

# Topknot News



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA  
WINTER 2012



# EDITORIAL || OLD DOGS - MORE NEW TRICKS



The 76<sup>th</sup> National is behind us. And what a National it was! Congratulations to all of the winners! We know you'll enjoy the winners' photos herein, provided by Julie Poole Photography of Knoxville, Tennessee. This was a record-breaker! For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, GCh. Thaon's Mowgli got the nod for the coveted Best of Breed honor. Beautifully presented and handled by breeder-owner Jay Hafford, he was a standout among some beautiful Afghan Hounds.

Show chair Chuck Milne, co-chair Linda Jackson and their committees and workers are to be congratulated for their splendid Southern hospitality, which made this a National to remember. The venue was spectacular, and along with Chuck's talent for staging, made it an extraordinary occasion.

A warm welcome to new faces on the *Topknot News* team - Marla Lutrick and Doris Horton! We owe the beautiful *TN* facelift to Marla, who did graphic design and layout in her professional life. Doris Horton is the person who so capably makes sure you receive *TN*. Glad to have you aboard! Along with old hands Mary Blacker and Suzanne Eaton Duay, we've been hard at work to bring you a new look that we know you will enjoy!

We are pleased to present a feature on Kay Finch in this issue. Kay, an enthusiastic supporter of the breed way back in the early days, an AHCA member, and designer of the AHCA logo, contributed a great deal to the breed with her Crown Crest hounds and to the art world as well.

While researching the material to include, I happened to meet (via telephone) Kay Finch's daughter Frances Finch Webb. That led me to Kay's friend, Vicki Zayac, and Kay's grandson, Dan Finch, who through some herculean efforts, put together a DVD of Kay's early life, her art and her dogs. (This DVD was previewed at the National Awards dinner in Atlanta. If you'd like a copy, see page 46 for details). Through my new connection with Dan, we were able to include another of Kay's grandsons, Cabell Finch (who lives in Atlanta), as our guest at the AHCA Awards dinner. While researching, it came to my attention that *Sports Illustrated* had carried a cover and story about Taejon in the March 12, 1956 issue. Try as we might to include the story and cover photo in this issue of *Topknot News*, we were denied the right without an outrageous fee. The best we can offer is the link to a fascinating piece of almost 60 years ago. Just Google **Taejon of Crown Crest** for a look at the article and the cover (the first time a dog ever appeared on *Sports Illustrated's* cover).

Many unseen photos from Kay's scrapbooks, now residing in the AHCA library, have also been used here.

*Happy Holidays to all of you,  
and the Hounds who own you!*



Our cover features a photograph taken by Richard Sonnen.



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"The Girl With the Afghan Hound" won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in AKC's *Family Dog* 2012 fiction contest. With author Boyd Wright and *Family Dog's* permission, we offer it to you in this issue.

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to **The Afghan Hound Review**, long known as the standard in print publication for the breed. Though not the first Afghan Hound breed magazine, this 1973 brainchild (of Paul LePiane, along with Bo Bengston) took off and became Number One for the breed! When New Yorker Fran Reisman moved to California in 1983, she joined the AHR crew shortly thereafter.

Fran's efforts kept the **Review** at its "top-shelf" level, even after she purchased the magazine in 2003, and assumed the helm as editor and publisher. It remained a huge success. What a brilliant magazine it has been! Fran plans an "annual" yearbook of the **Review** that will be a wonderful collectors' piece. More on that to come.

The exciting news is that Fran has agreed to write a column for *Topknot News*, to be known as **Fran's Review**. Unfortunately, the column will be delayed until the Spring 2013 issue.

Tropical storm Sandy's horrendous damage along the Atlantic seaboard at the beginning of the National was felt by many of our friends. Fran's sisters, Carol and Honi's home was badly damaged. At the time *TN* went to press, Fran was in New York helping her sisters dig out from Sandy's devastation. We wish the Reisman sisters the best of luck with this endeavor!

As always, we appreciate your input, and welcome submissions, photos and ideas.

The staff of *Topknot News* wishes the happiest of holidays to all!



*TN team  
(left) Doris & Mary;  
(right) Marla & Suzanne*



*Sue*

Visit the Afghan Hound Club of America web site at [afghanhoundclubofamerica.org](http://afghanhoundclubofamerica.org)

With this Winter 2012 issue of the Afghan Hound Club of America's *TopKnot News*, you will note some major changes. Our editor and her staff are industriously at work to improve each aspect of this periodical. It's this troop's main objective to greatly expand communications among us all.

Many who attended the wonderful National in Atlanta have come down with the post-National blues. The reason? This year's National event was undeniably extraordinary! Chuck Milne and Linda Jackson exceeded all expectations in every detail in orchestrating a national such as ours. From the initial major event, lure coursing, to the final moments at the Awards dinner, this was a National Specialty that will be particularly long reminisced as the 'entertaining' one.

My final comments have to do with the many challenges we all face in breeding and presentation of our Afghan Hounds. We must work closely together to promote Afghan Hound awareness. Each regional club must put its best foot forward to help us all in this precarious matter. The AHCA Board and I are working to encourage continual support efforts of breed cognizance, and any suggestion or thought on how we can better achieve this goal will be greatly valued.

We are always looking for volunteers and assistance to help us promote our beloved breed, the Afghan Hound.



A Message  
from the  
PRESIDENT

We congratulate Mary Blacker on her achievement as a lifetime member of AHCA.



Finally, if any individual has any ideas, please feel free to contact me, or any board member, so that we may fully discuss your thoughts at our upcoming March board meeting.

Remember, our goal is communication, and it's through this publication where it all starts. Read and enjoy!

Fondly,  
Tony A. Saia  
President, AHCA

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

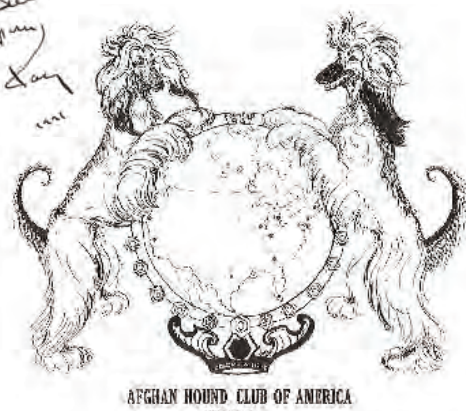
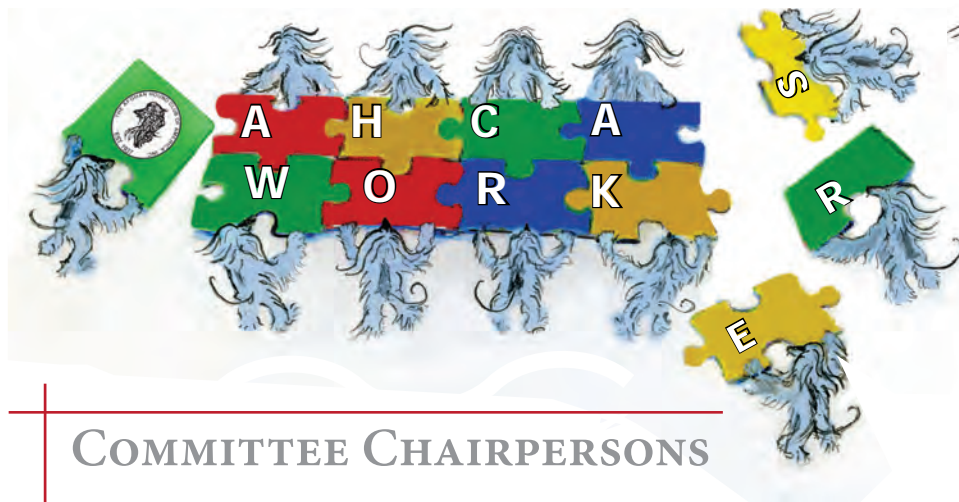
<b>Agility .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>AHCA National - 2012 .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>AKC Delegate.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Breeders' Cup - 2013 .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Canine Heath.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Committee Chairpersons.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Directory Notice- 2013.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Editorial.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Inventory.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Joan McDonald Brearley</b>	
<b>Obituary.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Judges' Critiques.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Kay Finch Feature</b>	
<i>A is for Afghans.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Afghan Hound in Art.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Compelling Critique.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Crown Crest Compilation of Champions.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Fabulous Finch "Fotos"....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>More Memories of Kay.....</i>	<i>14</i>

<b>Katherine Seamon Finch....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Remembering the Life &amp; Times of Kay Finch.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Seasoned Scrapbook Sentiments.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Special Memories.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The Genius of Kay Finch... </b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mentoring.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Minutes</b>	
<b>10/30/12 General Membership Meeting.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>11/1/12 Board Meeting.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>7/15/12 Board Conference Call Meeting.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>9/13/12 Board Conference Call Meeting.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>National 2013.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>National Candids.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>National of Firsts.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>National Placements.....</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>Officers/Directors.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>President's Message.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Regional Clubs.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rescue.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Show Dates.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Statistics.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>The Girl with the Afghan Hound.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Welcome Waggin'.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Winners, 2012 National.....</b>	<b>28</b>







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# Remembering the life & times of



# Kay Finch



## Crown Crest Kennels



Topknot News is pleased to share with you, memories of “the life and times” of the legendary Kay Finch; without a doubt, one of Afghan Hounds’ most noted breeders/exhibitors/judges, known throughout the world for her Crown Crest Kennels and her famed Kay Finch Ceramics.

Although Kay’s life in dogs and her wonderful ceramics have been well documented over the years, the year 2013 will commemorate Kay’s 110th birthday, as well as the 20th anniversary of her death. It seems only fitting to honor Kay and her Crown Crest dogs, who grace the pedigrees of many of today’s Afghan Hounds.

Perhaps some of the breed’s newer fanciers may not have had the opportunity to know and enjoy the personable Kay. We have been fortunate to gather some old materials about Kay’s art career, as well as some new information from Kay and Braden’s daughter, Frances Finch Webb, grandson Dan Finch, and Kay’s good friend Vicki Zayac.

AHCA members Betty Stites & Mary Blacker have contributed articles written by them some years back, that share their insight about Kay’s dogs and her art. Kay’s friend, Vicki Zayac, has also provided information about Kay.

Mike Nickel and Cindy Horvath, authors of *Kay Finch Ceramics: Her Enchanted World*, and Devin Frick, Jean Frick and Richard Martinez, authors of *Collectible Kay Finch, Biography, Identification, Values*, have been kind enough to allow use of photos from their books.

Find your most comfortable, chair, put your feet up, and enjoy.

Sue

*Ed. note: Many thanks to Betty Stites for this article written many years ago about Kay Finch and her Crown Crest dogs, presented as originally published.*

**K**ay Finch — Throughout the world the name has become synonymous with winning Afghan Hounds and Crown Crest. Though Afghans were not the first breed or the last, to carry the Crown Crest name, they have certainly been the most famous and successful, with Best-in-Show rings throughout the country being graced with a multitude of “Crown Cresters” during the 50s and 60s.

Afghans came to Crown Crest in the 1940s, but the breed went into high gear with the arrival of the lovely silver blue Felt’s Thief of Bagdad in late 1947. Thief, better known as “Thumper” to his friends and bred by Joe Felt, was a silver anniversary gift to Kay from her husband, Braden. With his Best-in-Show wins at Pasadena in 1948,

Thumper started Crown Crest into what would become a record-breaking adventure to Crown Crest and the en-



*Ch. Felt’s Thief of Bagdad (left), pictured w/Ch. Zanya of Elcoza*

tire Afghan entry throughout the country. While Thumper stole most of the limelight, his winning son was also at Crown Crest. Many still feel that this dog, the elegant cream Ch. Felt’s Alla Baba, was one of the most nearly-perfect Afghans they had ever seen.

In 1950, a stylish black-masked silver puppy joined the growing group at Crown Crest. Bred by Mrs. Leo Conroy, he became the spectacular silver showman, Ch. Taejon of Crown Crest. “Johnnie” wasn’t a big dog, but he had that

commanding appearance that captured every eye, making it very hard to see anything else when he came into the ring. In his first four shows he took four Best of Breeds, a second in the group, and capped it off by taking a Best in Show, and he hadn’t yet become a champion! Johnnie went on to rule the rings. He took 19 Best in Shows, all-breeds, breaking the record previously held by Ch. Rudiki of Prides Hill. He was shown a total of 77 times for Crown Crest, and won an amazing 72 Best of Breeds, 49 groups and four Specialty shows, in addition to the all-breed wins. He was undefeated in breed competition for three consecutive years. He was twice winner of the Hound Group at Westminster. Though Kay had previously usually not handled her own dogs, together she and Johnnie became an unbeatable combination, and the two were voted among the 10 best dog-handler teams in 25 years by the N. Y. World Telegram. As a sire of approximately 30 champions, Johnnie provided foundation stock for many well-known kennels.

Kay kept, among others, his lovely black-masked silver daughter, Ch. Crown Crest Tae-Joan. In 1954, on the suggestion of her son who had seen the dog in Europe, Kay imported from the famous VDOM kennel of Eta Pauptit, the Belgian, German,

“I bred Taejon to Thief’s daughter, Eypgt’s Echo who was grey, but I didn’t get any black-masked blues. Out of this breeding came my first black-masked silver, TaeJoan. She was the foundation for my greatest ones.” Kay Finch

Holland Champion Ophaal, as a mate for Joannie. A beautifully angulated, strong black-masked red, Ophaal never particularly enjoyed the show ring, though he finished his American Championship in four straight shows, including taking a Best in Show from the classes at the fabulous Santa Barbara KC show in 1954. Ophaal was kept as a private stud at Crown Crest, and was only sparingly. However, from only five litters, Ophaal produced 27 champions including 14 from the two breedings to Tae-Joan. These puppies from Tae-Joan, the fabulous Gem and "K" litters, contained dogs that would dominate Afghan rings from coast to coast for the next several years.

Johnnie was retired from his record breaking show career in 1955, and almost immediately the Ophaal-Joannie son, Crown Crest Zardonx was brought out, finishing his championship instantly. A fabulous, angular and well angulated black-masked red like his sire, Zar owned the ground he walked on, and swept around the ring with a commanding style all his own. Though he never broke Taejon's record, he accumulated an impressive list of Best in Show and Specialty wins, including taking the National Specialty in New York two years in a row. He was joined on the lists of top winning Afghans in the country for 1957 and 1958 by his brothers, Champions Crown Crest Rubi, Topaz, and Kabul.

In 1957, Kay and Charlie Costabile co-bred the Johnnie daughter Ch. Hope to Ophaal, resulting in a most successful litter. Upon Zar's retirement, Kay brought out the only male from this litter, the black-masked apricot, Crown Crest Mr. Universe. Mr. U started out full-steam ahead, winning the Northern Specialty while still under two,

a win he repeated again the next year, and in 1960 taking up where Zar left off by winning the Afghan Hound Club of America Specialty in New York. Mr. U. was not to be denied, and following in his grandfather Taejon's footsteps, he began a steady climb to the top. Beating Johnnie's record of 19 BISs early, Mr. U. went on to become the top winning Afghan of all tie, with the record of over 30 Best in Shows, and during the early 1960s was far and away the top winning Afghan in the country. Always handled by Kay, Mr. U was a fabulous showman, and the two made a spectacular picture in the ring. His record as a sire kept distance with his show record, and though sparingly bred, he produced over 35 champions, breaking a record held for years by Ch. Ali Khyber.

Kay has given the breed fabulous dogs, remarkable records, and has set a standard all might do well to follow. However, those of us who have been privileged to know her over the years have also learned from her that these dogs are not simply gorgeous toys that we bring out on Sundays and put in a box for the rest of the week. Through Kay we have learned that the Afghan can- and should – DO something. Her dogs are lucky enough to live at Crown Crest, on the top of a bluff overlooking the Pacific. They have had the run of the yard, and cliffs. Though loved and cared for, they have never been overly protected house plants. They have been allowed and encouraged to be Afghans. Even the most famous were run along the beaches below the house. They were raced. They were coursed. They were total Afghans, and those of us who lived in California and were exposed to this realized that ours should be total Afghans too. Of all the things that Kay will give to the breed, to many of us, this understanding of the complete Afghan may be one of the most important.



*Ch. Taejon of Crown Crest*



*Zardonx*

"I saw my first Afghan wandering around the gardens of this beautiful old hotel in Del Mar... I thought it was a long-haired goat or something. It looked like a million dollars and I said, 'If that's a dog, I'm sure going to get one of those!' This was around 1929 or so."

