

Topknot News

The newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.

Summer 2009

TAKE THE LEAD — A CONTINUING STORY Submitted by Susan Sprung

For those of you unfamiliar with Take The Lead, I am happy to be able to present an overview. For those who have supported us over the years and continue to do so, please consider this a refresher course.

As an introduction, TAKE THE LEAD is an organization formed in 1993 by a small group of concerned fanciers who recognized a dire need amongst us. Several of the founders continue to lead our organization today. At that time in our history, the AIDS epidemic was rampant within the fancy. It was horrific for us to see many of our closest friends suffering with this dreaded illness and at the same time observe them being faced with financial hardships nearly impossible to bear. To address this undeniable fact, the organization began as a rather small, but very important undertaking.

As time went on, the founders realized there was indeed a *greater* need within the fancy and the founders quickly realized the organization needed to expand its scope. There were those amongst us suffering from other life threatening diseases such as cancer; there were those who had been seriously hurt in an accident; those struck down by illnesses of unknown origin; those who needed surgeries not covered by medical insurance and unfortunately the list goes on. At that point, our organization expanded to include those suffering from ALL life threatening or terminal illnesses and thankfully, the organization remains strong through the support of people like you.

So to bring you up to the present, the goal of TAKE THE LEAD is to provide financial aid to individuals and families in the purebred dog community who are facing the realities of these life-threatening and often financially devastating illnesses. It is our mission to help our fellow fanciers and just for the year 2007, we have provided aid in the amount of \$308,000. In the year 2008, we assisted more clients than ever and I am advised preliminary figures to date indicate we have expended nearly \$325,000. TAKE THE LEAD is a not-for-profit foundation as designated under

Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to TAKE THE LEAD are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law. In 1995 a permanent restricted Endowment Fund was formed in order to ensure the future of TAKE THE LEAD. Our goal is to contribute half of each year's net income to the fund, so our ability to assist those in need will continue long after we are gone.

Now that you know what we are about, let me continue to answer some frequently asked questions.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

TAKE THE LEAD provides services to individuals who have been actively engaged in the sport of dogs for a minimum of five years – breeding, training, exhibiting, handling and/or judging AKC registered dogs.

“TAKE THE LEAD is there for people in the sport of purebred dogs to provide some very real assistance and comfort in difficult times”, said Chairman Edd E. Bivin. “We reach across the country with our efforts. We are there for anyone with a need, no matter where they live, if they fall within our mission and meet our criteria”.



Continued on page 6....

Visit the AHCA Web Site at www.akc.org

Rescue Hotline: 1-877-AF-RESCU (237-2728)

Topknot News Editor: Barb Bornstein
(602) 677-6690
Assistant Editor: Janet Lenobel
Publication & Distribution: Wynne Kalish

(P&P 318.1 The newsletter of the AHCA shall be entitled "Topknot News" and shall be published three times a year, each publication falling within six (6) weeks after the Board Meetings so as to include all news from that meeting.)

2008 AHCA Officers and Directors

President: Abbe Shaw
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Second Vice President: Brenda Brody
Corresponding Sec'y: Donna Amos
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Treasurer: Linda Jackson
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Jody Gardner
Debbie Petersen
Tony Saia
Helen Stein
Sandy Weinraub
AKC Delegate: Connie Butherus

Editor's Note:

A special thanks to Sue Busby, Sandy Nelson, Linda Jackson and Lisa Bryant on the contributions they made to get this issue out to you on time. They assisted by filling in many of the missing pieces that committees did not submit.

I also thank Wynne Kalish for the time and knowledge he gives to make this AHCA publication possible. We could not have the quality publication we do without Wynne.

A huge thank you to Janet Lenobel, our Assistant Editor. Janet's contributions to TN are exceptional though her support and intelligence. Janet spends considerable time on each issue of TN in order that we may look good. Both Wynne and Janet are solid gold.

All of these AHCA members will be in attendance in Lancaster, PA this September. When you see them, and our clubs' Committee Heads who submit the bones to TN, tell them "Thank You." We would not have this publication without any of them.

2009 Committee Chairpersons

AKC Delegate: Connie Butherus *duaneb@ptd.net*
Agility: Jim Hicks *suniafghans@gmail.com*
AKC Gazette Column: Georgie Guthrie 951-677-6734
Awards: Terry Chacon *shacone@aol.com*
Breed & Public Education: Linda Shipley *sharja@bellsouth.net*
Budget & Finance: Dorma Sue Busby *barakiafs@peoplepc.com*
Breeders' Cup: Sharon Watson & Sue Busby *saalem82@madbbs.com/
barakiafs@peoplepc.com*
Canine Health: Sandy Frei & Midge Martin *sstormhill@aol.com/
kaihorn@att.net*
Complaints: Board of Directors
Inventory: Sue Busby *barakiafs@peoplepc.com*
Judges Education: Harry Bennett *harryonly@aol.com*
Junior Showmanship: Jody Gardner *jmgafghan@aol.com*
Legislative Affairs: Betty Salmon *bettysalmon@columbus.rr.com*
Librarian & Publications: Helen Stein *beaniesue@aol.com*
Lure Coursing: Max Ross *mrosshomestead@comcast.net*
Mailing List Coordinator: Claudia Jakus *claudiajakus@comcast.net*
Membership: Sandy Weinraub *amerbeaut@aol.com*
Mentor Program: Bobbie Keller *zafarahounds@comcast.net*
National Events Liaison: Tony Saia *beachbrook@prodigy.net*
National 2009: Tony Saia *beachbrook@prodigy.net*
National 2010: Judy Bloom *jubilann@aol.com*
Obedience: Debbie Petersen *afghan1@juno.com*
Parade of Rescue Medallions: Dorma Sue Busby
barakiafs@peoplepc.com
Parliamentarians: Connie Butherus & Helen Stein *duaneb@ptd.net/
beaniesue@aol.com*
Policies & Procedures: Barb Bornstein *dancingtree@trims.com*
Regional Clubs: Sandy Nelson *karizmaafghans@comcast.net*
Rescue: Lisa Bryant *slavtoanaf@aol.com*
Statistics: Sharon Watson *saalem82@madbbs.com*
Topknot News: Barb Bornstein & Wynne Kalish & Janet Lenobel
dancingtree@trims.com/wynnek@bellsouth.net/fallen.oaks@yahoo.com
Ways & Means: Dorma Sue Busby *barakiafs@people.pc.com*
Web Page: Chris Kaiser *ahca_web@att.net*

Visit the AHCA web site at www.akc.org
Rescue Hotline: 1-877-AF-RESCU (237-2728)

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Note: We cannot make corrections to Committee Reports; therefore, send your corrections directly to the Committee Chairs. They will contact us with your corrections for publication in their reports in the next Topknot News. Email all other corrections directly to the Editor at: dancingtree@trims.com

East Coast Crate

Grand Prize

2009 National Specialty Raffle East Coast Crate Package

#500 (38"L x 28"H)

Ultralight Aluminum Folding Crate,
With grooming top, grooming arm
And removable airline bars

Tickets: \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00
Drawing on Friday Sept. 18, 2009

Need not be present to win. Winner responsible for shipping.

Order from Betty Salmon

614-844-3834

PAYPAL bettyalmon@columbus.rr.com

Or mail check (payable to AHCA) to:

Betty Salmon

2135 Sherborne Ln

Powell, OH 43065

Additional prizes throughout the week. A drawing every day, starting on Monday with Grand Prize drawing on Friday!

AHCA wishes to thank Club members Rachel and Pete Irvin of East Coast Crates for donating a portion of this Grand Prize!

WAY & MEANS REPORT

Submitted by Chairman Sue Busby

New AHCA Lapel Pin

14kt Gold Plated

Tie Tac or Safety Pin

Cost \$15.00

There will be more new and exciting AHCA logo items introduced at the National in Lancaster this fall.

Other Items Available:

Fleece Blankets with the AHCA Logo in Gold Threads

Navy & Forest Green @ \$15.00 each.

Laptop Tote Bags @ \$25.00 each

Duffle Bags

Navy, Red, Black & Purple @ \$40.00 each

Baseball Caps

Assorted colors @ \$15.00 each.

