

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES

Send completed packets to
Harry Bennett
1404 Arlingwood Ave
Jacksonville, FL32211-6385

Send club information to
Neva Johnson
MEAN_NJ@cuisp.com

AHC of SW Ohio May 25, 2002
Betty Stites - Regular Classes
Rebecca Morissette - Sweeps

Western Michigan AA May 26, 2002
Bonita Visser - Regular Classes
Tony Saia - Sweeps

Evergreen AHC June 7, 2002
Patricia Cruz - Regular Classes
Julie Roche - Sweeps

Greater Pittsburgh AHC June 21, 2002
Rafael De Santiago - Regular Classes
Dean D'Aquila - Sweeps
Roberto Veloz-Pico - Junior Showmanship

AHC of California June 27, 2002
Reginald Nesbitt - Regular Classes
Leslie Stoffels - Sweeps

Finger Lakes AHC July 5, 2002
Birgit Ferguson - Regular Classes
Lex Robertson - Sweeps
Obedience - To be assigned

AHC of Greater Portland July 12, 2002
Lou Guerrero Regular Classes & Juniors
Pat Kunich - Sweeps
Dan Butcher - Obedience

Monterey Bay AHC July 26, 2002
Dr. Edna Martin - Regular Classes
Chuck Alarcon - Sweeps

Mid West AHC August 10, 2002
Shelley Hennessy - Regular Classes
Lucia Brown - Sweeps

AHC of Greater Denver August 16, 2002
Dr. Edna Martin - Regular Classes
Holly Jorgensen - Sweeps

Greater Twin Cities AHC August 23, 2002
Lee Gindlesperger - Regular Classes
Roger Elfgren - Sweeps
Susan Peterson - Junior Showmanship

Continued on Page 4 toip left.....

TOPKNOT NEWS

Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America
<http://clubs/akc.org/ahca> Spring 2002

Breeder's Cup- Puppies At Portside

Thank you for the opportunity to Chair the 2002 Breeder's Cup which was held at the Holiday Inn Olde Towne Portsmouth, Virginia on March 8. The "Puppies at Portside" theme was so appropriate since this lovely hotel is on the waterfront on the harbor and facing downtown Norfolk's waterfront and skyline. Old-time lamplights and park benches line the grassy area along the water where old and new friends and their beautiful Afghan Hounds would go for their 'stroll.'

The day started early with complimentary coffee, juice and cookies. The ring, in the hotel ballroom, was large and featured the 'maritime' ring stantions of the Tidewater AHC whose members helped with the set up. Judge, Cindy Chandler, did a lovely job with her ring and the exhibits. Complimentary "Puppies At Portside" cake was served in the ballroom prior to Best in Breeder's Cup judging. The East Coast Crate Raffle winning ticket was drawn by Cindy. The winner was Denise Schwebke who was present !

A big 'Thank You' to the following persons without whose help this wonderful day would not have been possible: Wynne Kalish whose efforts as secretary 'make' this event happen, Sharon Watson, ever in the background, for direction and verification, Linda Guarino, my assistant chairperson, whose constant phrase was "Give me something more to do..." (foolish woman), Artists, Cynthia Byington for her Lovely, Lovely trophies (a few of which were leftover and will appear on the next BC auction table, Carla Helm- thank you for the Wonderful BC Logo. It was darling, I heard that all weekend and continue to hear it... Thanks to Linda Shipley, a true friend, to take on yet another Trophy Chairman job. Due to her efforts and the generosity of so many we had an absolutley fabulous Trophy Table. To Chuck Milne, thank you so much for the flowers. Everything was brought fresh and beautiful from Atlanta, exotics, tall, gorgeous. Thanks to event photographer, Christine Anderson. Thanks to great club members, Jerry Hastings, Grounds and Alice Hastings, who manned the sale table and catalog sales and answered my constantly repeated question: "Now where did I put my purse?" Jerry and Alice were there for me all day long. Thank you to Claudia Mills for a terrific job on the auction table and for her capable full day of Public Address service. To all of the artists who contributed items to the auction: 'THANKS.' Ring Stewards, Eleanor McCoy and Linda Guarino, did a very good job of keeping things running smoothly. I'm grateful to all of the folks, too numerous to mention, who offered their help on the day. And to Harry Bennett and Janet Lenobel, thanks. Their help in the background kept me going in the right direction.