— Kay Finch



*Kay & Thief*



# Special Memories



Frances Finch Webb, Kay's daughter (left) & Kay Finch

The following recollections may or may not be fully accurate. But here goes —

## AFGHAN HOUNDS

Kay's first Afghan Hound was Omar. Purchased from a litter at a Laguna pet shop, he was a fence jumper who met his end under the wheels of a car. Kay's original sculpture of the young dog displayed in one of the niches near the front door at 344 Hazel, Corona del Mar, was later purchased by a fan.

Mother's last Afghan Hound was Flicka (Boxadan El Achika of Crown Crest), imported from Denmark.

Charlie Costabile and Mother were very close. They co-bred Mr. Universe.

Thumper (Ch. Felt's Thief of Bagdad) was a 25th anniversary gift from my father, Braden on December 5, 1947. (They had eloped to Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1922.)

*Ed Note: When I contacted Frances Finch Webb (Kay Finch's daughter) and told her **Topknot News** was planning a feature on Kay, she agreed to share some recollections about the family.*



Frances, Braden & George, 1929

## FAMILY CHRONOLOGY

Katherine Seamon, a wild teenager in El Paso, the daughter of a Virginia blueblood and a professor of chemistry, was sent to Nashville, Tennessee to live with relatives, the Malones and/or the Gillespies and to attend Ward Belmont College.

Braden Finch, son of a Memphis lawyer/business executive and a Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish, piano-playing music lover, was attending Vanderbilt University.

The two met socially and Daddy was swept away by the red-haired westerner, my mother.

Kay went home to El Paso. Braden followed. Then they eloped to Las Cruces, New Mexico, and were married on December 5, 1922.

Both families, the Seamons and the Finches were happy with the marriage, and the new couple were welcomed into the Finch household at 1717 Glenwood in Memphis, where they had parental love and approval, plus a cook, a maid, a laundress, and a chauffeur. Then, when I was born on July 24, 1923, they even had a nursemaid.

Mother was indulged and encouraged to own and breed Chihuahuas at the residence. When I was 2 years old, they got an Airedale, Mac. When I was 5, they got a Wire-Haired Fox Terrier, Peggy. They played tennis at the University club, drove to West Memphis, Arkansas for Mexican food, rode horseback (American Saddlebreds, English style), enjoyed hiking, parties, bridge-playing, etc.



The above photo is part of a Valentine that Kay gave to Braden in 1950.





"I love old dogs, the same as I like old people. I would like to see the Veteran go Best of Breed more often, but a lot of people are afraid to show Veterans because they will get beaten by the younger dogs..."

— Kay Finch

Daddy worked at a bank, then at the *Commercial Appeal* as a reporter while Mother went to the movies, did the dog thing and sewed. (She made a lot of my clothes and I remember being impressed very much when she put a chinchilla collar on one of her coats.) Little George was born on November 8, 1927.

They felt the lure of California in 1929, so they headed west with Mother and George on the train to El Paso and Daddy and me with Peggy via car. Then George and I were left in El Paso with our Seamon grandparents, while Mother and Daddy traveled on to Long Beach with Peggy, and Mother's sister-in-law Cathryn and my cousin Patsy. Later DanDan Finch and Aunt Gee took George and me on to California to reunite the family.

Daddy got work at the Santa Monica paper, then at the *Ventura Star*, then as editor at the *Santa Paula Chronicle*, then the *Santa Ana Journal*. All the while, Mother was raising puppies, and going to art classes. They owned horses, chickens, and even a goat. The *Journal* closed; Daddy got a big payout so they decided to take a trip around the world, leaving me with

the Finches and George with the Seamons. Baby Cabell who had been born when we were in Santa Paula on February 12, 1933, stayed home with "Fote," Mrs. Lucy Holt, our live-in housekeeper and Cabell's nanny.

When they returned, Daddy decided to work with Mother to develop her sculpture hobby into a ceramic business – journalism became more of a sideline. We all relocated to Corona del Mar in 1939. Property values were depressed and they could afford a house and several lots, eventually growing to include Pacific Coast highway frontage for the ceramic business and choice canyon frontage for the residence and Crown Crest Kennels.

We had a Great Dane, three Dalmatians, lots of Yorkshire Terriers. Joan Ludwig, famous dog photographer, was a close friend. Goldie Stone was one of Mother's Yorkie confidants.

But Marion Florsheim and Afghan Hounds became Mother's preoccupation. Mother and Marion became great friends. Marion Florsheim and Rudiki – two paintings by F.T. Daws that were to go to the AKC Dog Museum were sidetracked to Roger Rechler by George Finch who had painted an excellent copy of the main painting. The copy was later donated to the Afghan Hound Club of California: "In Khyber Pass" by F.T. Daws. Marion also gave Mother several of her sterling silver brooches. Mother and I visited Marion in her hospital room in San Francisco.



Frances, Kay & Kay's grandson, Dan (George's son)



Kay with Marion Foster Florsheim when Ch. Taejon won Hound Group at the Westminster Kennel Club, 1954.





# *Katherine Seamon Finch*

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Kay Finch was the founder and artistic inspiration of KAY FINCH Ceramics, which started in 1939 and was the first manufacturing company ever established in Corona del Mar, California. A uniquely gifted sculptor and artist, Kay passed away June 21st, 1993 at a convalescent hospital near her daughter's residence in Mountain View, California. She was 89 years old.

Designing and manufacturing primarily ceramic art figurines, Kay's headquarters, which included a retail showroom landmark, was located in Corona del Mar at Pacific Coast Highway and Hazel Drive, where Kay created a plethora of works which were sold and distributed nationally for over 23 years. During recent years examples of KAY FINCH CERAMICS have become highly prized collector's items and just last year (1995), the first catalog and identification guide to her work was published.



Following the death of her husband Braden L. Finch in 1962 (former Newport Beach City Councilman and one-time editor of the *Santa Ana Journal* newspaper), Kay sculpted a life-size mother and baby seal executed in bronze and dedicated to his memory. The seals were hoisted by helicopter out to the rocks just below Inspiration Point at Corona del Mar, where they were permanently mounted in 1971.



Kay Finch was a licensed American Kennel Club dog judge of international renown. Only a few years after establishing KAY FINCH CERAMICS, her love of dogs led her to a new enterprise, Crown Crest Kennels. Specializing there in breeding Afghan Hounds and Salukis, Kay placed her animals with families in countries the world over. Many of her breedings went on to worldwide championships and fame. Her judging talent created a demand for her services at dog show competitions in many capitol of the world, and Kay's own dogs won over 20 Best-in-Show awards for Crown Crest Kennels.



She was a founding member of the Colonel William Cabell Chapter of the D.A.R., named after one of her ancestors in Virginia; member of the Afghan Hound Club of America and the Afghan Hound Club of California; patron member of the Afghan Hound Club of New South Wales, Australia.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Frances and Jack R. Webb of Mountain View California, son and daughter-in-law, Cabell B. and Mary Tod Finch of Knoxville, Tennessee, and son George G. Finch of Santa Ana and Mexico. Also surviving are six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



*Author: Jack R. Webb (Kay's son-in law)*





## THE Genius of KAY FINCH

*Ed. note: Mary Blacker wrote the following piece for the Canine Collectibles Club of America, Spring 1994.*



Kay Finch was a world famous sculptor, artist, dog breeder and dog show judge. When she passed away in 1993, she left a legacy of highly-prized and sought-after ceramic, bronze and artistic treasures, many of which depict the purebred dog.

My first awareness of Kay Finch was in 1951 when a picture of her with Johnnie (Ch. Taejon of Crown Crest) appeared in *Dog World* magazine. Still a youngster, Johnnie, an Afghan Hound, had already won two Hound Group firsts and an all-breed Best in Show in just his first six shows. Soon after that, I bought my first Afghan Hound puppy, a son of a litter sister to Johnnie. It wasn't until 1955, however, at the prestigious Morris & Essex dog show held on the estate of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge that I had the honor of meeting Kay and Johnnie.



Being an impressionable teenager, meeting Kay and Johnnie was a big moment in my life. Kay was a warm and gracious lady who treated me as an equal and welcomed me into her group of friends at the show. That was my first memorable meeting of which there were to be many more.

Kay was well known in the dog world for her Crown Crest Afghan Hounds, Salukis and Yorkshire Terriers. The Afghan and Yorkie fanciers also know her for her delightfully charming figurines of those breeds. What many of today's collectors and admirers of Kay Finch dog ceramics do not know is that Kay made a proliferation of non-dog related items – Christmas plates, Santa figures and mugs, bathroom accessories – soap dishes, bottles and wall plaques. She made banks, people, oriental figure, angels, flower bowls, Ming and petal bowls, indoor and outdoor fountains, and the list goes on.

Animals were Kay's favorite subject; and in addition to the dogs, she made owls, penguins, elephants, rabbits, chickens, pigs, cats, horses, donkeys and labs, to name only a few.

Kay Finch Ceramics began in Santa Ana, California in 1937. Two years later Kay and her husband, Braden, moved to Corona del Mar. Braden resigned his position as editor of a Santa Ana newspaper to manage the rapidly growing business that was eventually to have up to 60

employees. In Corona del Mar, the business flourished from 1939 to 1962, the year of Braden's death.

One of the things that made Kay's dog figurines particularly desirable is that many of them were styled after famous dogs that were important in the history of their breed. Kay produced more Afghan figurines than any other breed – some twenty or more. One of her standing Afghans (#4830) is styled after Ch. Felt's Thief of Bagdad, and another (#5016) is of Ch. Jubilee Julian of Crown Crest. She made what is known as the "Banu" head (#476) styled after her lovely black brood bitch, Ch. Five Mile Banu of Rebel Hill. She later made a bronze of the Banu head. Her 18" sitting "Best in Show" Afghan (#5490) is Ch. Taejon of Crown Crest. The glazed pottery Afghan (#5082) is Ch. Rudiki of Prides Hill, a famous Afghan of the '40s who is considered the "Father of the Breed" in America. This popular and sought-after piece was later cast in bronze, mounted on a silver pedestal reflecting his show record, and presented to his owner, Marion Foster Florsheim. In 1982, the bronze Rudiki was donated to the AKC Dog Museum.



Freeman-McFarlin Potteries was authorized to cast copies of the Rudiki in ceramic. They were finished in gold leaf, silver leaf and other glazes. There were some unauthorized castings in silver metal that came out of Mexico, and currently some unauthorized pottery "Rudiki's" are being offered at dog shows.

In the early '40s Kay Finch Ceramics produced a life-size Yorkshire Terrier, "Puddin," (#158). Later in the '70s, Kay designed two life-size Yorkie figures for Freeman-McFarlin, one lying and one standing. These were done in gold leaf and silver leaf. After Freeman-McFarlin closed, Maynard Freeman produced Kay's small sitting Yorkie with pup in bronze metal and in silver. In 1981 Kay sculpted a Yorkshire Terrier modeled after Ch. Clarkwyn Jubilee Eagle. This was produced in a life-size bronze only.



Kay sculpted a full figure reclining Saluki bronze of "Pinkie," better known as Ch. Crown Crest Allah's Gold. A Saluki head study in bas-relief was done as a trophy for two Australian clubs, and there is



also a Saluki among the many other breeds she depicted on ashtrays/plaques.

Most of Kay's figurines were marked "Kay Finch – California." The dogs were assigned model numbers and were coded to indicate the year of introduction. The models created prior to 1946 have three digit figures. Models created after 1946 carry four digit figures with the first two digits signifying the year of introduction. The model numbers, however, do not appear on the pieces.



Kay Finch Ceramics were sold in department stores and fine gift shops throughout the U.S, Canada and Central and South America. Besides the many pieces she made for sale, Kay made figurines and plaques to be used as trophies for dog shows and was frequently known to make one-of-a-kind pieces for gifts to her many friends.

Occasionally one of these pieces will be found that is not in any of her sales brochures or catalogs. Her style is unmistakable. Her soft pastels and multicolored pieces are uniquely Kay's. Most often her dogs were in soft pinks, lavenders, blues, etc. The figures usually have black "hair-lines" that curl around the edges of a furry foot or out from the corners of the eyes.



*Banu in bronze*

For all of the many things that Kay has produced, one might think them easy to acquire, but there is something about their appeal that causes people to keep them forever. This is particularly true of the dogs. Speaking from experience with the Afghan Hound figurines, there are breeders, exhibitors and one-dog owners whose pursuits took them from dogs to other interests, and they haven't even owned a dog for 35-40 years. Still, they wouldn't dream of parting with the Kay Finch Afghan sitting on their mantel or bookshelf.



*Kay adds brush strokes to various models.*

Kay Finch dogs are considered "cross-over" pieces or "double collectibles" – pieces that are in demand by more than one-interest groups. California pottery is sought after today by collectors – it isn't important whether the piece is a purebred dog, a camel, a bottle, plate or vase. Collectors of dog figurines desire them because of their value



*Banu*



*Puppy figurine*

as a dog collectible or an appealing representation of a particular breed of dog. Kay Finch Pottery has found its way into some of the current antique price guides, with several of the dogs listed among the pieces.



#### **Breeds portrayed in figurines:**

*Afghan, Airedale, Boxer, Bulldog, Cocker, Dachshund, German Shepherd, Maltese, Pekingese, Pomeranian, Poodle, Scottie, Westie, Whippet, Yorkshire*

#### **Breeds on ashtrays and wall plaques:**

*Afghan, Beagle, Bedlington, Bloodhound, Boston, Boxer, Cocker, Chihuahua, Chow, Collie, Dachshund, Doberman, German Shepherd, Irish Setter, Irish Wolfhound, Kerry Blue, Saluki, Samoyed, Scottie, Springer, Poodle, Wire Fox, Yorkshire Terrier*



*Ed. note: Two books are still available describing Kay Finch's art. Titled **Kay Finch: Ceramics** (1996) by Mike Nickel and Cindy Horvath, and **Collectible Kay Finch: Biography Identification Values** (2000) by Devin Frick et al, these books give an overview of Kay's life in art, and of the pieces that she designed and made.*





# Art Afghan Hound in

by Kay Finch

*Ed. note: Kay wrote the following article for the June 1950 Popular Dogs magazine, who then dedicated this issue to the Afghan Hound and featured Ch. Ali Khyber as the cover dog.*



Ever since the dawn of East Mediterranean civilization, the grace and beauty of the Afghan Hound have been an inspiration to the artist and to the sculptor. The ancient records of long-vanished nations, which once occupied the sandy wastes of the near East, often contain the name and likeness of this hound. These interesting relics of the pre-Christian period prove that our hound of today is the direct and unchanged descendant of those fleet and fascinating hunting dogs, which served as models for artists long ago.

On the walls of caves in Balkh in northern Afghanistan, rock carvings and inscriptions are among the first-known early records of the Afghan Hound. The fabulous tomb of King Tut yielded other evidence of the Afghan's appeal to early craftsmen. An alabaster bowl now in the Cairo Museum shows a hunting scene of these hounds chasing a gazelle or leopard. The Afghan appears in art from ancient times on down through the ages; today it has become a more or less familiar figure to the public.

The most prolific contemporary producer of Afghan portraits in oil is F.T. Daws, the noted London artist. Mr. Daws painted Zardin, the first importation of the breed from Afghanistan. It was from this dog that the Afghan standard was written. Queen Alexandria was so impressed with the unique beauty of this specimen of breed that she commissioned a statue to be made for a London Square in 1907.

Other paintings by Mr. Daws are in this country today, among them the group of English champions, pictured here, which shows four hounds elegantly posed in a rugged mountain setting of Afghanistan. The dogs shown are Ch. Sirdar of Ghazni, Ch. Badshah of Ainsdart, Ch. Westmill Omar, Ch. Azri Havid of Ghazni, lineal ancestors of most of the Afghan Hounds in America and Europe. This picture is the property of the writer and may be seen at her home in Corona del Mar, California. Mr. Daws' keen sense of composition and sincere portrayal of these hounds, his vivid colors and the manner

in which he has captured the oriental expressions, make this a great animal painting.

The immense appeal which this dog has for aesthetes is shown by the fact that Pablo Picasso, one of the most famous modern painters, owned an Afghan Hound, Kazbek, which shared his studio during the German occupation of Paris in 1941. A fascinating photograph published in Harpers Bazaar shows the lean Afghan stretched out in a sunny spot on the dark floor of Picasso's garret studio. The gaunt frame is a tragic reminder

of the hungry war years in Paris.

Edwin Megargee of New York has also contributed to the glory of the Afghan in painting.

