

Topknot News



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

Summer 2012



"Home Alone"
by Terry d. Chacon

Visit the AHCA Website at afghanhoundclubofamerica.org
Rescue Hotline: 1-877-AF-RESCU (1-877-237-2728)

Topknot News Editor:
Sue Hamlin
shh3@cornell.edu
(607) 732-0793

Assistant Editor:
Mary Kenney Blacker

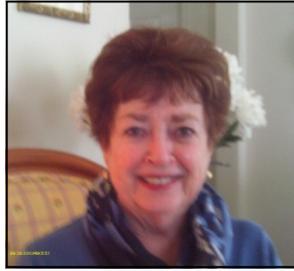
Proofreading:
Suzanne Eaton Duay

Layout & Distribution:
Barb Bornstein
Lee Bornstein
Doris Horton

(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.)

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Editorial: Old Dogs, New Tricks



Masthead

In the Spring issue, I said that the more things change, the more they remain the same. That's true, but sometimes I just can't help myself, so a little tweaking took place on the masthead starting with this summer issue. Actually it was Norma Cozzoni's retro on *Topknot News* in the last issue that got me thinking about inserting the AHCA logo in place of the "O". I think it looks pretty snazzy and hope you like it as well.

Art

We are very fortunate to have many very artistic members in our club, as well as members who own some handsome art pieces. Mary Blacker, Carla Helm, Sharon and Monroe Jackson, Chris Kaiser and Linda Shipley have graciously agreed to share their work, that you will see throughout these pages. Mary Blacker has provided some historical information on the rare, discontinued Afghan Hound art pieces shown throughout this issue. Our thanks to all, and particularly, gracing TN's covers, the art of Terry d. Chacon's *Home Alone* and another of Michele Trifiro's wonderful *Kabuki* "doing her thing."

Science

Along with the art, perhaps a little science. Are you aware that the first dog cloning took place in 2005? Through my Cornell connection, I was able to make contact with scientists in South Korea, who cloned that first dog – an Afghan Hound!

Literature

References to Afghan Hounds (other than at dog shows) are out there for the seeking. Author Nina Wright provides some insight on writing her popular *Whiskey Mattimoe* series starring *Abra*, the irrepressible, purse-snatching Afghan Hound.

Technology

Michael Canalizo shares with us information on how technology has changed the dog show world in **Then and Now**.

Rescue

Read about *Jin Jin*, our featured rescue Afghan Hound, a dog of many talents, and winner of the New Yorkie Runway show.....a really big deal! And the story about *Hendrix*, a 14 year-old rehomed Afghan Hound.

Circus

I went to the circus again! More on Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Hounds.

Welcome Waggin'

Mary Blacker's initiative introducing new members!

We love suggestions and ideas for future TN issues. If you think of something you'd like to see, or wish to contribute an article, don't be shy. Contact me!

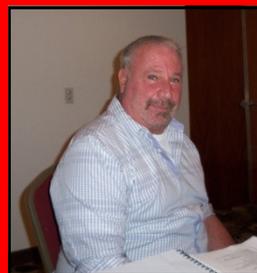
Along with our interesting club reports, we present to you a full issue for your summer reading pleasure.

Don't forget to make plans for the National the end of October. See you there!

Sue

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**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**
Submitted by
**AHCA President,
Tony Saia**



Now that the 2nd *Topknot News* for 2012 is in your hands, I know our members will once again be delighted with this publication and all of its contents. The very enthusiastic TN Committee is continually working to provide a first rate newsletter that is filled with information about our breed and the fancy.

Our Board of Directors recently held its first Board meeting via a phone conference, and I must say that it was a great success. We managed to finish by 11:10 PM! As stated in the Spring 2012 TN newsletter, we are working diligently to improve our Breed Education program. We are also working on some new, exciting presentation material that will be useful for all Regional Clubs. It's our goal to help our Regional Clubs build a more solid breed foundation, so that we may try to expand the knowledge of the Afghan Hound throughout the USA. If any AHCA members have any thoughts or suggestions, I strongly recommend that you contact me, or a member of the Board.



Our next big event will be the 76th National, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Our Show Committee is working meticulously to make sure that this year's event will be simply fabulous. We are also looking into the future and need ideas, plans and proposals for both the Breeders' Cup and the National for 2014 and beyond. Our current Board would like also to expand our performance events, but we need help in achieving these goals. As you read this current TN Newsletter, if you have any good ideas or suggestions, I hope that you will come forward with them.

Sincerely yours,
Tony A. Saia, President AHCA

2012 Committee Chairpersons

Agility: Lynda Hicks *suniafghans@gmail.com*
AHCA Rescue Charitable Trust: JoAnne Buehler *tazihound@his.com*
AKC Delegate: Connie Butherus *gcb27@ptd.net*
AKC Gazette Column: Harry Bennett *harryonly@aol.com*
Awards: Claudia Jakus *claudiajakus@comcast.net*
Breed & Public Education: Marcia & Dom Morelli *dmorelli@verizon.net*
Breeders' Cup: Sue Busby *barakiafs@peoplepc.com*
Breeders' Cup 2013: Becky Morissette *obsessionsafs@comcast.net*
Canine Health: Eileen Laudermilch *herrhounds2@cox.net*
Complaints: Board of Directors
Facebook: Gary Lennon *lennongary@yahoo.com*
Inventory Control: Sue Busby *barakiafs@peoplepc.com*
Judges Education: Harry Bennett *harryonly@aol.com*
Junior Showmanship: Jody Gardner *jmgafghan@aol.com*
Legislative Affairs: *www.akc.org/governmentrelations*
Librarian: Helen Stein *beaniesue@aol.com*
Lure Coursing: Max Ross *mrosshomestead@aol.com*
Mailing List Coordinator: Claudia Jakus *claudiajakus@comcast.net*
Membership: Sandy Nelson *karizmaafghans@comcast.net*
Mentor Program: Christine Pinkston *criston@aol.com*
National Events Liaison - 2012: Abbe Shaw *abaca101@aol.com*
National 2012: Chuck Milne *milne_chuck@yahoo.com*
National 2013: Dianne Kroll *dianne.kroll@frontier.com*
Obedience/Rally/Versatility: Debbie Petersen *afghan1@juno.com*
Parade of Rescue Medallions: Claudia Jakus *claudiajakus@comcast.net*
Parliamentarian: Connie Butherus *duaneb@ptd.net*
Policies & Procedures: Sandy Nelson *karizmaafghans@comcast.net*
Publications Coordinator: Helen Stein *beaniesue@aol.com*
Regional Clubs: JoAnne Buehler *tazihound@his.com*
Rescue: Russ & Barb Hastings *baruast3@verizon.net*
Statistics: Jo Ann Alft *jalft@netwurx.net*
Topknot News: Sue Hamlin *shh3@cornell.edu*
Ways & Means: Sue Busby *barakiafs@peoplepc.com*
Webmaster: Eddie Kominek *admin@afghanhoundclubofamerica.org*
Web Advisor: Chris Kaiser *abiszet@att.net*

SUSAN SHERYLL'S ROYAL AFGHAN HOUNDS By Sue Hamlin

Way before I even knew that Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Hounds were to perform at the Shriner Hanneford Circus on May 1st and 2nd in Elmira, NY, I received an email from Susan asking me to be her guest at the show. Nothing could keep me away!

I arrived at the arena on May 1st and was able to hook up with Susan and her husband Davide at a nearby eatery where they were lunching. We hit it off right away, and spent close to 3 hours visiting and getting to know each other.

When we went back to the arena, she brought out her Afghan Hounds from the huge motor home (her home away from home, especially designed by Davide for the comfort of the dogs). What a friendly bunch - happy and obviously in love with Susan!

Fortunately, Susan was available the next day, so we enjoyed brunch together and did more visiting, before her getting ready for the matinee and evening performances.

Although she had described her act to me, I wasn't prepared for the splendor and absolute wow factor of seeing six beautifully groomed Afghan Hounds performing in the ring. Susan's a real knockout herself, but to see her enter the ring in glittering costume with those Afghan Hounds, their tails up and wagging, was quite a sight.

As they entered the ring, the dogs took their seats on the pyramid. Husband Davide set chairs (specially designed shiny props for the act) in the ring and **Toma** leapt over. Then Davide kept adding chairs, and **Toma** completed the broad jump. The audience erupted in laughter when Davide produced a Yorkie, and gestured to the audience that the Yorkie was going to jump. Of course, the tiny Yorkie scooted under all the chairs. That brought down the house.

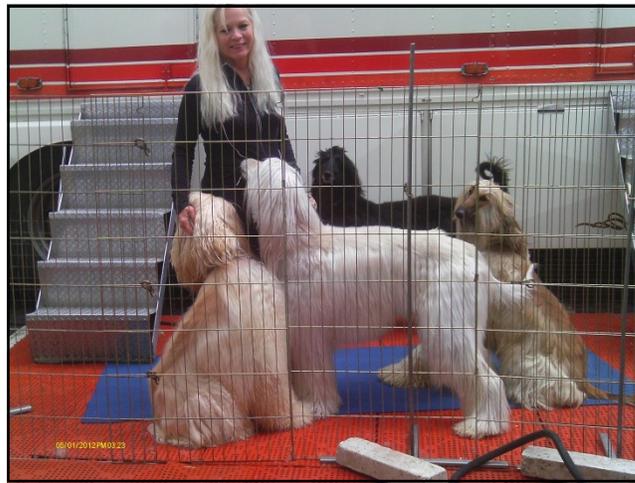
The sight of **Arctic** walk/hopping 80 feet on his hind legs, following Susan across 2 rings brought wild applause from the audience. This particular routine is Susan's "signature." In all her years of performing, she has always had an Afghan do the 80 foot walk. The dog is in such great shape, that at the end of the walk, he "sits-up" directly from a standing position. A fantastic sight!