Contact Sue Busby for more information:
586-264-4292 barakiafs@peoplepc.com



Mysterious Nights and Haunting Days

National Specialty Show
Lancaster, PA
September 13—18, 2009

For further information contact Show Chairman:
Tony Saia, beachbrook@prodigy.net

Schedule of Events:

Sunday, September 13 — Board Meeting

Monday, September 14 — AM Lure Coursing Off Site & Afternoon & Evening Top 20

Tuesday, September 15 — AM Golf Tournament, Afternoon Obedience, Rally & Agility, Puppy & Veteran Sweepstakes, & Evening Breed Symposium

Wednesday, September 16 — AM Dog Judging followed by Regional Club Meeting, General Membership Meeting, & Vendor Party

Thursday, September 17 — AM Judges Study Group, Rescue Meeting, Juniors Seminar followed by Bitch Judging & Art Auction

Friday, September 18 — Intersex Judging & Annual Dinner

Saturday, September 19 — Potomac AHC

Check your Premium List for all the events!

2009 NATIONAL SPECIALTY DVD ORDERS

Pre-Orders for Conformation & Performance—\$85.00
Performance Only—\$15.00

After Specialty Orders—Conformation & Performance \$110.00. Performance Only—\$25.00

Check or Money Order (US Funds Only) Payable to AHCA

Mail To: Becky Morisette
46397 Fox Run
Mt. Clemens, MI 48944
586-212-8751
obsessionsafs@comcast.net

THE INVITATIONAL

Monday Afternoon & Evening, September 14th
ONE NIGHT ONLY.

The competition will begin in the afternoon at a time yet to be determined. This part of the competition will be open to all spectators at no charge.

On Monday evening the showplace will open at 6:30 PM & the introduction & final judging will begin at 8:00 PM.

Admission cost for the evening event: \$10.00 (includes Dessert Bar & Coffee & cash bar)

Contact Cindy Chandler at majicaf@aol.com for complete details.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday Morning, September 15th
18 Hole Championship Golf Course On Site
Fee: \$40.00

Make reservations with:

Brian Lenobel 352-591-3020 fallen.oaks@yahoo.com

Max Ross 904-635-0565 mrosshomestead@aol.com

Reservations for all dinner functions must be sent directly to:

Chris Pinkston
1428 Princess Anne Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
757-426-2018
criston@aol.com

AHCA BREED EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday Evening, September 15th
7:00 PM

Topic: "Made to Move"

Presenter: Patricia Craig Trotter,
(Vin Melca Norwegian Elkhounds)

The presentation is preceded by an Italian Buffet. Cost is \$15 and includes the symposium & buffet. Contact Symposium Chairman Sandy Frei for complete details at: ssstormhill@aol.com

Or send your reservations directly to: Chris Pinkston.

VENDOR PARTY

Wednesday Evening, September 16th

For more information contact:
Lucia Brown
203-261-8650 lucia@dragonflyafghans.com

AHCA JUDGES EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

**Thursday Morning, September 17th
Pre-registration Required**

This study group consists of a classroom presentation, a hands-on demonstration and application, and ringside tutoring. Attendees must participate in all three parts to receive a certificate. The Judges Educational Seminar is open to any approved judge, prospective applicant thereof, and any Afghan Hound breeder who is otherwise fully qualified to apply (*see AKC website for present requirements to apply to judge*) but not necessarily applying to judge the breed.

Registration Deadline September 7, 2009
Limit 20/Cost \$25

(There is a discount for AHCA members who would like to attend. You do not have to be applying to Judge our breed to sign up for this seminar. Contact Harry for further info.)

Send Reservations (with check) to:

Harry Bennett
1404 Arlingwood Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32211-6385
904-720-0691 harryonly@aol.com

Checks payable to AHCA
(Payment must accompany reservation)

Take Note—On August 15th there will be a presentation on the Afghan Hound at the Indiana Pennsylvania Dog Judges Institute.

RISING STAR

A FREE seminar for Junior Handlers

Thursday Morning, September 17th

Guest Speaker: Julie Szymanski

Guests are welcome to attend

Juniors, The Rising Star seminar will be hands on instruction with your own dog and will be held in the breed ring. Please bring your dog and a show lead with you to the seminar.

You may pre-register with Jody Gardner
333 Heather Dr. S.
Newark, OH 43055-9411
740-364-0590
jmgafghan@aol.com

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP SCRAPBOOK

A Junior Showmanship Scrapbook is being maintained and will be displayed at the AHCA National each year. Photos of show wins or candid shots, articles, artwork and poems may be included. Send or email your photos or other Jr. Memorabilia to Jody.

ART AUCTION & AMISH BUFFET

Thursday Evening, September 17th

Cost is \$30.00

Among the wonderful items being auctioned is an Original VIC TOR painting, donated from the Bud Ledbetter Estate, and the original painting of this year's National Logo, donated by artist Diana Fife.

Contact Chris Pinkston for reservations.

MAILING LIST COORDINATION

Submitted by Chairman Claudia Jakus

I have gone through the catalogs from the 2008 Nationals and the 2008 Breeders' Cup and added all new names that were not on the original list. I deleted those that had not attended shows in 2005 or before. As I do the list I am updating the show they attended if they are not AHCA members - that way if they do not attend a Nationals or Breeders' Cup in 3 years their name is deleted. All AHCA members receive a premium for the forthcoming Nationals.

I completed the mailing list and there is a total of 632 names on the list for premiums to be mailed out. If Regional Clubs will mail me a copy of their Specialty catalogs throughout the year, then I will also check those names and add them to the list. Regional Clubs may e-mail the names and addresses of those entered and I will be happy to update our mailing list as the information comes in.

Clubs may email me at claudiajakus@comcast.net

Claudia Jakus
8887 Clark Road
Clarkston, MI 48346-1044

AHCA Annual Awards Dinner

Friday Evening, September 18th

Master of Ceremonies: Michael Canalizo

Cost: \$35.00 per person, Buffet Included

Send your reservation to Chris Pinkston

AHCA HOST HOTEL

**Lancaster Host Resort & Conference center
2300 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
1-800-233-0121
www.lancasterhost.com**

WHAT EXPENSES ARE COVERED?

TAKE THE LEAD has provided financial support for:

- Home Health Care
- Health Insurance Payments and Deductibles
- Medical Treatment
- Medical Equipment Rentals
- Prescription Drugs
- Transportation
- Rent or Mortgage Payments
- Homeowners' Insurance
- Funeral Expenses

It should be noted, in order to protect the integrity of the program, no monetary payments are ever made directly to the applicant. When a client is assisted, they must be specific in their request for assistance. An Application for Assistance (available at our website www.takethelead.org) requires completion and supporting documentation must be sent for review by our Assistance Committee. This ensures all necessary criteria is met before we are able to proceed further. If approved for assistance, the applicant would then need to specify what level of assistance is needed and each pertinent invoice would then be submitted. After review, Take The Lead would only then issue payments to the individuals, institutions or organizations providing the services or merchandise to our clients and thereby relieve them of financial burdens they would have had great difficulty handling without our help.

HOW ARE FUNDS RAISED?

Memberships (multi-level)
Donations
Bequests
Auctions & Raffles
Events & Parties
Sale of "Take The Lead" Merchandise

WHY DON'T WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN HELPED BY TAKE THE LEAD? (Maybe you DO!)

Many of you may actually have a friend or relative who has been helped, but if that's the case, then you would only have heard it directly from them or their families. In most cases though, Take The Lead strives to maintain complete confidentiality.

Sadly many of our clients do not survive their illnesses, but through our organization, we have helped to make their last days more comfortable. Happily in other instances, clients do recover and their lives continue, but clearly do not wish to divulge either their condition or circumstances publicly and that's fine. We neither publicly nor privately divulge the names of our clients – not even to our own

Board. Only our Assistance Committee members and Office Manager are aware of client identities.

Occasionally however, former clients do voluntarily come forward in an effort to try and help others by publicizing our good work. If this does occur, it is completely of their own accord and their testimonials are indeed helpful to the cause.

In conclusion, we welcome our friends within our National and Regional Clubs to join us. Remember by supporting Take The Lead, you are supporting seriously ill members of our community who are unable to help themselves. Come to the booth, become a member, participate in our major events and meet your fellow fanciers. Help us continue to "Make A Difference".

