duane Butherus,
Brenda Brody,
Helen Dukes,
Helen Stein,
Reggie Nesbitt,
Barb Bornstein,
Janet Lenobel,
Gill Ullom,
Harry Bennett,
Jan Lucree.

Absent: Bruce Clark.

Corresponding Secretary: Barb Bornstein reported that a record is kept of breeder referrals. It was moved and passed that members with complaints filed against them should not be given referrals.

Treasurer's Report: It was moved and passed that judges contracts are to be sent to the show chairman by the Recording Secretary. The show chairman is the responsible for distributing copies of all contracts to the Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, the Superintendent and the show secretary.

There are currently 387 members, 9 of whom are lifetime or honorary members. 22 members are not current with dues. It was moved and passed that the Treasurer will send 2 dues notices by regular mail, then the names of non-renewing members will be published in Topknot News. All changes in membership information are due by March 1. The second letter and the notice in Topknot News will include the statement that dues must be paid in order for membership information to appear in the Membership Roster which will be due June 1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Afghan Hounds in America – Sheila Grant has all copies - 1000 Vol. 2, 500 supplements, and 100 binders. A motion was made and passed to accept Selma Tenenbaum's proposal to investigate the possibility of an update using AKC's statistical data

Breeders' Cup 2000 - There are 40 litters entered. Brigitte Crowe was chosen to judge.

Judges' Education: First priority should be given to members in the application process and then non-members to a limit of 15. Non-members may be used as instructors - guidelines need to be developed.

National Specialty 2000: Coursing is about 5 minutes from the hotel. Sandra Newton is Chairperson. A motion was passed to give medallions 1-4 in Jr. Showmanship. A motion was passed that trophies for the National Specialty shall be Garry Newton artwork for class placements. Additional trophies may be offered provided that money has been collected to cover the additional cost. Approval of style and type must be obtained from the Board. There was discussion of which of the 4 events the Triathlon should consist of. A committee will be appointed by the President to make recommendations.

National Specialty 2001: Brenda Brody reported that it will be held November 12-16 at the Brook Hollow Sheraton in Houston. The Houston Specialty will be on the 11th and Dallas on the 10th.

Parlays: The Board decided to eliminate parlays since the web site serves this purpose.

Rescue: Amy Peake submitted a report on Rescue and fund-raising activities. She asked whether she could contact regional clubs for donations. The Board answered in the affirmative.

Ways and Means: Brenda Brody presented a Christmas ornament as a fundraiser for 2000. The Board approved a minimum order.

Web Pages: The web site is getting 500-800 hits a month. Rescue, Regional Clubs and Agility have been added Barb is working on a Breeder Referral section.

Ad Hoc Rotating Sites: The last survey determined that the membership is split 50-50 on this. Roxboro, MA, Long Beach, CA, Louisville and Lexington, KY have been investigated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Complaints: There is one old complaint pending. Complaints should be resolved within one year.

ILP Dogs at National: A motion was passed to allow them to compete in the Triathlon. They may not compete in the

Field Trial dog or bitch class as an additional entry.

Dedications for National Events - Specialty/Breeders Cup: A motion was passed to include an In Memoriam page (not to include photos) in the catalogs to recognize any current AHCA members who have died since the last National Event.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Applicants Cindy Chandler

Robert Godfrey, and Claire Irvine were voted into membership.

Betsy Hufnagel was elected to fill the Board vacancy.

NEW BUSINESS AHCA

Logo change: The letters will be changed from outline to solid for better reproduction.

National Hospitality Chair : The Hospitality Chairperson will be responsible for all 8 judges.

2001 Breeders' Cup: The Board accepted the proposal from the Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus to host the Breeders' Cup on Friday April 20, 2001 in conjunction with its specialty and two all breed shows. This creates a conflict with Potomac. They will be allowed to change their show date if they so desire.

Floating Specialty Calendar passed at Sata Rosa 1992: This can be changed only by membership vote. It should be on the agenda for the next General Membership meeting.