Next, the high jump was put in place. **D'Artagnan** was the first to go over. Davide continued to raise the cross-bar higher and higher. A ramp was placed on the jump side, an astro-turf landing pad is placed on the off side to cushion the landing as each Afghan Hound sailed over the jump. After **D'Artagnan**, **Arctic** jumped, then **Avatar**, then a jump with **Navarre** and **Toma** together at the same time, and then the cross-jump where the two dogs cross from each direction at the same time. The finish jump is about 10 feet high, which **Arctic** completes with ease.

The Persian cat routine riding on **Avatar's** back was wonderful. As **Avatar** circled the ring, the audience went wild, even more so when **Avatar** began his jumps with the cat on his back. This routine took over a year to train, but it's obvious the cat and dog have bonded. They make a great team!

With the loud audience noise and music, the dogs all kept their cool. Amazing! What troopers!

Susan's newest member to the group is Spiderman, professional name **Mirage**, and new since the untimely death of **Rio** in January. **Mirage** is just learning, took his place on the pyramid, and will be "in training" learning the routines as time progresses.



Susan has done such precision work with her Afghan Hounds, it's a joy to see. As one who put a CD on an Afghan Hound many years ago, I know that training these dogs is no easy task. But Susan loves her dogs, they love her, and it shows.

Susan and Davide are not just limited to the Shriner sponsored Circus, but also do huge corporate shows, state fairs, television commercials, and last year were part of the action-thriller star-studded movie "**Contagion**."

If you are able to see Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Hounds perform live anywhere in your area, I highly recommend you make the effort to see this amazing and beautiful demonstration of what the Afghan Hound breed is truly capable of. You won't be disappointed!

IN MEMORIAM

Our sincere condolences to the family of Lynne Miller, Valparaiso, IN. Lynne passed away earlier this year. Her great love of the Afghan Hound and her work in obedience will long be remembered.



THE STORY OF JIN JIN

The following account of how Jin Jin, a rescued Afghan Hound, triumphed at a New York City fashion show benefit is reprinted from the 2/16/12 "Pets" column in the Babylon Beacon by Joanne Anderson.

In a booming Sinatra voice: "Start spreading the news." Jin Jin won! Let me repeat. Jin Jin won the New Yorkie Runway Show last Friday night.

This fabulous Afghan Hound featured in "Pets" on 1/18 was selected as the first ever winner in this posh NYC event to benefit Angel On A Leash, Westminster Kennel Club's therapy dog program. Thank you to everyone who voted for our beautiful girl! Jin Jin is the quintessential triple-talented therapy dog who visits with homebound elderly, rehabilitation patients, as well as struggling young readers.

Jin Jin is a rescue besides being an accomplished therapy dog. The Afghan Hound world is close knit. Jin Jin belongs to my friend Annette Smith in Toms River who also has my Edgar Afghan Poe's sister, Rebecca. Edgar and Rebecca are part of a seizure of 67 Afghans from a New Mexico hoarder. Annette and her husband Rick recently fostered another Afghan surrendered to me. This sweet male was bedazzled by his lovely foster sister, but moved onto his forever home in Pennsylvania before Jin Jin became a runway model. He has no idea how intense a campaign we waged to gather votes for the object of his admiration.



The New Yorkie Runway competition was fierce. After 100+ dogs auditioned in January, the judges selected 10 finalists. Several were semiprofessional, appearing in plays or trained dog acts. During the audition, Jin Jin pranced in her custom fitted pink dress while Annette displayed a photo of Jin Jin in her NASCAR costume which she had worn in a local fashion show to raise funds for Canine Caregivers, the NJ organization that arranges her visits. Jin

Jin didn't have a show biz background.

Next, three weeks of online voting ensued. At first Jin Jin had a large lead but then the field narrowed to four contenders with percentages staying close while ranking changed daily. The winner would be determined by votes and judges scores, a bit like *Dancing with the Stars*. One handsome Boxer finalist named Mattingly was gaining Yankee momentum. We knew we had to reach out to get more votes, but we weren't technowhizzes. Each person could only vote once per computer.

After writing the "Pets" column, I contacted all the Afghan Hound forums and Facebook groups, every long-lost relative and each canine connection including clubs and rescues. Afghan Rescue volunteers were blanketing spots like Philadelphia, Boston and the Stony Brook University Feral Cat Network. Even the West Virginia shelter transport network put out a blast for Jin Jin. She got votes from all over the US, Europe and even one from Bahrain. Because Jin Jin worked with elementary age readers, two of my former principals sent the word out to their facul-

ty and students.

I created a "Vote for Jin Jin" Facebook page but didn't know how to promote it. I tried to get her story on NASCAR sites because we knew that was a ballot goldmine but my posts never "stuck" there. We sang Jin Jin's praises everywhere we went. Yes, even at the Westminster Kennel Club press conference before the Super Bowl. Campaign headquarters - "Jin Jin Jersey"- had the support of Canine Caregivers, her agility school, animal hospitals and local dog-related businesses. We contacted the Toms River newspapers. Annette made flyers with tear-off strips. Then Annette had an ingenious publicity plan for the last week of voting.

Annette decided to put Jin Jin in her audition dress and stand outside the *Today Show* with a sign. Only problem is that Rockefeller Plaza is private property and no dogs are allowed there. As she was leaving, a policeman approached suggesting that she go to *Good Morning America*. No one would chase Jin Jin there. The GMA producer came out to explain that signs couldn't be that specific. He handed her a piece of oak tag and suggested she write: "Jin Jin Loves Sam."

Moments later Sam Champion took down the rope. He petted Jin Jin and spoke to Annette during his weather forecast. Annette mentioned that Jin Jin was in a benefit for Angel On A Leash. Many folks told us that they saw Jin Jin on TV. Later on, Sam Champion Tweeted about Jin Jin and entered her visit for Angel on his Facebook page. Jin Jin got over 250 "likes." America had spoken.

The winner would be announced at the Feb. 10 fashion show. The incredible event held at the New Yorker Hotel is the brainchild of pet fashion designer Elly McGuire who emceed with David Frei, the voice of Westminster and founder of Angel On A Leash. Meteorologist Ron Trotta and Schmittie the Weather Dog hosted. The Big Apple theme was ubiquitous. A checkered taxicab covered in cupcakes parked at the side of the runway. NYC opera tenor Frank Basile sang the national anthem. Miss USA escorted the first pup. The rest of the human models were from the entertainment field, corporate sponsors or Angel On A Leash.

A Metrocard quilted vest bedecked a Poodle; a Central Park Conservancy bodysuit adorned a Golden Retriever; while a T-shirt announced a Maltese was "Co-op Board Approved." As a grand finale, Publishers Clearing House, balloons and all, presented Angel On A Leash with a "big check" for \$10,000.

Only one dog got to strut the catwalk twice. And that would be our glorious Afghan, Jin Jin. She took a victory jaunt in her satin audition dress, and then later in a daisy ensemble that New Yorkie Fashions created just for her. Saturday morning she appeared on Channel 4 as part of a NY Fashion Week recap. Seems Jin Jin turned up on the *Today Show* after all.





REGIONAL CLUB SPECIALTY SHOW DATES

Submitted by JoAnne Buehler, Regional Club Chair



Please send your AKC Show Application and Compliance Report along with your other documentation to me when you apply for AHCA approval. You are welcome to e-mail everything to the address below, or snail/overnight to my work address:

**11301 River Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854**

**tazihound@his.com
Phone: 301-590-9056
Fax: 301-299-0079**

CLUB REGULAR CLASS JUDGE SWEEPSTAKES JUDGE JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE	SHOW DATE SHOW LOCATION
Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club, Ltd. MB-F Rachel Irwin – Regular Classes Marilyn Jennings - Sweepstakes H. Russell Hastings III– Junior Showmanship	7/6/2012 Hamlin Fireman’s Field 1503 Lake Rd., Route 19 Hamlin, New York
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Portland Show Secretary Pending Peter Machen – Regular Classes Gail Kramer - Sweepstakes Pending – Jr. Showmanship	7/6/2012 Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Centralia, WA
Evergreen Afghan Hound Club Patricia Shaw Gil Ullom – Regular Classes Kelly Ray – Sweepstakes Gil Ullom – Junior Showmanship	8/3/2012 Argus Ranch Facility for Dogs 35612 – 112th Ave. SE Auburn, WA
Midwest Ohio Afghan Hound Club, Inc. Holly Miller Sandra Frei – Regular Classes Col. Darlyn Pfeiffer – Sweepstakes Pending – Junior Showmanship	8/10/2012 49978 St. Rt. 511 Lorain County Kennel Club Grounds Henrietta TWP, Ohio
Memphis Afghan Hound Club Onofrio Dog Shows Pam Arwood - Regular Classes Sandra Stotzer – Sweepstakes NO Junior Showmanship	8/18/2012 Designated Specialty @ Memphis KC The Southaven Multi-Purpose Arena Memphis, TN
Greater Twin City Afghan Hound Club Onofrio Dog Shows LLC Dr. Jose Luis Payro – Regular Classes Beth Collins - Sweepstakes Camille Goll – Junior Showmanship	8/24/2012 Washington County Fairgrounds Lake Elmo, MN
Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club Dorma Sue Busby Robert Godfry – Regular Classes John (Jack) Fahey - Sweepstakes NO Junior Showmanship	9/1/12 Best Western Hotel Whitmore Lake, MI

Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club Dorma Sue Busby Lynn Mercer – Regular Classes Pat Sheets - Sweepstakes NO Junior Showmanship	9/2/12 Same site as 9/1/12
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver Jan D. Curtis Hank Nave – Regular Classes Holly Jorgensen – Sweepstakes Hank Nave—Junior Showmanship	9/6/2012 Island Grove Park 14th Avenue North & D St. Greeley, CO
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver Jan D. Curtis Honi Reisman – Regular Classes Linda Jackson – Sweepstakes NO Junior Showmanship	9/7/2012 Same site as 9/6/12
Leigh Valley Afghan Hound Club Shaina Bates Linda Bishop-Saunders – Regular Classes Roni Zucker - Sweepstakes Alicia Reed – Junior Showmanship	10/7/2012 Clinton Elks Club Picnic Grounds Annandale, NJ
Northern California Afghan Hound Club MB-F Chris Kaiser – Regular Classes Brigitte Kaiser – Sweepstakes Alicia Jones – Junior Showmanship	10/20/2012 Alameda County Fairgrounds Pleasanton, CA
Afghan Hound Club of Austin Carlos Chujoy Rita Figg - Regular Classes NO Sweepstakes NO Junior Showmanship	10/20/2012 Bel County Expo Center Belton, TX
Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty Dorma Sue Busby Betsy Hufnagel – Dogs Helen Stein – Bitches & Intersex Anna Stromberg – Sweepstakes Rita Figg – Junior Showmanship	10/28/2012 thru 10/31/2012 Sheraton Gateway Hotel 1900 Sullivan Road Atlanta, GA
Tara Afghan Hound Club, Inc. Dorma Sue Busby Jan Reital – Regular Classes Susan Sprung - Sweepstakes Jan Reital – Junior Showmanship	11/01/2012 Same site as National
Carolina Afghan Hound Club Dorma Sue Busby Ken Tippie – Regular Classes Nancy Alderman - Sweepstakes Pending – Junior Showmanship	11/02/2012 Same site as National

Sand 'N' See Afghan Hound Club
MB-F
JoAnne M. Buehler – Regular Classes
Mary K. Blacker - Sweepstakes
NO Junior Showmanship

11/9/2012
Brooksville Show Grounds
Brooksville, FL

Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Assoc.
Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows
Nancy Edgington – Regular Classes
Tara Schultz – Sweepstakes
NO Junior Showmanship

11/16/2012
Designated Specialty @ Tucson Kennel Club
Pima County Fairgrounds
Tucson, AZ

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus
MB-F
Debbie Petersen - Regular Classes
Becky Morisette – Sweepstakes
NO Junior Showmanship

11/18/2012
Designated Specialty @ Central Ohio KC
Ohio Exposition Center
Columbus, OH

Colonial Afghan Hound Club
MB-F
Pending – Regular Classes
Pending - Sweepstakes
Pending – Junior Showmanship

11/30/2012
Trade Center at the Courtyard Marriott
Fitchburg, MA



AWARDS

Submitted by Awards Chair, Claudia Jakus



I've received a lot of requests for the Best of Winners Medallion **WITHOUT** the premium list. Please be sure to read the information on the application. This also holds true for Juniors--I am receiving a lot of Juniors' requests which should be sent to JoAnne Buehler. I know that's confusing as to why the requests must go to her, but that was a board decision.

Award letters for the top dogs in 2011 will be mailed in August. Previously, they have been mailed too far in advance for some to respond and then they were forgotten about. Hopefully, by mid-August everyone will have a good idea as to plans if they will attend the National in order to receive their award.

Mailing List: The mailing labels for the National are printed. **IF YOU ARE A PARENT CLUB MEMBER OR HAVE ATTENDED A NATIONAL OR BREEDERS' CUP IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, A PREMIUM LIST WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.** If you do not meet either of the above criteria, please e-mail me and I will add your name to the list and forward it to Sue Busby so that you will receive the premium list.
claudiajakus@comcast.net

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!
Submitted by Abbe Shaw

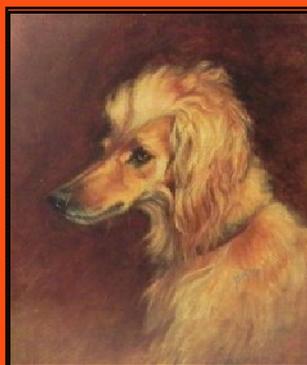


Any member interested in chairing the 2014 Breeders Cup or the 2015 National Specialty (both to be held in the Eastern Region), please contact me for more information at abaca101@aol.com, or by phone at 805-969-1234.



PLAYFUL PUPPIES

These two Kay Finch Afghan Hounds are from her "Playful Puppy" Series produced in 1955 until she began judging in the late fifties or early sixties. At that time, she closed her ceramics business.



**MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY UPDATES**

You must send your Membership Directory updates and corrections to the Recording Secretary. If there is an error in the directory, PLEASE let me know so that I may update and correct these errors. If you do not notify me of changes in your mailing address, telephone numbers, and email address, you will not receive important AHCA ballots, dues updates, the Membership Directory, etc. Understand that I am not a mind-reader and we must work together.

Barb Bornstein: dancingtree@trims.com

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Saturday, October 27 Lure Coursing AKC & ASFA
(Off-Site, Chattahoochee Hills, Fairburn, GA)

Sunday, October 28

7:00 AM Vendor Set-up
11 AM—3 PM Health Clinic (Thyroid Draw)
11 AM—3 PM Microchip Clinic

Afternoon

Junior Seminar
Junior Showmanship
5:00 PM Vendor Welcome Party & Booth
Trick or Treat

6:00 PM Puppy Sweepstakes/Veteran Sweepstakes
Triathlon Conformation Judging

Monday, October 29

AM

Obedience & Rally Competition
Liberty Class
Regional Club Meeting
Rescue Meeting
11 AM—3 PM Health Clinic (Thyroid Draw)
11 AM—3 PM Microchip Clinic

Afternoon Dog Conformation Judging

Evening Breed Seminar & Dinner
Seminar Topic: The Essential of Thyroid
Disease in Afghan Hounds

Tuesday, October 30

AM

General Membership Meeting
Judges Education Seminar
Afternoon Bitch Conformation Judging
Evening Art Auction—Magnolias & Moonlight
Costume Ball

Wednesday, October 31

AM

Parade of Rescue & Parade of Veterans
Announcement of Performance Event Awards:
Best Junior Handler
High in Obedience, Rally & Agility
Best of Breed Lure Coursing, AKC
Best of Breed Lure Coursing, ASFA
Presentation of Triathlon Placements

Afternoon Best of Breed
Best Stud Dog & Brood Bitch
Best Brace
Best Puppy
Best Bred-By-Exhibitor

PM—Annual AHCA Awards Dinner

AHCA 2012 NATIONAL REPORT
Submitted by Chair, Chuck Milne



We are just 4 short months away from the National and have already exceeded our room night guarantee with the hotel and have had to open more rooms several times.

Pure Paws will sponsor the AHCA National welcome bags, and they are donating \$1,200 worth of products for the bags. They will also sponsor our two bathing stations with \$1,000 worth of shampoos and conditioners. For every \$10 spent for products in their booth, a free ticket will be given to you for a special drawing for both the \$150 worth of **Pure Paws** products and the donated 3rd prize for the AHCA Raffle ticket basket of products. For the AHCARCT raffle table, **Pure Paws** is donating two gallons of shampoo and two gallons of conditioner (\$200 value) as well as other items during the show. There will be a special one-hour grooming seminar by Sandy Frei (Stormhill) and Karen Wagner (Pahlavi) - time to be determined.

We are currently working with other sponsors to help defray the cost of entertainment and the vendor party that will be held on Sunday before Sweepstakes judging.

Committees are in place, and all are very dedicated to making this a GREAT Show. Chris Kaiser and Jim Hicks have worked diligently on our ballroom layout to make the best of our limited space. I need some workers to help with the upstairs ready ring area outside the ballroom and grooming area. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact me at: milne_chuck@yahoo.com, 678-493-2257 or (cell) 404-932-5405 or contact Linda-Lee Jackson at: linda0822@bellsouth.com, 770-898-0286 or (cell) 770-653-2471.

Dinner menus have been worked out with the hotel, and every effort has been made to stay within the budget. The costume ball, art auction and dinner should put our guests in a party mood with open checkbooks. This will be a special and eventful evening affair. The logo for the sales items has been revised and completed---we had to simplify it from the original poster for print cost reasons.

I am looking forward to seeing you all!! So put on your best Scarlett or Rhett costume for the Art Auction Ball and bring your checkbook, Visa, Master Card, American Express or CASH.

The Awards Dinner will be a great event to wrap up the 2012 AHCA National in Atlanta Georgia!!!!!!

AHCA NATIONAL RAFFLE
Submitted by Christine Pinkston

The Afghan Hound Club of America is pleased to offer the following for its RAFFLE in support of the 2012 AHCA National Specialty Show.



First Prize: Gold EAST COAST Folding Crate

Second Prize: Stand Dryer

Third Prize: Basket of Grooming Supplies

\$5 per ticket -or- book of 5 for \$20 (Best Buy)

Drawing will be held at the AHCA National on October 31, 2012.

You need not be present to win.

Transportation of Prizes are responsibility of winners.

Raffle Tickets will be *mailed to the purchaser*. In order to achieve this, ALL *mail orders and payment* for raffle tickets must be received by October 20, 2012.

Tickets (checks payable to AHCA):

Christine Pinkston

1428 Princess Anne Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23456

criston@aol.com—757-426-2018

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LURE COURSING AT THE NATIONAL

Submitted by
Lure Coursing Chair, Max Ross
& Bob Jordan

The 76th Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty opens with the AKC and ASFA lure field trials and tests. These trials will be held at Chattahoochee Hills/Bouckaert Farm located only 15 miles from the show site. This is our premier coursing event with the winner of the AKC and ASFA trials competing for Best in Event. While there's nothing quite like properly prepared, correctly moving Afghan Hounds in the show ring, watching three of our hounds hurtling headlong across the field, straining and turning in an all-out pursuit, can be just as thrilling. The judges are Rita Figg and Donna Richards, both experienced AKC and ASFA judges who will be judging the hounds on speed, agility, follow, endurance, overall ability and enthusiasm.