In the realm of sculpture, the writer is acquainted with the bronze of Ch. Tufan of Ainsdart. It accents houndiness and flow of line and indications of the traditional coat pattern. This piece is the property of Marion Florsheim and is a valuable study of the dog. Mrs. Florsheim also owns another bronze of Int. Ch. Rudiki of Prides Hill, done by the writer, who has a duplicate casting. A copy in marble is to be made for Mrs. Florsheim. These statues are about fourteen inches high and are fine examples of metal work. As a memorial to Rudiki, a great Afghan Hound, they bear his show record on the base, as pictured here.

By far the most comprehensive professional section of Afghan portraiture comes under the field of photography, to which many of America's finest photographers have made important contributions. These divide naturally into two types of work: the show pictures, which comprise a valuable record of the show dog in typical show stance, and the studio type picture which comes directly under the heading of art as it is largely inspired by the photogenic quality of the animal.



*Hood ornament - note the holes in front & back where it was bolted to hood of car.*

A few of the important photographers who have paid tribute to the breed on the West Coast are Joan Ludwig, Bill Deo Paul and Athos Nilsen. Ylla, Tauskey, Brown and the Life Magazine staff have done fine work in the East. There are countless prints by good contemporary photographers, which have been done for private galleries and are not in general circulation.



In recent years, the Afghan Hound has won a place in ceramic sculpture. Afghan models are produced in pottery by Jane Callender, Hardie-Anita and Kay Finch. These pottery figures are mainly for home decorations, but have found some use as trophies.

A very wide field of little known, although intensely interesting and beautiful, Afghan Hound art is found in private collections. As the Afghan Hound appeals to an artistic type of person, many owners portray their pets in paint, in clay, carving and other mediums. This spirit wins wide expression in the interpretation of Afghans on Christmas cards. Originality and fantasy make many of these very appealing.

Helen Busen, the St. Louis breeder and judge, is a noted contributor with her sensitive pen drawings and sketches. Marjorie Walker of Faraway Kennels' fame is also well-known for her beautiful work in perpetuating these

spectacular hounds. Rutherford Boyd of New Jersey painted a picture of Rudiki, Asri Havid and Yenghis Khan in water colors. Diana Thorne, Louis Fuertes and Gladys Cook are well-known dog painters whose Afghans prance through pages of publications.

Why does the Afghan allure the artist? For many reasons: its exotic and unusual form; its graceful and swift movement; its silken coat which mantles its body and crowns its lean head; its farseeing gaze with the look of an eagle; its attitude of haughtiness and superiority, majestic dignity and aloofness, which contrast sharply with the playful and clown-like expression which it often assumes. The innocent and lamb-like affection which it demonstrates, makes the hound most appealing. His monkey face and the monkey-like poses, the ring tail and prominent hip-bones add to his fascination.



*Kay Finch*

"You don't see as much bad temperament now as in the old days. We used to see both aggressive and spooky dogs. I have never, not ever, had an Afghan growl at me, but I always smell doggy. I think they like me; they think I'm their sister."

— Kay Finch



Kay with Crown Crest Khitkabudd



1950's mark; found hand-lettered and/or glazed inside indented base.



*Crown Crest Kennels, Reg.*  
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**KAY FINCH, Owner**  
Breeder of Over 100 Champions  
Show and Foundation Breeding Stock

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Breeder of Over 50 Champions

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# More memories of Kay



*Ed. Note: Vicki Zayac, a good friend to Kay Finch, has been kind enough to help assemble many of the photos for this tribute to Kay. She has worked tirelessly with Kay's grandson, Dan Finch, who produced the movie about Kay shown at the 2012 National Awards dinner. Vicki is best remembered for her homebred multi-Best-in-Show, multi-specialty winner, and 1975 National Specialty winner, **Ch. Lipizzan's Big Red Machine**.*

**I** visited Kay Finch and Crown Crest in January, 1965, purchasing two Afghan Hound littermates, Crown Crest Mr. Lipizzan and Crown Crest Miss Ballotade. They were both Mr. Universe kids.

Producing well for me, Ballet was the dam of group winning Ch. Lipizzan's Favory and Mr. Lipizzan was the grandsire of BIS and national specialty winner Ch. Lipizzan's Big Red Machine.

Living only five miles apart, and getting together frequently, Kay and I became friends. She would call and ask if she could bring Marna Dodds (Horningssea) or David Roche (Fermoy) or even the president of the Japanese Kennel Club over for a visit. It kept me on my toes.

We went to see Virginia Burch one day. Kay was driving and we found ourselves flying down a one-way street the wrong way. Living through this I said, "Next time, I'll drive!"

Kay loved to entertain and I recall her parties as being some of the best ever.

She won at many dog shows. Her wins included Best of Breed at the Afghan Hound Club of California specialty eight

times, and she won the Afghan Hound Club of America Specialty four times. She also judged both.

The famous Kay Finch ceramics studio was in operation from the late thirties to 1962. She created her last line of ceramics for Freeman-McFarlin well past her seventieth birthday.

After her passing, her family had a beautiful dinner celebrating her life at the Five Crowns, a restaurant located adjacent to her home and Crown Crest, in Corona del Mar. Such a wonderful and fitting tribute!

I've worked with Kay's daughter, Frances Finch Webb and Kay's grandson, Daniel Finch who are doing a thoughtful job of placing some of Kay's most important works. We've selected the Sherman Gardens and library in Corona del Mar, California to display "The Band Wagon" and some of her other significant pieces.

The beautiful bronze seals are located on the rocks, at the seashore in Corona del Mar. They were placed there as a tribute to Braden Finch, Kay's husband. Afghan Hounds were a significant part of Kay's life. While she was breeding, showing, and judging, she was always thinking of the betterment of the breed.



*Contributed by Vicki Zayac*



*Sweater designed by Kay*



*"Vicki" Cocker Spaniel*



*Kay's Best-in-Show Bracelet*



# "A" IS FOR

# Afghans

*Ed. note: This article appeared in the October, 1960 issue of **Popular Dogs**, originally appearing in the South Coast Weekender "Globe-Herald and Pilot."*

This is the story of one of the country's most gifted couples. "Crown Crest" Kennels scarcely need an introduction to dog folk who have seen or heard of Crown Crest Afghans at most of the shows. Founded only 10 years ago, Crown Crest had bred 60 champion Afghans. Kay Finch enjoys handling her own dogs – she is never happier than when she is deep in Afghans, bathing, brushing, grooming, whelping, training – unless it is when she takes time to create her beloved Afghans in some beautiful ceramic piece.

This is a story of Kay and Braden, however, not their Afghans. Braden Finch used to be a newspaperman. He was editor of the *Santa Ana Journal*, a Scripps paper, before the *Register* swallowed it. Before buying out a good weekly or small daily, he and Kay decided to take a trip around the world.

As a little girl, Kay won first prize at a state fair for the little clay animals she sculpted. As a serious art student, she still liked to mold animals and never stopped.

One day, between papers, Braden packed some of her personality rabbits and chickens in a suitcase and showed them to a Long Beach retailer. In one hour, he had sold \$60 worth. Then he and Kay bought a kiln for \$35 and fired Kay's roguish little angels for Christmas. So began their international pottery business!

In 1938 the couple bought a house and lot "for a song" at Corona del Mar, California and it became part of their present gracious home and studio on Hazel Dr., Coast Highway and that scenic cleft, Buck Gulley.

During the first scarred years of the war, the Finches were questioned by the FBI. The studio's arrow-shaped roof pointed (sort of) toward March Field. At considerable expense, they were forced to square it off. Kay added that they had a Japanese maid whose seven-year-old son used to run up and down waving an American flag to show he was no collaborationist.

With pottery imports from Europe and China bottled up by the war, **Kay Finch Ceramics** flourished. They still do today, but to compete with Japanese markets, designs must change rapidly and turn more to large, garden sculptures.

Kay, with her ever-fresh delight in animals, then founded the Crown Crest Kennel of Afghans. Greatest of all is the high-spirited Mr. Universe, born the night Miss Universe was crowned. Mr. "U" has won Best-in-Show honors and won

the Afghan Hound Club of America specialty on 1960 in New York City.



*Kay and Braden riding their favorite horses - Braden proposed to Kay while they were riding. Braden's horse has a barely visible gold ring on the base, just below its left foreleg.*



*"When you are a breeder, you are a creator. You have to know what to put together and how it's going to work. There is something psychic about a good breeder. I think if you have the eye of an artist, you have the vision for symmetry and balance and those weird things that some people don't see."*

— Kay Finch



*(left) Kay and her son, Cabell, in front of studio*





terra cotta plaque relief



fabric designed by Kay



"To me, improving the strain is a creative work," Kay said. "Afghans are beautiful and give pleasure."

From the beginning, Braden has served the community with distinction. He's been president of both the Newport Harbor and Corona del Mar Chambers of Commerce and Newport-Balboa Rotary Club.

He was city councilman for four years and foreman of the county Grand Jury two years ago. As vice-chairman of the Hoag Hospital committee, he raised funds for the present site — preventing the hospital from going to Laguna, and later served as director.

He was instrumental in getting the State to purchase Corona del Mar main beach. Today, as secretary of the Corona del Mar Chamber, his prevailing interest is civic beautification, preserving Corona del Mar's pleasant individuality. 🌲



In 1971, Kay sculpted a life-size mother & baby sea lion, executed in bronze and dedicated to Braden. They were moved by helicopter out to the rocks just below Inspiration Point in Corona del Mar along the coastline (where they are permanently mounted) as a tribute to Braden's memory. (picture at right is shown for sense-of-scale purposes)



"Certain people are connoisseurs of high quality, not just in dogs but in anything, and you are looking for the very best, something that would be hard to find again. I really get excited when I talk Afghans because I have this vision in front of me that I'm thinking of but I can't explain it. I'm not looking for good, I'm looking for great."

— Kay Finch





# C ompelling critique



*Notes from Q.A. Shaw McKean sent to AHCA President Charlotte Coffey following his judging Afghan Hounds at the 1951 Morris & Essex show, where Ch. Taejon of Crown Crest won the breed.*

*Shaw McKean awarding Taejon Best of Breed at Morris & Essex Show, 1951*

You have asked me to write you briefly a few of my impressions of the Afghan Hounds at the Morris & Essex show. A very large entry appeared, and I enjoyed going over them. Without being specific, let me hit more or less the high spots.

First, in judging Afghans, it has always been my contention that soundness is the first requisite. An Afghan Hound was made to run, to go over rough country, and like all gazehounds to do their work at top speed. Further, an Afghan has a peculiar [distinctive] gait, and it would be unfortunate if throughout the years, this was eliminated.

Second, an Afghan expression is a peculiar one, and it is an essential part of the breed. It has been described many times in different ways. I always like "the look of eagles," and under no circumstances can we have a kind eye, or as my friend and mentor, George Thomas, puts it, only "dreamy eyes." The expression should be almost disdainful. There is a distinct "pride of race" in the Afghan with the ideal expression.

Too much emphasis can be put on coat and too little emphasis on road work and condition. Many of the Afghans that came before me moved badly. Some were too fat and merely wobbled. Some gave definite signs of lack of exercise, which affected their ability to move, even though structurally the animals

were sound. There were many, many light eyes and super kind expressions.

I put up the Dog Puppy as far as I could. He was a lovely youngster, a perfect mover, typical expression, and a really gay high-class hound to my way of thinking. Once he gets rid of his puppy coat, and he is in between now, he will not look roached in back as he did from the ringside.

There were many good hounds in the show, and though on the small side, I liked the Best of Breed, as he is a good mover, has good expression, and is very typical of the breed. I would have changed my placings in one or two instances if the animals had been in what I call fit condition to move. One or two were shown at least ten pounds overweight. I think we must all remember that the Afghan, if he is to be kept in his proper place, must not merely be something that is led down Park Avenue covered with "fluffy ruffles," but he should be a hard, fit hound that can take a four foot fence in his stride, and be fit for the purpose for which he was bred.



*Lower left - Taejon, Best-in-Show, Harbor Cities*

*Below, the "Gem Litter"*



"Tae-Joan was named after Joan Ludwig who was here the day the puppies were whelped. She was the dam of the "Gem" litter by my import Ophaal. When my son Cabell saw this dog in Holland he wrote to me and said, 'Mother, if you think Taejon is great, you ought to see this dog.' I couldn't get him until he was four years old. At the time he came over he was so great people couldn't understand him; there was so much of him and he was so different." — Kay Finch

"I had never even heard of the dog, but he appealed to me. I knew he was a great one. This fellow that was handling him was too green to burn. I told the guy that his dog is too good to be in Novice. So I told him to set the dog up. I could then see why he was in Novice. He set him up all wrong, so I said, 'I'll set him up for you properly and you do as I do.' After I set him up, I went to the other side of the ring and when I turned around he had him all messed up again. Like I said, this guy was too green to burn. I felt sorry for the dog. Anybody else would have dumped him. Anyway, I gave him Winners for a major" (on the occasion of judging Multi-BIS Ch. Coastwind Gazebo at one of his first shows).

— Kay Finch

# Crown Crest Compilation of Champions

*Ed. note: Here is (we hope) a complete listing of Kay's Crown Crest champions with some of their accomplishments. If we've missed some, please notify the editor for correction in the next TN issue.*

Ch. Felt's Thief of Bagdad (multiple BIS)  
Ch. Jubilee Julian of Crown Crest  
Ch. Egypt's Echo of Crown Crest (dam of 10 champions)  
Ch. Felt's Allah Baba  
Ch. Taejon of Crown Crest (multiple BIS- sire of 29 champions)  
Ch. Thief's Trezhur of Crown Crest  
Ch. Hope (dam of 13 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Coronet  
Ch. Crown Crest Persian Prince  
Ch. Egypt's Eudora of Crown Crest  
Ch. Crown Crest Taejhanne (dam of 6 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Tae-Joan (dam of 16 champions)  
Ch. Ophaal of Crown Crest (BIS; imp. Holland) (sire of 27 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Arabian Knight  
Ch. Crown Crest Sakhir-Sadi  
Ch. Crown Crest Taejallah  
Ch. Feeks van de Oranje Manege of Crown Crest (imp. Holland)  
Ch. Thief's Taboo of Crown Crest  
Ch. Crown Crest Dhi-Mond \*1 (sire of 11 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Koh-I-Baba, C.D.  
Ch. Crown Crest Rubi (multiple BIS) \*1 (sire of 15 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Taejblu-Minx  
Ch. Crown Crest Zardonx (multiple BIS) \*1 (sire of 15 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Babaloo  
Ch. Crown Crest Booarah  
Ch. Crown Crest Devikkarokit  
Ch. Crown Crest Jesi Jhaimz  
Ch. Crown Crest Kabul (multiple BIS) \*2 (sire of 14 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Khahazad \*2  
Ch. Crown Crest Khayti \*2  
Ch. Crown Crest Khittiku, C.D. \*2  
Ch. Crown Crest Onyx \*1  
Ch. Crown Crest Topaz \*1 (sire of 14 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Baydho \*3  
Ch. Crown Crest Carnelian \*1  
Ch. Crown Crest Gymkhana  
Ch. Crown Crest Hi-Bhayb  
Ch. Crown Crest Hi-Bhutiphaal



Ch. Crown Crest Hi-Dhal  
Ch. Crown Crest Hi-Hopephaal  
Ch. Crown Crest Kae-joan  
Ch. Crown Crest Kesu \*2  
Ch. Crown Crest Khalifah \*2  
Ch. Crown Crest Khoronah \*2  
Ch. Crown Crest Bhojangles \*3  
Ch. Crown Crest Eve Queen  
Ch. Crown Crest Great Mogul  
Ch. Crown Crest Hi-Dhiri  
Ch. Crown Crest Hope Diamond  
Ch. Crown Crest Kristal\*1  
Ch. Crown Crest Mex-I-Khan  
Ch. Crown Crest Mr. Universe (multiple BIS) (sire of 31 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Taejkhati Dhali  
Ch. C.C. Vegas Ghambl of Belden  
Ch. Crown Crest Bongo Bongo  
Ch. Crown Crest Imperial Kavir  
Ch. Crown Crest Jamaica Jhina  
Ch. Crown Crest Mr. Vanguard (BIS)  
Ch. Crown Crest Raffles  
Ch. Crown Crest Rain Willow, C.D.  
Ch. Crown Crest Sancy (dam of 10 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Zaranya  
Ch. Crown Crest Bhoti  
Ch. Crown Crest Jasmine, C.D.  
Ch. Crown Crest Miss Universe  
Ch. Crown Crest Miss Venus  
Ch. Crown Crest Safari Sand-Star (dam of 6 champions)  
Ch. Crown Crest Taejakbar Khan (BIS)  
Ch. Crown Crest Zarjonx  
Ch. Kabul's Crown Crest Khachmi  
Ch. Crown Crest Charlibhrun  
Ch. Crown Crest Kaejoan  
Ch. Crown Crest Miss Tiara



# Crown Crest Champions (cont'd)

Ch. Crown Crest Mr. Mars  
 Ch. Crown Crest Zardani  
 Ch. Crown Crest Miss California  
 Ch. Crown Crest Miss Nike  
 Ch. Crown Crest Miss Peggi  
 Ch. Crown Crest Mr. California (multiple BIS)  
 Ch. Tarawazir of Carloway Crown Crest (imp. UK)  
 Ch. Crown Crest Dadhio  
 Ch. Crown Crest Miss Jwandai  
 Ch. Crown Crest Miss Lhiberti  
 Ch. Crown Crest Mr. Jhan-Jhan  
 Ch. Crown Crest Pasha  
 Ch. Crown Crest Sheik of Ronanjo  
 Ch. Crown Crest Xakliliku  
 Ch. Crown Crest Sagittarius  
 Ch. Crown Crest Valentino  
 Ch. Crown Crest Jhet of Ravenwood  
 Ch. Crown Crest Miss Dhali  
 Ch. Crown Crest Zar Jalalabhad

Ch. Crown Crest Miss Levade  
 Ch. Crown Crest Mr. Mariner  
 Ch. Crown Crest Mr. Taejhon  
 Ch. Crown Crest Chadwick  
 Ch. Crown Crest Camelot  
 Ch. Crown Crest Texas Lone Star, C.D.  
 Ch. Fox Run's Tao of Crown Crest  
 Ch. Kisu Khan of Crown Crest  
 Ch. Crown Crest Dansk King  
 Ch. Crown Crest Sir Galahad

**Litter #1** – Ch. (American, Belgian, Dutch, German) Ophaal of Crown Crest X Ch. Crown Crest Tae-Joan

**Litter #2** – Ch. (American, Belgian, Dutch, German) Ophaal of Crown Crest x Ch. Crown Crest Tae-Joan

**Litter #3** - Ch. (American, Belgian, Dutch, German) Ophaal of Crown Crest x Ch. Egypt's Echo of Crown Crest

## More Fabulous Finch "Fotos"



Kay & Marla in the '70s



"Somebody sent me a snapshot of a litter of five black-masked silvers that were in Decatur, Illinois. I put an X under the one I liked and told them not to sell that one because I'm coming back to get it. He turned out to be Taejon."