Please note that there are some Breeder's Cup Golf Shirts (\$20) and Baseball Caps (\$10) and Catalogs (\$5) still available. Please contact me if you are interested in anything.

And, thanks to YOU, for letting me have such a good time !!

Christine Pinkston

BREEDERS' CUP

- MARCH 8, 2002

from Cindy Chaandler, Judge

I very much enjoyed judging the AHCA Breeders' Cup in Portsmouth, VA this past March. Many thanks to Wynne Kalish (whose patience with my procrastination on paperwork, was very much appreciated), and to Chris Pinkston for all her help with accommodations, etc. Most especially, thank you to the fancy for choosing me as the judge and for entering and showing your beautiful puppies.

The depth of quality of the entry was very exciting to me. In my traveling around the country for shows, I have noticed a decline in, not only the quantity of the Afghan Hound entry, but also as to the quality of the dogs being shown. I have been very worried about our breed and its future. After judging the Breeders' Cup, I feel far more confident about where the Afghan Hound will be in the 21st century. My "baby" puppy classes (6 to 9 and 9 to 12) were full of promising youngsters. The older classes, while not as deep in quality, were still represented by some outstanding teenagers.

6 to 9 Puppy Dog

1st - Pentagon of Hulacaos - a highly marked black and silver with a beautiful head and ring tail. Very well made, with balanced, effortless movement. He took my eye the minute he came in.

2nd - Bianne's Kiss of the Dragon - a black/masked silver that is all legs right now. Many of the same qualities as the class winner, but just not quite as together right now.

3rd - Elite Valentino - Striking black and silver - my "type" - would like a slightly more refined head and a little more return of

upper-arm.

4th - To Be Or Not To Be of Hulacaos - a black and brindle litter brother to the class winner - a little rangier and I did not appreciate the trim job - puppies should have monkey whiskers, etc. I did not penalize him for the owner's error, but wish people would let puppies be puppies.

9-12 Puppy Dog

1st - Triplicity Encore Billy The Kid - This self-masked cream had it all - beautiful head and eye, lovely body, sound and a good mover. I wish he would have kept his tail in a tighter ring moving, but it never touched his back and was beautiful on the stack.

2nd - Majestic Sharja Solidarity - A stunning Black/masked red that took my breath away when he came into the ring. Beautiful side gait - great balance and timing. Unfortunately, he let down and got a little tired during the judging of this class of 19. I would prefer a more refined head.

3rd - Watling Street Starstruck - Another powerful moving black/masked red. Great body - rock hard muscles and beautiful condition. Another one I wish had a better head and eye.

4th - Watling Street Stargazer - Shaded masked red brother to above. Beautiful head and probably the best body I had my hands on in this class, but wish he had more side gait.

(The 9-12 puppy dog class was full of BEAUTIFUL young males.

Many dogs who did not get a ribbon or, perhaps even make my final cut, were quality animals.

But, on the day, judging on the qualities I was looking for, I excused many dogs that I know will be great winners on another day under a different judge.)

12-15 Dog

1st - Cavu's Silver Eagle - a very well made white dog with lots of hair, great side gait and a few too many pounds.

2nd - Calais When Worlds Collide - a beautiful black and brindle with a gorgeous head and eye, beautiful tail and lovely breed type. Would have liked a better shoulder.

3rd - Tahkira Lucky Hi Five - Heavily sabled black/masked red with good side gait.

4th - Ziv Hii's Stargazer - beautiful black with a lovely head and eye. Wish he had more return of upper arm.

12-18 Dog

1st - Splendor-Baja Intimidator - Brindle Domino with probably the best body I put my hands on all day and fabulous movement. His timing was perfect - never put a foot wrong.