Chattahoochee Hills/Bouckaert Farm is owned by Olympic three-day event rider, Carl Bouckaert. The farm has 8,000 acres of well-established rolling pastures, lakes and woodlands that run 12 miles along the Chat-

tahoochee River. Once you've entered the farm and are on the one-lane farm road leading to the field, watch for horses and riders, who have the right-of-way at all times. Please greet all riders graciously, as one of them might be Mr. Bouckaert, our host.

Past practice has been for the National Specialty lure field trial to be held on a fenced field, but this year, due to the remoteness of the field (more than a mile from a paved road) the Board gave permission to hold the trial on an unfenced field.

Directions to Chattahoochee Hills/Bouckaert Farm will be available at the host hotel. Food will be available so bring a folding chair and enjoy the event.



FUTURE LURE COURSING DATES:



October 13 & 14, Camden, SC

December 1 & 2, Camden, SC

For more information contact:

Max Ross at:

mrosshomestead@aol.com



**AHCA MENTOR PROGRAM
Submitted by Chair,
Christine Pinkston**



A sincere thank you is extended to Bobbi Keller for chairing this committee for many years. And thank you to all club mentors who have contributed their reports and stories.

Whether we recognize it or not, we all serve in the capacity as a mentor. Newcomers to the breed observe the

example we set in the way we care for our dogs, the number of litters we breed, the way we follow-up with dogs that have left our homes over the years, and the way in which we respond to those who are in need of a little help from time to time.

We serve as examples to those seeking to acquire an Afghan Hound for the first time, as examples to the new Afghan Hound exhibitor and we, in the way we support these people, can make or break their success and commitment to the breed. Interestingly, we make an impression to other dog fanciers about the way the Afghan Hound community supports "its own."

Please join in being good mentors in giving back. Today and everyday, pay attention to those who are paying attention to you! I hope you will enjoy reading some of the stories submitted by our mentors. I also hope you will become a contributor in plan and in practice.



GORT AFGHAN HOUND

The Gort Afghan Hound figurine is rare and hard to find. The company produced dogs and other figures for only 10 years (1944 to 1954). It is believed that the figure shown is the only Afghan Hound produced by the company and has only been found in the color of the one pictured.

WELCOME WAGGIN'

*With this issue, we are introducing a new feature, titled **Welcome Waggin'**. Mary Blacker has contacted all new members as of the TN Spring issue. New members will be contacted at the time of their membership approval to invite them to write a bio for the following issue of TN. While replies are not mandatory, they are much appreciated so that we can become better acquainted with our new members.*

Lorene French: I have loved the beauty of the Afghan Hound and the idea of owning one since I was a child. I remember pouring over the dog section of our encyclopedia looking at different breeds of dogs. There were several breeds that I thought were beautiful and that I dreamed of owning one day, but the standout in my mind was the Afghan Hound. When I grew up and purchased my first house in 1987, I hadn't even been in it a month when I purchased my first Afghan Hound. I showed this dog a few times, but both "Ali" and I soon found that we preferred to be on the sidelines watching my new friends in the Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club show their dogs. "Ali" was my constant companion and we did everything together. He would come out to the stable when I rode my horses and would go for bike rides and camping with my husband and me. He was a wonderful introduction to the breed, and a wonderful friend for many years. After he passed over the rainbow bridge, my sister (who I had convinced to purchase an Afghan Hound of her own back in 1987) and I purchased our first "show dog" from Anna Tyler, "Emme" Ch. Inisfree Emerald of Fox Run CD, RN, who lives with my sister and was a great conformation dog and is still a wonderful "auntie" at my sister's place, busy keeping the younger dogs in line at the age of 12. I have opened my home to several foster dogs coming through our club's rescue and helped to find great homes for those that I haven't kept with me for life. I have also made wonderful lifelong people friends through these rescued Afghan Hounds. I have kept two of the dogs I fostered, one of them is still living with me. His name is "Bryn"; he is an adorable, happy dog of approximately 9 years, who makes me smile daily.

I used to show horses and when I stopped riding, I changed my focus over to showing dogs. As I said earlier in my bio, I dabbled in it with my first dog, but it wasn't until my sister and I purchased "Emme" that we started showing seriously. My current Afghan Hound is "Rio" - Ch. Inisfree's Superior Majic SC, RN, CD. I am very proud of this dog, he is everything that I could wish for in a companion. Also, he is currently one point away from earning his field championship to become a Dual Champion. I am very proud that I have put all of the points for his conformation championship on him myself with the exception of his very first point. That honor belongs to my friend and one of Rio's breeders - Anna Tyler of Inisfree Kennels. Rio is also a proud new daddy to a lovely litter of 10 puppies, born on June 23, 2012.

The first time that either Rio or I had been in an obedience trial was at the 2011 Afghan Hound National Specialty. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I was absolutely astounded when Rio ended High in Trial and Champion of Record High in Trial for the Specialty. His name is in the archives for the National Specialty now, and I can point to that accomplishment for the rest of my life.

I belong to the Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club (GTCAHC) and I currently hold the position of Corresponding Secretary for this club. I had the honor of chairing our Specialty last year, and I am the field secretary (with my friend Lynn LaBahn) for our Lure Coursing trials.

I have been married for many years to my wonderful husband Tom, and we have two great children - Jason, who is happily married with two children of his own and Stacy who lives in Maryland, and works in Washington, D.C.

THEN and NOW! by Michael Canalizo



When did one take a leap from the mountains of Afghanistan (not so long ago) to now finding one's self spanning the globe via the web, the net, or whatever the next/newest phase of technology brings?

We all remember when one waited three months for any results to come out, unless one was lucky enough to have wealthy friends who would make costly long distance phone calls with any "news." The news of a win photo might reach you in three weeks - if you were lucky.

One planned a litter and advertised it as "upcoming," months in advance in a breed publication. The serious breeder spent great time and effort watching every class at a specialty to find that next "great one" to use for a breeding...and you hoped you could find the time to drive to the stud dog when nature took its course and it was time to breed your bitch.

That was **THEN**...this is **NOW**!

Now one has results "live" via a smart phone, even before the ribbons are distributed. And if you're the auspicious person officiating...that note/page/text/tweet, etc. is "global" with the entire world knowing what you did in seconds. Of course you're simultaneously hailed as the next best thing since sliced bread or unceremoniously being maligned for your lack of any shred of knowledge, etc. And should there be any doubt of one's interpretation of your performance or that of your dogs.....you can see the video played back for millions of viewers on You Tube or the like, for eternity!

OK.....so in the **NOW** world you can find a stud dog with the click of a mouse and Shazaam!...you are sending funds electronically to an online account for all the arrangements to have this wonder dog's semen sent with the next overnight delivery service. The really cool/weird/erie thing about this kind of Cyber Stud Service is that possibly the dog you're using isn't even alive! And if you wanted to be even more proactive in the new age "art of breeding"...you can even do a "split conception" breeding where two different sires are used and after the blessed event you DNA to see "Who's Who?"

I'm not condoning or condemning any of this new found techno stuff. I did resist even an artificial insemination back in its infancy (no pun intended), but eventually did take advantage of it when a dog was on the road for a show when the bitch was "ready"...and I have even gone so far as to have cells stored/harvested on one of the dogs, just in case there comes a time when it's proven the technology works...Hell...I might even be around to enjoy another "Tryst" if the cyber gods are smiling down on me.

So, **NOW** we also have new ways to "keep in touch" with our friends, peers, and newcomers to the breed. It started out with a basic "Chat Group" on one of the internet service providers...and it seems that each and every one could have a "group" that could convene at will. I was part of one of those "member owned lists" back in the day...and once removed... (For me it was by choice... for others that might not always be the case...) I realized that I could survive without all the banter, boasting and sometimes... bulls*it. There is a cliché that goes something like - "Those who can't...TEACH!" I'm not disagreeing with that edict completely. So much information was tossed about, and if one didn't know whether it was fact or fiction, it might have been taken as gospel.

What is new on this front is that now there are some extremely valuable sites that have built a solid base where our breed's pedigrees can be researched and old photos can be seen. Added to the fray is the current craze to be on Facebook. I have recently dipped a toe into that pond...I do think there is much good to be found there. There are Afghan Hound specific pages for almost every facet of the breed. The specialty clubs (including our AHCA), private pages where one joins a group (these are a small knit "group" of over 2,000+) of like minds where in-depth information can be shared. Each of these groups has active (and the casual lurker) fanciers who are willing to share their experiences in the breed. For the most part one can find solid, sound and proven comments from their many years of involvement. I'm talking really good breeders...some of them now judges, but all of them lovers of the Afghan Hound. I see this as an important tool to introduce the breed to a new sector of people. This in turn will lead to new club members on the local and national levels. And it has huge international appeal with interaction coming from every corner of the world.

If these new methods of "keeping up with the Joneses" is what we have to engage ourselves in, it might not be all that bad. I'd hate to lose some of our most valuable resources because one didn't want to move with the times....but from my perspective and from who I see on these sites, that just isn't the case...and that is a "good thing" for the breed!



A VISIT WITH NINA WRIGHT by Sue Hamlin

The newest Whiskey Mattimoe mystery is hot off the press. *Whiskey and Soda* is Nina (pronounced Neen-a) Wright's 6th mystery, again featuring *Abra*, the incorrigible, purse snatching Afghan Hound, follows the trail of the previous five. If you've read any of those books, you know that *Abra* is in trouble and on the loose most of the time.

Nina tells me that she was one of those kids who started telling stories as soon as she could talk. She had a lot of encouragement from her dad (who wrote down many of her stories, then presented them to her decades later) and her teachers. While in high school, she fell in love with theater, yet kept on writing. Years later in grad school, she was able to turn her writing skills into freelance business writing that paid for much of her education. She wrote plays, and had some success in getting plays produced, but still harbored her childhood dream of writing novels.