# Seasoned Scrapbook

## entiments



"Ophaal was only shown seven times over here and retired with Best in Show at Santa Barbara. Many times I was asked to bring him to the shows just so people could see the dog. But sometimes I heard such cruel remarks about the dog, like 'No wonder they call him Ophaal, he's so awful. Awful Ophaal.' These comments really hurt me."

- Kay Finch







“It’s a smart person who sees advantages of another man’s line. If they will allow you to have it, just grab it. Because, you see, even the best isn’t good enough.”

— Kay Finch



“Ophaal sired only five litters and one of these was of only one puppy. He sired 28 champions who won 48 Best in Shows.”

— Kay Finch



“Ch. Sahadi Shikari was bred to a Mr. Universe daughter and we got Ch. Crown Crest Camelot, so I’ve got a little shot of Shirkhan, which I think is very important. Sunny respects me and I respect her and we get along just fine.”

— Kay Finch

“I’ve done everything I can for Afghans and I can’t go on forever taking care of Afghan coats, so I think I’m just going to relax on the Afghan. I think I’ve done my part and the proof is in the pudding. There were 142 champions with a Crown Crest sire and dam so that makes a pretty nice record. I’ve bred a lot of dogs and I love to do it and it’s a challenge. I think it’s a challenge to you because this creation that you are doing along with God is to be left as a pattern. And if you’re pretty dedicated, it’s got to be good.” — Kay Finch

# The Girl with the Afghan Hound



*Ed. Note — Retired New York Daily News newspaperman, Boyd Wright of Mendham, New Jersey, was kind enough to share The Girl With the Afghan Hound. (Boyd tells me he chose an Afghan Hound for the title because the breed is so beautiful and elegant). Awarded 2nd place in Family Dog's 2012 fiction contest (Family Dog has given permission to print this story), this short story is only one of many of Boyd's works. A true dog lover, Boyd's story Second Time Around won the AKC Gazette's fiction contest in 1995. Author of seven books (three about dogs), Boyd has written for adults, young adults and children. He and his wife, Jean, are parents to their third retired racing greyhound "Tara." His book See Stormy Run, about a greyhound, is still in print and available on Amazon.*

**WEEK ONE:** It's a bummer. Not only do I have to take my dog through obedience class, but now I have to keep a diary recording our progress. "Just jot down your thoughts every week for all ten weeks of the class," the Instructor told us. "Nobody else needs to read this. It's just for you to look back and see how far you and your dog have come."

Barney does need obedience training. A year old and a bouncing Golden Retriever, he's starting to behave like a rebellious teenager, pushing the limits to anything he can get away with. I thought I was good with dogs, but I admit he's a handful. He especially does annoying things like jumping up on me and my friends. Of course he always comes when I call him. But our Instructor (She Who Knows Everything) was pretty snooty when I told her that. "He comes to you because he wants to," she said. "Now we have to teach him to come when he doesn't want to."

Anyway, the first session wasn't too bad. Barney began sniffing all the other dogs, then, as usual he started fooling around. He jumped and cavorted and thought it was all great fun. That's when the Instructor, tough as nails, grabbed the leash out of my hand and made Barney stop. I don't know exactly what she did. She never said a word but looked right at Barney and kept looking, and in a moment he was gentle as a lamb. Could it be the evil eye?

We worked on "Sit!" Barney was good at it. He actually stayed sitting -- for a few seconds. Now I'm supposed to practice with him at home.

**WEEK TWO:** Things are looking up. The know-it-all Instructor is as mean as ever, but we have a newcomer in class -- the Girl With the Afghan Hound. Lovely. Both of them. Our dogs sniffed each other, and she smiled at me.

We started to learn "Heel!" Everybody did OK except the Old Guy With the Airedale. He couldn't keep his dog from straggling over to bother Barney, and Barney didn't like it. But Miss Smarty-Pants Instructor didn't say anything to the Old Guy. Instead, she pursed her lips and told me to keep my dog under control! Real nasty.

**WEEK THREE:** Good and bad this week. We started to learn "Down!" The Girl With the Afghan Hound showed up wearing shorts. Nice. In fact, beautiful. And she smiled at us again. Maybe it was meant mostly for Barney, but I'm sure she included me. The bad part, as usual, was our Instructor. The Old Guy With the Airedale was having a hard time as he always does. We practiced heeling again, and that Airedale was wandering all over the place until the Instructor took the leash and made him behave. In a moment she had the dog straightened out. Then -- would you believe it? -- she announced to everybody while looking straight at me: "Sometimes, terriers are hard to work with. They have minds of their own. They're not like Golden Retrievers, who are so easy to train because they'll do anything to please you." Right in front of the whole class. You can guess how I felt.



**WEEK FOUR:** This insufferable teacher-knows-best Instructor is really getting under my hide. She's about my age, but she treats me like a schoolboy. Instead of getting on my case all the time, she should really go after the Old Guy With the Airedale or the Lady With the Scotty. Especially she should go after the Jerk With the Shepherd Mix. His dog growled at Barney, and she never said a word. Not only that, this Jerk thinks he's cool, and I can see he wants to



make a move on the Girl With the Afghan Hound. But she's too nice to pay him any attention. Good for her. Class will tell.

**WEEK FIVE:** This is getting to be a bore. "Sit!" "Down!" "Heel!" Practice, practice, practice. I may be getting tired of it, but Barney seems to enjoy everything. He's having a ball and at the same time getting more and more obedient. But that doesn't stop our Instructor from getting nastier. She's just naturally mean. During the long-sit exercise she walked by us and Barney stuck out a paw to get her attention. What does she do? Just snaps at me: "Don't let him do that!"

**WEEK SIX:** Now we're doing "Stay!" and "Come!" Everybody's handling it OK except that Jerk With the Shepherd Mix. His dog doesn't seem to want to come to him. I don't wish ill to anybody, but I'm kind of glad. Shows there's no human-dog bond there. I think the Girl With the Afghan notices this, too. We could be soul mates!

**WEEK SEVEN:** I think I'll ask her out. Barney and the Afghan get along real well, too, sniffing and wagging like pals. I told her the dogs liked each other and she smiled. Just then, of course, the Instructor had to spoil the moment by making us all line up for the next exercise. Maybe I'll ask for a date next week.

**WEEK EIGHT:** Only two more weeks of class to go. I'd better get my courage up and ask her next time. We're not learning anything new now. Just going over the old stuff. Practice, practice, practice.

Everybody's doing better except the poor Lady With the Scotty. While we were doing the long down that Scotty just wouldn't stay put, and his Lady got so frustrated she sat down on the floor and burst out crying. Our Instructor spent the next ten minutes on her knees comforting the Lady and talking to the Scotty. Could it be that Miss Ice-in-Her-Veins has a heart after all?

Not only that, but something really strange happened. Maybe it's my imagination, but Miss Dictator Instructor seems to be mellowing. After class she came up and actually petted Barney. "You're doing well," she told him. Barney just melts when she's around. He doesn't jump up on her or paw at her any more. He just kind of squirms into the ground in an orgy of tail wagging and sheer happiness. The Instructor cooed at him a little bit, then she did something even more amazing. She smiled at me and said, "You're doing better, too."

**WEEK NINE:** Well, I didn't do it. I didn't ask the Girl With the Afghan Hound for a date. I'm still not sure why. I had the opportunity. We walked out together to the parking lot and she even started making small talk with me. "Only one more week," she said. "I'll be glad when we get our diplomas and it's all over, but I'll miss some of the dogs here -- and the people."

That was my chance, but I blew it. Why? She looked really appealing and warm and friendly. But I just didn't do it. And actually I can't say I'm sorry.

**WEEK TEN:** So it's all over now. I guess I can stop keeping this diary. I know what Barney and I have accomplished. He's a different dog. More joyful and friendly than ever but much, much better behaved. Maybe I learned stuff, too. I said thanks and good-bye to our Instructor (her name is Ellen), and we had a nice chat.

**WEEK ELEVEN:** I can't get Ellen out of my mind. I called her and asked if she could come over and give Barney and me a little refresher practice on our own turf. Guess what? She said yes.

**WEEK TWELVE:** It's silly to keep up this diary. May be I do it because I'm in love. I've been dating Ellen almost every day. She said, "I thought you liked that Girl With the Afghan Hound." (How do women know these things?) But I told Ellen she was being silly.

### **WEEK THIRTEEN:**

I can't stop writing this diary. It must be because I'm so happy. I asked Ellen to marry me and she said yes.

**Barney's happy, too!**





There's no  
business like  
show business



*It's  
Show Time!*



Club	Date	Reg. Classes	Sweeps	Jr. Showmanship	Show Secy.	Location
Greater Portland Afghan Hound Club	1/19/13	Gareth Morgan-Jones	Donna Johnson	not offered	Onofrio Dog Shows	Portland Metro Expo Center
Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club	2/9/13	Michael Gadsby	Roberto Bongiovanni	not offered	Amy Mero	Canine Training Center, Hampton, CT
Afghan Hound Association of Long Island	2/10/13	Roberto Posa	Owen Greecham	Hal Biermann	Jim Rau Dog Shows	Meadowlands Expo Center, Secaucus, NJ
Tidewater Afghan Hound Club	3/2/13	Reggie Nesbit	Dorma Sue Busby	not offered	Tracee Elwess	Wyndham Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA
Tidewater Afghan Hound Club	3/3/13	Gill Ullom	Sue Games	not offered	Tracee Elwess	Wyndham Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix	3/16/13	Duane Butherus	Darlene Anderson	not offered	Arleen Blouch	Windmere Hotel, Mesa, AZ
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix	3/17/13	Russel "Sandy" Fletcher	Steven Klein	not offered	Arleen Blouch	Windmere Hotel, Mesa AZ
Potomac Afghan Hound Club	3/16/13 (designated specialty)	Steve Kelly	Debby Webb	not offered	Rau Dog Shows	York Expo, York, PA
Potomac Afghan Hound Club	3/17/13 (designated specialty)	TBD	TBD	not offered	Rau Dog Shows	York Expo, York, PA
Richmond Afghan Hound Club	3/30/13	June Leitch	Kevin Carter	not offered	Nancy Leuba	Chesterfield Fairgrounds, Chesterfield, VA
Richmond Afghan Hound Club	3/31/13	Chris Kaiser	Yvonne Sovereign	not offered	Nancy Leuba	Chesterfield Fairgrounds, Chesterfield, VA
Afghan Hound Club of California	4/12/13	Stephen Fisher	Bruce Clark	not offered	Blue Ribbon Dog Shows	Oak Canyon Park, Silverado, CA
Tara Afghan Hound Club	5/25/13	*Lucy Orlowski	TBD	not offered	Janet E. Lucree	Holiday Inn Atlanta Perimeter, Atlanta, GA
Tara Afghan Hound Club	5/26/13	*Debbie Petersen	*Marla Lutrick	not offered	Janet E. Lucree	Holiday Inn Atlanta Perimeter, Atlanta, GA



## *Upcoming Show Schedule (cont'd)*

Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club	6/1/13	Joanne Buehler	Jeff Bracken	not offered	Dorma Sue Busby	Best Western, Whitmore Lake, MI
Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club	6/2/13	David Frei	Anita Richards	not offered	Dorma Sue Busby	Best Western, Whitmore Lake, MI

*\*pending AKC confirmation*

### Notice: All Club Secretaries

In order to have your show information included in *Topknot News*, please notify Sue Hamlin via email at [shh3@cornell.edu](mailto:shh3@cornell.edu) and copy Eddie Kominek at [eddie@kominekafghans.com](mailto:eddie@kominekafghans.com), as soon as your shows have been approved by AKC.



*"Stay tuned" for more Parade of Pics from the National!*

## - NOTICE - 2013 Membership Directory

*from Barb Bornstein, Recording Secretary*

Please read your dues notice carefully and list your Kennel Name if you wish to have it listed in the 2013 Membership Directory.

If you have already submitted your dues to the AHCA Treasurer and did not list your Kennel Name but would like to have it listed, please email me directly at: [Dancingtree@trims.com](mailto:Dancingtree@trims.com)

Also, now is the time to email me with any additions, corrections or updates you may have. I do prefer email.

If you have a photo that you think would make a great black & white cover photo for the Membership Directory, please do not hesitate to email that to me as well.

Thanks,  
Barb Bornstein  
AHCA Recording Secretary



## *Joan McDonald Brearley*

*5/3/1925 - 10/22/2012*

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Sea Bright, New Jersey resident Joan McDonald Brearley, 87, died October 22, 2012 in Long Branch. Ms. Brearley was born May 3, 1925 in Teaneck, New Jersey. Her father was a leading stockbroker and her mother was an art editor for a national magazine.

She grew up surrounded by the leading financiers and artists of the 1930's and 40's. After graduating from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, she married William J. Brearley. Mr. Brearley was a WWII fighter pilot who flew 97 missions and received 14 decorations. Unfortunately, his war experience took a serious toll on his health and he died at a young age.

Ms. Brearley's professional career included working as a producer for WOR in New York, assisting in the production of such shows as the "Lone Ranger" and "Hopalong Cassidy." Her love of animals led to a prolific writing career. She became editor of Popular Dogs Magazine in Philadelphia. She was an accomplished author, having written 44 hardcover books about animals, including two about Afghan Hounds. In addition to her writing, she was a judge for the American Kennel Club and a member of the Monmouth County Kennel Club.

She was also the owner of Sahadi Kennels, known for its champion Afghan Hounds, as well as the breeder of top winning Ch. Sahadi Shikari.

A lifelong learner, in addition to her degree in dramatic arts, Ms. Brearley also earned three degrees from Brookdale Community

College and one from Monmouth University. She was a long-time substitute teacher at Rumson-Fair Haven High School, a member of the Shore Regional Board of Education, and Monmouth County representative to the New Jersey School Boards Association. Ms. Brearley was also very active in the Sea Bright community where she was secretary of the Sea Bright First Aid Squad, a 12-year member of the Sea Bright Borough Council, and a member of the Sea Bright Partnership. She was also past president of the Monmouth Federation of Republican Women, board member of the Monmouth County Youth Detention Center, member of the New Jersey Advisory Council for Juvenile Justice, and past chairwoman of the Monmouth County Human Relations Commission.