2nd - Ch Summerwind Its All About Me! - Gorgeous powder blue in beautiful condition. Beautiful head and eye, perfect tail, and nearly as good to go over as the class winner. He chose this day to be "silly puppy" on the move.

3rd - Silhouette's Beluga On Ice - Lovely black who needs to fill out some and come more together moving.

4th - Rustic Sankhya Black Diamond - Big moving black and brindle who also needs more time to mature.

6-9 Month Puppy Bitch

1st - Beaujon Fellowship of Rings - Gorgeous lightly coated brindle bitch with a beautiful head, neck, topline and easy, fluid movement. She walked in "the winner" and

never let down.

2nd - Elite Esmerelda - Beautiful black and silver (like her brother - "my type"). Very flashy and I loved her, but she had a one track mind - fast, faster and fastest on the move and did not make the most of herself.

3rd - Thai-Mistic Whispering Willow - Leggy black masked red bitch with big side gait. Needs to come together a little, but very promising.

4th - Arcana's Jezebel of Sarasvity - Beautiful black and silver puppy with the FABULOUS body. Would like a prettier head and tail, but she was very set under, sound coming and going and easy moving from the side.

9-12 Month Puppy Bitch

1st - Beachbrook's Black Diamonds - Stunning black bitch with the most incredible head, tail, neck, topline, and VERY GOOD to go over. Sound coming and going, light on her feet and balanced from the side.

2nd - Llacue's Aloof Indira - Gorgeous dark red bitch who pushed very hard to win this class. Also has a fabulous head and eye, beautiful to go over, good mover, and very exciting to watch. The decision for first and second in this class was very difficult.

3rd - Watling Street Wish Upon A Star - Lovely red bitch who just needs a little time to come together.

4th - Watling Street Darkstar - Black and Tan sister to the 3rd place bitch. Very good to go over and a good mover - a little big and plain right now.

12-15 Month Bitch

1st - Boanne-Burrllom Zita in Lace - Very well made brindle bitch with the most incredible neck. Pretty head and eye, a good mover and lovely to go over.

2nd - Topflite's Aussie's Pearl - Oyster brindle with pretty balanced movement, good topline.

3rd - Calais Whisper Winds Me Too - "Classic" black/masked red with pretty head and outline. Would like more return of upper arm and a little more open from the side.

4th - Cyan Artistic Craze - Gorgeous black masked red - chose this day to not enjoy her dog show experience. Could have placed much higher if she had been a little happier.

15-18 - Month Bitch

1st - Kasban Seventh Heaven - Stunning white bitch with beautiful black pigment, very good to go over, fabulous mover - a standout in this class.

2nd - Kasban Legal Eagle - Cream sister to the 1st place. Also a lovely bitch - didn't like her neck set as well and she did not use herself as much on the move.

3rd - Splendor Baja Divine Miss M - Black and brindle - very well made and a good mover - would like a little more "glamorous" detailing.

4th - Kzar's Acadia Kiara Blue - Pretty powder blue girl with a lovely head and eye.

18-21 Bitch

1st - Llacue's Astorias Chaman Megan - A beautiful brindle bitch, who unfortunately did not put forth her best effort this day. It didn't help being the only one in her class and having to turn right around

and go in for Best. She is lovely to go over and a good mover - just didn't "ask" for the win in Best.

Best in AHBC and Best of Opposite

When all my class winners came in to compete for Best, I was very happy with my choices. I hoped all could see what I was judging on.

The "type" of the winners was varied, but all had good conformation, balance and soundness on the move and pretty breed detailing.

One of my pet peeves has been and still is short straight upper arms and I found far too many of those in my entry. The standard calls for "front legs well set under the body."

And, while I have never been a head-hunter, I also found too many heads with wide back skulls. On the positive side I only saw one questionable bite and only 3 "iffy" temperaments. Definitely a good sign in an entry of this size.

While all my class winners were outstanding for different reasons, I narrowed my final choices down to the 9-12 bitch and the 15-18 bitch for Best and the 15-18 dog and 6-9 dog for Best of Opposite. The choices were very difficult as I felt these 4 dogs were equally wonderful. Between the two boys, the 15-18 winner was in such fabulous condition, and had such a good body and perfect timing on the move that he ended up as the Best of Opposite. Based on her femininity, near flawless structure and sheer beauty the 9-12 Bitch, Beachbrook Black Diamonds earned Best in yhe Breeders' Cup.

