

In This Issue

2001 National News

2002 News

Breeders' Cup info

In which year were more
Obedience titles earned:
1954, 1974, 1984?

AKC Delegate's Report

Regional Specialties 2001 - 2002

AHC of Greater Phoenix 10/19/01
John Roger Morton - Regular
Classes
Jennifer Ericson - Sweeps

Northern California AHC 10/20/01
Janis Reital - Regular Classes
Linda Korstad - Sweeps

AHC of Dallas 11/10/01
Hobart Brown - Regular Classes
Philippe Gallardo - Sweeps

AHC of Greater Houston 11/11/01
Jane Jantos-Sheppard Regular
Classes
Stephanie Hunt-Crowley - Sweeps

AHCA National Specialty, Houston
November 12 - 16
see page 2 for details

AHC of Memphis 12/1/01
Reginald Nesbitt - Regular
Classes

Nutmeg AHC 2/9/02
Richard Souza - Regular Classes
Emmett Roche - Sweeps

(Continued on Page 6)

TOPKNOT NEWS

The Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America

<http://clubs.akc.org/ahca>

Fall 2001

Sunday morning the Competition continues with the Afghan Hound Club of Greater Houston Specialty and those desirable cash prizes.

The Afghan Hound Club of America show begins Monday morning with the Obedience Competition. This has proven to be quite entertaining in the past as well as showing off some excellent -working dogs. The afternoon has the beginning of the Triathlon Competition in Conformation where all the dogs will be brought into the ring together and gaited. They will then be brought back into the ring and judged individually as to how closely each represents the standard as interpreted by the Judge, Bill Pearce. Later in the afternoon the Sweepstakes will also be judged by Bill Pearce and another Cocktail Party will begin for all those in attendance. We want this to be a fun event for everyone. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar and some very special items to be raffled and auctioned during this event. You'll need to be there to win.

Tuesday morning the ASFA Lure Trial begins with the AKC Lure Trial following and the ever interesting Jr. Courser Tests. This gives all Afghan Hounds over 1 year old the opportunity to get the Jr. Courser title if they pass the tests. And Tuesday night back at the hotel, a cash bar, buffet dinner and educational seminar will begin at 6 PM. This year the topic is of much interest to anyone who ever thinks of breeding or shipping a dog. Dr. Kit Kampschmidt will

Houston is a cosmopolitan city offering great restaurants for a variety of tastes and excellent shopping. There are wonderful theatrical companies including opera, ballet, comedy, theatre and numerous museums specializing in several aspects of art, space, natural science, etc. Houston is located near the Gulf of Mexico so the sports fishing is good as is the seafood. And of special interest, the Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel will deliver you in their van within a 5 mile radius of the hotel and pick you up for your return. This area includes the famous Galleria Mall and too many restaurants to name. There will be visitor's guide books available at the hotel also.

The Southern Hospitality begins Friday night, November 9th, with a Welcoming Cocktail Party and an introduction to this year's vendors. We have over 17 booths that offer a variety of Afghan Art and Collectibles. You will want to get there early for the best choices.

Saturday morning the Competition begins with the Afghan Hound Club of Dallas Specialty. This year they have Regular Judging preceding Sweepstakes so those puppies will not get too tired.

talk on frozen and fresh chilled semen as a means to breeding. The cost for the dinner & the seminar is \$15 and needs to be paid by Nov. 1. Reservations go to Claire Yates, PO Box 1648, Baytown, TX 77522-1648. E-Mail info: showfurr@yahoo.com

Wednesday morning the Afghan Hound Review is co-hosting a continental breakfast with the AHCA for those attending the AHCA members only general membership meeting. Then the Dog Judging commences in the afternoon. Judge Sandy Weinraub will preside over the ring for Regular Classes and the Field Trial Dog Class. This year a Canine Good Citizen Test is also being offered following the dog competition. And the exciting Puppy Fever Disco will open in the evening to entertain and create a little havoc. There will be special items here too for which one must be present to win.