Should you have any questions, please feel free to go to our website, www.takethelead.org, or call our toll-free number 1-800-814-1123.

We feel that everyone who benefits from the sport of purebred dogs has a responsibility to give back.

Ed's Note: *If you would like to join Take The Lead visit their website.*

Editor's Note:

There appears to be a golden thread weaving its way through this issue of TN about giving back. From Susan Sprung's informative cover story on "Take The Lead", through Bobbi Keller's Giving Back Mentor Program, Lisa Bryant and her Rescue Angels, and the poignant Rainbow article submitted by Bob Carter, we share a common thread. Doug Vinson would be very proud.

If you have special stories, please share them with us by sending them to Bobbi Keller (zafarahounds@comcast.net). Giving Back is the most important act we may perform when you consider how much just one Afghan Hound gives to us! Embellish the tapestry.

HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Submitted by Chair, Dr. Edna K. Martin

The AHCA Health Committee is gearing up for the 2009 AHCA National Event again at the Lancaster Host Resort in Lancaster, PA. We will again be offering AKC DNA swabs at a reduced rate, and there will be a booth with timely articles from the CHIC program, Canine Health Foundation, and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.

The AKC/Canine Health Foundation Parent Club Conference will be held this year in St Louis. This Conference is always an enormous wealth of information about the state of current research promoting measures to cure or prevent genetic diseases in our beloved animals.

The Quarterly CHIC reports are on the AHCA website. We are pleased that concerned breeders and owners are entering this valuable program to ensure informed breeding decisions.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve the club as Health Chair.

INTERESTING DOG LAWS
Submitted by Marcia Morelli

From the ordinances of the Village of Fox Point, WI:

Dogs, whether accompanied by their owner or not, are not allowed on the public beaches from June 1 to September 15.

Also, automobiles may not be used as animal shelters.

So, best advice in Fox Point would seem to be: Tell your dogs to keep off the beaches and out of the cars.

However, kudos to Fox Point for the following ordinance: "Vicious dogs shall not be classified in a manner that is specific as to breed."

BREED & PUBLIC EDUCATION
Submitted by Chair, Linda Shipley

I hope this newsletter finds all regional clubs flourishing. AKC is now requiring more activities in order to qualify for show approval. If any regional clubs are having difficulties fulfilling the requirements please contact me as I have literature, information, and ideas to help. I would also appreciate any clubs that have found unique ways to provide public or breed education to forward this information on to me. We are always looking for new ideas or suggestions on how we can better serve you. I'd love to hear from you.

Linda Shipley
Sharja@bellsouth.net
404-303-8999

2009 BREEDERS' CUP CRITIQUE
Submitted by Judge, Tony Saia

First of all, it was a great experience and fun to participate in this Year's AHCA Breeders' Cup. The location and setting was wonderful and Karen Larsen and the group from Southern California should be very proud that they put forth a pleasant event for all involved.

The overall entry was reasonable for a breed that is in its decline. Gone are the days when you had several great options to pick from and in today's ring the really good ones SHINE, or I should state SPARKLE.

All the class winners were nice and I am sure will go on to obtaining their AKC titles.

In the dog classes I especially liked the 6-9 Puppy dog "Maya Northern Lights". He won because he had a solidly built frame, great style, and moved very very nicely. It will be interesting to see him as a young adult. The winner of the 9-12 class was again a very promising young sable red. He was very leggy and had a great outline which he held on the move. There were some dogs that moved out nicely but were not able to hold their outline on the move. I personally have an issue with bad tops and high butts. The other class winner that was a real stand-out was the BOS dog, which was "Excel Dancing with the Stars". He had it all: great balance, hard back, houndy, and moved very smoothly around the big ring.

In the bitch classes, there was one real stand out who came from the 15-18 class. The winner "Thaon's Kala" was just outstanding. She had the correct balance/body shape, had the proper neck set into nice shoulders, had an INCREDIBLE headpiece with the correct black eyes and perfect croup and tail set. The other senior bitch, "Sura Sirae Wisteria Lane" was also very nice all over, except she really did not want to be a show girl that day.

Best in BC was the 15-18 class bitch "Thaon's Kala". She won out because she had all the attributes that made her a standout in our Breed. A dog should win because it has many great redeeming qualities and not just one. This bitch excelled.

Young people should study this bitch and maybe they can learn that Afghan Hounds are supposed to be square and not rectangular.

Our breed requires so much fine tuning of so many small points. But when you add them all up, the end result is a dog that looks like a picture perfect Afghan Hound, which I firmly believe, were both my Best and BOS in this year's BC.

If our current elite breeders do not educate and train some of these new so-called exhibitors, we will result in a process of placing the Afghan Hound on the "endangered species list".

AKC DELEGATE REPORT

Submitted by Connie Butherus, AKC Delegate for the AHCA

Raleigh, NC Meeting
June 8—9, 2009

The Quarterly Delegates Meeting was held June 9th in Raleigh, NC. As always, the Committee Meetings were the day before.

The morning of June 8th, Monday, was set aside for tours of the new AKC operations site. This enables the delegates to have a first hand look at the facility and meet the staff. This is also the site of two of the AKC's 501 [c] [3] organizations – Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) and the Canine Health Foundation (CHF). The opportunity was well received with many of the delegates attending.

Monday afternoon was devoted to Delegate Committee meetings. I attended the Parent Clubs group and served on the committee. Our agenda was full to overflowing with items. Key areas were:

- Update from Cindy Vogels – CHF President regarding Donor Advised Funds (DAF) from Parent Clubs and CHF investments (not in high risk areas, we were told, but rather mainly in cash and T-Bills). The new fund management fees have been rescinded by the CHF Board and copies of the original contracts with the CHF and Clubs with DAFs will be sent in the future to the respective clubs with their financial statement.
- At National Specialties an “Altered Class” can now be offered as a non-regular class. This is optional.
- The Committee is working on a project regarding Parent Clubs, Code of Ethics and By Laws. So far nearly 70 Parent Clubs have responded.
- Group Realignment to be discussed at the Caucus later in the afternoon. However the Delegate representing the Siberian Husky Club arose to inform us that their club did not wish the Siberian Husky to be relocated to the Northern Group. This is in spite of their Parent Club responding to the Group Realignment Committee that it agreed. Go figure!
- Parent Club Conference will be the summer of 2010. Date and site to be selected shortly. Each Parent Club will be able to send one attendee. There will be a \$150 fee. The final funding is still pending with the AKC and CAR as sponsors thus far (Post note: All funding has been secured – It's a go!)
- AKC Invitational Show in Long Beach, December 12 and 13, will celebrate the 125th anniversary of AKC's founding. All Parent Clubs are invited to offer either a Specialty or a Supported Entry for the event. Dog and Bitch classes will be offered as well as the Best of Breed competition. Medallions sponsored by the Parent Clubs are \$125 for the set and include WD, WB, BOB, BOS and Best Bred by Exhibitor. Meet the Breeds will also be a main attraction.
- Meet the Breeds has gone on the road! An event will be held in NYC Oct 17 and 18 at the Javits Center. The Parent Clubs are requested to support this and can designate local breed clubs as their representative. A stipend and lunch will be provided to the groups. To date 85 Parent Clubs have responded. Deadline is 8-1-09.
- All member AKC Clubs (about 600 +) will be receiving information regarding a “Pledge Challenge” project. Club members will be asked to “Pledge” to register all puppies produced by their breeding program. This is an attempt to deal with the marked decline in AKC registrations. There will also be a contest with cash prizes to the clubs having the greatest percent of compliance. More to follow, I'm sure.

The afternoon concluded with the Delegates Caucus. The Group Realignment Committee presented themselves before the group complete with smiles and protective armor. As always, those who voiced their opposition to the proposal seemed to have the most to say. It seemed however many delegates were personally in favor of the proposal but not so the clubs they represent – especially All Breed Clubs. Concerns raised were related to economics and a potential negative effect on small All Breed Clubs, the need to consolidate varieties of breeds (e.g. Cocker Spaniels) rather than realign the groups, larger entries, smaller entries, longer show hours, shorter show hours – so many offered so many takes on the issue! Most Parent Club delegates seemed pleased with the realignment – except as noted the Siberian Husky Club.