Mysteries have always fascinated Nina, but the mystery genre is serious. Nina tends to find humor in many situations – she says it's just part of her personality. She tends to look for the fun in criminal dysfunction. As a dog lover, she knew she could weave dogs into a humorous mystery. If she sees or experiences something, she automatically thinks, "What if----?" For Nina, that's how a story is born.

Although Nina has not yet owned her own Afghan Hound, she is quite familiar with the breed. In her early 20s, she shared a house with a woman who owned a cream Afghan Hound bitch. She learned to groom and to exercise and got to know many of the Afghan Hound quirks. She also had friends who owned Afghan Hounds. To this day, Nina regards Afghan Hounds as the "most stunningly beautiful and amazingly graceful creatures on God's earth."

No Afghan Hound that Nina has known gets into the trouble that *Abra* does because most Afghan Hound owners are responsible people who understand the needs of the breed. Nonetheless, she has witnessed lots of clown-like behavior coupled with speed, agility, and amazing feats of levitation. One of Nina's friends is routinely challenged to keep all four of her Afghan Hound's paws off the kitchen countertops where she likes to graze. Another Afghan Hound she knows opens and ruffles through dress-



er drawers in search of frilly undergarments and other forbidden "treats." Of course, Nina has also heard endless stories of Afghan Hounds as Houdinis. There's no shortage of inspiration!

Fellow AHCA member Linda Jo Bugbee has made Nina an honorary part of her Afghan Hound family. Linda Jo has been highly supportive of the series from the first book, sought Nina out, and they quickly became long-distance friends. Nina pictures *Abra* as the evil twin of Linda Jo's very sweet Elivia.

Currently, Nina's work and personal circumstances necessitate a great deal of travel, and an almost yearly move, so she is temporarily between dogs. Her moves have led to many new friendships as well as ample material for future fiction. She is well aware of the requirements of being a responsible human to a happy, healthy Afghan Hound, and tells me she knows a lot more about dogs than *Whiskey Mattimoe* ever will. Nina looks forward to the day when she is once again settled enough to be a good "dog-mom."

I was curious about the cover artwork as there was no artist listed. Bunky Hurter does a lot of commercial art and fashion graphics and was hired as a freelancer by Llewellyn/Midnight Ink who published Books One through Five. A change in leadership at Llewellyn resulted in Nina's need to find a new publisher if she wanted to continue the series. Fortunately, Nina was able to make a deal with Ampichellis, a division of Martin Brown Publishing. Ampichellis agreed to publish the first five books as e-books, so they could become more widely available. They then agreed to publish the sixth book in print form as well as e-book formats. That is why you see a different style for the cover art of book # 6, *Whiskey and Soda*.

Nina tells me that she writes each book with the goal that it will succeed as a stand-alone story as well as a sequel to the books that came before. That way, readers can jump into the series at any point. But she also leaves a door wide open for the next installment.

Nina says ideas flow constantly, so it's simply a matter of market demand. She hopes that readers will want more *Whiskey* and *Abra* after reading *Whiskey and Soda*. If readers convince her publisher that there's a demand for book seven, then she'll be able to write it.

I hope so. *Whiskey* and *Abra* are fun to read – light, intriguing, and you just never know what *Abra* will do next. You're sure to enjoy Nina's latest *Whiskey and Soda*, and their latest escapades!





WINDBLOWN AFGHAN HOUND

This particular piece (7 1/2") is from Kay's personal collection. It was the first out of the mold (artist's proof) and produced in 1957 until the closing of the business.

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AGILITY REPORT Submitted by Agility Chair, Lynda Hicks

For the time period of January thru March, 2012, Afghan Hounds have earned seven (7) new AKC Agility titles – more than Afghan Hounds have earned in any other AKC performance event during that time. Four of the Afghan Hounds earning these titles are conformation champions. One Afghan Hound recently earned a MACH 6 – making him the first Afghan Hound to reach that highly advanced level.

Plans are finalized for AHCA's 2nd all-breed Agility trial to raise funds towards expenses for agility trials at future national specialties. It will be held October 19, 2012, as part of a 4-day circuit in Belton, Texas. The application has been submitted to AKC. Parent Club volunteer committee members are in place, and we anticipate another successful and profitable event.

Regretfully, the planned Afghan Hound only Agility Trial along with the 2012 National Specialty has been cancelled because of the size and unusual configuration of the ballroom.

As an alternative, any scores from **Standard** and **Jumpers With Weaves** runs for any Afghan Hound entered in any (or all) of the Atlanta Obedience Club trials being held October 25, 26, or 27 will count toward earning the Agility High in Trial award for the National, and also towards Triathlon competition - Agility HIT. Announcement and trophy presentation will take place at the National just before BOB judging commences, at the same time as announcement of the other performance winners.

AFGHAN HOUND HEALTH SURVEY Submitted by Health Chair, Eileen Laudermitch, RN, CCRN

For the first quarter of 2012, the health check numbers are as follows:

Thyroid: 17 normal, 1 equivocal and 1 idiopathic hypothyroid, no thyroiditis

Hips: 11 excellent, 17 good - no dysplasia

Patellas: 3 normal

Elbows: 6 normal

Cardiac checks: 2 normal

Announcing the Afghan Hound health survey. To access:
http://www.offa.org/surveys/survey_afghan.html

The Afghan Hound health survey is now live. Please notify all Afghan Hound owners. We would like conformation, performance, and pet owners to participate. Also, fill out the survey for dogs that are living as well as deceased. We want as accurate a cross section of our breed as possible. To access; please go to the OFA site (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals), then click on surveys, and finally click on Afghan Hound. It's that easy. The survey involves drop down menus and will prompt to the next level if needed.



MARION FLORSHEIM PLATES

These hand-painted Lenox plates were painted by Walter R. Duff for Marion Florsheim of the Five Mile Kennels. Prior to Marion's death, she gave them to Kay Finch. The standing red/masked dog is Ch. Rudiki of Prides Hill, the sitting dog is his daughter, Ch. Rudika of Blakeen, and the cream dog is Ch. Rana of Chaman (of Royal Irish). There were only four of each set painted, and they have each dog's show record painted on the back.



ROSENTHAL

An elusive piece, this Afghan Hound (9 1/2"), according to his manufacturing mark, was produced during the 1950s only. Rosenthal has produced quality dinnerware, and other pieces since the middle to late 1800s. They ceased producing the figurines in the early 90s.



ROYAL WORCESTER

Also an elusive piece, this dog was first produced in 1947 by Doris Lindner for the Royal Worcester China Company in England. It came "undecorated" as seen and also in fawn with mask.



JANE CALLENDER AFGHAN HOUNDS

This "Mother and Pups" were produced between the late forties to the early sixties. Jane Callender produced many Afghan Hound pieces, as well as other breeds. She was well-known for the "spaghetti hair" on most of her long-haired breeds. The puppies come in all other colors besides the ones shown here.

INTRODUCING THE HENDRIX FUND

Note: Rescue has approved the proposal by Pam Wall and Dale Bloeman to establish the Hendrix Fund for senior Afghan Hounds in Rescue.

The following article gives background on Hendrix, a senior Afghan Hound who was re-homed at age 14. The experience greatly impacted those involved....family & friends of what should have been his forever home, his new adoptive home and most of all - Hendrix. The article below reprinted from the May 9, 2012 "Pets" column in the Babylon Beacon, written by Joanne Anderson, gives more background on Hendrix:

Pets, Pets, Pets by Joanne Anderson (Babylon Beacon 5/9/12) – permission given to reprint

“Excuse me while I kiss the sky.” Jimi Hendrix singing *Purple Haze*.

Like his namesake, Hendrix the Afghan Hound was a rock star, dazzling the masses with his attitude and impressive looks. Like his namesake, Hendrix (AKC registered name “Paladin’s Purple Haze”) “kissed the sky” in many ways, and continues to do so after his death at age 14. Hopefully, he will be the inspiration for a designated fund to support senior Afghans in need throughout the country.

Although Hendrix is Mr. May in our 2012 Afghan Hound Club of America (AHCA) Rescue calendar, he didn’t get to celebrate his month. He died in March just five days before his 15th birthday. Hendrix enjoyed a lifetime full of love. He was fortunate to have Vanessa, his doting Mom, who always put him first. She adored and babied him, even carrying this leggy galoot up stairs so he wouldn’t have to do so.

When Vanessa lost a long battle with cancer, her dying wish was that Hendrix continue to have the best of care. That’s why Pam Wall, a wonderful advocate of our breed, stepped in. She never met Vanessa, but learned of her devotion for Hendrix. After she offered to adopt Hendrix for the rest of his days, Hendrix joined Pam’s household alongside her two younger Afghans.

Pam embraced Hendrix, and rejoiced in his idiosyncrasies for a bit over a year. She had a purple coat designed for him to go along with his trademark trinkets. She built a ramp when his legs began to fail. She lay on his bed with him the night he was “stricken” until he passed an hour later with his head on her chest. Without a doubt, Vanessa would have approved. If Hendrix had been your aged dog, imagine how comforted you’d be to know a stranger could love your pet as much as you did.

I have the privilege of editing the AHCA Rescue calendar. The previous one recently won an award from Dog Writers Association of America because people send us such fabulous photos and case histories. I must trim heartfelt stories so we can squeeze them into tight spots. The calendars are prepared months before the year begins. Below are Pam’s unedited, eloquent words about Hendrix:

“From the pictures I have seen, to the stories that I have been told, Hendrix had a nice life. His mom, Vanessa, named him after one of her favorite singers, Jimi Hendrix. Hendrix saw many sights as they traveled around New England. They enjoyed long walks around Manchester, NH. A favorite thing was to go to Hampton Beach where Hendrix would get to run. People would stop Vanessa to admire Hendrix -- he was quite the looker in his younger days. Her family told me that Vanessa "often sacrificed much so that Hendrix was properly cared for."