Thursday morning the competition moves to the agility field about 10 minutes from the hotel. This will be only the second agility trial ever offered so it is still new. At the hotel Harry Bennett will be leading the Judge's Educational Seminar which has a limited capacity and is open to new judges or prospective afghan judges. Reservations must be made with Harry by Nov. 1. E-Mail: harryonly@aol.com or call 904-720-0691. In the afternoon competition continues back at the hotel where Judge Betsy Hufnagel will preside over the ring for Regular Bitches and the Field Trial Bitch Class. The first ever Liberty Class follows which is a free event. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite music on cassette and frolic in the ring for two minutes with their dog doing anything they want to do. We hope all will stay to watch and enjoy the fun as we share those special dances, tricks and times with our hounds.

Friday morning brings the last day of competition and perhaps the most exciting. First are the Parades of Veterans and Rescue though. These fine hounds usually bring us to tears. Next Judge Sandy Weinraub will choose the Best Jr. Handler. And then Judge Betsy Hufnagel will preside over the intersex competition. The time usually passes too quickly as the tension mounts. The Awards Dinner caps off the events at 6:30 PM with the cash bar followed by dinner at 7 PM and the finale. There are some more surprises in store here too. The dinner is \$28 if paid by Nov. 1st to Kathy O'Connor, 11935 Bourgeois Forest, Houston, TX 77066. E-Mail info: kjoconnor10@hotmail.com for dinner selections.

And for those with more energy, the Ft. Bend KC all breed shows offer conformation, obedience and agility on the 17th & 18th and the Afghan Hound Club of Greater Houston offers two AKC lure trials in the afternoons of this weekend.

PUPPIES AT PORTSIDE Afghan Hound Breeders' Cup Friday March 8, 2002

Holiday Inn Olde Town Portsmouth, Virginia
757-393-2573 Special AHC Room Rate \$66.00

What a great weekend we have planned for Afghan Hound aficionados !!
Friday: Breeder's Cup Judging
Friday Evening: Dr. Robert Scott Dove-Specialist in Canine Reproduction
Seminar \$15.00 per person includes supper.
Topics will include:
Transcervical inseminations,
Recovering Sperm directly from testes,
Sorting sperm for Sex Determination,
Transplantation of Canine Embryos,
Reversible Desexing of Male Dogs,
Neonatal diseases, Vaccination Protocols
and MORE !!

Breeder's Cup Chairman: Christine Pinkston
757-426-2018 Criston@aol.com
Breeder's Cup Secretary: Wynne Kalish
Breeder's Cup Logo Artist: Carla Helm
Breeder's Cup Trophy Chairman: Linda Shipley
Breeder's Cup Trophy Artist: Cynthia Byington

SPECIAL BREEDER'S CUP RAFFLE: EAST COAST CRATE (COLLAPSIBLE SHOW CRATE)

Saturday March 9, Tidewater AHC Same location
Judges - Jay Ammon- Carole Shirk
Saturday Night- INFAMOUS Specialty Dinner
Sunday March 10, Richmond AHC- same location
Judges - Espen Engh-Age Gjetner

DO YOU USE THE AIRLINES ? LEGISLATION UPDATE - LETTERS NEEDED

AKC's Canine Legislation department is asking national breed clubs to help with an important new campaign. AKC is urging the airlines to allow travel with dogs, and we need your help.

Several airlines have new, strict policies on air travel for dogs. People traveling with their dogs—for pleasure, when relocating, for competition, and for many other reasons—have been greatly impacted.

First, several airlines no longer ship dogs as excess baggage. Passengers on these airlines have no choice but to ship their dogs as cargo—a more expensive, inconvenient option that does not guarantee a dog will travel on the same plane as its owner. Travelers who choose to fly United Airlines face a second problem—the carrier will only accept dogs shipped as cargo from “known shippers,” i.e. commercial shippers or licensed pet breeders. The AKC supports temperature regulations and other guidelines to ensure the safety of dogs, but we cannot accept these carriers' added restrictions.

AKC wants to remind the airlines that they have a responsibility to provide passengers with a safe and affordable means of traveling with their dogs. It will take a concerted effort to get the airlines' attention, so we must generate thousands of letters! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

What to Write: (Choose the situation that fits you best)

Dear _____:

I wish to travel by plane with my dog. I am writing to protest _____ Airline's policy of refusing to carry pets as excess baggage. My concern is that _____

Airlines does not provide a way for passengers to travel with their dogs on the same flight.