Tuesday morning 6/9 was the Delegate Forum. Charles Kneifel, the AKC Information Wonder Man, presented a program on the AKC web site, home page, Delegate Portal and the volume of information that can be accessed online. So far all breeding records are included from the mid 1980's to date. This power-point presentation is available and would make one heck of a club program (remember those AKC compliance forms).

Continued on page 9 ...

Continued from page 8 ...

The actual Delegate Meeting was rather short and to the point. Three new Clubs were voted into membership: Boca Raton Dog Club, MO State KC, and Norwich Terrier Club of America. The report of the President (Dennis Sprung) focused on the ongoing toothache of decline in the AKC registrations, the results of this decline and the need to grow the core business. Hence the AKC efforts to stem the hemorrhage have resulted in new programs (e.g. Pledge Challenge) and an intense focus on this decline. As we are aware, registrations produce revenue which can influence legislation and enhance all areas of the AKC – such as its 501 [c] [3] groups (CAR, CHF).

The financial picture was presented by CFO Jim Stevens. From 1/09 to 5/09, due to a decline in expenses and despite a fall in revenue, a \$700,000 gain was realized. Two-thirds of the decline was due to a decline in registrations. Declines were also recorded in goods and services such as publications, certified pedigrees and such. The good news is a decline of 3.4% in expenses (payroll/benefits) and an increase of 4% in investments.

The Group Realignment proposal had generated so much discussion at the Caucus (the day before there was not much left to be said on the issue). Dr. Robert Smith, a member of the committee, spoke in support of the proposal and noted the last realignment was in 1983 in which the Herding Group was formed (out of the Working Group). This resulted in an increase in entries of Herding Breeds. Also if nothing is done in 5 to 7 years, five of the seven groups will be 40 or more breeds. As this proposal will not take effect until 1-1-12, and the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) has 50+ breeds in various stages of recognition, and Miscellaneous breeds of 10+, it would seem prudent to begin sooner rather than later.

The balance of the meeting dealt with recognitions, awards, self-nominations for Committees, the format of Perspectives (as sort of Delegate newsletter), renaming the Toy Group (“they are not toys”) to Miniature Group and items covered in committees (see above).

The Registration Pledge program was again reviewed as well as the contest aspect of the project. Clubs are to sign on by 7-31-09. The winning clubs will receive \$1,000. The contest runs from 8-1-09 to 11-30-09.

Of special note was the establishment of the Diane Albers Disaster Relief Fund by CAR in honor of this great lady who was at the forefront of disaster relief for canines. Living in Florida, she recognized the need for an organized proactive program to protect our beloved animals. She plunged into the tragedy of Katrina and faced down hurricanes. She will be deeply missed.

The first award will be to Debbie Hoff who organized the relief effort this past year in the Fargo, ND floods. The awards will be given quarterly and range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

It was a distinct pleasure to welcome AHCA member Bob Brown as the newly seated Delegate representing the Columbia, MO KC. His addition brings us to a total of 4 AHCA members who are delegates – not to overlook our own Dennis Sprung – AKC President – (but Dennis is not a Delegate—he is the Boss).

The next set of meetings will be September 14 and 15, 2009, in Newark, NJ.

Respectfully Submitted
Connie Butherus
AKC Delegate for the AHCA

!!!! NATIONAL INVENTORY ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE !!!!

2007 National “Roundup In the Rockies”:

DVD’s—Complete Set \$50/Obedience & Rally \$10/Bitches & Field Trial Bitch \$10

2008 National “Memories”

3 Small Red Sweatshirts—\$15

Charcoal Fleece Sleeveless Full Zip—5—XL, 3— 2X, 2—3X

DVD’s: Conformation Sets \$100 Performance Events \$15 1 Lure coursing \$10

Catalogs \$10

Top 20 Invitational

Set Cost for Catalogs & DVD: \$20

Prices do not include postage

Contact Sue Busby to purchase these items:

586-264-4292 barakiafs@peoplepc.com

REGIONAL CLUB SHOW INFORMATION - 2009
Submitted by Regional Club Chair, Sandy Nelson

Below is a list of the clubs and specialty shows for the remainder of this year.

CLUB NAME	WK #	DATE OF SHOW	REGULAR CLASS JUDGE	SWEEPS JUDGE	SHOW SUPER/ SECRETARY
Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club	27	7/3/09	Romayne Strilka-Switch Col. Robert E. Boothe	Richard Sabatelle	McNulty
Afghan Hound Club of Omaha	28	7/10/09	Robert Stein	JoAnne Weatherly	Connie George
Monterey Bay Afghan Hound Club	30	7/24/09	Jerry Klein	Pluis Davern	
Evergreen Afghan Hound Club	31	7/31/09	Terry Chacon	Alicia Morrison Jones	Joann Brown
Evergreen Afghan Hound Club	31	9/1/09	Betty Richards	Linda Korstad	
Midwest Afghan Hound Club	32	8/8/09	tbd	Julie Roche	Holly Miller
Afghan Hound Club of Memphis	33	8/14/09	Lee Canalizo	Harry Bennett	Kim Harwood
Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club	34	8/21/09	Barry Deitch	Barbara Fogl	Onofrio Dog Shows
Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club	35	8/28/09	Debbie K. Petersen	Linda Shipley	Sue Busby
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver	36	9/3/09	Dr. Jerry kein	Yvonne Ljungkvist	Jan D. Curtis
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver	36	9/4/09	Avery Gaudin	JoAnn Jones	Sue Busby / Nancy Leuba
Potomac Afghan Hound Club	38	9/19/09	no sweeps		
Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Association	40	10/4/09	Reggie Nesbitt	Ida D'Ignazio	Shaina D. Bates
Afghan Hound Club of Austin	42	10/17/09	Lila Wadsworth	not applicable	Deanne LeMaistre
Northern California Afghan Hound Club	42	10/17/09	Gene Vaccaro	Gail Mofford	MB-F
Northern California Afghan Hound Club	42	10/18/09	Not applicable	Chuck Alarcon	
Tara Afghan Hound Club, Inc.	44	10/31/09	Stephen Fisher	Bruce Clark	Jan Lucree
Tara Afghan Hound Club, Inc.	44	11/1/09	Steve Kelly	Sandy Velozo-Walsh Mrs. Connie Butherus	Jan Lucree
Sand 'N See Afghan Hound Club	45	11/6/09	Dr. Duane Butherus		MB-F
Carolina Afghan Hound Club	46	11/12/09	Shelley Hennessey	Leslie Stoffels	MB-F
Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Assn.	46	11/13/09	Eugene Blake	Alicia Morrison Jones	Jack Bradshaw
Colonial Afghan Hound Club	48	11/27/09	Jane Sheppard	pending	MB-F

The Afghan Hound Club of America supports Regional Clubs holding a "Parade of Rescue" Class by offering a medallion suspended on a red, white and blue ribbon as a special award for each rescue exhibit entered.

Contact: Sue Busby barakiafs@peoplepc.com to receive your Specialty Rescue Medallions.

GIVING BACK MENTOR PROGRAM
Submitted by Chair, Bobbi Keller

There were 23 contacts made by new people who wanted information on our breed. I am including two very nice letters that explain clearly what this program is all about.

Hi Bobbi,
I just wanted to report that I am still mentoring several Afghan Hound people in the area. One person recently submitted her application to the AHCA. I started mentoring her several years ago and we are still best friends! This ought to account for SOMETHING, a NEW member! Also I am very involved with breeders in Canada. They have sold some dogs here in this area and I have been in contact with the individuals who purchased them. Hopefully, more members and Afghan Hound people to get involved and STAY involved in our breed! I keep in touch via e-mail and often a phone call. I feel that I am consistently assisting the newcomers in the breed and am able to direct them where they need to go, i.e., learning to groom, training, and health concerns. This past year I assisted a person who purchased an Afghan Hound on line - of course a puppy mill situation. She was ready to get rid of the pup. She had no clue as to the work involved with an Afghan Hound pet with TONS of cotton coat. She came over one afternoon and I helped her. This was almost a year ago and she LOVES the dog and is now truly enjoying him and just confessed to me that if it weren't for my "grooming lesson" the dog probably would have ended up in a shelter! Now she is contemplating taking a rescue in, so that is success in my opinion.