Ms. Brearley was also well known as one of the area's leading needlepoint artists. She produced hundreds of works with the highest standard of skill and craftsmanship. Her regular needlepoint artwork exhibits at the Monmouth Beach Cultural Center were among the highlights of the arts season.

Ms. Brearley was predeceased by her husband, William J. Brearley, and her parents, Stephen and Lillian McDonald.

She is survived by her loving cousins, and hundreds of friends and colleagues from the Sea Bright and greater Monmouth County communities.

At her request, no service was held.







## Mowgli

*GCh. Thaon's Mowgli*

BEST OF BREED  
76TH AHCA  
NATIONAL SPECIALTY

**M**OWGLI OPENS OUR FEATURE FOR THE 2012 NATIONAL.  
WE CONGRATULATE HIS BREEDERS & OWNERS ON THIS HISTORICAL,  
RECORD-BREAKING EVENT — HIS 4TH CONSECUTIVE  
BREED WIN AT THE AHCA NATIONAL.



# AHCA 2012 CONFORMATION WINNERS

## Best of Breed

*GCh. Thaon's Mowgli*

## Best Opposite Sex

*GCh. Jakar An Affair  
Most Wicked*

## Winner's Dog

*Regimes Thriller of Elmo*

## Reserve WD

*Jolie Orion*

## Winner's Bitch/BOW

*Jamna Winsong  
Heavenly Delight*

## Reserve WB

*Mithra Ariel of Etrigan*

## Select Dog

*GCh. Jolie Paparazzi*

## Select Bitch

*Ch. Mazshalma's Outlaw  
Torn Taj*

## Awards of Merit

*GCh. Abaca Shacone  
Native Spirit*

*Tells Matrix Reloaded*

*GCh. Criston Enchanted*

*Ch. Shylo The Octoroon*

*Regimes Thriller of Elmo*

## Best Bred-By

*Mithra Ariel of Etrigan*

## Best Puppy

*Kasban Wildest Dreams*

## Best in Sweeps

*Kasban Envy Me*

## BOS in Sweeps

*Sebring Elan  
Monkey Business*



Best Opposite Sex



Winner's Dog



Winner's Bitch/BOW



Reserve Winner's Dog



Reserve Winner's Bitch



Best Puppy



Best In Sweeps





**BOS In Sweeps**



**Select Dog**



**Select Bitch**

## ALL PLACEMENTS

### **Veteran Sweepstakes (Anna Stromberg)**

#### **Veteran dogs, 7 yrs & under 9 yrs**

1. Ch. Le Nobels's Looking For My Green Card JC
2. Charsada Dream No Small Dreams JC
3. Ch. Le Nobel's Midnight At The Opera JC

#### **Veteran dogs, 9 yrs & under 12 yrs**

1. Ch. Kasban Winsong Heavenly Truth

#### **Veteran bitches, 7 yrs & under 9 yrs**

1. Ch. Pizzazz Flirtatious, JC, AX, AXJ

#### **Veteran bitches, 9 yrs & under 12 years**

1. Ch. Llacue's Aloof Let Freedom Ring

#### **Veteran bitches, 12 yrs & over**

1. Majic Mystere

### **Best in Veteran Sweepstakes**

Ch. Pizzazz Flirtatious, JC, AX, AXJ

### **Best of Opposite Sex Veteran in Sweepstakes**

Ch. Kasban Winsong Heavenly Truth

### **Sweepstakes (Anna Stromberg)**

#### **6-9 months puppy dogs**

1. Shylo Kingda Ka
2. Deloubelle Maya Iceman Cometh
3. Raffica's Exquisite Illumination At Sterling
4. Raffica's Exquisite Sterling Asset

#### **9-12 months puppy dogs**

1. Myways' On The Town
2. Myway From Here To Eternity
3. Khandhu O So Dapper
4. Ziv Hii's Mythological Element



#### **12-15 months dogs**

1. Sebring Elan Monkey Business
2. Kasban Rave Review of Riverview
3. Deloubelle Tiaga Final Edition
4. Pukah Walkabout Uluru

#### **15-18 months dogs**

1. Elmo's Dream Boy
2. Kominek's Hand Of The King
3. Winsong Jamna Poetic Justice
4. Triomphe Athena He's An American Idol, Nodoubt

#### **6-9 months puppy bitches**

1. Kasban Wildest Dreams
2. Xzotika's Southern Tigress at Zmaray
3. Winterbourne Agha Djari Amansara
4. Deloubelle Maya Ice Princess

#### **9-12 months puppy bitches**

1. Ziv Hii's The Fifth Element
2. Tres Chic Wynsyr Simply Divine
3. Ziv Hii's Element of Style

#### **12-15 months bitches**

1. Kasban Envy Me
2. Pukah Brindabella to Blue Mountain

#### **15-18 months bitches**

1. Jamna Winsong Heavenly Delight
2. Scaramis Girl Power At Regle
3. Charsada A Whole New World

### **Best in Sweepstakes**

**Kasban Envy Me**

### **Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes**

**Sebring Elan Monkey Business**

# AHCA 2012 Specials Class

ALL

PLACEMENTS

(Cont'd)



## REGULAR CLASSES – Dogs (Betsy Hufnagel)

### 6-9 months puppy dogs

1. Deloubelle Maya Iceman Cometh
2. Dragonfly Ecco's Dominus Vobiscum
3. Shylo Kingda Ka
4. Cynergy's Airforce One

### 9-12 months puppy dogs

1. Myway's On The Town
2. Windfall Mahali Come Sail Away
3. Allure-Tzaneen Ever So Special
4. Khandhu O So Dapper

### 12-18 months dogs

1. Regimes Thriller of Elmo
2. Sebring Elan Monkey Business
3. Elmo's Dream Boy
4. Winsong Jamna Poetic Justice

### Bred by exhibitor dogs

1. Jolie Orion
2. Kasban Sura Bell Bottom Blues
3. Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo
4. Myway From Here To Eternity

### American bred dogs

1. Elan Sebring Exodus
2. Windigo The Untouchable

### Open dogs

1. Exlystra Aries Ciel Noir
2. Sharja Share The Wealth
3. Riverview Space Odyssey Kasban
4. Rustic Mahali Ramblin' Man

### Winners dog

Regimes Thriller Of Elmo

### Reserve winners dog

Jolie Orion

## Field trial dog (Betsy Hufnagel)

1. Charsada Dream No Small Dreams, JC
2. FC Charsada Darkness At High Noon, FCh

### Best Field trial dog

Charsada Dream No Small Dreams, JC

## Bitches (Helen Stein)

### 6-9 months puppy bitches

1. Kasban Wildest Dreams
2. Xzotika's Southern Tigress At Zmaray
3. Tradewinds Sweet Glory Of Gabriel
4. Cynergy's Looking For E.T.

### 9-12 months puppy bitches

1. Tres Chic Wynsyr Simply Divine
2. Ziv Hii's Element of Style

### 12-18 months bitches

1. Jamna Winsong Heavenly Delight
2. Kasban Envy Me
3. Scaramis Girl Power At Regle
4. Pukah Brindabella To Blue Mountain

### Bred by exhibitor bitches

1. Mithra Ariel of Etrigan
2. Hot Beach Hallelujah
3. Charsada A Whole New World
4. Ziv Hii's The Fifth Element

### American bred bitches

1. Zindajon Young And Restless

### Open bitches

1. Jolie Andromeda
2. Kasban Private Dancer
3. Kramatir's Shades of Purple
4. Shacone Abaca Precious Gem



# AHCA 2012 Specials Class



## Winners bitch

Jamna Winsong Heavenly Delight

## Reserve winners bitch

Mithra Ariel of Etrigan

## Field trial bitch (Helen Stein)

1. FC Asia Soraya Tazi Of Suni, SC

## Best field trial bitch

FC Asia Soraya Tazi Of Suni, SC

## Junior showmanship (Rita Figg)

1. **Danielle Devitt** - Riverview Space Odyssey Kasban
2. **Noelle Silva** - Hosanna Merry Heart

## Best junior handler – Danielle Devitt

## Parade of Rescue

## Liberty Class

## Parade of Veterans

## Judge - Helen Stein

**Best of Breed** – GCh. Thaon's Mowgli

**Best of Winners** – Jamna Winsong Heavenly Delight

**Best of Opposite Sex** – GCh. Jakar An Affair Most Wicked

**Select Dog** – GCh. Jolie Paparazzi

**Select Bitch** – Ch. Mazshalna's Outlaw Torn Taji

**Award of Merit** – GCh Abaca Shacone Native Spirit

**Award of Merit** – Tells Matrix Reloaded

**Award of Merit** – GCh. Criston Enchanted

**Award of Merit** – Ch. Shylo The Octoroon

**Award of Merit** – Regimes Thriller of Elmo

**Best Bred By Exhibitor** – Mithra Ariel of Etrigan

**Best Puppy** – Kasban Wildest Dreams

## Stud Dog (Betsy Hufnagel)

Ch. Kasban Winsong Heavenly Truth

## Brace (Helen Stein)

Myway From Here To Eternity  
Myway's On The Town

## Obedience Trial

NQ - no high in trial

## Rally Trial (Marleen Burford)

### Excellent B 16"

1. GCh. DC L'Rhel Suni Asia's Timestep, MC LCX, CD, RA, CGC, TDI

Score - 95

### Advanced B 16"

1. GCh. DC L'Rhel Suni Asia's Timestep, MC LCX, CD, RA, CGC, TDI

Score- 90

### Novice B

1. Ch. Suni Time After Time at Oreia, JC, RN, BN, THD

Score - 89

## Highest Combined Score in Excellent B & Advanced A

GCh. DC L'Rhel Suni Asia's Timestep, MC LCX, CD, RA, CGC, TDI

## Triathlon (Anna Stromberg)

1. Ch. Pizzazzz Priceless, NAJ, JC, SPI, SPK
2. Ch. Pizzazzz Flirtatious, JC, AX, AXJ
3. Ch. Kasban-Seafire Sultan of Swing, CD, JC, NAJ

## Lure Coursing Competition

### Open A

1. **Prince William**
2. **Violet**
3. **Tweet**
4. **Ricardo**
5. **Dillon**

### Open B

1. **Jasmine**
2. **Joy**
3. **Cersei**
4. **Thor**
5. **Twyla**

### Veteran Stake

1. **Ladybug**
2. **Scout**

### Special

1. **Desmond**
2. **Encore**
3. **Kirat**
4. **Flirt**
5. **Soroya**



## Best of Breed AKC

Desmond (pictured above)

## Best of Breed ASFA

Kepi

## Best in Event

Kepi

# The National of Firsts



## Chuck Milne, Show Chair

and gave me great peace of mind. Assistant show chair, Linda Jackson, kept me in line financially and on task.



There are so many committee people who make the National possible, and successful. I don't know what I would have done without James and Lynda Hicks, Chris Kaiser, Dr. Karen Colson (for our health clinic), Sue Busby, Becky Morisette, Linda Shipley, and Jan Lucree (this lady makes things happen!). I want to thank all for the opportunity to work with you and to serve as the 2012 National Show Chair.

Also a great big thanks to all who were able to attend this year.

The National is more than just another dog show. It is the place to enjoy fellowship with your competitors, learn new things that will be helpful to your breeding program, see dogs that you would like to incorporate in the future, renew old friendships and make new ones.

Bless you all, and hope to see you again soon.

Chuck Milne,  
Show Chair, AHCA 2012 National



It was the **First** time in our breed's history that the same dog won Best of Breed at the National Specialty four years in a row. The record-breaking winner was GCh. Thaon's Mowgli, owned and handled by Jay Hafford.

Also, a **First** - It was a **First** where the economy dictated our number of entries and attendees, leaving us with a modest showing in the classes, but with Afghan Hounds steeped in breed quality. It was an honor to welcome entries from as far away as France, Japan, Estonia and Canada. The economy didn't affect our remarkably beautiful array of trophies.

It may not have been a **First** for lure coursing, but the tranquil and beautiful setting was a picture-book **First**. What a wonderful group of people! After I left lure coursing and saw the mood, I knew this party had just gotten started.

It was a **First** to "trick or treat" with our artists/vendors, and then enjoy watching the accomplishments of our breeders proudly showing off their puppies in Sweeps. Later Sandy Frei saw that we all got a little education, and then another **First** — Sandy, Darlyn Pfeiffer & Terry Chacon showed off their Zumba moves - who knew? However, toward the end, Nikki Gardner showed us all how the younger generation does Zumba.

We had a very successful and lively auction with a gross of about \$23,000!

Yet, another **First** with a visit from Scarlett (Betsy Hufnagel), Melanie (Norma Cozzoni), and Prissy (a Tina Turner type "drag queen").

This show was a **First**, complete with a 75th Birthday wish to Bill Pearce by "Cher."

At the Awards Banquet we were the **First** to view the new DVD about the **life and times of Kay Finch**.

Since I am in the special events business professionally, and do events every week, I never realized what I had ahead of me when I took on this job. However, I was blessed with a very pro-active President, Tony Saia, who made my job much easier



# JUDGES' CRITIQUES

## Betsy Hufnagel | Dog Classes

First of all, I would like to thank the members of the AHCA for choosing me to judge the 2012 National Speciality. I have had this honor twice previously, and the thrill is never diminished! Next, I would like to say a big thank you to the show committee for their hard work in making this show really special for me and for the attendees. Chuck and Linda were great and did a fabulous job!

The overall quality was terrific. Happily, the classes were filled with really good dogs. In every class I found dogs who had the balance and type I like. AND, who were also sound and had good temperaments. AND I found

a quality which, I feel, we have been losing - an Afghan who has arrogance and pride in himself.

My Winner's Dog, Regimes Thriller of Elmo, had that arrogance. He looked down his nose at me, convinced that he was better than I. Fortunately, his handler listened to me and kept him in control. I also was in love with my reserve dog, Jolie Orion. Beautiful to look at, beautiful to touch! I can't think of another time that I had such a hard decision to make!

I wish to thank the exhibitors for their hard work and the expense that is required to bring an exhibit to the National. They were a delight to see.

## Helen Stein | Bitch Classes & Intersex

I want to thank everyone who made this National Specialty Show a great experience for all. Show Chairman Chuck Milne, his co-chair Linda Jackson and their Committee Chairmen did a great job in ensuring the success of this show. Thanks, too, to my great ring stewards Tom and Norma Cozzoni, Jan Lucre and Tony Saia for keeping my ring in order, and to Connie Butherus for keeping the exhibitors (and the judge) updated with her timely commentary and announcements.

It has been my pleasure and an honor to judge the 76th National Specialty Show of the Afghan Hound Club of America. The Afghan Hound has played a major role in my life. In 1973 I went to my first meeting of the Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio and I met many people who remain friends to this day. One of them, I married! He has been a huge influence on the way I view this beautiful breed -- so I say thank you, Bob, for your enduring love of the breed, your great eye for a dog and for sharing your knowledge over the years.

I was quite pleased to have a fine selection of bitches on Tuesday and, reflecting back on my class winners, there were several who could have easily been awarded Winners. My Reserve Winners bitch was a houndy, leggy white bitch from the Bred-By Exhibitor class, Mithra Ariel of Etrigan. Her "presence" and light, floating gait were breathtaking. With long, elegant neck, shining white coat and jet black pigment, she made a dramatic picture; with maturity (and a little

more weight and a little more ring training), I am sure she will continue to be quite a stunning bitch. I awarded Winners Bitch to the 12-18 month bitch, Jamna Winsong Heavenly Delight -- a very lovely cream girl whose handler allowed her to present herself naturally. A good thing, as I suspect she would have resisted too much "hands on" posing! She is also quite light on her feet, very sound, and carries herself like an Afghan Hound -- moving proudly and with purpose.

I had an interesting collection of Specials. I can't say that all were wonderful: There were some who were not proper in balance (too long in body or too short legged, or both); some whose tails were set too high, were too short or were carried over the back; some who were striking -- but only as a caricature of the breed and not as a true representative of the breed. I feel that there are many correct "types" of head allowed by our breed standard, but that the shape of the dog - a compact, agile and well-coupled dog, is well defined by our standard. I definitely felt that the quality was deeper in the dogs than in the bitches. I did easily choose two nice bitches - Select Bitch, Ch. Mazshalna's Outlaw Torn Taji and Best Opposite Sex, Ch. Jakar an Affair Most Wicked - both very nice girls, easy moving and very pretty Afghan Hounds and the placements could have gone either way with those two. I also really liked my Select Dog, Ch. Jolie Paparazzi. His square shape, confident bearing, sound, sure footed movement and typey, stylish appearance made him a clear choice for that award.

Best of Breed — I looked for the qualities outlined in our breed standard.