Thank you to everyone for showing your wonderful youngsters - I wish everyone luck with all the stars of the future!

Cindy Chandler

Cindy Chandler
Dogs in Review

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES continued

Tara AHC September 11, 2002
Betsy Hufnagel - Regular Classes
Linda Pitts - Sweeps
Jean Austin, Jr - Junior Showmanship

AHC Greater Milwaukee October 5, 2002
Tom Kirstein - Breed
Sharon Pearce - Sweeps

AHC of Greater Chicago October 6, 2002
Dan & Lesley James - Regular Classes
Barbara Wayne - Sweeps

AHCA National October 7-11, 2002
See information in this issue

Lehigh Valley AHC October 6, 2002
Robert Godfrey - Regular Classes
Frank Vasquez - Sweeps

Northern California AHC October 19, 2002
Marguerite Stanski - Regular Classes
Jennifer Erickson - Sweeps

AHC Greater Houston November 8, 2002
Donna Broucek - Regular Classes
Lynn Nelson - Sweeps

AHC Greater Phoenix November 14, 2002
Lorraine Gyenge - Regular Classes
Robert Brown - Sweeps

AHC of Memphis November 30, 2002
Nancy Self - Regular Classes
Sweepstobe announced

From: Harryonly@aol.com
Date: Fri May 03, 2002 10:39:59 AM
US/Eastern
To: salem@netsync.net
Subject: TN

AND AGAIN:

All Specialty Club annual
information packets are sent
to:

Regional Clubs
Advisory Chair
Harry Bennett
1404 Arlingwood Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32211

*We are pleased to announce
Sand N See Afghan Hound
Club is now sanctioned to hold
plan "B" matches.*

NATIONAL 2002

The 2002 National Specialty is shaping up to be one of the largest National Specialties in the US since the 1995 World Congress was held in San Diego! Pack your most comfy sweatshirts, bring along those Afghan Hounds and join us "**Celebrate by the Lake**"... **ChicagoStyle!**

October 5th – AHCGM Specialty Show

October 6th – AHCGC Specialty Show & Great Chicago Bonfire

October 7th – AHCA Sweepstakes, Triathlon Conformation Judging & Obedience Trial

October 8th – ASFA & AKC Lure Coursing Trials & Breeder's Symposium Dinner

October 9th - AHCA Regular Dog Judging & General Membership Meeting

October 10th - AHCA Agility Trial & Regular Bitch Judging

October 11th – AHCA Parades Of Veterans & Rescue, Jr. Showmanship, Intersex & Non-regular Judging & Awards Banquet

All 92 rooms are booked at the Host Hotel for the period of October 5 – 12, 2002. 30 people are on a waiting list. But we have plenty of rooms. Exhibitors with dogs are being referred to the following alternate hotels:

The Sandpiper Inn 301 Sheridan Road (847) 746-7380 measured 6 miles from the hotel. \$52 single. 28 rooms total. Nice and quaint....

The American Inn Motel 39018 Sheridan Rd. Beach Park (847) 746-2095. It's right at the entrance for the state park. Corner of Wadsworth & Sheridan, behind the McDonald's. Standard two-story motel, outside entrances to rooms. At least 40 rooms; including 15 kitchenettes. Quoted \$55 per night \$10 extra for dog. 1.8 miles from resort, that's the length of the park drive. This hotel is economy quality. Reservations will be accepted June 1, 2002.

Spectators or Exhibitors without dogs are being referred to The Days Inn, 3633 N. Lewis Ave., Waukegan, IL 60087.

RVParking: Will be available at \$10 per day in hotel parking lot \$11 per day in Campground. Reservations only for hotel lot to Donna Broucek by 9/1/02.