Juli Szymanski

Hi Friends,

So many people often ask me why I am so involved with my dogs. Why I do what I do, all the therapy, all the 4-H, all the dog shows. I often ask myself that too. After today, I will never ask myself that question again.

Words cannot express my experience today. Most of you know, I met a wonderful young man by the name of Noah. We actually met through my Afghan Hound, Jack. Yes, my Just Jack! On one of his visits to the hospital.

Noah is a true dog lover, but he never had a dog. So he and Jack have been partners in 4-H. Noah has been **VERY** patiently working with Jack in Obedience, Agility and Showmanship. He has done a fantastic job! And might I add, given us a few good laughs!

After many days and nights of convincing his parents that a dog is indeed what their family needed, he got the **shock** of his life today, on his last day of school (which was also his 10th birthday), and now owns his own dog! Today I was able to see Noah's dream come true.

Noah could not have a big dog, so he did his research,



and believe me when I say, he researched! And decided that a Longhaired Miniature Dachshund would be the best fit for the family.

The pictures will speak for themselves. At first I think he was in disbelief when his

twin brother Nick handed him the puppy and said Happy Birthday. You will actually see tears of joy on his face! His whole family was there, his mom and dad, his grandmother, and his brother and sister. I was fortunate enough to help his mom in finding this puppy and making Noah's dream come true, and even luckier to see it happen. I cannot tell you what this experience meant to me. I will never forget this day, Noah's face, or his tears of joy as long as I live!



Our paths crossed for a reason! I don't know if it was for Noah to get a dog, or for God to show me there are reasons we are here on this earth! Or both. But for whatever the reason, I am glad I was in the right place at the right time to meet this special young man!

Tish, thanks so much for letting me share in your son's special day. You just don't know what that meant to me! I still have tears in my eyes.

Kristi Jones

If you missed out on the Sales Table at the Breeders' Cup— here's what's left:

T- Shirts @ \$15.00 Each

- 1 Large Gray
- 2 Extra Large Turquoise
- 2 Extra Large Gray
- 2—2X Turquoise
- 2—2X Gray
- 3—3X Turquoise
- 1—3X Gray

Travel Tumblers @ \$15.00 Each

Refrigerator Magnets @ \$1.00 Each

All Checks Payable to the AHCA
Send your order to:

Karen Larsen
2114 W. 166th Pl.
Torrance, CA 90504
310-515-2514
serenadeaf@aol.com

Legislative Update

Many phrases come to mind when trying to come up with an opening line: "My how time flies...", "He who hesitates...", "Onward into the valley...", and my personal favorite, "I'm getting too old for this."

A lot has happened since the last legislative report. Sue Wolf, of the Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance (SAOVA) estimates HSUS is currently losing this battle at the state level 3 to 1. But don't celebrate, because bills are still pending this session in 8 states. And, of course, there's always next year.

Ohio's pending bills are some of the worst. It is expected they will still be in committee at the break, and a lot of lobbying will take place before they meet again. Tennessee's legislature recently passed their anti-breeder bill, but a few amendments were included that softened the blow somewhat. There's a sneak attack taking place in SC with regards to what would at first glance appear to be just an amended sentence, but actually would give HSUS the same investigative authority as the local shelter/humane officials. At the risk of possibly offending some members and my tongue planted firmly in my cheek, I'll report that CA continues to come up with their own way of viewing the world and ideas about the way that world should be. You may wish to refer to one of the following sites for updates on legislative activity this session:

http://www.akc.org/news/sections/legislative_alerts.cfm
<http://naiatrust.org/>
<http://www.pet-law.com/>
<http://www.petpac.net/>

There are many more sites and blogs available, covering both individual states and the country.

I've implemented a mailing list for each state in which there is anti-breeder legislative activity, and have been forwarding posts and information that might be of interest to those residents. The feedback's been positive, so we'll keep that up for now! If you live in one of the battleground states and know of someone you'd like to see added to the respective legislative updates list, please let me know.

The new coalition mentioned last time is continuing to provide a forum for updates, discussion and ideas. I've been able to form a list of callers that can and have been activated to contact legislators in states with imminent votes. Additionally, we now have working relationships with several large groups representing various factions involved in this defensive effort. We're sharing information with NAIA and our AKC Governmental Affairs contact, as well as several Federations through list participation and, in one ongoing case, submitting material for their

blog. And, by making a contact and providing information and a motivational position paper, we were able to play a small part in OH's farm industry's recent preemptive strike against HSUS' encroachment into OH agriculture (HSUS is now threatening a ballot referendum of their own). It is and has to be a team effort, and most of the groups out there are very willing to work together.

A billboard campaign has been launched in CA, and NAIA has been asked to assume the administration of that project. I've edited their ad copy to create a very simple flier, and Patti Strand has given her permission for its distribution in a campaign to educate the general public and solicit their support to save owners' rights. The first fliers were handed out at Cincinnati's Dog Fest a few weeks ago. An electronic version has been sent to a few lists and clubs through several legislative groups, and is available to you for use in your area. As many of you know, we absolutely have to educate the general public as to what is going on and who all the players are. To that end, some suggested discussion topics follow. Several individuals and/or their groups are working to come up with a game plan that will work in their areas.

Discussion topics include:

- 1) HSUS doesn't manage your local shelter; it is a lobbying entity for xxxxxx purpose.
- 2) The majority of pets reflected in shelter euthanasia statistics are cats, not dogs, so over-regulating kennels would have little impact on those numbers.
- 3) Most abuse cases occur outside of the kennel environment.
- 4) MANDATORY SN doesn't work because xxxxxx and has xxxxxx deleterious effects.
- 5) One should think in terms of identifying and improving sub-standard kennels when they occur, not "shutting down puppy mills."
- 6) A terrorist is a terrorist, and it is NOT an act of acceptable civil disobedience to xxxxxx (falsely accuse, run a harassment campaign, etc.), it is an act of terrorism committed by zealots and radicals who are not rational and do not fight a clean fight.
- 7) Watch out for nice-sounding, no-brainer phrases such as "anti-puppy mill bill."

If you would like to become more involved on the legislative front, please let me know. I can put you in touch with other interested parties in your state, and be sure to notify you when call/letter campaigns are launched.

AKC/EUKANUBA 125th ANNIVERSARY SHOW INFORMATION

Published at the request of AKC

**2009 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship
December 12 & 13, 2009
Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, Long Beach, CA**

**Open to ALL AKC registered breeds & miscellaneous
Championship points offered**

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL ENTRIES: November 11, 2009

Entry fees are as follows:

- **For All dogs entered for Best of Breed competition: \$75.00**
- **For all dogs entered in any other class: \$50.00**

All dogs entered that are Breeder/Owner/Handled will be eligible for the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor Award. Please review this information at the AKC website at: www.akc.org under "Event Information".

CATALOG ADS: Due by October 16, 2009.

Ad rates are:

- Full Page Black & White w/ one photo: \$140.00
- Full Page in Color w/one photo: \$800.00
- Each additional photo used is charged at \$15.00 per photo
- Congratulation's Page: \$120.00
- Booster ad: \$50.00
- Please download the Catalog Advertisement Order form online at www.akc.org

There will be a special online version of the Show Catalog that will include a photograph of each entry. All the show results and photographs will be archived online at www.akc.org. Plan to submit a photo of your dog for this web-catalog.

The cost of an online photo will be \$15.00. Payable at the time of entry.

Please watch for more information on this unique opportunity on either www.akc.org or www.onofrio.com.

ENTRIES WILL START TO BE ACCEPTED EARLY IN SEPTEMBER.

THE ENTIRE PREMIUM LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

WWW.AKC.ORG and WWW.ONOFRIO.COM

The actual entry forms will be available to download online and may also be obtained from a number of advertisements placed in major dog publications and at many dog shows. Due to the scope of this event very few premium lists will be mailed.

Please publish the show information in your club's newsletters with special emphasis on this being a show offering all classes for all breeds with Championship Points being awarded. There are no qualifying criteria for this year's event.

ALL REGISTERED DOGS ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER!