Clearly an aristocrat, his whole appearance one of dignity and aloofness. A beautiful head with beautiful chiseling on his strong muzzle and the exotic expression that **IS** The Afghan Hound. He has the features that make our breed so distinctive —

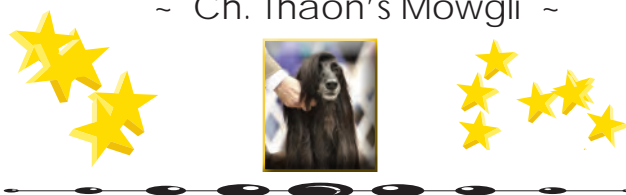
- *A long silky topknot*
- *A long, low set tail with ring or curve at the end*
- *An exotic or Eastern expression. A peculiar coat pattern with fabulous silky texture and a glossy saddle*
- *Prominent hipbones*
- *Large feet*
- *A square appearance*

He is a wonderful athletic dog, presented in hard, sound physical condition, a dog of proper size and with sound, powerful, effortless movement.

He has a strong topline that is level when he is standing, and level when he is moving. He moves with head and tail high and knows that he is the King of Dogs.

My congratulations to the breeders and owners of this dog, the Best of Breed winner at the Afghan Club of America's 2012 National Specialty:

~ Ch. Thaon's Mowgli ~



## Anna Stromberg | Sweepstakes & Veteran Sweepstakes

I would like to express my gratitude to the members and the club for allowing me to be your sweepstakes judge for 2012. It was a true highlight of my involvement in this breed spanning almost 40 years.

The venue offered a beautifully decorated and spacious ring that allowed for plenty of opportunities to see the dogs at their best. My gratitude to all the committee members for an excellent event!

Looking back for my greatest imprint, I find myself smiling at the great temperament on all the puppies and the strength in the veterans. Without a doubt I can see an improvement in overall aloof-yet-gay attitude in the younger generation, and it is something we have been lacking!

My veterans were presented first and it was an honor to see so many of them! My best in Veteran Sweeps was a lovely cream bitch, Ch. Pizzazz Flirtatious, whose mother was Best-in-Veteran Sweepstakes years earlier I was told! How fitting! She was presented in excellent condition and possessed a fantastic spirit. Best of Opposite was a male that undeniably will forever be a stallion - Ch. Kasban Winsong Heavenly Truth. The bitch's overall construction made her my victor. Both possess true Afghan Hound attitude that should be bottled and sold!

The 6-9 puppy dogs entered as a group, and they needed a few moments to sort themselves, being uber excited and getting used to both multicolored carpets

and new found fame! The winner, Shylo King DaKa, got better and better and his soundness and balanced movement earned him the blue ribbon.

For 9-12 months, two litter brothers got my attention for their overall balanced movement, proportions and soundness. Myway's On The Town had a little more front angulation than his brother, and he flirted with me, too.

In 12-15 months, I was confronted with, among others, one very happy black male and a really nice brindle male. The happy black male, Sebring Elan Monkey Business, is probably on the taller side for my taste and he was trying hard to goof with both handler and competition. He did talk to me and his elegance was the winning factor here. The brindle male is a beautifully moving dog.



The 15-18 month class entered and it was overall a very nice class. The winner was yet again a very happy dog giving his handler a run for his money. I have no problem with exuberance and happiness. It is very important to me, but to be able to see what the dog actually does for a few moments is a must. Elmo's Dream Boy had the best head and expression in the entire competition. Second place was so balanced and square, level topline and not exaggerated in any way. He was a tad thin and when you have equal quality the condition plays in, as well.



Realizing I had not unclenched my fists for many seconds, I was ready for the girls! Judging is without a doubt complete concentration and focus for hours at a time.

The 6-9 girls saw the blue Kasban Wildest Dreams as its winner. So easy on her feet and in complete balance for such a young age. She won on her beautiful hard topline and balance.

In 9-12, I felt the black mask silver Ziv Hii's the Fifth Element, was my overall winner. Second place was a lovely black. The Silver bitch won on her more moderate size.

When the 12-15 month-old girls came in, I found myself enjoying the way Kasban Envy Me uses her legs! She is patterned and brindle and oh so pleasing to watch. Excellent Afghan Hound attitude...lovely!

The 15-18 month class had a bitch as the winner, Jamna Winsong Heavenly Delight, overall a very nice bitch presented in a lovely natural state, with balanced

movement. Second place is a bitch of superb attitude, energy, and drive in excellent condition. The cream won on her overall balanced proportion.

For Best in Sweepstakes, I still feel I could have pointed in any direction and been satisfied. It was a different group of dogs but I had wanted to stick to my guns all night wishing for balanced topline, overall balance and temperament. I do think I had succeeded in sorting out these dogs to come back in for the final nod. The 12-15 bitch Kasban Envy Me just kept doing her thing, and what a beautiful thing that is! She was my winner. The boys were still trying to out-play each other, and the black Monkey Business walked away with best male. Little things like tails and eyes played in here, too. I felt I could be very picky!

One puppy was very thin, one had a slightly off bite and one wanted to act a bit silly, but got over it right away, and with that number of dogs I was so pleased to see these things at a minimum!

Again my sincere gratitude for this opportunity.



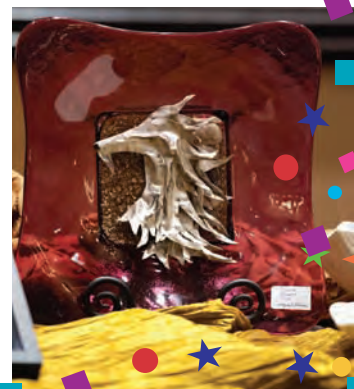
## ◆ 2012 "Special Scenes" ◆



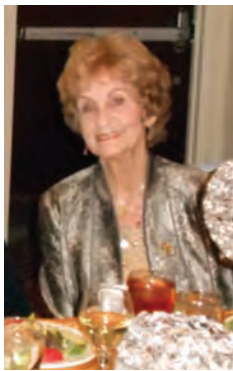
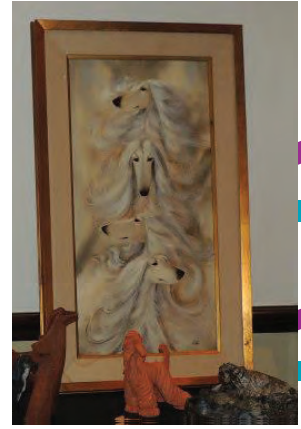




*AHCA was honored to have Kay Finch's grandson, Cabell Finch, Jr., attend our Awards' Banquet and view the Kay Finch, DVD, "An Artist's Eye".*











## Agility / Lynda Hicks

During the time period of January through September 2012, Afghan Hounds earned 18 new AKC Agility titles.

At the AHCA National Specialty supported agility trials in nearby Alpharetta, Georgia, two Afghan Hounds qualified in three events.

Ch. Pizzazzz Flirtatious, JC, AX, AXJ - owned by Carol Lovekin & Julie Messersmith was AHCA National Specialty High in Agility. **Inga** competed at the highest level of Agility, in the Excellent Class, and earned her 10 points towards a MACH (Master Agility Champion) title. You can see a video of Inga's agility Qualifying run at this link: <http://youtu.be/wWYjFZWQkPQ>. Inga also won the Senior Sweepstakes at the National Specialty. Ch. Pizzazzz Priceless, NAJ, JC, SPJ, SPK - owned by Julie Messersmith, earned two qualifying runs, completing his Open Jumpers' title.

See one of Price's Qualifying Agility Runs here: <http://youtu.be/1ZTbCnX0pvo>. Price also was High in Triathlon at the National Specialty.



AHCA held its second all-breed Agility trial on October 19, 2012, to raise funds to use toward expenses for agility trials at future national specialties. Again, this event was highly successful - with a profit of over \$3,500. Many of our Texas parent club members came from great distances to support the event by serving on the committee. HUGE thanks go to Agility Committee members Brenda and Neil Brody, Dick Hafner, James Hicks, Toni King, Deanne LeMaistre and Patricia Silverman.

My thanks and much appreciation go to Linda Jackson for all her assistance in helping to organize and prepare for both of these events.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hicks  
Agility Chairperson

## AKC Delegate / Connie Butherus

The September 2012 AKC Delegates' Meeting was held the 10th and 11th at the Newark Airport Doubletree Hotel. The pre-meeting Committees held the first day are always of interest and relevant. Frequently, proposals that *will* come to the Delegate body for a vote have had their birth in a Delegate Committee. On Sept. 10th I was able to squeeze in three Committees, one subcommittee (to which I had been appointed) and the Caucus. It was one long day.

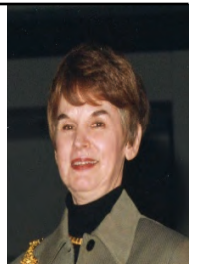
The Parent Club Committee was well attended, as it usually is, with SRO for those unlucky enough to wander in after it had started. We covered the following:

- A new suffix title to be offered for Canine Good Citizen (must be AKC registered) effective as of 1/1/2013.
- Free grooming space must be made available for exhibitors at those events also having reserved/paid space. The provision for this must be submitted with the show plans to the AKC, and it must be deemed "reasonable."
- Individuals attending approved Judges' Education offerings must take a test in order to receive "credit." The test is to be sent to the AKC by the instructor.
- Judges may not present Judges' Education seminars when also judging at the same sequence of shows. Apparently, this has been a rule for quite some time.

- The AKC event results/reports, which are used by most Parent Clubs, are available by subscription. This can cost as much as \$360.00 for those Clubs wishing all three sections. This has been and is an ongoing issue, since we are told the on-line availability (no fee) is deemed not user-friendly by those trying to use it. We were also told a year-end summary is to be sent to each Delegate. More to follow as this evolves.
- The 2013 Eukanuba/AKC show will offer a Breeders' Conference. It will be open to one and all, and best of all, it is to be FREE!

The Canine Health Committee highlights were:

- The Canine Health Foundation funded 17 grants to the total amount of \$1.7 million this year. They had grant requests totaling \$4.8 million.
- A study done on bloat yielded important findings. Based on 2,500 affected dogs and 2,500 having no symptoms, specific risk factors have been identified, including stress, cold weather, and feeding frequency. Two meals decreased the risk, whereas one meal increased the risk. To obtain a copy of this study contact Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia at [clb@akc.org](mailto:clb@akc.org).





- The CHIC DNA bank has 55,000 samples representing 169 breeds. The CHIC program has 77,000 dogs with numbers, 4,500 added since June with nine new breeds represented.
- The Breeder of Merit program (BOM) has 9,000 recognized out of a potential of 17,000 possibly qualified to apply.

A joint subcommittee with representatives of the Canine Health and Parent Club Committees, OFA/CHIC, and AKC, met to address and attempt to resolve the ongoing headache of health requirements for the BOM program. Parent Clubs have a variety of publications, documents etc. which specify health testing, BUT contain different, conflicting information! BIG PROBLEM. Currently the AKC reviewers are using the Club's Code of Ethics as the gold standard for a particular breed.

The Delegate Caucus focused largely on the proposed amendment regarding an AKC Member Club's exclusive right to their territory. The proposal was discussed, re-discussed and on and on and on. Amendments to the Amendments etc. were put forth which served only to further gum up the works.

Some of the content of the Coordinating Committee has been stated above having been addressed in other Committees. Additional items of interest were:

- The need to reach out to law schools and encourage the inclusion of Animal Law in their curriculum, a good idea one would think.
- Increases in events and participation in Obedience, Rally, Agility and other performance events in the past year, and a triathlon title is under consideration at the Committee level.
- How to handle show cancellation policies and procedures.
- RBIS (Reserve Best in Show) procedures.
- Inviting all FSS (Foundation Stock Service) groups access to the Parent Club Conference on-line discussion list as a means of increasing communication among the AKC recognized breed specific clubs.
- Procedures to assure a dog being reinstated after having been disqualified (DQed) is in fact, the SAME dog being examined for reinstatement.
- AKC Member Club status for Agility Clubs. Currently there are 84; The issue of former AKC employees, who become Delegates, potentially being elected to the Board of Directors. This is deemed by some as a possible conflict of interest.

The actual Delegates' Meeting fell on 9/11. Reminders of the tragic day in 2001 were ingrained in the proceedings. We were reminded that of the 284 Delegates attending the 9/11/01 meeting, 137 continue to serve in that capacity.

The President's report by Dennis Sprung reviewed the impact of 9/11, and the extensive work done by the AKC subsequent to the attack. Again Kleenex was in order. The AKC excelled during those horrendous times.

Chair Alan Kalter reported on our common interests and accomplishments in promoting, protecting and preserving the sport of purebred dogs and our dogs' best interests. "Together we will continue to stand up for what we believe. Together we will continue to fight for our rights. Together we are truly the dog's champion."

A new title was announced, "Urban Search and Rescue Dog." The first being awarded that day to S&R dog, Juno, owned, trained and worked by Rebecca Stanevich, a delegate from WV. She then gave an impressive presentation on the training, work and role of these outstanding dogs and their owners.

The balance of the meeting follows:

- 1) The territoriality motion, which would have removed the exclusive rights of a show-giving club to hold shows in its territory if that club held its show outside of its territory for two consecutive years, was not voted on but was sent to the Rules Committee for rework. If this had passed as presented, clubs would have lost exclusive rights to their own territory, as they had not held their show in their own territory for more than two years. This could possibly have impact on local breed clubs, but is targeted at All-Breed shows at this point. I will keep you updated on how this goes forward.
- 2) The three-point major for reserve winners for one national specialty per year for a Parent Club who desires to offer this, when the entry for that sex is more than two times the number of entries required for a five-point major in that geographic area, passed overwhelmingly. This will go into effect January 1, 2013. I voted as instructed by the AHCA Board.
- 3) The third vote to bring consistency to the ribbons, colors, etc. in the Rules. Passed.

AKC's finances appear to be improving, though the new CFO, Peter Farnsworth, did not give specific numbers only bar and line graphs to illustrate the trends. Improvement seems due primarily to improving return on investments.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Butherus

Afghan Hound Club Of America Delegate to the AKC

# Breeders' Cup

Becky Morisette, Show Chairman



## Breeders' Cup

Friday  
May 31, 2013  
Save the Date

The 2013 Breeders' Cup will be held on Friday, May 31, 2013 at the Best Western Hotel, Whitmore Lake, MI. The Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club has reserved a block of rooms (priced at \$89.99), so make your reservations early! The premium will be mailed the end of November for nomination of judges for the Breeders' Cup.

Along with the Breeders' Cup, the Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club will hold their back-to-back specialties on Saturday, June 1, 2013 with Jeff Bracken judging Sweeps



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and Joanne Buehler judging Breed. On Sunday, June 2, Sweeps will be judged by Anita Richards, and David Frei will judge Breed. Becky Morisette is Show Chairman for the Breeders' Cup and the Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club.

Dorma Sue Busby is Show Secretary for all events and Becky Morisette is Show Chair for all events.

## Canine Health Eileen Laudermilch

Permission was given to Eileen to reprint this in its entirety....it is followed by a Press Release.



### NEW EYE CERTIFICATION REGISTRY



Dear Parent Club CHIC Liaison:

The OFA is pleased to announce a new Eye Certification Registry (ECR). The new ECR is a joint effort between the OFA and the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) and has the full endorsement of the ACVO and their member Diplomates. The addition of eye examination results to the OFA database will unquestionably make the OFA the most complete resource of canine health screening results in the world and enhance this important toolset for responsible breeders to make more informed breeding decisions in an effort to reduce the incidence of inherited disease.

A copy of the official press release is attached:

The new OFA Eye Certification Registry will be available as of November 1, 2012. **Transition to this new registry should be seamless** for both owners and examining ophthalmologists:

- **EXAMS** - There will be **no changes to the existing exam protocols**. The standard exam process will still be conducted by ACVO Diplomates assessing dogs for the presence or absence of observable hereditary eye disease.
- **RESULTS** - There will be **no changes to the interpretation or classification of the exam results**. Dogs with normal eye exams will receive OFA eye clearance numbers similar to the OFA numbers issued for hips, elbows, cardiac, etc. Dogs with observable, but passing conditions (currently known as Breeder Option Codes), will be issued notated OFA eye clearance numbers. Dogs with observed eye diseases of significance will be reported as ineligible for eye clearance numbers. A complete list of Breeder Option Codes and Ineligible Categories will be available on the OFA website soon.
- **FORMS** - All active ACVO Diplomates will receive the new OFA exam forms by mid-October in advance of the transition. The forms will be similar in format to the exam forms currently in use.
- **VALID PERIOD** - OFA eye certification numbers will be considered valid for one year from the time of the exam.