Catalog Ads: Don't miss the opportunity to advertise in color! This year color ads designed by Laurie Goodell will be offered. Color Ad prices: \$50.00 or 2/pages \$95.00. AHCA Members: \$45.00. Regional Clubs: \$30.00. Commercial Ads: \$75.00. Color Commercial Ads: \$100.00. Business cards: \$15.00

Artist Booth Space: Outdoor artist booth space is still available. Contact: Cindy Chandler [-Majicaf@aol.com](mailto:Majicaf@aol.com).

Trophy Fund: Help make the trophy table a spectacular one! Please contact Deb Coudriet or Carol Penta.

Liberty Classes will again be offered this year and with Halloween just around the corner, ideas should abound! Start practicing those routines now. Contact: Garry Newton for further info.

AHCA Rescue started the year with 22 Af's in foster care from the previous year. We have since then taken in 30 and placed 24. Sadly, two Af's that came into our rescue program had to be euthanized. We still can't overcome old age and cancer. We save all we can, but recognize that we can't save them all.

California again had the highest number of rescues for the quarter, but they are doing a wonderful job of placing them almost as fast as they come in. Special kudos go to the Southern California Club Rescue Committee for a consistently outstanding program.

Of note for the quarter, the Board of Directors and Officers of the AHCA approved a new set of rescue guidelines for the rescue committee; the first in many years. It has been sent to the field by email and will be published as part of the AHCA policies and procedures. Adoption questionnaires, contracts and releases forms for those who must give up an Afghan Hound have been placed on the rescue website at www.afghanhound.net

At the general meeting in Houston, I made the remark that I considered the rescue committee to be a committee of the whole (fancy). I was wrong. My estimate was too small. So many people who are not part of the rescue committee, the AHCA, or even the fancy have quietly come forward to help save Afghan Hounds in distress or donate funds to that end, that I cannot count them all. I have tried to personally thank each one that I could identify, although some have remained persistently anonymous. Nevertheless, to each and every one of you who have donated to or actively worked on our rescue efforts and who read this report, THANK YOU!

Doug Vinson
First, The Hounds!

IN MEMORIUM - DORIS WHEELER

Doris and Gordon Wheeler came to Atlanta from Dayton, Ohio in the 1950's and immediately became involved in the Afghan Hound scene. They joined the Tara Afghan Hound Club and both volunteered for duty – holding every club office over the years.

Gordon and Doris traveled extensively and Doris became an all breed judge in Mexico. The Wheelers owned and showed Greyhounds, Salukis Borzoi, Whippets, Standard Poodles and Great Danes in addition to their Kandulla Afghan Hounds.

Doris was a painter and sculptor and was active in the Atlanta Arts Festival. After Gordon's death she became very involved with the Atlanta Zoological Society and was a docent for many years. She went on several safaris with the Atlanta Zoological Society and continued her love of travel and animal husbandry until her death on February 12, 2002.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Breeders Cup: Sharon Watson Sec'y
Wynne Kalish, Sec'y
2003 Breeders Cup: Karen Hanka, Ch

Budget & Finance: Gill Ullom

Topknot News: Sharon Watson
Co-Editors Wynne Kalish,
Canine Health: Midge Martin
Eileen Laudermilch
Complaints: Betsy Hufnagel

AKC Delegate: Connie Butherus

Judges Education Harry Bennett
Materials: Helen Stein
Breeders Ed: Sandra Frei &
Janis Reital
Public Ed: Christine Pinkston

AKC Gazette: Georgiana Guthrie

IT Coordinator: Jim Coudriet

JS: Reggie Nesbitt

Legislative Affairs: Jo Ann Alft

Librarian: Karen Armistead

Lure Coursing: Ruth Reynolds

Membership: Ed Gilbert

2002 National: Donna Broucek

Obedience: Claudia Jakus

Agility: Claudia Jakus

Inventory: Jerry Bazar

Parliamentarian: Helen Stein

Awards: Donna Amos

P & P: Barb Bornstein &
Harry Bennett

Publications: Selma Tenenbaum

AHCA Website: Chris Kaiser

Regional Clubs: Harry Bennett

Regional Club Web Neva Johnson

Rescue: Doug Vinson

AKC Delegate's Report
March 2002 Meeting

Connie Butherus,

AHCA Delegate the the AKC

The Quarterly Delegates meeting was held 3/12/02 in New York. This was the Annual Meeting and thus the election for Board of Directors positions. There were nine (9) delegates in contention for the three (3) open positions. The term of office is four (4) years.