(Option 1) I show purebred dogs. I travel with my dogs to events that I could not otherwise attend if I did not travel by air with my dogs.

There are hundreds of thousands of other individuals like me. Last year, there were over 2 million entries at American Kennel Club sanctioned events. Many participants travel by air to these events, especially to large national events.

-or- (Option 2) I am [relocating] [vacationing] and must travel with my dog. It is important that my dog be able to accompany me.

I support safe air travel for dogs, and I do not expect you to transport dogs when temperatures are outside federal limits or under other conditions that may compromise the dogs' well being. However, to simply stop carrying dogs as excess baggage because it is not cost-effective or convenient for your airline is not acceptable.

In this era of airline travel, the public depends on being able to travel with their dogs for pleasure, when relocating, to participate in dog events, and for a myriad of other reasons. I believe that airlines have a responsibility to accommodate the public by developing and putting in place reasonable procedures that allow persons to travel with and ship dogs at reasonable costs.

When airlines are being criticized for lack of commitment to customer service, here is an opportunity to improve your services. I strongly urge you to allow dogs to travel as excess baggage. I would appreciate a response.

Who to Contact*:

Mr. James Goodwin, Chairman and CEO
United Airlines
1200 East Algonquin Road
Elk Grove Township, IL 60007

Mr. Bob Baker, CEO
Trans World Airlines
One City Center
515 North Sixth Street
St. Louis, MO 63101

Mr. Leo Mullin, Chairman, President & CEO
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport
PO Box 20706
Atlanta, GA 30320

Mr. Gordon Bethune, Chairman and CEO
Continental Airlines
1600 Smith Street, Dept. HQSEO
Houston, TX 77002

*Send a copy of your letters to
AKC's Canine Legislation department,
5580 Centerview Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606.
We will bring these letters to
concerned Members of Congress!

Thank you for your help with this important issue.

Joann Alft Legislative Chairman

NEW MENTOR PROGRAM - GIVING BACK

“Giving Back”- mentor program will be comprised of volunteer members no longer actively breeding, but who have a wealth of knowledge to give back.

The idea is to be available to new owners for help and advice. Your help will be especially needed for rescue dogs, dogs acquired from disreputable breeders or dogs living too far away for a reputable breeder to give “hands on” advice.

Your name, phone # and e-mail address will be listed on the official web site. Your duties will simply be:

1. Help find a puppy or dog in your area from a reputable breeder or rescue
2. Advise on care, feeding, grooming, housing etc. and hands on advice if needed
3. Show and club information
4. Just being a friend to a “Newbie”, like when you were breeding and helping your own new puppy owners stay on the right path.

In order for this program to work, we need volunteers from all areas of the country. Bobbi Keller

President's Message

The Board of Directors of the Afghan Hound Club of America met on September 25, 2001 and unanimously committed to holding the Afghan Hound National Specialty on November 12-16 in Houston Texas as planned. The Board was helped in its decision by the many emails and phone calls that we received giving various thoughtful perspectives on the issues involved in this decision. Thanks so much to those of you who gave input into our decision-making! We took into account the following concerns in our discussion:

- 1) **SHOW SAFETY:** The show hotel is not a high-rise, and is not in close proximity to Houston's downtown area, the refineries or the ship channel. It is in a somewhat secluded area in an office park situation, on a service road by the freeway. The building is set off the road and is secluded by vegetation. This is not a transient area. We will work with local law enforcement to assure their heightened oversight of the show site and surrounding area.
- 2) **TRAVEL SAFETY:** We refer to President Bush's statement that airport safety would be federalized, a considerable improvement to the "lowest-bid" security personnel that we're familiar with. There are reports that high-visibility hubs might use National Guard personnel in the interim. If exhibitors were uncomfortable with flying, the Board felt that there was sufficient time for driving arrangements to be made. Travel complications may be the most significant area of hardship for exhibitors this year, and we urge you to seek joint driving plans with fellow exhibitors, sharing van space to ease the driving burden.
- 3) **FLYING DOGS:** This is a situation in flux, but there is anecdotal evidence that the immediate situation may be more difficult than before the tragedy, but regulations are changing by the day. The AKC website carries up-to-date information on individual airlines for your planning.
- 4) **FINANCIAL** – The cancellation date for the Hotel has already passed, and the estimated cancellation fees would be as large or larger than the current AHCA accounts. A "What-If" look at our commitments indicated that a worst-case estimate of a 10-15% drop in entries could be tolerated financially.
- 5) **REGIONAL CLUBS:** The expenditures already made by both the Houston and Dallas clubs would leave them financially vulnerable if the event were cancelled.
- 6) **EXHIBITOR IMPACT:** Several exhibitors have indicated that they have already purchased tickets, etc. and that they would incur significant cancellation fees. Several vendors have also indicated that they have incurred expenses in acquiring items for their booths that would be difficult to cover without the sales anticipated at the National Specialty.

We know that these are difficult times. We are all affected by the tragedy, and it is hard to resume our lives as we lived them before. By the time of the National, we trust that all of us will be ready to enjoy a roundup of Afghan Hound people from around the world.

Brenda Brody and her team have planned an exciting event for all of us, and missing it would be a great loss.

Duane Butherus, AHCA President

AKC Delegate Report

The Delegate's Meeting of 9-11-01 did not happen as I am sure you all know. However, the pre meetings were held on 9-10-01 (Monday) and I attended both the Delegate's Caucus and the Parent Club Committee.

The Caucus was well attended and good information was exchanged. Topics presented for discussion were as follows:

1. The AKC will be opening talks with "High Volume" kennels – otherwise known as "Commercial Breeders" and by some as "Puppy Mills". Some of these operations have boycotted the AKC registration system due to the mandated "Frequently-Used Sire" identification requirement by the AKC. Others have elected to use other registration systems which are out there. Since 1996 the AKC has suspended the registrations from some of these so-called kennels based on the "Care & Condition" found on inspection.
2. The proposal to use DNA which was collected by the AKC for identification purposes for health related information. The DNA ownership becomes an issue if DNA collected for one purpose (identification) is to be used for another purpose. More to follow on this, I am sure.
3. Concern expressed about the lack of new (and young) people involved in clubs. It was noted that many new participants are found at performance events but sorely lacking in conformation shows. One delegate who is both an AKC and UKC judge noted that at UKC events one finds many young people and "lots of kids". In his view this is due to the ban on professional handlers by the UKC. Thus the young folks exhibit on the same turf as other exhibitors and no one is a professional (Interesting – but I would like to see the numbers supporting his belief).

The Parent Club Committee had a very full agenda which consumed the balance of the day. We first met with representatives of the Canine Health Committee regarding their role in the much discussed Multiple Sire Regulations. The representatives stated that they —

1. were asked by the AKC Board for their opinion regarding the Multiple Sired Litters,
2. stated the get / produce are eligible for registration if the parents are positively identified,
3. do not "encourage" the use of multiple sires
4. do not believe this is a canine health issue, but rather a Parent Club Committee issue.

How's that for dumping the mess into our laps! We know it is a Parent Club Committee Concern but the AKC Board did not ask us for our opinion. They asked the Canine Health Committee who responded "It's OK with us!! Go figure—".

The Canine Health Committee representatives announced a new CHF program termed "Canine Health Information Center" (CHIC). This program will involve certification from CHF for dogs passing clearances/certifications from health conditions which are breed specific as identified by each individual Parent Club – e.g. OFA, CERF, etc. The program will be presented at the CHF Parent Club Conference which AHCA representatives plan to attend. A broad-based mailing will be done after the October Conference. The Committee passed a motion in support of this program.

The issue of awarding championship points to the reserve winners at National Specialties will not be addressed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. It will probably be taken by the Parent Club Committee directly to the Delegate Body for a vote. The data collected so far seems to support the concept and in no way will lead to "cheap champions" as some seem to fear. I will keep you posted and will vote as directed by the AHCA Board.

We were informed that the AKC wants out of the video tape business and this was not received well by the committee. "How dare they" was the overwhelming opinion! A letter will be sent back to the AKC Board clearly outlining our displeasure.