New Standing Committees:
Publications Coordinator - Selma Tenenbaum; IT Coordinator Jim Coudriet

Initiatives: Supporting AHCA breeders in puppy placement and referrals; support programs for regional clubs; improving information flow within AHCA by online use;

Rescue Listings: where both regional clubs and independent organization exist, both should be contacted. The President will work with Rescue trying to resolve territorial conflicts.

The next meeting will be Saturday, June 10, 2000 in the Chicago area.

AHCA Web Pages

The Official Web Site of the Afghan Hound Club of America is rapidly nearing 1000 hits per month! I wish to thank the many members, and nonmembers, who have submitted photos for use on the web site. Soon, I will be putting out another request for photos. We are always in need of good Lure Coursing, Agility and Obedience shots of your Afghan Hounds, as well as good human related photographs. If you are one of the AHCA Committee Heads who has a section on the web site, it is also necessary that you keep me updated on your committee. It is vital that Regional Clubs continually update their Club Officer and Director information (Include telephone numbers & email address) and the name, address, email and telephone number of the Rescue Contacts in your area. Updates and changes are always made within a few days of being notified. Check the site. If your club information is out of date it is because someone has not submitted the current information! Approximately 99 percent of requests for puppies now come through the AHCA Web Site. Because of this I am sending more and more breeder referrals to the Regional Club section of the web site to ensure newcomers that help is available to them, in their areas. It doesn't look good if the information in the Regional Club section is out of date! Other Regional Afghan Hound Clubs, Sighthound Clubs, etc. also use the Regional Club Section of the web site for special mailings and to contact each other. New and future Afghan Hound judges are now looking to the web site to learn when the Specialty Shows in their areas will be taking place in order to attend and learn more about the breed. It is clear that more and more people are using the Internet for information and it is up to all of you to assist in helping me remain current. Remember, this is your web site so please help me take good care of it. We are now beginning to receive photos from Afghan Hound owners around the country who are not involved in breeding, exhibiting, nor breed clubs, but simply own an Afghan Hound because they love the breed. This tells me that the AHCA Web Site is doing its job by reaching out to all persons involved in the breed. You should be very proud of our site. It has been YOUR contributions, help, suggestions and photographs that has made the Afghan Hound Club of America Web Site one of the best in the country

barb@trims.com

<http://www.trims.com/ahca>

Why Join the AHCA? A New Member's Perspective

Over twenty years ago when I first joined an Afghan club (I was just a child at the time), I considered joining the AHCA but didn't. The question I asked at that time was "What can I get out of becoming a member?" You may say that was a selfish question; that I should have asked, "What can I offer to the AHCA if I become a member?" Now, 20 years or so later (being the (young) adult that I am), I admit, I still ask the same selfish question. The difference is that now I know what I can get out of becoming a member - whatever I put into it. At the very minimum I joined the AHCA because it can offer. Friendship - the friends I have made through the Greater Twin Cities AHC never cease to amaze me with their talent, humor, and intelligence. With the advent of the Internet it is just about as easy to communicate with people across the country as it was with people in my backyard. Why not make more friends through a National Club? Networking: there are 380 members in the AHCA with an overwhelming amount of experience and knowledge in the breed. What one person doesn't know another one will. Pride: The AHCA web site has provided the general public with invaluable information on the breed. With Rescue and education information so readily available the AHCA's website has proven to be a tremendous aid to our regional club. It's an honor to be apart of an organization that offers so much. The question the AHCA should ask is "What do we get out of having you as a member? The answer for me is, "A person who is willing to actively work for the club because that person knows that if you don't put anything in you won't get anything out. "Is that your final answer? No, can I call a friend?"