I attended the pre-meetings on 3/11/02, which included both the Delegate's caucus and the Parent Club committee.

The Caucus consisted of a question and answer format for the nine individuals running for the Board. The questions were relevant as were some of the answers given. Significant questions posed were:

1) Should experience in dogs be required to be an AKC staff person at every level? (Responses were all "NO")

2) Requiring a "full financial disclosure" for AKC as well as related entities, e.g., CHF, CAR and Museum

(Responders pointed out that this information is available and in the case of 501C3 organizations such as CHF, is legally required)

3) Should DNA samples be required for litter registrations?

(Response – Good Idea – five said yes, however AKC is primarily a "pet registry" 80%+ of registrations fit into this category, and the public would probably not support the additional cost of this requirement and would go elsewhere to register their pets).

4) Should the AKC acknowledge

the "commercial breeders" AKA "Large Volume Breeders" and in plain talk – puppy mills?

(Response – it is a fact of life. Better to try to work with them than force them to go to another registry over which we have no control. Pure bred dogs equals AKC in the public perception, thus we have a need to work with the "High Volume Breeders").

The candidates went on to respond to individual questions. The hot issues raised were concerns voiced in pervious gatherings of the Delegates. Of particular interest were the following:

1) Improve the image of the AKC – this is a PR issue.

2) Improved Board and AKC Staff relationships

3) Role of the AKC Field Representatives (One response – their role is to address judging procedure and not to influence placements!)

4) Cost of judge's approval system (\$1.5 million per year!) and the newly established \$25 application fee per additional breed. Not a popular change!

5) The control of the opening and closing of the Stud Book (also a Parent Club Committee agenda item)

6) Limiting the number of member clubs is a potential concern but in actual practice-while the number of member clubs is increasing-the number of delegates attending the Quarterly Meetings is decreasing.

7) The concern that for profit "proprietary clubs" continue as member clubs. These remaining clubs (and thus their delegates) were grandfathered in whereas

new applicant clubs are required to change their bylaws before they can become member clubs.

8) Issues of the cost to delegates to attend quarterly meetings and possible reimbursement to the member club for each meeting the delegate attends was discussed as was changing the quarterly meetings to weekends (to take advantage of better air and hotel rates) rather than the existing Monday/Tuesday schedule

9) Member clubs having preference over licensed clubs in territory, dates, sites, etc. Membership has its privileges!

The Parent Club committee occupied the balance of the day. As it often is this was a standing room only setting. As this committee is usually very well attended, it would seem prudent to provide enough chairs to enable the delegates to have a modest degree of comfort.

Our first item of business was the newly proposed registration procedure. AKC staff was present, reviewed the proposal, responded to questions and seemed supportive of this major change. Changes include a SINGLE signatory for each dog. Single means ONE, not two as in husband/spouse/partner/co-owners – one and only one! There is to be an "arbitration" process and it sounds as though all to be registered canines who are to be used for breeding must have a written contract between and among the owners! We were told approximately 800 copies the proposal had been distributed for questions and comments (however surely the delegates were not part of this distribution as I obtained a copy from one of the committee members). It became clear that revisions will be made to the proposal before it makes its way to the delegate body for a

vote. To be enacted, it would require a 2/3 affirmative vote.

Additional agenda items were:

1) Jim Crowley, AKC Executive Secretary, addressed the group on recognition of Parent Clubs by the AKC. He reviewed the history of the process, the FSS, use of the miscellaneous class and development of the breed standards as the role of the recognized Parent Clubs.

2) The committee again went on record as opposed to the proposed demise of the breed video project. A letter will again be sent to the AKC Board on this matter.