Tuesday 9/11/01 began as a bright, clear, beautiful day. We all know how that changed. Needless to say, there was not a delegate's meeting. It was not to be business as usual.

We had three presentations at the forum. No one listened. We were all totally distracted by the events of the day.

The President called the meeting to order and after modest discussion the orders of the day were postponed to the December meeting.

I was able to give David Merriam a package of information about the Continental Kennel Club. This is the group registering the parti-colored Afghan Hound. I also asked the Chair of the Parent Club Committee for agenda time to address this concern in that forum at the December meeting. I will continue to keep you informed about this.

Driving home on the interstate highway, we passed multiple rescue vehicles heading toward NYC at full speed. Unfortunately their services were not put to full use. There were few survivors to be rescued.

Connie Butherus - AKC Delegate

**LAKESHORE CELEBRATION
2002 National Specialty Week**

Saturday, Oct 5, 2002 AHC of Greater Milwaukee Specialty

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2002 AHC of Greater Chicago Specialty

Monday, Oct 7, 2002 AHCA Triathlon Conformation, Sweeps & Obedience Trial

Tuesday, Oct 8, 2002 AHCA Lure Trials, Educational Seminar & Dinner

Wednesday, Oct 9, 2002 AHCA Regular Dog Judging & General Membership Meeting

Thursday, Oct 10, 2002 AHCA AGility Trial & Regular Bitch Judging

Friday Oct 10, 2002 AHCA Jr Showmanship. Parade of Veterans & Rescue, Non-Regular Classes & Awards Dinner

All events take place at the hotel except the Lure Trials. The host hotel is the Illinois Beach Hotel & Convention Center, Zion, IL.

Room rate \$89, deposit required. Reservations 1-866-ilbeach or email: info@ilresorts.com

for information: Donna Broucek 815 744-8448
MsKashara@aol.com

Specialties (Cont'd)

AHA of Long Island 2/10/02
Bergit Ferguson - Regular Classes
Tony Saia - Sweeps

Afghan Hound Breeders' Cup 3/8/02
Judge to be elected

Tidewater AHC 3/8/02
Jay Ammon - Regular Classes
Carole Shirk - Sweepstakes

Richmond AHC 3/10/02
Esen Engh - Regular Classes
Age Gjetnas - Sweeps

Lehigh Valley AHA 10/6/02
Robert Godfrey - Regular Classes
Frank Vasquez - Sweeps

Please note: This list is taken from the website. If your specialty is not on the website, it must be sent to Topknot News to be listed.

IMPORTANT

Barb Bornstein, Corresponding Secretary, will accept any agenda items for the General and/or Board meetings from the membership by regular or email up to October 19, She also needs reports from committee Chairs by October 19.

***Barb Bornstein
6018 E Osborn Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-5476
barb@trims.com***

TOPKNOT NEWS
Sharon Watson, Editor
490 Fairmount WE
Jamestown, NY 14701
saalem@netsync.net

From the Editor's desk -

This is Issue number three for 2001. There will be one more after the National in 2001. This time I made the print larger (Yes, I did!)

If there are other suggestions please send them along. I would be happy to receive opinions, letters to the Editor, or any topics you may suggest. If you have an idea but don't want to write it yourself, I may be able to find you a "ghost".

Last issue I moved Selma Tenenbaum from her home in the Bronx to Brooklyn. I have finally figured out why. Heredity strikes again! When we lived on Long Island in the 40's and 50's, every time we got in the car to go anywhere my father drove us to Brooklyn. So I seem to think that's NYC. Sorry, Selma. I'll be more careful.
SRW

AHIA - AFGHAN HOUNDS IN AMERICA

First published in 1973, Susan Howell Hamlin Ninth Turn, Editor, this is the history of the AHCA. It includes articles, all titles earned, specialty results, pedigrees, and kennel profiles. Volume II Roger Tanner Xanadu, and Barbara Craddock Holbert Briarhill co-editors with assistance from Ed Gilbert, was published in 1983. A supplement to Volume I was published in 1978.. This is called "The Red Book" since the pages fit in a red binder..