RESCUE REPORT

Submitted by Rescue Chair, Lisa Bryant

This spring, Afghan Rescue has lost 2 of its strongest Champions. **Doug Vinson**, former Rescue Chair, has passed away after a difficult illness. We can be comforted by the knowledge that Doug was warmly greeted by the hundreds of hounds that were rescued by Doug through the years. **Bob Gilette**, long serving Rescue Chair of Afghan Hound Club of Canada, also passed away this spring to be with his waiting hounds. Both these gentleman will be deeply missed.

In memory of Doug, we will be working on a special fund raising project based on his mottos "**First, the hounds**" and "**No Afghan Hound left behind.**" The project will include original artwork generously donated by artists working within the theme. The first item in the collection was donated by **AHCA member** and talented artist, **Terry Chacon**. This original design will be available at the Lancaster National on a variety of sweatshirts and T-shirts. They will also be for sale through our website www.afghanhound.net. Thank you, Terry, for your generosity, your vision and your breathtaking talent. You are awesome!

We have seen a significant increase in the number of "special needs" rescues. These are young dogs, many are puppies with broken legs, hit by cars, or heartworm positive. With the economy struggling, the number of dogs surrendered to shelters and being abandoned at emergency clinics appears to be rising. We are going to be working to raise money for the special needs fund to address this increased need. In addition to the fund raising project for Doug, I am seeking regional clubs and individuals who are interested in sponsoring a special needs dog. Sponsoring means paying for the particular dog's medical care. There are no expectations of fostering, adopting, etc. The club or individual will be listed as the dog's sponsor in reports and on websites. **The Afghan Hound Club of Northern New Jersey** is sponsoring **Stormy** as you will read below. We have several other special needs dogs looking for a sponsor. They are **Giselle, Hunter, Simbar, Simone** and **Trinity**. Please consider sponsoring one of these hounds.

AHCA member Judy Hein is putting together a fun project called "**Take An Afghan Hound To Dinner.**" Please look for this project at the Lancaster National. You do not need to be there to participate!

Marilyn Danko is working on the 2010 AHCA Rescue Calendar as I type. We are planning to have it finished and available for purchase in September/October. As always, a tax deductible receipt can be provided.

Several beautiful hounds found themselves in need of rescue in the first quarter of the year. Here are some of their stories.



This cutie is **Simone**. At the tender age of 13 weeks, little Simone was surrendered to a shelter with a fractured tibia, round worms, coccidia and giardia. She was originally purchased from a BYB by a family. The husband lost his job the following week & the family attempted to return her to the breeder who refused to take her back. Just a few days later, she broke her leg and the family surrendered her to a shelter. Thankfully, **AHRCO** had a pre-existing relationship with the shelter and they knew to call **Mau-reen Anderson** right away. Simone was approved for **Special Needs** funding to cover the repair of her broken leg. Simone is living with her new family in Ohio.



Zoey & Zander are shown taking a much needed nap, during their busy first days after coming into rescue. The "Z kids" were surrendered to the shelter in Herber Springs, Arkansas after their owner became overwhelmed by caring for them. I got out my trusty AHCA phone directory and called club member **Agnes Mathis** of Hot Springs for help. Saint Agnes (as she will always be known to me) picked up these adolescent Afghan Hound siblings and got them to the airport in time to use their waiting tickets at Continental Cargo from **AHROMA** to begin their new careers as Afghan Hound Angels. After spending a night at Kamp Kurabi, Zoey & Zander went to stay with their foster caretaker, **Pat Keith**. She was still grieving the loss of her special needs boy Peanut & didn't think she was ready for another Afghan Hound. Little did she know Peanut took a break from zooming around Rainbow Bridge to send these special Afghan Hound angels to heal her broken heart. The Z kids got right to work decorating the floor with leaves, twigs, and a healthy layer of mud. Zander ate Pat's watch and did a dare devil act on the pool liner a few times to shock Pat's heart back to life. It was hard work, as you can see from their "passed out on the couch" picture, but they were successful. Pat remembered the joy of living with an Afghan Hound is worth the pain of losing them later. Zoey & Zander have moved on and were adopted by a life long Afghan Hound owner who understood the Z Kids came as a pair.

Continued on page 15 ...

Giselle, 9 months old, was abandoned in the drop box at the Pearl River Animal Shelter. She had a severe UTI with stones in her bladder and badly infected ears when she came into rescue. It was



Tidewater weekend and the club members in the area were away at the show. Luckily, **Dee Jones**, the Chairperson of the **Borzoi Club of America Rescue**, lived a few hours away & was able to pick up this sick puppy. Dee & Greg fostered Giselle until she was well enough to travel.

Giselle made fast friends with their Borzois and Silken during her stay at Lagniappe Hounds. Giselle didn't respond to treatment for "stones in her bladder" which made her drip urine 24/7. A second opinion showed Giselle's kidneys were not connected to her bladder because of a genetic defect. Giselle made the move to **Pat Keith's** for fostering and TLC so she could have surgery to repair her defective plumbing. Special thanks to the Borzoi Club for their help and to the **AHCA Special Needs Fund** that covered her surgery so she could start a new, **DRYER** life.



Simbar, a very handsome 2 year old, was hit by a car and abandoned at a Veterinary Hospital in Miami. Lucky for Simbar, **Sherri Beregovoy** a Saluki fancier was a client and agreed to take Simbar home because he was very unhappy at the hospital. He had become depressed and had lost more than 10 pounds. Simbar was thrilled to be back in a home and part of a family. He had no trouble opening the refrigerator & helping

himself to whole chickens and ½ gallons of ice cream. It isn't too surprising that he regained his lost 10 pounds! With the help of the **AHCA Special Needs Fund**, Simbar was able to get his hip repaired. He is now called **Tucker** and is rehabbing and learning some house manners while awaiting his forever home.

Hunter was surrendered to the Humane Society Of South Mississippi. This beautiful 2 year old was brought in by animal control when his owner died. There was no information about his breeder so he was welcomed into rescue. Hunter is a typical happy, loving afghan boy. He is being fostered by **Trish Webb (adoptive owner) of Samsara**, while he received heartworm treatment courtesy of **AHCA Special Needs Funds**.

Pharaoh was picked up with his mother as loose strays by the Utah shelter. He was part of a back yard breeding program that was well known to local rescue. Thankfully, they chose not to pay the loose dog fines and Pharaoh made his way into rescue. **Lydia Kunsler**, our Las Vegas res-

cue coordinator, was visiting her family in the area and happily took Pharaoh home for rehabbing and eventually placement. As luck would have it, Pharaoh won't need placement, he fits in so well that Lydia will be keeping him permanently.

Stormy, Jasmine, Minoo and Lestat came from a well known puppy mill in Mississippi. (Giselle is a littermate to Minoo and Hunter is also a relative.) The puppy mill owner is having health problems which provided an opportunity to rescue these Afghan Hounds. Special thanks to **Dr. Chi-aki Whetstone** of Art Animal Hospital who provided fostering and emergency veterinary care to **Jasmine** and **Stormy**. **Jasmine, Minoo, and Lestat** have found their



way into permanent homes where they continue to blossom both physically and emotionally. Special thanks to AHCA members **Linda Shipley** who found Jasmine's home and to **Hope Leedom** who found fostering, transport and permanent homes for Minoo and Lestat. Stormy, the stud dog of the mill is a beautiful blue brindle domino

boy who walked out of the filthy barn and has never looked back. He walks well on a leash, loves going for rides in the car and above all loves to be petted and loved. **Stormy** has some health issues including ear infections, bladder infections, heartworm and inverted eyelashes. Stormy is being fostered by **Susan Bravakis** (adoptive owner of New Mexico rescue Ms. Tula) until he is healthy and ready for a home of his own. **The Afghan Hound Club of Northern New Jersey** is generously sponsoring "Stormy" and covering his special needs bills. Thank you NNJ!

Juan Vasquez (Alamo Area Afghan Hound Club) is happy to report that **Mommy Tammy** from the New Mexico rescue has raised her brood and found a permanent home of her own. **Juan** is currently fostering **Trinity**, a beautiful black masked gold girl. She has health issues including heartworm that need to be addressed before she is ready for placement.

Judy Newton of **AHCGG/AHCA member** rescued a lovely older guy named Leo from a local shelter. He needed and received heartworm treatment.

Tammy Shinn from Alaska took in a 3 year old girl who will be adopted by a repeat adopter from Tammy's list.