- **FEES** - Fees for both initial submissions (\$12) and resubmits (\$8) of passing results for eye certifications will remain the same with one change. In order to maximize the benefits to breeders it is important to encourage owners to share all exam data, both normal and non-passing results. To that end, there is **no charge** to owners to submit non-passing results to the database if they authorize open disclosure.
- **ONLINE ACCESS** - All normal/passing eye exam results submitted to the OFA will be available on the OFA's website. Non-passing results will be available on the OFA website if the owner authorizes disclosure.
- **AKC** - OFA eye certification numbers will be shared with the AKC for inclusion on their registration and pedigree documents if the dog was permanently identified via microchip or tattoo AND the id was verified by the ophthalmologist at the time of the exam.
- **STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION** - Regardless of whether the owner opts to register eye exam results with the OFA, the examining ophthalmologist will submit the results for statistical purposes to monitor disease prevalence and progression at the breed level. Working with the ACVO Genetics Committee, the OFA will make aggregate statistics available to ACVO Diplomates, breed clubs, and the public.

In addition to the new Eye Certification Registry (ECR), the OFA is working with the ACVO to establish a new Clinical Database of Ophthalmic Diagnoses (CDOD). Recognizing that the ECR represents a biased population of primarily normal dogs, the CDOD will capture additional data regarding disease prevalence for those dogs presenting to private and institutional practices for reasons other than a certification exam. Together, the OFA's new ECR and CDOD will be important tools to monitor canine inherited eye conditions and reduce their incidence.



As a not-for-profit organization, a portion of the proceeds from all OFA eye registrations will be donated to the **ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation** to support research leading to the elimination of ocular diseases causing vision loss and suffering in animals. In keeping with the OFA's existing policy to support canine health research grants, these donations will be in addition to grants supported through the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation.

Please refer to the OFA website ([www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)) in the coming weeks as more details become available.

If your club has any questions in the interim, please contact the OFA's Chief Operating Officer, Eddie Dziuk, at [edziuk@offa.org](mailto:edziuk@offa.org)

Eddie Dziuk • Chief Operating Officer • Orthopedic Foundation for Animals • 2300 E Nifong Blvd. • Columbia, MO 65201  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



## **OFA AND ACVO ESTABLISH NEW EYE CERTIFICATION REGISTRY AND CLINICAL DATABASE FOR OPHTHALMIC DIAGNOSES**

*Columbia, Missouri, Friday, August 31, 2012* - The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) are pleased to announce the establishment of a new joint Eye Certification Registry (ECR) and Clinical Database for Ophthalmic Diagnoses (CDOD) effective November 1, 2012. Together, the ECR and CDOD will be important tools to monitor canine inherited eye conditions and reduce their incidence.

OFA Eye Certification Registry exams are ophthalmic examinations, performed by ACVO Diplomates, to assess dogs for the presence or absence of observable hereditary ocular disease. Dogs with normal exam results will receive OFA eye certification numbers valid for one year. Eye Certifications are an important part of the routine health screening practiced by responsible dog breeders to produce healthy puppies. Recognizing that animals presenting for a Certification Exam represent a biased population of primarily normal dogs, the CDOD will capture aggregate statistics regarding disease prevalence for those animals presented to ACVO Diplomates in private and institutional clinical practices.

The OFA currently maintains the world's largest online database of canine health screening results. The addition of eye exam results will enhance the value of this important toolset for responsible breeders to make more informed breeding decisions to reduce the incidence of inherited disease. For informed puppy buyers, the database provides documentation of a breeder's health screening efforts.

A portion of the proceeds from all OFA eye registrations will be donated to the ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation to support research leading to the elimination of ocular diseases causing vision loss and suffering in animals.

For more information please visit the OFA website at [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)

CONTACT:  
Eddie Dziuk  
OFA, Columbia, MO  
(573) 442-0418 x222  
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[www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)

*Founded in 1966, the OFA is a not-for-profit foundation with the mission to promote the health and welfare of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease. The ACVO promotes excellence in veterinary ophthalmology through advanced training, certification, research and education.*

# FAQ

## OFA EYE REGISTRATION

Dear Eileen Laudermitch,

Good morning everyone,

We've received a number of questions regarding last week's announcement of the OFA's new Eye Certification Registry. We've compiled a list of the most relevant questions and developed a FAQ document which is being loaded to the OFA's website this morning. The FAQs are pasted below. Permission to forward and cross-post the FAQs is granted.

Thank you, Eddie Dziuk

### Frequently Asked Questions regarding the new OFA Eye Certification Registry

#### **Is the OFA Eye Certification Registry (ECR) replacing CERF? Is CERF going away?**

The OFA and CERF have always had a collaborative working relationship. However, we are two distinct organizations. The OFA cannot speak for CERF. The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) has designated the OFA's Eye Certification Registry as their endorsed registry as of November 1, 2012. ACVO diplomates (veterinary ophthalmologists) will be receiving OFA eye examination forms in mid-October, and the ACVO is encouraging their use and registration of results with the OFA going forward.

#### **How will this transition affect those breeds including CERF as one of their CHIC requirements?**

The key element of the requirement is the exam itself, not the organization registering the result. There are no differences in the eye examination protocol whether the intent is to register with CERF or the OFA. The exam protocol and the resulting interpretation and classifications are the same. Prior to the transition date, all CHIC requirements that currently include CERF eye exams will automatically be updated. The new criteria will read, "Eye examination by an ACVO Ophthalmologist with the results registered with either the OFA or CERF." Going forward, both OFA and CERF registrations will meet the CHIC eye exam criteria.

#### **Will the OFA continue to display CERF results on their website?**

All public domain data that CERF has previously shared with the OFA will be archived and will continue to be displayed on the OFA website.

#### **Is my ophthalmologist aware of the transition?**

The ACVO Board of Regents communicated formally with all active diplomates in early August. The OFA has also

communicated with all active diplomates regarding the implementation. Additionally, the new program will be formally rolled out at the Annual ACVO Meeting in October.

#### **Are there any differences between the OFA's Eye Certification Registry and CERF?**

For the average dog owner, there are no significant differences. The exam protocol, interpretation of results, and fees are all the same. Eye exam results registered with the OFA will continue to generate certification numbers, and these will be forwarded to the AKC and displayed on the OFA website.

#### **Since there are no significant differences in registering results with the OFA or CERF, what are the benefits of one over the other?**

The primary benefits of the new ACVO and OFA joint Eye Certification Registry are on the backend. The OFA has committed to more frequent and enhanced reporting of aggregate statistics regarding disease prevalence and progression by breed. Enhanced reporting will be available for ACVO diplomates and for parent breed clubs. Regularly updated aggregate statistics will be made available to the public via the OFA's website. The OFA is also establishing a Clinical Database of Ophthalmic Diagnoses to capture data from ACVO diplomates on canine eye exams in an institutional or practice setting where the dog is presenting for reasons other than a certification exam. The inclusion of this data will greatly enhance disease monitoring. As a not-for-profit organization, the OFA will be sharing a negotiated percentage of all eye registrations with the ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation to support research leading to the treatment and elimination of ocular disease. Submission of eye exams to the OFA will support all of these efforts and will maximize the value of data in a single central database.

#### **CERF exams are currently considered valid for one year. What about the OFA Eye Certification Registry?**

OFA eye certification numbers will also be valid for one year from the time of the exam.

#### **If I previously submitted an eye exam to CERF, and submit follow up exam results to the OFA, will the OFA charge the initial or resubmit fee?**

In the above scenario, even though it represents an initial submission to the OFA, if a previous CERF submission on the dog is documented, the reduced resubmit fee (\$8) will be applied.



### How should breed clubs that incorporate specific CERF language into their Code of Ethics, Breeder Guidelines, Advertising Requirements, etc. handle the transition?

Neither the OFA nor the ACVO can dictate how clubs handle these types of changes, especially since the changes may be specifically governed by their club Constitution, By-Laws, or Operating Policies. However, since the eye exam is the key element, not the registry, the OFA recommends updating such language in line with the following. "Eye examination for observable inherited eye disease by an ACVO diplomate (ophthalmologist) with the results registered with either the OFA or CERF."

### Can I submit a CERF exam form to the OFA's Eye Certification Registry?

Since the exam data is the same, the OFA will accept submissions recorded on CERF exam forms. However, so the owner's intent is clear, the OFA will require a signed note from the owner or authorized agent indicating they would like the exam results entered into the OFA Eye Certification Registry, and accompanying payment must be made to the OFA. If a submission includes a check payable to CERF, the application will be returned.

### How will OFA assign eye certification numbers and how will they differ from CERF?

The OFA will assign eye certification numbers for dogs found free of observable inherited eye disease. Dogs with observable, but passing conditions (currently known as Breeder Option Codes), will be issued notated OFA eye certification numbers. Dogs with observed eye diseases of significance will be reported as ineligible for eye certification numbers. The OFA eye certification numbers will follow the same format as existing OFA numbers for other disease databases. The following example illustrates the anticipated format: LR-EYE-100/24M/VPI. In this example, the first two characters indicate the breed, in this case a Labrador Retriever. EYE indicates this is an OFA eye number. 100 would indicate this

is the 100th Labrador assigned an OFA eye number. These numbers are issued sequentially within breed. 24M indicates the age in months at the time of evaluation, and the sex. VPI indicates that the dog was permanently identified via microchip or tattoo and the examining ophthalmologist verified the ID during the examination. Other possible suffixes would include NOPI (no permanent identification provided), or PI (permanent ID provided on the application but not verified by the examining ophthalmologist). Only dogs with verified permanent identification will have their normal results automatically shared with the AKC for inclusion on their registration and pedigree documents. Breeder option codes will be noted on the OFA report and on the OFA website.

### What will be the OFA's policy regarding posting of eye exam results on the OFA website?

The OFA will follow its existing policy for posting of exam results. All normal/passing results are considered public domain information and will post and display on the OFA's website. Dogs with observable, but passing conditions (currently known as Breeder Option Codes) will have their results posted and released into the public domain, including the specific notation. There is no option to keep a passing observable breeder option code condition confidential while releasing the passing certification number. Non-passing results will only be posted and released if the owner authorizes disclosure.

### Will eye exam clinics continue to be held at dog shows?

Eye exam clinics are arranged independently by the show giving club and the attending ophthalmologist. There is no reason to believe that these will be discontinued.

Eddie Dziuk  
Chief Operating Officer  
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals  
2300 E Nifong Blvd.  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Phone: (573) 442-0418 x222 Fax: (573) 875-5073  
Email: [edziuk@offa.org](mailto:edziuk@offa.org)

Website: [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)

## Inventory

Dorma Sue Busby



### AS OF BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 1, 2012

#### 2008 NATIONAL

DVDs	LURE COURSING	(5)	\$5.00
Catalogs	"MEMORIES"	(25)	\$5.00

(Featuring all past winners from 1940 to current, all events)



**- PLEASE NOTE -**  
Prices do not include postage. Contact Dorma Sue Busby at [barakiafs@peoplepc.com](mailto:barakiafs@peoplepc.com) or 810-241-2529

TOP 20 INVITATIONAL Catalog & DVD Set Cost \$5.00

## 2009 NATIONAL



POSTERS	18 X 22, UNFRAMED	(25)	\$5.00
SWEATSHIRTS			\$5.00
	GREY (7) S, (10) L, (25) XL		
	PURPLE (1) S, (5) L, (17) XL		
1/4 ZIP SUEDE SHIRT - BLACK	(2) XL, (1) 2XL		\$10.00
MUGS		(3)	\$5.00
CATALOGS		(9)	\$5.00

## 2010 NATIONAL



POSTERS	18 X 22 UNFRAMED	(25)	\$5.00
SWEATSHIRTS			\$5.00
	BLACK (1) S, (5) XL		
	BROWN (5) S, (4) XL		
T-SHIRTS			\$5.00
	GREEN (1) XL		
	LT. BROWN (2) M, (1) XL		
	BLACK (1) XL		
1/4 ZIP SPORT-TEK JACKET			\$10.00
	BROWN (3) L, (4) XL		
POLO SHIRTS			\$5.00
	BLACK (3) L, (9) XL		
NATIONAL LOGO CANVAS TOTE BAGS		(25)	\$5.00
NATIONAL LOGO & VELUS LOGO TOTE BAGS		(35)	\$10.00
CATALOGS			\$10.00

## 2010 BREEDERS' CUP



T-SHIRTS			\$5.00
	BEIGE (2) S, (3) L, (1) XL		
	LT. BLUE (3) L, (2) XL		
CATALOGS		(6)	\$5.00

## 2011 NATIONAL



SWEATSHIRT, FULL ZIP HOODIE			\$45.00
	BROWN (1) S, (2) M, (5) L, (7) XL, (1) 2XL		
T-SHIRTS	BLACK (3) L, (7) XL		\$20.00
CUSTOM BRUSHES		(5)	\$25.00
CATALOGS		(15)	\$10.00

## 2011 BREEDERS' CUP



T-SHIRTS	CAROLINA BLUE, (4) S, (5) L		\$10.00
CATALOGS		(8)	\$10.00





## 2012 BREEDERS' CUP

T-SHIRTS	WHITE, (2) L, (5) XL, (3) 2XL, (1) 3XL	\$15.00
CATALOGS	(15)	\$15.00
<b>IF YOU ORDER A CATALOG AND T-SHIRT, COST IS</b>		<b>\$25.00</b>



## 2012 NATIONAL

SWEATSHIRTS	BURGUNDY (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)	\$25.00
T-SHIRTS		\$15.00
	MED. BLUE (M, L, XL), BLACK (L, XL)	
	BLACK WINDBREAKER JACKET (M, L, XL)	\$40.00
BASEBALL CAPS	KHAKI	\$15.00
BATH TOWELS	OLIVE GREEN	\$20.00



## WAYS & MEANS INVENTORY



<b>PARENT CLUB LOGO ITEMS</b>		
BASEBALL CAPS, ASSORTED COLORS		\$20.00
	BLACK (2), BEIGE (2), SAGE (2), PURPLE (3), MUSTARD (3) & BLUE (1)	
FLEECE BLANKETS (LOGO IN GOLD THREADS)		\$10.00
	FOREST GREEN (8)	
LAPTOP TOTE BAGS (LOGO IN GOLD THREADS)		\$15.00
	BLACK (18)	
DUFFLE BAGS	NAVY (2); RED (8)	\$15.00
PC LAPEL PINS 14 KT GOLD PLATED; TIE TAC OR SAFETY PIN		\$15.00
6-PAK COOLERS	PINK (10), TEAL (1), GRAY (11)	\$10.00

For those of you who missed seeing the preview of the Kay Finch video (produced by her grandson Dan Finch), that made its debut at the National Awards dinner in Atlanta, the DVD is available for \$20. + \$3. shipping and handling. Mail check, payable to Sue Hamlin at 1145 W. Church St., Elmira, NY 14905.

Include your mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.

It will make a great Christmas (or anytime) gift!



**Wednesday, September 25 - Saturday, September 29, 2013**

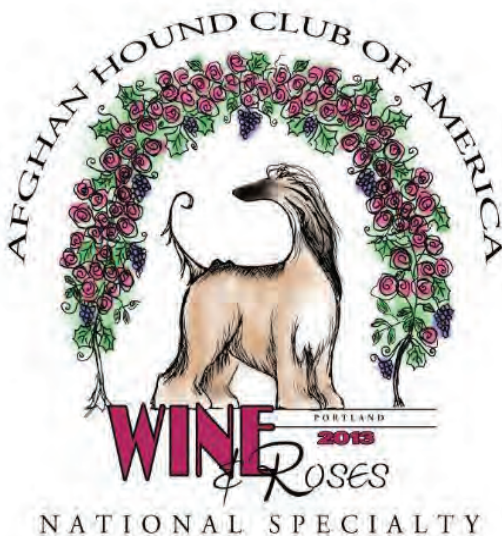
**Holiday Inn, Portland Airport**

**888 HOLIDAY (888-465-4329) or 503-256-5000**

**Room Rate \$89 - Group Code 'AHC'**

*Tentative schedule (all events pending AKC approval)*

- Wednesday, September 25, Lure Coursing, Agility Trial, Welcome Mixer & Vendor Party
- Thursday, September 26, Obedience Trial, Rally Trial, Sweepstakes, Breed Symposium
- Friday, September 27, Dog Classes competition, Bitch Classes Competition, Art Auction
- Saturday, September 28, Jr. Showmanship, Parade of Rescue, Non-Regular Classes, Best of Breed, Awards Banquet
- Sunday, September 29, AHC of Greater Portland Specialty Show, Evergreen AHC Specialty Show



## Mentoring / Chris Pinkston

It's a small world. We've all said that, and it is interesting how chance plays a part on the little "orbits" that are part of our daily lives. Just being at the right place at the right time can lead to new contacts and the opportunity to help. Even with those people we already know, pay attention to the words they are saying. Pay attention to the conditions of their dogs when we see them, and absolutely get involved when we do NOT see those dogs we know are still around.