A pedigree book was published, Lynne Schanzle Editor, in 1991. It had a different format. At present, a new volume like the Red Book is in progress. Selma Tenenbaum and Reggie Nesbitt have been working on planning and Sharon Watson is bringing the title and Watson is bringing the title and specialty statistics up to date.

This chart shows Obedience titles 1939 to 1989. There was an enormous surge in the eighties. The latest year (2000) Claudia Jakus reports 9 CD titles and 2 CDX titles. In 1989 there were 18. The downward trend has continued.

NEW MANUSCRIPT BY CONNI MILLER

AHCA members may be interested in a follow-up to the article EGYPTIANS BRED AFGHAN HOUNDS, STUDIES REVEAL by Milton Danziger, that appeared in the Summer 2001 issue of TN. The following is a direct quote from the soon to be released unfinished manuscript SHINING DOG - SHADOWY WOLF by Conni Miller:

Chapter 13, The Ancient Egyptian "Races" of Dogs - Part II

Misuse of canine-related discoveries in Egypt has never really abated. In the early 1930s, an un-earthed tomb from Pharonic days was found to contain a mummified baboon and a partially unwrapped canine mummy. The latter was promptly declared in print to be an "Afghan Hound" (Davies, Theodore TOM OF SIPHTAH, pl 17, London, 1908)

The amusing basis for this peculiar notion turned out to be a mistranslation in which the correctly named 'dog-faced-baboon' (Cynocephalus) was accidentally transposed and hastily relayed to the public as a 'baboon-faced-DOG'. This notion took firm hold during an Anglo-American era in which the Afghan Hound was dubbed the 'monkey dog', due to its long muzzle and to its bizarre coat pattern. Although this silly claim has since been debunked, persistent assertions that the Afghan Hound 'originated in Egypt' continue to appear in print."

"Shining Dog - Shadowy Wolf" is Conni's final book and is unfinished. It covers the periods from domestication of dogs up to 1700. "Shining Dog - Shadowy Wolf is being made available on CD and will be released (we hope) in time for the National in Houston. All proceeds from the sale of this book, at the request of Gordon Miller, will be sent directly to the Morris Animal Foundation in Conni Miller's name. The AHCA is very proud to make this book available to the dog fancy at large.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Afghan Hounds in America Vol II 1983
Supplement 1982 Price \$25 + \$6 postage
Supplement I 1978 Price \$15 + \$6 postage
(limited quantities)
Binder, Vol II & Supplement Price \$35 + \$6 postage

from Reggie Nesbitt Selma Tenenbaum
18444 Provost or 1930 Anthony Ave Apt D
Detroit MI 48235 Bronx, NY 10457

OBEDIENCE / AGILITY REPORT

The final scores for the top obedience and agility competitors have been tabulated and they are as follows:

OBEDIENCE:*

WHAT A TWIST OF FATE, CD, NA, NAJ, JC
Owned by Kathy Pugh

AGILITY:*

MACH KARIN'S MIDNIGHT FURY, JC
Owned by Karin Shapiro

These two top competing dogs happen to be littermates from a very highly motivated litter, which were rescue dogs. Unfortunately, we shall never know the lineage that produced them with their high degree of drive and willingness to achieve and please.

A huge congratulation, to owner's Kathy Pugh and Karin Shaperio, for their desire, understanding, and patience in training their Afghans.

Fury is the very first Afghan in the country to obtain the designation of MACH in agility in the year 2001. This title is equal to a CH, OTCH (obedience title CH) or F.CH (field champion).

Karin and Kathy both are wonderful trainers and deserve a lot of credit for what they have accomplished with their Afghan hounds.

For the year 2000 there were 9 dogs that received their CD'S and 2 that received their CDX.

In agility 6 received their Novice, 3 Open, 2 excellent A, and 3 Excellent B titles. And for jumpers there were 7 that received their Novice, 2 Excellent A and 1 Excellent B titles.

Hats off to all of the owners and trainers that have obtained their titles in 2000. A job well done and one they should be extremely proud of themselves..

Claudia Jakus Obedience/Agility Chairman
*Shelley Hennessy method