Michelle Jackson took in a 16 year old, **Nunki** when her breeder/owner passed away. Filthy and matted, Nunki lived outside her whole life with only a shed and a heat lamp for shelter. Sweet Nunki will stay for the rest of her life with Michelle.

Continued on Page 16 ...

Continued from page 15 ...

Speaking of 16 year old's, **Daphne** has turned 17! **Barb Hastings, an AHCA member** and foster parent, reports that Daphne continues to amaze them. She still has times when she runs away in the yard and refuses to come in. You go girl, Daphne!

Uno, Lizzy, Kahuna, Nemo found homes from breeder referrals I made during this quarter. Barb Hastings made 3 breeder referrals that resulted in 2 placements.

These are just a few of the Afghan Hounds that came though rescue this quarter. Please be sure to send me your rescue news so you can be included in the next report. My email is SlavToAnAf@aol.com. I am interested in rescues taken in ~ their name, age, where they came from, placements, referrals to breeders, etc. I know that **Linda Shipley** and her volunteers at **TARA** have been very busy with rescue in 2009. Hopefully we can get a report from them for the next issue of Topknot News.

Thank you, Everyone, for all your hard work!

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE PROVIDES OPTIONS

By Heather Grimshaw

Submitted by Health Co-chair, Sandy Frei

Morris Animal Foundation Research Tests Effectiveness

Combining Eastern and Western medical therapies, sometimes called integrative or complementary medicine, gives patients the best of all worlds.

Request for the services are increasing. Approximately 38 percent of adults in the United States use one form or complementary or alternative medicine, according to the National Center for Alternative and Complementary Medicine. And many seek treatments for their pets as well.

A study from Colorado State University's Animal Cancer Center shows that 65 percent of 254 pet owners requested chiropractic care and acupuncture to reduce pain in their pets suffering from cancer. To accommodate demand, many veterinarians offer complementary services and network through industry groups such as the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association. (AHVMA), American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture and American Veterinary Chiropractic Association.

Dr. Robin Downing is a pain management specialist, owner of Windsor Veterinary clinic in Colorado and a Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) trustee. She uses a variety of treatments like acupuncture, manual therapy and medical massage. "We blend the very best of what traditional, allopathic medicine has to offer," she explains. "Think of it as a way to assist the body in healing itself."

Although many of these techniques have yet to be fully proven in animals, research continues to advance. MAF wants to help ensure these techniques are scientifically sound, which is why we've expanded funding into nontraditional areas.

Two MAF funded studies will provide reliable, scientific data about complementary treatments, including acupuncture, herbal remedies and chiropractic care.

Dr. Darryl L. Millis at the University of Tennessee is evaluating the use of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, low-level laser therapy and acupuncture for treating osteoarthritis in dogs. He estimates 20 percent of adult dogs suffer from the disease, and since some do not respond to or cannot tolerate drug therapies, complementary care could provide an attractive option.

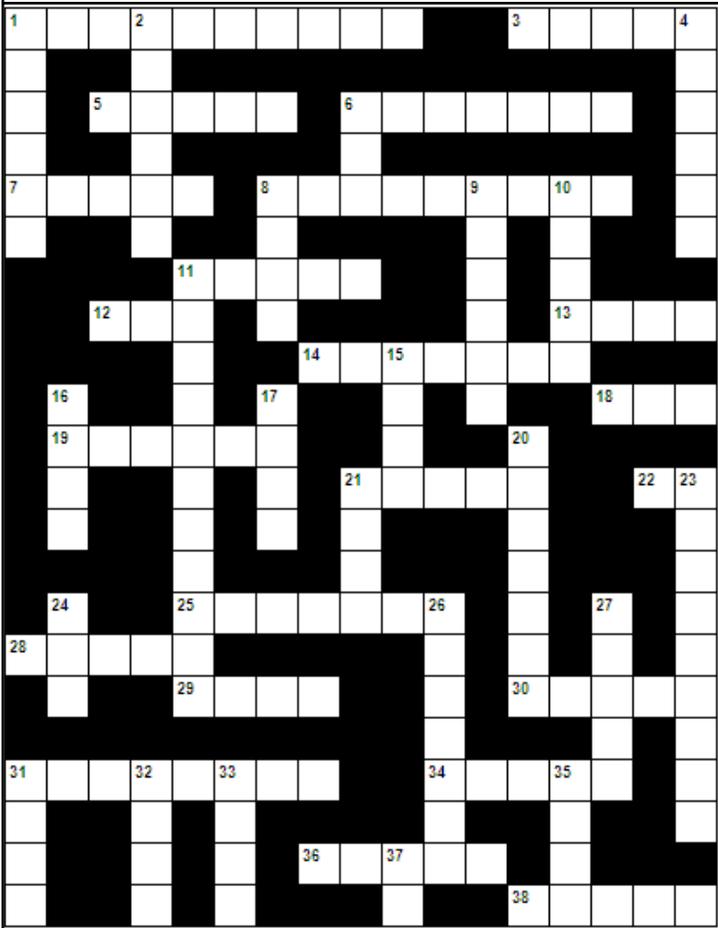
Within the equine realm, Dr. Robert MacKay at the University of Florida will evaluate how acupuncture and herbal remedies impact anhidrosis, a condition that impairs a horse's ability to dissipate heat through sweat.

"Studies like these help veterinarians make informed choices for patients. The availability of additional treatment methods appeals to veterinarians, who may have exhausted conventional approaches without success," says Dr. Carvel Tiekert, executive director of the AHVMA.

Pet owners should work with trusted veterinarians as their primary source for information, referral and integrative or complementary therapies. In fact, many studies require veterinary involvement when pets receive complementary care and specify where care can be provided.

"Review credentials of individuals who will do treatments, and try to speak to other pet owners whose animals have been similarly treated," Downing recommends.

**ARE YOU READY FOR THE NATIONAL?
(Answers on page 20)**



ACROSS

1. The Afghan Hound is an _____
3. Fault: Pads of feet not _____ enough
5. These combinations are pleasing
6. Fault: Too much width of _____ causing interference with elbows
7. 2009 National Intersex Judge
8. Fault: A neck lacking in _____
11. 2009 National Bitch Judge
12. There are this many striking characteristics of the breed
13. Characteristic: Large _____ (one word)
14. We all want to be _____
18. This neck is a fault
19. Aloof and dignified, _____ (two words)
21. This is evenly balanced with the foreface
22. Well ribbed and tucked _____ in flanks
25. An outstanding characteristic of the Afghan Hound: _____ of long silky hair
28. A faulty neck
29. Pads of feet unusually large and well _____ on the ground
30. Fault: A _____ back
31. These are very prominent
34. This is a difficult _____ (one word) to breed
36. 2009 National Dog Judge
38. Well held in

DOWN

1. Toes well _____
2. This is a traditional characteristic of the breed : _____ back in mature dog
4. 2009 National Sweepstakes Judge
6. 2009 National Chief Ring Steward
8. 2009 National Show chairman
9. Strong and powerful loin and slightly _____ falling away from the stern
10. Showing of short hair on _____ on either front or back legs is permissible
11. This Roman nose is a fault
15. This runs into a curve to the shoulders
16. These are dark in color
17. Ears set approximately with outer corner of the _____
20. (two words) _____ feet of the Afghan Hound are in line with the body
21. This holds everything together
23. A scissors bite is even more _____
24. Fault: A head _____ surmounted with topknot
26. The coat is not clipped or _____
27. _____ & drive
31. These feet are broad and of good length
32. The occipital _____ is very prominent
33. This is black in color
35. This is set not to high on the body
37. (one word) _____ trace of plainness or coarseness

A TRIBUTE TO DOUG VINSON

Submitted by Bob Carter, National Afghan Hound Rescue for North & South Carolina

In 1987 Doug adopted three greyhounds and became passionate about letting people know how wonderful they are. Through a quirk of fate, he began helping Afghan Hound Rescue and eventually became the National Rescue Chair for the AHCA Afghan Hound Rescue, where he helped hundreds of dogs find loving homes. He had two mottos "**No dog left behind**" and "**It is all for the dogs**".

I first made contact with Doug and Chelle in the early 90's. I was seeking advice about an Afghan Hound that I was fostering. I could always count on Doug or Chelle to supply me with the advice I needed.