I met Hendrix just before he turned 14. Vanessa had died the week before from cancer at 57 years old. He spent time in hospice with Vanessa, once staying a full week. She seemed much happier with him there and would fret when he wasn’t with her. I think a piece of Hendrix’ heart died with Vanessa. When he came to live with me, he just lay on his bed all curled up. It took him 3 days before I saw him eat. He wouldn’t let me touch him. First, I celebrated quietly when he ate a full meal; the second celebration when he began following me around. When he barked for me while outside, we had a party. Hendrix had begun to emerge.

He loves to play with his tennis ball, pouncing on it and biting it ferociously. His favorite game is "Monster." He barks at me and snaps his teeth in the air, while bouncing back and forth. I bend over, stretch my arms wide, growl at him and walk like a Monster. He growls back, chases me and pretends he is going to bite. When "Monster" is over, he sprints laps around the yard, hurdling the hostas. Did I mention he is 14? He STILL chases his tail, spins that old arthritic body around barking and snapping at his tail. He caught it once, I heard the scream, looked out and he was chasing it and barking at it. He really is such a character!



His time may be coming but he's determined to live life to the fullest until it does. This old man makes me laugh out loud every day and admire his tremendous heart and spirit. I'm so happy to be part of Hendrix's final chapter and to keep him safe until he and Vanessa meet again at the Rainbow Bridge. "And I said fly on my sweet angel, fly on through the sky, fly on my sweet angel, forever I will be by your side. (Jimi Hendrix, "Angel")

Each month on the calendar features two rescued Afghans. However, our senior celebrity had the month of May to himself. One photo showed a younger Hendrix running on the beach; another playing "Monster" with Pam; while superimposed on the month grid was Hendrix with his new Afghan amigos.

Someone once said that coincidences are God's way of remaining anonymous. Right before Hendrix died, Michaela, another neglected Afghan, showed up in a NJ shelter with a purple coat covering her mound of mats. (See www.babylonbeacon.com "Pets" 3/29/12.) What's the chance of two blonde Afghans wearing purple coats, especially since Afghans rarely need coats? When Michaela died shortly after Hendrix, Pam believed her kindred purple spirit was there to welcome Michaela at the Rainbow Bridge. "Excuse me while I kiss the sky." Can you hear Hendrix woof his introduction?

Pam would like to establish a Hendrix Fund to benefit rescued senior Afghan Hounds. If the national breed club approves this plan, her beloved Purple Haze boy will continue to "kiss the sky" each time an elderly Afghan in need is "babied" once more. Without a doubt, Vanessa would approve.

For more information, please contact Barb Hastings at AHCA RCT. To make a donation to The Hendrix Fund to help senior Afghan Hounds in rescue, make checks payable to AHCA RCT / Hendrix Fund and send to AHCA Rescue, c/o Barb Hastings, 4071 Gurnee Rd, Westfield, PA 16950.

Monies donated to the "Hendrix Fund" will be used solely for the extra additional expenses (other than the designated \$400.00 limit), that so often accompany a Senior Dog, 9 years of age or over, thus allowing a greater chance of the dog being adopted into a forever home.





AKC DELEGATE'S REPORT

Submitted by Connie Butherus
AHCA Delegate to the AKC



June Delegate Meeting

The June meeting has been held in Raleigh, NC more times than any other venue. It is the least attended meeting of the four and this past June 11 and 12 were consistent with the pattern -- in Raleigh and with sparse turnout.

Arriving Sunday, I attended two Sub-Committee meetings in preparation for the full Committee meeting the next day. Monday morning was yet another Sub-Committee session. Following was the regular Parent Club Committee meeting. Major items on the agenda included the following:

- The proposal for a Parent Club of Excellence award to recognize outstanding parent clubs. The proposal will be forwarded to the AKC Board for their consideration.
- The proposal to award three points to RWD/B at the National Specialty, if the entry for that sex in that region is at least twice that required for a five point award. The individual Parent Club would have the option to offer the award or not. The Delegate vote is anticipated to be in September.
- As of 6/11/12, a new policy requires a test to be administered to and taken by attendees at Judges' Education programs at Parent Club seminars. The exam is sent to the AKC, "graded" and credit given. More to follow on this to be sure!
- Humane Society of the US (HSUS) has been writing to Parent Clubs and Breeders of Merit about their campaign regarding puppy mills. Should a Parent Club or members receive such a letter, they are asked to forward it to Lisa Peterson at the AKC for a response appropriately worded so that it cannot be used by the HSUS to further their animal rights agenda.
- The practice of charging fees for grooming space at shows generated a great deal of discussion. It was brought out that, in some Parent Clubs, this practice generates well into a 5 figure income. The AKC Board has stipulated that no less than 50% of space must be made available for no additional fee above the entry fee. This determination was hotly debated and objected to by some clubs.
- The Complete Dog Book is to be reissued in the 21st edition. Parent Clubs will be involved in providing content and pictures. A letter has been sent to each Parent Club.
- Effective 3/1/12, any experienced dog person will be allowed to judge at a National Specialty. There are a few requirements such as must be at least 21 years of age with 15 years of successful breeding, handling or exhibiting experience and pass a test (anatomy and procedure) prior to being given approval to judge the event. It is assumed each Parent Club would continue to follow its procedure for selection and election of judges.

The Delegate Caucus was an opportunity for Delegates to speak to issues and concerns that often are specific to a particular club or aspect of the sport. At this Caucus most of the discussion focused on matters around Jr. Showmanship. Specifically, the focus was regarding the Masters Class, its requirements, lack of understanding on the part of Judges regarding this level of competition and the need for the Jrs. to understand the unique manner in which the particular breed is to be shown.

The issue of the day – paid grooming space – was again debated as it had been in every committee that day, including the last Committee of the day – the Coordinating Committee.

The Committee chairs make up the Coordinating Committee. All report on the significant matters from the meetings of the day. It is a good place to obtain an overview of the Delegate activities, concerns and proposals. Items of interest were:

- Delegate eligibility recommendations
- Breeder of Merit program and the health requirements of the Parent Clubs
- Impure breeding found in foreign imports in some breeds
- The Kennel Club (UK) interference in breed standards and the United Kennel club (UKC) now are doing the same thing with AKC standards. It should be noted that the standards are owned by each Parent Club – not the AKC
- The growth of entries and events
- AKC Field Reps at shows or the lack thereof
- Judging eligibility and conflict of interest
- Cancelled shows and events
- Reduced fees for Jr. Showmanship for all events

- The location of performance events at shows (a quiet area away from the hustle and bustle or up front and center as an attraction for the spectators).
- The ongoing concerns regarding the absence of AKC staff at the Delegate meetings. This has been in effect since last year and continues to be a problem for the Delegate Committees.

June 12 began with the Forum. Cynthia Otto, DVM, University of Pennsylvania, was the featured speaker. Dr. Otto has been very involved in Search and Rescue Dogs since 9/11. Having been on site post disaster, she knows first hand the value of these extraordinary canines. Funded by the AKC-CHF, she conducted follow-up health screenings and research on the dogs who worked at the World Trade Center site.

Her newest endeavor is the establishment of the U of PA Working Dog Center that will be a training facility for dogs from puppyhood on. She stressed the danger, and the cost of doing nothing, as she explained the program. These dogs will be used for disease detection, explosive detection, security, search and rescue, and recovery. This 501 c3 organization is most worthy of support from the dog community.

Following Dr. Otto, was Carmen Battaglia speaking on his program “Making the Super Dog.” He included assessment of the ancestors -- health, temperament, training and supplements -- in his presentation.

The Delegate Meeting followed the Forum. We started by the review of the new Delegates approved by the Board since the last meeting. Of the 23 seated, 12 were present and introduced. Of the twelve, it was of interest that nine represented Parent clubs, some from newly-recognized breeds.

The reports began with the Chair, Alan Kalter. The focus of his message was the proposed USDA regulations to the Animal Welfare Act that, if adopted, would include most breeders. For example, anyone having 4 or more intact females would fall under their jurisdiction, whether or not they were in residence. The AKC is deeply concerned and actively working to modify the most onerous provisions. A nationwide petition has been circulated in opposition to the proposed changes. This was sent to all Delegates to be forwarded to their clubs.

President Dennis Sprung followed with his report. He noted staff changes at the AKC, the reissuing of the Complete Dog Book (first published in 1929) and the significant growth in events and entries in 2011, up 7 1/2%.

Jim Stevens, CFO, delivered positive financial news for the year to date. Increases were realized in revenue, events, entries, registrations, sponsorships, and royalties. Investments earned a 3.7% return. Good News!

The Delegates voted to allow show superintendents and show secretaries to correct entries as appropriate, by using AKC entry verification such as transfer from one puppy class to another.

Carl Ashbey, AKC Board member, presented a new initiative to raise funds for the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) and its Legislative Support Fund. He noted an increase of 350% in bills introduced from 2007 to 2011 regarding the regulation of dogs and ownership. The HSUS has a fund of \$55 million with which to promote its Animal Rights Agenda, where as the AKC PAC had \$6,662 in 2011. PAC donations must come from individuals but can be gathered (“bundled”) by the clubs. A letter explaining the fund drive is to be sent to each club president. Alan Kalter followed with a video stressing the need to oppose limits on ownership of dogs. He noted in the State of Michigan, HSUS contributed \$300,000 toward the election campaign of a legislator favorable to their position. He was elected. No surprise!