3) The CHF/CHIC program was reported to be gaining with the parent clubs. To date, 15 clubs are participating. All parent clubs have been sent a mailing from the CHF seeking their participation.

4) An update on the Reserve Winners at National Specialties was the next proposal. It seems a majority of parent clubs are in favor of this concept. Two clubs have indicated their willingness to coordinate the project.

5) The Parent Club conference will be a reality on October 25-27, 2002 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Each parent club will be allowed two representatives. This conference has evolved in content as its original intent was to focus on rescue efforts. Rescue will be a part of the upcoming conference, but will not be the entire focus. I look forward to the report from our representatives.

The opening/closing of the Stud book a la Greyhounds (to close out "Track" dogs) and Salukis (open to desert bred dogs) was raised. The request to the AKC Board from the Greyhound Club came from their Board, not their membership. The

request from the Saluki Club first gained the support of their membership and then they made their request. BIG DIFFERENCE in the manner in which the request was put forth. We asked the AKC Board for additional information. The Parent Club Committee may not be the appropriate committee to address this include/exclude issue.

Tuesday, 3/12/02, was the Quarterly Delegates meeting, and election of Board members. Once again we were treated to speeches – 9 of them – one by each candidate. The speeches were quite well done, to the point and most hit a positive note. The candidates seemed comfortable and more on target in contrast to the responses to questions at the Monday caucus. What a difference a day makes.

As every word uttered at the Delegates meeting is faithfully presented in the Gazette, I will not encumber our pages with a recitation, but rather mention a few items. It took only two votes of the 380 delegate body to elect the three Board members. I voted as instructed by the AHCA Board. (See Minutes P 8&9) Re-elected were Asa Mays and Ken Marden. Nina Schaefer was the newly elected member.

Treat yourself and read David Merriam's final report as Chairman of the Board. His remarks were outstanding and upbeat. He advised us to be cautious of over-regulation and not to be afraid of innovation. He recognized the largely volunteer base of our sport and our breeders as the core! The standing ovation given to him was well deserved.

Jim Crowley read a resolution of thanks and recognition for the service David rendered as Board Chair.

Reports were also given by the President, Al Cherue' and vice chair (Now the new chair) Ron Menaker. The delegates voted on four bylaws amendments after much discussion on two of the proposals. The first was the change which would provide for the delegate committees to propose Bylaw and Rule amendments as opposed to the existing policy which requires a member club (via its delegate) to do this. The amendment passed 265 to 86.

Second was the amendment to return the Bred-By-Exhibitor class to its original intent. This means that if you bred the dog and you own/co-own the dog you can show the dog in the class. No exceptions for spouse, child, sister, brother, mother, father or anyone else near and dear to you. This passed by a landslide!

The general feeling among the delegates was very positive about the election and about the incoming AKC Board chair. Enough for now. Next meeting will be in San Antonio TX, June 10 and 11 (thank goodness for frequent flyer miles!)

New Research - Hair Study

Dear Afghan Fancier,
we are asking you to assist us in collecting hair samples for a study on hair coat differences in the dog breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club. This study is funded by the Canine Health Foundation and is being performed by the Comparative Dermatology Laboratory at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The major objective of this investigation is to define via microscopic and computer analysis, how differences in hair size, diameter and curvature results in the different textures and appearances of the coats of different canine breeds. If one looks at the official standards reported by the American Kennel Club, each breed has its own desired coat features; however, what truly constitutes a double coat or a single coat or other terms applied to the hair of dogs remain poorly defined. Thus, the first goal of this investigation is to catalogue the hair of different breeds. However, accomplishing this first goal has the potential of going far beyond charts and pictures that define what the normal coat is for a given breed.

First, knowing what normal is will better enable veterinarians to diagnose the many diseases that affect the skin and coat. We are finding that many endocrine diseases appear to affect hair diameter and curvature. Thus, we believe that analysis of clipped hair as we propose to do in this investigation may replace the need for skin biopsies to diagnose some hair loss diseases.