In 1999 I called Doug to say that my one and only Afghan Hound had died and I wanted to adopt another one. He arranged to have a breeder meet my wife and me at his home in Atlanta. It was the first time that we had met him and Chelle. We spent the night and had a wonderful visit with them and their dogs. I still have that Afghan Hound.

Over the years we kept in touch mainly by email and occasional telephone calls. The last time that we saw Doug was in January 2008 when we stopped in Atlanta on the way home from visiting my brother-in-law in Macon, GA. We took them to lunch and we had a nice visit with them both. At that time Doug was using a walker to get around but he was still determined to work until October of 2008 so that he could get some additional insurance benefits for Chelle. He was able to do just that and then some.

Both he and Chelle are two of the most caring individuals that my wife and I have ever met and Doug will be missed by all the people who ever met or worked with him in rescue.

Because of Doug Vinson, I have "Calley" at my side.

Editor's Note:

We lost both Doug Vinson and Scott Parsons this year. The AHCA Membership extends our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Alma Wells also died earlier this year. Alma was best known for the Jhajho Afghan Hounds.

Canada lost Bob Gilette, Rescue Chair for the Afghan Hound Club of Canada.

If you know of someone in our breed we have lost, please let me know so we may honor them in TN.

SADNESS AT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Submitted by Bob Carter

Unlike most days at the Rainbow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray, damp as a swamp and as dismal as could be imagined. All the recent arrivals were confused and concerned. They had no idea what to think for they had never experienced a day like this before. But the animals, who had spent some time waiting for their beloved people, knew exactly what was happening and began to gather at the pathway leading to the Bridge to watch. They knew this was something special.

It wasn't too long before an elderly animal came into view, head hung heavy and low, with tail dragging on the ground. The other animals on the pathway—the ones who had been at the Rainbow Bridge for a while—knew the story of this sad creature immediately. They had seen it happen far too many times. Although it was obvious the animal's heart was leaden and he was totally overcome with emotional pain and hurt, there was no sign of injury or any illness. Unlike the pets waiting at the Bridge, this dog had not been restored to his prime. He was not full of health nor vigor. He approached slowly and painfully, watching all the pets who were by now watching him. He knew he was out of place here. This was no resting place for him. He felt instinctively that the sooner he could cross over, the happier he would be. But alas, as he came closer to the Bridge, his way was barred by the appearance of an Angel who spoke softly to the old dog and apologized sorrowfully, telling him that he would not be able to pass. Only those animals, who were with their special people, could pass over the Rainbow Bridge. And he had no special beloved people--not here at the Bridge or on Earth below.

With no place else to turn, the poor elderly dog looked toward the fields before the Bridge. There, in a separate area nearby, he spotted a group of other sad-eyed animals like himself--elderly and infirm. Unlike the pets waiting for their special people, these animals weren't playing, but simply lying on the green grass, forlornly and miserably staring out at the pathway leading to the Bridge. The recent arrival knew he had no choice but to join them. And so, he took his place among them, just watching the pathway and waiting.

One of the newest arrivals at the Bridge, who was waiting for his special people, could not understand what he had just witnessed and asked one of the pets who had been there for some time to explain it to him.

That poor dog was a rescue, sent to the pound when his owner grew tired of him. The way you see him now, with graying fur and sad, cloudy eyes, was exactly the way he was when he was put into the kennels. He never, ever made it out and passed on only with the love and comfort

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that the kennel workers could give him as he left his miserable and unloved existence on Earth for good. Because he had no family or special person to give him love, he has nobody to escort him across the Bridge.”

The first animal thought about this for a minute and then asked, “So what will happen now?”

As he was about to receive his answer, the clouds suddenly parted and the all-invasive gloom lifted. Coming toward the Bridge could be seen a single figure—a person who on Earth had seemed quite ordinary—a person who, just like the elderly dog, had just left Earth forever. This figure turned toward the group of sad animals and extended outstretched palms. The sweetest sounds they had ever heard echoed gently above them and all were bathed in a pure and golden light. Instantly, each was young and healthy again, just as they had been in the prime of life.

From within the gathering of pets waiting for their special people, a group of animals emerged and moved toward the pathway. As they came close to the passing figure, each bowed low and each received a tender pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears. Their eyes grew even brighter as the figure softly murmured each name. Then the newly-restored pets fell into line behind the figure and quietly followed this person to the Bridge, where they all crossed together. The recent arrival, who had been watching, was amazed.

“What happened?”

“That was a rescuer,” came the answer. “That person spent a lifetime trying to help pets of all kinds. The ones you saw bowing in respect were those who found new homes because of such unselfish work. They will cross when their families arrive. Those you saw restored were ones who never found homes. When a rescuer arrives, they are permitted to perform one, final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort those poor pets that couldn’t place on Earth across the Rainbow Bridge. You see, all animals are special to them—just as they are special to all animals.”

“I think I like rescuers,” said the recent arrival.

“So does God,” was the reply.

(Author Unknown)

IF IT SHOULD BE
Submitted by Janet Lenobel

If It Should Be

If it should be that I grow frail and weak
And pain should keep me from my sleep
Then you must do what must be done
For this, the last battle, cannot be won.

You will be sad, I understand,
Don’t let your grief then stay your hand.
For this day, more than the rest,
Your love and friendship stand the test.

We’ve had so many happy years
What is to come can hold no fears.
You would not want me to suffer so
When the time comes please let me go.

Take me where my needs they’ll tend
Only, stay with me to the end
And hold me firm and speak to me
Until my eyes no longer see.

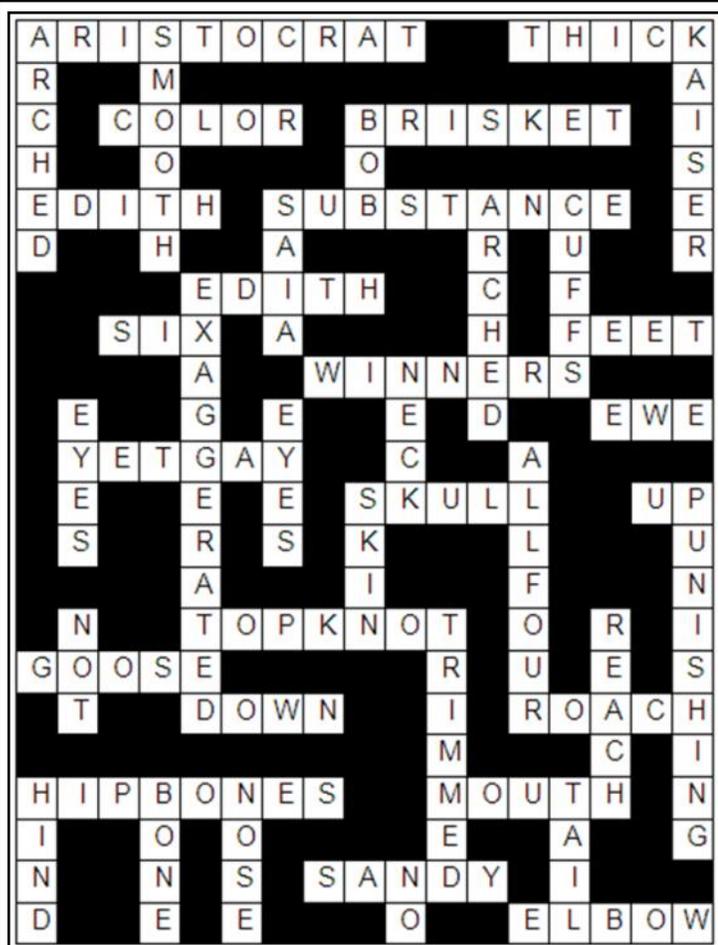
I know in time you will see
It is a kindness you do for me.
Although my tail its last has waved
From pain and suffering I have been saved.

Don’t grieve it should be you
Who has to decide this thing to do.
We’ve been so close we two these years
Don’t let your heart hold any tears.

So I am glad, not that he’s gone,
But that this earth he roamed and lived upon
Was my earth, too,
And that I had closely known and loved him,
And that my love I had shown.

Tears over his departure?
Nay, a smile
That I had walked with him a mile.

(Author Unknown)



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