At the conclusion of the regular business, there was the usual open forum. The big topic was once again paid grooming space at shows. The clubs that realize major income from this practice were not about to give up in their quest to overturn the Board’s ruling (the Board had stipulated that at least 50% of the available space must be free). It was astounding for some of us to hear of the amount of money these clubs rake in from the paid space. And it is space in many instances, not electricity or other amenities – just space in which to set a crate for the dog to be kept safely while at the show. One concern would be the frugal exhibitor who elects to not pay for space but leaves the dog(s) in the car on a warm/hot day – unintended consequences to be sure.



Tic Tac Tazi





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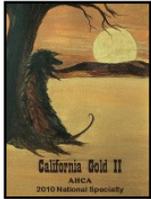
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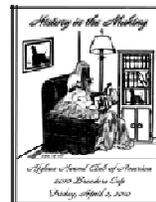
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Black— 1 Extra Large	
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(Silk Screened)	
3 Large, 4 X-Large	
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2011 BREEDERS' CUP

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10 PINK, 1 TEAL, 11 GRAY

PURINA PARENT CLUB PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (PPCP) - JUNE, 2012 UPDATE Submitted by Helen Stein, PPCP Program Liaison

The Afghan Hound Club of America has received a check for \$747.71, which represents our credit for the weight circles submitted by AHCA members and Afghan Hound fanciers--73 of you! Under Purina's guidelines, this money is to be used in funding education, health research and/or rescue efforts. In addition, a matching amount will be sent by Purina to the Canine Health Foundation to be used in our Donor Advised Fund (a savings account for health research in the name of the AHCA).

My latest update from Purina states that participants in the PPCP program represent 178 breed clubs. Based on the participation of these breed clubs in 2011, Purina was able to present a check for over \$200,000 to the Canine Health Foundation at the CHF fundraiser in March.

If you are interested in signing up for the program, you may contact the Purina Parent Club Partnership program by calling 1-800-778-3375 or e-mail purinappcp@purina.com.

If you are feeding Purina dry food but do not wish to participate in the PPCP program, you may send weight circles to me and I will submit them on behalf of AHCA. My address is: 178 Windfall Creek Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27517.

Thanks so much for the support you've shown for this program! If there are any questions about the PPCP program, please contact me at BeanieSue@aol.com, or at my home address.





LIBRARY REPORT
Submitted by Library Chair,
Helen Stein



**AN OVERVIEW
OF HEMANGIOSARCOMA**
CANINE HEALTH REPORT
Submitted by Health Chair,
Eileen Lauder Milch, RN, CCRN

CHANGES TO AKC FLYER FOR THE AFGHAN HOUND

Changes that were approved at the March, 2012 meeting were submitted to AKC on April 12, 2012. The updated flyers will be sent to new owners registering an Afghan Hound. Website changes will take longer, and I've been advised that there is "a substantial backlog" in getting changes made online.

DONATIONS FROM CLUB MEMBERS

Betty Stites has been very generous in the past - donating many of the scrapbooks and memorabilia from Kay Finch. Now the AHCA Library collection has some new additions. In April, Betty sent two of Kay's famous articles of clothing! You've probably seen photos of Kay showing Ch. Crown



Crest Mr. Universe. In some photos she is wearing a circular skirt with hand painted Afghan Hounds. This skirt now resides with the Library collection of art and books. Also Betty sent a beautifully painted turquoise dress with Afghan Hounds adorning the collar. These will be on display at a future National Specialty (probably Portland) along with the Best of Breed medallion won at Westminster in 1967 by Ch. Crown Crest Mr. Universe. Engraved with his name, this medallion is truly one of a kind!

Skirt-border reads:

"My Jo Billie and Thumper Boy for several years have brought me joy. I'll keep them always that's a cinch And that's a promise by Kay Finch"



Betty also sent more scrapbooks, some original pedigrees, and several books.

MEDIA

Eddie Kominek is developing a video section on the AHCA website and will be posting many videos from previous National Specialties. These are also being converted (by me) from VHS to DVD format and are available for rental from the Library for a modest charge. Currently most videos are in VHS format and can be rented as well - good for club meetings, parties, or individual study.

A DVD of the AHCA production, A Retrospective View of Afghan Hounds in America is available for sale for \$10.00 which includes postage. Email me for more info: BeanieSue@aol.com

Hemangiosarcomas are unfortunately common in dogs, most often seen in German Shepherds and Golden Retrievers; however, they can be seen in any breed. The usual age is 6 to 13 years. In dogs, it is an aggressive form of cancer that arises in areas of blood vessel cells. These areas are frequently filled with blood and bleed profusely when disturbed. They are fragile and have a propensity to rupture causing internal bleeding that is often fatal. These tumors can appear most commonly in the spleen and heart, but also the liver, lungs, kidney, muscle, lymph nodes and skin. Splenic growths, in particular, bleed easily whether they are malignant or not and require a splenectomy to diagnose the type. 25% of all dogs with splenic hemangiosarcoma also have tumors in the heart.

In the case of a ruptured abdominal tumor, the blood loss is extreme, and the dog will show signs of profuse anemia and shock prior to collapse.

In heart tumors, the right side of the heart is usually involved; this is a thin wall structure (low pressure) that fills as the right heart pumps blood through the lungs and into the left heart, which is the true pumping chamber to circulate the blood. When a heart tumor ruptures, the covering on the heart (the pericardium) rapidly fills with blood, and the pressure on the right heart prevents filling, leaving the left heart with no blood to pump, resulting in collapse and rapid death.

SYMPTOMS usually develop after the disease has progressed. If the hemangiosarcoma has developed in the internal organs, there are few if any obvious symptoms. Those tumors involving the skin are the easiest to find and also treat. Other symptoms are thought of as "old age" and include abdominal pain and enlargement, along with progressive lethargy, depression, weakness, exercise intolerance, and loss of appetite, including vomiting, diarrhea and weight loss.

DIAGNOSIS is often at the time of a rupture, and it is an emergency situation. If not ruptured, the hemangiosarcoma is often diagnosed using ultrasound, x-ray, CT scan, MRI, or tissue biopsy.

TREATMENT depends on the location of the tumor. Hemangiosarcoma is rarely curable and the long term prognosis is very poor. However, in skin lesions with no other involvement, a cure is, at times, possible with surgery, aggressive chemotherapy, and sometimes radiation therapy. The usual survival time is 6 - 10 months and 6 months with surgery alone. In splenic tumors after a splenectomy, the survival time is 19 - 83 days. In dogs (where the spleen has not ruptured) with a splenectomy and chemotherapy, a dog's survival is longer, but less than 10% of dogs live more than 1 year. The usual is 1 - 3 months after surgery.

Hemangiosarcoma is a grim diagnosis for any of our four-legged family members. Often we have little time to say goodbye. Currently the Canine Health Foundation has several grants in progress to study this silent killer, and hopefully, in the future a definitive treatment will be found.

SNUPPY'S STORY

Submitted by Sue Hamlin

April 24, 2005 is a date that should be noted in the purebred dog world, particularly by the Afghan Hound fancy. That is the day the first dog clone was born, a black and tan male Afghan Hound.



Named **Snuppy** (for **S**eoul **N**ational **U**niversity and **p**up-**py**), his birth at SNU's College of Veterinary Medicine was the result of somatic-cell nuclear transfer, the same technique that produced Dolly the sheep back in 1996, the first successfully cloned mammal. Cloning by nuclear transfer is nothing new. The

technique was first reported in frogs in 1952. Since then a barnyard's worth of animals has been duplicated, including pigs, goats, mules, horses, and rats. It is believed that the method could also be used to clone humans.

Cloning man's best friend, though, has proven more difficult than cloning farm animals. The researchers said canine eggs are hard to work with, because they are released from the ovary earlier than in other mammal species.

The South Korean scientist and lead researcher of the Snuppy project, Prof. Woo-Suk Hwang (DVM, PhD) believes dogs provide a good model for understanding human diseases, some of which afflict both species.

Hwang began his cloning career in the late 1990s and has had a number of successes, including producing cows resistant to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease. Hwang's research team gained worldwide attention when they cloned human embryonic cells capable of yielding viable stem cells that could one day be used to treat diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's. In March 2012, it was announced that Hwang would collaborate with Russian scientists in an attempt to clone a woolly mammoth from remains found in Siberia.



Through a Cornell connection, I was able to contact Prof. Taeyoung Shin, DVM, PhD, who works with Prof. Hwang at Sooam Biotech Research Foundation in Seoul, South Korea. Late in 2005, Prof. Hwang left Seoul National University and began his research at Sooam Biotech. Snuppy was left behind at SNU under the care of Prof. Lee, a former graduate student of Prof. Hwang. Prof. Shin writes that they can assist in dog cloning in general. Since 2005, Sooam institute has cloned more than 200 puppies in over 15 breeds including coyotes using inter-species cloning technology. Currently, they are focusing on the development of transgenic dogs for diabetes and Alzheimer's disease as one of their research goals.

Somatic cells are cells other than egg or sperm cells. The method used involves taking the nucleus from a somatic cell and transplanting it into an egg cell that has been stripped of its own nucleus. In Snuppy's case, the nucleus of an ear skin cell from Tai, the Afghan Hound, was transferred to an emptied egg cell of Snuppy's surrogate mother, a yellow Labrador Retriever bitch. Snuppy is therefore genetically identical to Tai, the Afghan Hound, a clone.



The genetic donor, Tai, at that time a 3-year-old black and tan Afghan Hound male, was owned by a graduate student in Prof. Hwang's laboratory. Hwang chose Tai, because of his gentle nature, and to him – his unique coat color.

To Afghan Hound fanciers in the United States, the black and tan coloration is not at all unusual or unique. The Afghan Hound Club of America's standard states "*all colors are permissible, but color or color combinations are pleasing; white markings, especially on the head, are undesirable.*"

When contacted, the AKC registration department states that although colors of Afghan Hounds individually registered are recorded, a special report must be generated in order to learn the numbers of each color in a given year. Not having a budget for such interesting but superfluous data, I declined requesting such a report.