by Sandy Nelson

President's Report - Duane Buterus

We are starting to make a little progress on some of the initiatives outlined in the last issue. Jim Coudriet is investigating methods for electronic communication within the Parent Club, and how best to make available information such as electronic membership lists and committee reports which can be maintained in a timely fashion. Selma Tenenbaum is working on reviving the "Afghans In America" program, with updates and new information. Electronic and hard-copy distribution methods are being considered. The AHCA has just begun to look at a computer application developed by Terry Wilcox and his group in Australia. This application may be a useful method for organizing and distributing archival data (pictures, pedigrees, videos, movies etc). Additionally, this may become the defacto international standard, allowing the archives from many countries to be combined into an international standard. The AHCA website under the capable direction of Barb Bornstein is growing in importance to the entire fancy, and is now probably the most important source of Afghan information. Reggie Nesbitt and Selma Tenenbaum are working hard on plans for updating the "Afghans in America" publications. Initial work involves getting historical data from the AKC in an efficient and economical fashion. The plans for the National Specialty are progressing swiftly under the guidance of Harry Bennett and his able crew. The run of outstanding specialties we have enjoyed will continue this year. I urge everybody to plan now to attend the Specialty in Florida this November.

NOTICE

The following have not renewed their memberships and will not appear in the new Membership Roster:

Barbara J. Benedict
Judith Anne Bloom
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Betancourt
Helen Haas
Mr. & Mrs. Donal Knorr
Gary M Lennon,
Cheryl Ryan,
Charlette Eldridge,
Debra Engle,
Cheri Todd,
Anita Tracey,
Dr, John Williams,
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Swayze,
Sara Winsted.

(Substance and "Bone" cont.)

In the same vein, inbreeding may bring about an unexpected reduction in size and substance due to inadvertent accumulation of suppressors, or to the actual loss of dominant size potentials. Since Afghans, as a breed, are not expected to hold rigid size or substance requirements, there is no reason to discard the slightly off substance specimen from the breeding program

PROVIDED THAT THIS DOG OR BITCH HAS GREAT QUALITY IN MOST OTHER RESPECTS

and is mated with an eye to improving the weakness

P.S. The 45 lb male was never bred as he was too extreme in the fault,

by Conni Miller

The following is commentary by Dr. William Waskow, M.D. appearing in the 1962 Afghanews (AHCA Bulletin) Dr. Waskow was a Radiologist. His recent death leads us to recall his many contributions to our breed.

We enjoyed the article and felt it to be informative and stimulating. It evoked the following comments on the subject as we see it: The subject of substance and lack of substance, light bone and heavy bone, is interesting as well as frustrating to Afghan breeders as well as to people in other breeds. I never really expected my Afghans to have heavy bone, although we had a number of dogs in our kennel that would draw the comment, when shown, that it was an excellent dog with good bone.

Since we had bulldogs before taking up Afghan Hounds, and have carried a few Toy breeds along with our hounds, it is readily comprehensible why bulldogs should have heavy bone and much substance and why the toy breeds should have light but fine bone – but also substance. Substance could be described as a proper distribution of weight,

combined with well-developed musculature, in a body properly formed to contain the viscera in proper proportions to perform the duty for which the breed was developed.

Substance and bone should not be used synonymously. It seems logical that a running hound should have medium or light bone rather than heavy bone to perform properly since a heavy boned dog would have definite handicap, having to carry the extra weight. I might digress for a moment to speak about the structure of bone. Bones of the leg can be heavy and strong by virtue of having a large diameter and a thick cortex (or shell). On the other hand, it may have a fairly large diameter and a thin cortex and not be able to stand any stress. Further, bone of small diameter with a heavy cortex will be extremely strong but will appear somewhat delicate to handling and will be indistinguishable from truly light bone of small diameter and thin cortex.

In Man, the female characteristically has fine bone but it is not necessarily weaker than the heavier bone in the male. In Man, as in animals, there are racial as well as regional differences.

Another example of fine boned stamina can be seen in the Arabian horse. We were interested in the breed and have a young filly. We were interested to note that a small 14,2 hand stallion carrying 200 pounds of stock saddle and large rider won the 100 Mile Trail Ride at Hot Springs, VA in April, 1962.