Second, preliminary work has shown that not unlike a fingerprint, the combination of structure, diameter and curvature may well be specific for different canine breeds. Using our techniques, we have been able to determine coat differences in Miniature and Standard Poodles. These same methods are starting to be used by international forensic laboratories to enable investigators to efficiently and inexpensively identify a dog when DNA is not available.

Finally, for those canine breeds in which a denser, curlier or straighter coat is a desired, once normal values are established, we can help breeders determine which dogs to use for breeding based on this analysis.

What we need from you is your help obtaining clipped hair from five male and five female dogs that you believe are representative of your breed. Because we realize how unreasonable it would be to ask for samples from dogs actively being shown, we believe we will get equivalent results from dogs that have retired from the show ring. For this reason, the samples will be limited to intact dogs and bitches between 3 and 6 years of age that have not gone through a seasonal shed within two months and non-pregnant bitches that have not been nursing for two months. (Attached please find a Procedure Form and a Release Form to be completed for each dog entered in the study.) I

If you have any questions please contact us at 979-845-2651 or c Curry@cvm.tamu.edu

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely, Robert W. Dunstan, DVM, MS Professor Principal Investigator
Christine Curry Project Coordinator

Ed note: If you are interested please contact them for forms. The Board approved participation in this study at their last meeting.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

March 8 & 9, 2002

Portsmouth, VA

Present:: Harry Bennett, Gill Ullom, Abbe Shaw, Barb Bornstein, Jan Lucree, Janet Lenobel, Betsy Hufnagel, Claudia Jakus and Ed Gilbert.

Absent: Donna Broucek, Edith Hanson, Helen Stein

The President's Message

I just arrived home from the 2002 Breeders' Cup weekend and it is with great pride that I acknowledge the hard work of SHARON WATSON and WYNNE KALISH, and CHRIS PINKSTON and her work force for making this an amazing event. It was truly a celebration of the future showing much hope, and a celebration of memories of ages past! It was a tribute to knowledgeable and diligent breeding. I noticed and thought it was wonderful to see puppies that looked like those of 20 - 30 years ago with those same breeders. There was something to tell, there was something to learn. There was competition. There was comraderie. It was a test of athleticism. It was a time to relax and enjoy the Afghan Hound.

I regret having to miss the dinner as each year the Specialty Clubs of this Virginia weekend put on "the best time" Saturday evening. Our board held the first 2002 meeting over two long evenings this weekend and I enthusiastically look forward to serving this club and our fancy.

Thank you,
Harry

AND

"When someone asks me where my Afghan Hound is from, I answer, "Florida!"

The fact of the matter is that the existence of an Afghan Hound type dog has been documented in the Sinai Peninsula as far back as 6000 years. The breed as we know it today is known to have lived in areas of Afghanistan for at least 4000 years.

It is even told that it is the Afghan Hound that was the canine pair to accompany Noah and his family on the Ark! This exotic dog was named for the region where its existence persevered. Maybe that area was named for the Afghan Hound! No matter, the name gives no credit to any creator of the breed.

Western Civilization became aware of the Afghan Hound in the late 1800's. By the early 1900's specimens were brought to England. By the early 30's, some of America's Hollywood stars such as Beppo Marx became fascinated with these unusual and beautiful dogs. Such interest drew attention to these dogs and some were imported to the United States from England.

During the 60's and 70's, the Afghan Hound decorated America's hippie scene as they shared the limelight with their own long, luxurious hair. Then in the mid 70's, the Great American Toy Company MATTEL gave its popular BARBIE her very own Afghan Hound named "Beauty". In the late 90's, after a few nips and tucks to Barbie, Mattel even updated its Afghan Hound and issued a new "Lacey".

Afghan Hounds today are probably 12 to 15 generations American breeding. I'd say that's probably more than most U. S. citizens can boast. So ask me where my dog is from, the answer is still Florida."

Harry Bennett, Afghan Hound Club of America President
Florida, U. S. A.

TOPKNOT NEWS

S Watson Editor

490 Fairmount WE

Jamestown, NY 14701

saalem@Netsync.net

W Kalish Editor

22005 SW 100 PI

Miami, FL 33190

wynne.kalish@us.pwcglobal.com