Lest you think that cloning Snuppy was an easy task, the process involved using 123 embryo transfers that produced only two pups, and Snuppy was the sole survivor.

The process of dog cloning though, still remains highly inefficient, a reflection of how much scientists still have to learn about how to make mammalian offspring from single parents and without the help of sperm. This process of cloning Snuppy took nearly three years of intensive effort.

Snuppy has since been used in a breeding between two cloned canines, after his sperm was used to inseminate two cloned bitches, resulting in the birth in 2008 of 10 Afghan Hound puppies.

But the feat suggests that a market in cloned dogs, through which people grieving the loss of their favorite pet could order a genetic duplicate, may not be as far in the future as some had thought. And by leapfrogging a seven-year-old, multimillion-dollar U.S. effort, the success has clinched South Korea's quickly growing reputation as a premier center for cloning and stem cell research.

Before you get the idea that cloning will produce your new replica dog, you need to realize that the cutting edge science that produces these clones is either unavailable to the general public or available only at an outlandish cost of about \$100,000. Cloned dog embryos could make available the first canine versions of embryonic stem cells. Researchers could then test stem cell therapies that have been proposed for people and, perhaps, cure some dog diseases along the way

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"Wouldn't it be great if the first beneficiaries of stem cell medicine were our best friends?" asked Gerald P. Schatten, a reproductive scientist at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, who served as a consultant for the Korean team.

Cloning isn't the only scientific method producing unusual and interesting science in dogs. The February 2012 *National Geographic* features an article by Evan Ratliff titled "How to Build a Dog." Unfortunately, permission to reprint (without a fee) was denied, but the article is fascinating, and you can read it on-line by going to the following link:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/02/build-a-dog/ratliff-text>

Aside from the scientific progress discussed above, the UK's Kennel Club has criticized the entire concept of dog cloning, on the grounds that their mission is "to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs" and no improvement can occur if replicas are being created.

When I contacted AKC president Dennis Sprung to learn the AKC's position on cloning, he stated "the American Kennel Club believes that the cloning of dogs does not advance its mission, which includes promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function."



Many bioethical questions have been raised by the cloning process, questions that will go on for some time to come, by its proponents and detractors. But one thing's for sure, the science is here to stay, and Snuppy is proof of the process.

AHCA FACEBOOK
Submitted by Facebook Chair, Gary Lennon



The AHCA's Facebook page is looking for events and postings from the Regional Clubs. There are many people viewing the page who may be interested in attending and participating in conformation, agility, obedience or coursing events. It's a good way to reach out to the public and get people involved. Pictures are great and tell people about the breed or just something fun about the breed. It can be about your involvement with your Afghan Hound and candid photos. A designated member from each regional club can post items directly, or send information directly to me at: lennongary@yahoo.com.

Thanks for your support.

FROM THE PAST

From the December 1950 AKC Gazette Afghan Hound column by Charlotte Coffey

Behind the scenes, Club activities continue to center around the February Specialty at the Hotel McAlpin in New York, and the generosity of Club members and other friends and admirers of the breed have made possible a tremendous list of prizes in every class – at least four trophies; and all these prizes are open to exhibitors whether or not they are members of the Club.

We have many beautiful puppies and young dogs in the Afghan world today, and we want them as well as the older to be at our Specialty where we have so much to offer them. To begin with, the Afghans will be placed by three judges who know the breed. And besides the lovely prizes that we have offered in the classes this year, there are cash and silver prizes for the best puppy dog and best puppy bitch in all the classes, and also for the best puppy in the show. And there are numerous and beautiful prizes for the winner's dog, winner's bitch, and for best of winners, and of course the usual outstanding cash and silver for the best Afghan Hound in the show. So have your Afghan in top condition for the biggest Afghan event of the year, and make your reservation now with the hotel that will allow your Afghan to be with you; and if you have any difficulty about a reservation, I shall be glad to help you if you do not wait until it is too late.

After an Afghan is seven months old, the amount of exercise in the run will take the place of the daily walk on the leash – the walk to be short at first of course, and to increase in length as the Afghan grows older and able to take it. And this daily encounter with the outside world will do much for the full development of your Afghan in other ways too. The more human contact and companionship given to the Afghan Hound, the less nervous tension will be shown in the ring as well as out of it, and this can be said of a dog of any breed. If there are matches in your vicinity, don't miss this valuable experience for your Afghan.

Afghans are naturally aloof with strangers as indeed they should be. But they know who likes them, and will be friendly and gay, even amusing and affectionate, and they never forget their friends. Afghans have a wonderful guarding instinct, and they use good judgment about it too. And in this connection, John Gaffney, Southbury, Connecticut, told me a story about his Afghan that I believe well worth my repeating here.

Sheba's bed was a mattress placed against a door leading to the basement. One morning, very early, the family was awakened by Sheba's frantic barking and crying. Mrs. Gaffney tried to take the Afghan outdoors, but Sheba, usually obedient, refused to move, and continued with such a wild commotion that Mrs. Gaffney was alarmed. Suddenly the Afghan pulled the mattress away from the door, and immediately volumes of heavy smoke began to seep into the room from under the door. The entire lower part of the house was afire, and Sheba's giving the alarm as she did, probably saved the lives of the whole family.

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Good news of the moment is that the Afghan Hound Club of America has resumed publication of its *Bulletin*, and that an issue filled with interesting articles, and news and pictures of the club members and their Afghan Hounds will be out at the time of the Specialty Show. Donald Smith and Dr. Waskow are in charge of production, and with the continued enthusiastic support of the Club members, we shall have a most interesting and valuable addition to our Afghan records, certainly something to look forward to.

My Best Wishes for Happy Holidays to all Afghan folks, and I look forward to your being with us at the Hotel McAlpin a bit later in the season.

**FROM TOPKNOT NEWS
WINTER 1999-2000
Written by Linda Shipley
AHCA President 1998 & 1999**

Over the years I've had many people ask me "Why should I join AHCA? How would it possibly benefit me?" I am always amazed to hear these questions. The very fact that there is a club benefits us all. If no one joined the club there would be no AHCA, and if there were no parent club to foster the breed there would be no local specialty clubs. Not only does our club put on a great National Specialty, but we hold a Breeders' Cup every year, have held many health and breeder seminars, sponsor an award at the Art Show at the Dog Show, and donate to the Morris Animal Foundation and the Canine Health Fund. AHCA supports an incredible rescue network throughout the country, and we oversee 33 regional clubs and three clubs in formation. We also maintain a fabulous web page and library, put out an expanded newsletter, and in general support our breed in every way possible. It is obvious that many people banding together for the good of the breed can do far more than any one individual could ever hope to do.



FRAMED AFGHAN HOUND HEADSTUDY

This (5 1/2" x 5 1/2") tile was discovered at an antiques show. The dealer had just acquired several dog tiles from a lady from Germany who had them packed away for many years. The dealer hadn't unwrapped them all, but thought one of the tiles depicted an Afghan Hound. Sure enough in yellowed newspaper dated 1927, he produced this Afghan Hound tile.

THE "REST OF THE STORY" (à la Paul Harvey) by Sue Hamlin

After Norma Cozzoni's retro in the Spring issue, Sharon Watson contacted me and suggested that I tell the "rest of the story." Norma's last issue was in 1997.

Dave Frei writes, "Norma and I created the new bulletin the year I served as president, I think 1986. I stayed on the board after that for a total of ten years, and some time in there I took over as editor of the Bulletin and changed the name to *Topknot News*. I suppose that must have been the late 90s.

Back in the day, doing a layout was quite different than it is now. The computer term for it then was WYSIWYG ("wizywig") for What You See Is What You Get. We paid a computer guy in Seattle to do the layout of the first few issues (we wrote all the content). That became desktop publishing, and then we were able to do more with it and a little faster, as we learned how to do it ourselves. Sort of like Gutenberg. Good luck, looking forward to seeing your new product! Norma and I will be watching like proud grandparents!"

Sharon says, "Dave Frei then edited two or three newsletters and gave it a new more jazzy name, *Topknot News*. I started in 1998 or 1999 with articles from the library and the minutes' highlights, judges' thoughts, and specialty schedules. Until you've tried getting written material from busy Afghan Hound people, you haven't lived, believe me."

Karen Armistead was a big help. Working with her was interesting. Karen didn't trust USPS first class mail, so everything had to be sent by registered mail. Wynne Kalish started proofing my typos. I'm pretty good at grammar and spelling, but my hunt and peck method leaves a lot to be desired. Wynne and I also worked on the Breeders' Cup. He put the premium list and catalog together. I dealt with judge selection, entries, and pedigrees. We stopped a few years later when Pat and Ed Gilbert became editors. But there was a problem. They would only do it online and the membership wanted a hard copy."

Listed below are the editors of Topknot News from 1999 to present:

Summer 1999 - Winter 1999: Dave Frei and Sharon Watson
Spring 2000 - Spring 2006: Sharon Watson and Wynne Kalish (16 issues)
Sue Busby assisted with the Summer 2004, Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Winter 2005, Spring 2006 issues
Summer 2006 - Winter 2006: Pat and Ed Gilbert
3 issues, not hard copy, sent via email
Summer 2007: *position was vacant, and listed as available*
Fall 2007 - Summer 2008: Cindy Chandler (3 issues)
Winter 2008 - Winter 2011: Barb Bornstein (10 issues)
Spring 2012 - present: Sue Hamlin (2 issues)

Understand that there are many people whose names, though not mentioned above, have provided much valuable assistance. Without them, an issue could not be produced and distributed. Each editor has added a bit of his/her own individuality to make the newsletter unique. Looking at *Topknot News* and its predecessors indicates how this work in progress has evolved throughout the years, and I'm sure will continue to do so.



Michele Trifiro's *Estelle* in art class.



**The Next Topknot News Deadline is:
November 15, 2012**