To judge the Afghan Hound poor quality because of bone alone is not only unfair but wrong. In many instances dogs of overall poor quality and lack of substance receive the comment "light bone" when actually it is only one part of the many unfavorable factors present.

IN LOVING MEMORY

DR. WILLIAM LORENZ WASKOW

1910 2000

Dr. William Waskow died on Sunday, January 30, 2000 after a long illness. The death of "Willie" as he was known to his hundreds of friends is a great loss to the dog world, especially to the Afghan Hound fancy, as the devotion to our breed that he shared with his wife, Margo, was absolute. Willie and Margo met at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago. Willie was a radiologist and Margo a nurse. Willie was one of the founders and a member of the first Air Force Medical unit. When World War II broke out, they were transferred to Denver, and it was there they acquired their first Afghan, "Beau".

They were transferred to Shepherd Field, Texas, in 1944, and Beau went to work with Willie, where he roamed the airfield at will. He was always waiting in the car when Willie was ready to leave, whether early or late. Some how he knew.

After the war the Waskows settled in Madison, Wisconsin, and founded the "Little Fir" kennel. Willie loved the practice of medicine and joined the Jackson Clinic in Madison, where he practiced until retiring in the early 70's.

Willie was a kind and caring person for animals, and was a life member of the Dane County Humane Society. Although he worked through out his life for the welfare of animals, he had a special place in his heart for Afghans and the Afghan Hound Club of America. He served as our delegate to the American Kennel Club for 25 years, and was awarded a lifetime membership in 1996. He began judging for the American Kennel Club in 1952 and retired in 1995.

*Margo is currently recovering from two heart attacks that she suffered these last few months. Those who wish to write her can address their letters to the Meriter Health Care Center
334 W. Doty
Madison, Wisconsin, 53703.*

*by Lila Wadsworth
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Our Afghans*

National Specialty 1962

(If you want to test your skills, look at the pictures first, try to identify dogs and people then continue reading). When Karen Armistead, AHCA Librarian, sent me the lead article, these pictures came with it. There has been a great deal of interest lately in the "old days". Were the dogs really different then? Although these pictures, taken by Evelyn Shafer, will not reproduce wonderfully, you can see what the dogs (and handlers) looked like.

The judge is Dr. William Waskow, Don Smith presents the trophies.

**Top left: BOB
Ch. Akaba's Top Brass with
Lois Boardman**

**Top right: BOS
Ch. Eljac's Dragon Lady of
Dureigh with Dewey Abram**

**Center left: WD
Sahadi Scaramouche
with Joan Brearley**

**Center right: RWD
Turkoman of Timbala with
Muriel Stone**

**Far left: Best Puppy
Majara Muhuggah with
Margorie Lathrop**

**Bottom center : WB
Pandora of Stormhill
with Gini Withington**

**Bottom right: RWB
Shcba of Scheherezade with
Wally Pede**

If you have an opinion - are they very different - in what way? please feel free to write Topknot News or email the editor at salem@netsync.net. Any other opinions are also welcome.



From barb@trims.com

I am writing to you with regard to our new publication The Pedigree Dog Breeder. The journal is written for the dog breeder, show person and dog enthusiast. A wide range of veterinary, training and breeding articles are covered in each issue. All articles are commissioned from leading authorities. The journal has received an excellent response from breeders. We have recently launched our web site

<http://www.pedigreedogbreeder.co.uk>

A selection of articles published in the journal are featured in full on the web site. The site is updated weekly and access is free of charge, and material can be downloaded as required.

As the veterinary and training articles are of interest to dog breeders **and** to the show person, I would be grateful if you could draw this website to the attention of your members.

Thank you and regards,

Mike Howe B VetMed
MRCVS

In this issue:

Hypothyroidism

Conni Miller

1962

Air Travel

Minutes

Memorial

AND MORE.....

TOPKNOT NEWS

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