Mentoring isn't only about new people, it is also about being watchful over our own Afghan Hound community. Recently, here in the Virginia Beach area, the dogs became much less important to a certain person. It was only a chance comment which sent up red flags. We offered to place all of the dogs, but were allowed only to place three. No amount of common sense arguments persuaded this person to allow us to make life better for the remaining four dogs. Animal control was called, but their position was that the minimum standards had been met.

Since we were at a dead-end in one regard, we went in (with her permission) and made some improvements for the dogs. This was a person who was once very active and very involved. Things changed.

Barb Hastings (who is already St. Barb as far as I am concerned) had a conversation with a person ready to buy an

Afghan Hound puppy from a breeder who did no health checks on the parents. Barb was able to steer her to another litter whose parents are health checked. This person has now gotten the puppy, and has a daughter in the family who will show it in Juniors and in conformation.



Carla Helm met a person at the PetSmart in her small town who had an Afghan Hound! She didn't know of her before. Carla has mentored this person, and she probably will purchase a show Afghan as a result of this contact.

Not everyone is receptive to offers of help. A new Afghan Hound owner at a show local to Sharon Watson, was approached by Sharon, Bobbi Blewett and Peggy Coffman -- all nice ladies. No go. But, maybe she will change her mind later. At least she knows that there were doors open to her.

Amy Roush is training a young woman as a groomer who may turn into an actual Afghan Hound owner. She wants to learn to handle as well. Who wouldn't want to own one of our wonderful hounds after you have gotten to know them?

Be a good person. Be a good dog owner. Be a good example. Be helpful to new people. Be watchful for opportunities to educate, and, did I say? "Be a good example!"



## Rescue / Russ & Barb Hastings

The year started off with several dogs coming into Rescue in January and February. Thank goodness things slowed down over the summer. To date, Rescue has taken in 106 Afghans. Many of those were in the Ohio area and have been handled by AHRCO, Maureen Anderson and her great group of volunteers. Unfortunately, many of these dogs were heartworm positive and needed treatment before placement. The cost for this treatment is expensive, but since the dogs were young, it was the right way to go. Our thanks to those who fostered during the treatments and worked with these dogs.

We also saw the disbanding of Afghan Rescue of New England, AHRNE, after 17 years. Sandy Schab needed to take a much deserved break and follow other interests in her life. Sandy was always there when needed and will be greatly missed. Fortunately for Rescue, Amy Mero and Pam Wall have agreed to take over this area and have begun a new group that will be referred to as New England Afghan Hound Rescue, NEAHR. They have started a facebook page and will soon have a web site up and running. Rescue thanks Sandy for all the hard work she has done in the past and welcomes Pam and Amy and their volunteers to the Rescue ranks.



Our article pictures "Fasper," the new Rescue Mascot & how he came to us as an orphan at the National in Atlanta - was dropped off at the tables looking for a new home. We took to him immediately & adopted him. He is pictured

lounging on the hotel bed after a hard day's work at the Rescue Tables. He will accompany us to shows and "Meet-the-Breeds." Look for him in future articles. There's no telling where "Fasper" may show up.




I am happy to report the rescue table at the National netted over \$2,300. Thank you to all who donated items and all who purchased items. Our next fundraiser will be the 2013 Rescue Calendar. The cost is \$15.00 per calendar, including mailing. Please check the Rescue web site [www.afghanhound.net](http://www.afghanhound.net) for order information.





### 2013 Rescue Calendar



Afghan Hound Club of America  
The Hounds First  
Doug Vines

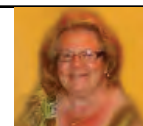
To order a calendar send a \$15.00 Check to:  
AHCA Rescue  
c/o Barb Hastings, 4071 Gurnee Rd, Westfield PA 16950

**All proceeds in support of Afghan Rescue**



# Regional Clubs

Darlyn Pfeiffer



At my first Regional Club Coordinator meeting, I was so pleased with the turnout, and the willingness of our Regional Clubs to share ideas, and be willing to help the smaller clubs in jeopardy of loosing their specialties.

As it was an informal forum, I asked club representatives to share some of the things they do that makes their specialties successful. I did not have a sign-in sheet, so if you are not mentioned, please do not be offended.

Susan Weatherhead of the Greater Twin Cities Afghan Hound Club, MN (40 members with 10-15 core workers) said that they try to make it a special event, with an art auction, Afghan Hound bingo, great food and even a lure coursing event to complete the three-day weekend.

Yancy Russell of Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Club, PA (10-15 members) said they have a large area to draw from and work to get good judges.

Hal Perry of the Afghan Hound Club of Northern New Jersey (8-10 members) said they focus on judges, and build their treasury by doing all-breed agility.

Jody Legendre who was with the New Orleans club, has now joined the North Carolina and Virginia clubs, and shared the demise of New Orleans club. People moved away and passed away....leaving no members to work. Way to go Jody, for supporting the other regionals!

Jason & Jennifer Taylor and John McKiernan of the Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio (12 members) said location is important, and after a successful National in 2011, they seem to have found a great one!

Tracee Elwess and Jerry Bazar of Tidewater Afghan Hound Club, VA (14 members) said their location is a big draw at that time of year. **They promote their show early, and people associate Tidewater with elegance, a great dinner, art auction, fun skits, unique catalogs, and generally an exhibitor-friendly site, with lots of events all weekend.** They also do a Tattoo clinic to help boost the treasury. They have a computer premium list program they use that they will be willing to share.

Karen Mays of Tara Afghan Hound Club, GA (14 members, about 8 working) said they have a good core of working members, and work hard each year to put on a successful specialty.

Sue Busby and Becky Morrisette of the Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club, MI (8 members with about 3 core workers) said that they work to get great judges who will work with them to keep expenses down. Sue also does the premium list.

Ann Sterner represented Monterey and Northern California. They use an online art auction and live auction to make

extra cash and use Moss Bow Foley as superintendents.

Sandy Frei of Evergreen Afghan Hound Club, WA (36 members) said they have tried back-to-back specialties, but decided to go to a stand alone and a designated specialty with the Western Washington Hound Show. Lovely location, art auction, and good food. They work with the Hound Show for good judges, and work about eight All-Breed Agility Trials, where the club is paid for members to work.

Nicci Von Broembsen of Afghan Hound Club of Austin (30-40 members) said they are with the Belle City Cluster and it has worked well for them. They do performance events for All-Breeds. Nicci was helpful in letting us know that once you put on an assisted event, (Agility & CAT Trails) it becomes easier for your Regional Club to get approved to hold their own events. She also felt it opened many doors for promoting our breed!

Janie Getz from Suncoast Afghan Hound Club, FL shared they have an evening specialty with the Lakeland KC. It has to be under 50 in the entry, but with raffle and good food, it has worked well for them.

Leon Riley from Richmond Afghan Hound Club, VA (15 members) has found a new location (costing a lot less) and does back to back specialties. Classes and education help fund their club.

Russ Hastings from Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club, NY (7-8 working members) lost their date and are pursuing a new venue. They work hard to get breeder judges that have not been around.

Debbie Peterson and Diane Kroll of Portland also sang the praises of performance trials to fund the Club. They have been with the Rose Cluster, that has a big draw. Looking forward to a wonderful National in the Pacific Northwest next year!!!

I would like to thank Tony Saia for his support and all who attended with their great ideas! Please do not hesitate to contact me with ideas or concerns at <[verauctions@charter.net](mailto:verauctions@charter.net)> However, all applications for approval must come by snail mail to P.O. Box 22, Reeseville, WI 53579.

Looking forward to working with you all,  
Darlyn Pfeiffer

**F.Y.I. WE NEED UPDATES ON REGIONAL CLUB CONTACTS....PEOPLE FOR ME TO CONTACT** (many bounced back to me when I sent the Regional Meeting notice), **AS WELL AS HAVE THE INFO IN THE AHCA DIRECTORY! SEND INFO TO ME AND COPY BARB BORNSTEIN.** Thanks in advance for your cooperation!!!!



## AHCA STATISTICS - YEAR 2011

**Top-Producing Sire - 7 champion offspring**

Name Star'T Cutting Trax of Jhanzi  
 Owner Gunilla Holmgren  
 Breeder William Hansen & Alex Gilchrist

**Top-Producing Dam - 5 champion offspring each**

Name Ch. Kasban Sirae Heaven Sent  
 Owner Cynthia Byington  
 Breeder Laura Mauldin/Leslie Stoffels

Name Ch. Ingyzamo's Divine MsM of Bybur  
 Owner Michelle Dyer  
 Breeder Patrick C. Byrne & Peter Belmont Jr.

**Top-Winning Dog in Breed Competition**

Name GCh. Thاون's Mowgli (1375)  
 Owner J Hafford/J Blanchard/A Sterner/D Rogers  
 Breeder Jay T Hafford/James P Blanchard

**Top-Winning Bitch in Breed Competition**

Name GCh. Xenos Jimlet (543)  
 Owner Wendy Slowe  
 Breeder Roberto Bongiovanni

**Top Junior Handler - Emilie Peterson**

1655 Teton Dr. E., Monmouth, OR 97361-1767

**Top Lure Coursing Dog - AKC**

Name FC Allures Just Give Me That Wink, SC  
 Owner Deanna Delesandri & Stephani Norris  
 Breeder Stephani L. Norris, Pamela McQueen & Todd M. Norris

**Top Lure Coursing Dog - ASFA**

Name Charsada Darkness at High Noon, LCM  
 Can FCHX SC  
 Owner Jeanie Martin  
 Breeder Brenda Burns

**Highest Point Total in Obedience**

Name FC Twyshire Tanist, RN, MC, CD  
 Owner Nora Mayfield

**Top Rally Dog**

Name Ch. Elmo's Tribal Island Perfection  
 Owner A. Pierce and D. Petersen

**Top Agility Dog**

Name Ch. MACH4 Stormhill's Red Zinger,  
 JC, MXF  
 Owner Robin Cohen, Robin Kletke & Stormhill Kennels  
 Breeder Mary Offerman, Terri Vanderzee & Stormhill Kennels



# WELCOME Waggin

*Ed. Note: For the second time, this feature called Welcome Waggin' appears in TN. Mary Blacker has contacted all new members at the time of their membership approval, to invite them to write a bio for the next issue of TN. While replies are not mandatory, they are much appreciated so that we can become better acquainted.*



John "Jack" Fahey started his dog show career at eleven years old, showing family Collies in breed and Junior Showmanship. In 1969, his parents purchased an Afghan Hound for him to show, and it's been Afghans ever since. John feels very lucky to have this wonderful breed in his life and blessed by having

understanding parents, who let him follow his passion with dogs for the past 42 years. During his teen years, he showed and bred a couple of litters that produced well for him.

In 1982, John moved from New York to California and became handler and manager of Virginia Withington's Stormhill Kennels. At Stormhill, he met Sandra Withington Frei, thus beginning their 30-year friendship. Together they showed and co-bred some group and specialty winners.

John has been a member of the Afghan Hound Club of California for 30 years, holding many offices including serving as president twice. Before Afghan rescue came to public attention, John and his family fostered and placed many Afghan Hounds in the 1970s. Some call them the throwaway dogs that breeders will not take back. John's Kisma Afghans have also promoted the Afghan Hound breed with their modeling in TV commercials, print work, and fashion shows. Because of John's work with local animal rights laws and control issues, he was invited to speak in front of Congress by the AKC. Over the years John has judged specialty matches and specialty point show sweepstakes all over the US. His love of painting shows the true nature of the breed, and he is well known for his Afghan artwork worldwide.

Robert Dunn became active in Afghan Hounds 17 years ago, when he partnered with John Fahey of Kisma Kennels. They raised four beautiful dogs from a litter they co-bred to old age, but professional career commitments kept Robert and John from showing a lot in those years.

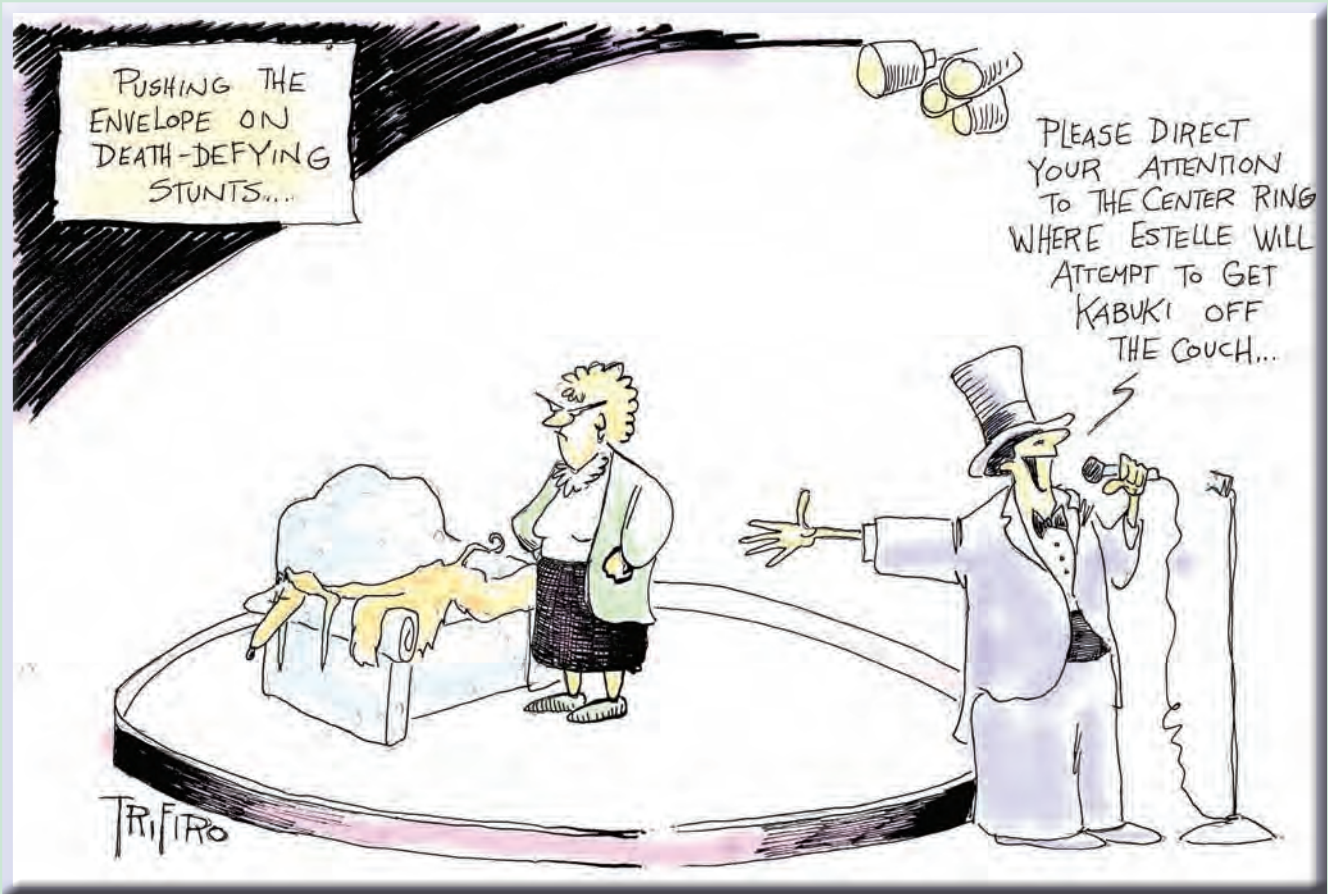
When Pat Stephenson of Tajmir passed away, it was up to Robert and John to place 14 of her dogs within 2 weeks time, or the dogs would be put down. John and Robert were very lucky to find some wonderful homes for these animals. They also took back three 6-year-old dogs from a litter they had co-bred with Pat. They kept these three dogs for the rest of their lives to insure their safety and health. With the additional dogs taken in from Pat's kennel, there was no room for breeding and not a lot of time for showing.

Now that all but one of these old dogs have passed away, they have two young bitches to show and have fun with. Katie, the most out-going Afghan Hound ever, finished last September with several majors. Seven-month old Nala, a wild bright red brindle, is already major pointed.

Some years ago a loose Afghan Hound, bred by a local puppy mill, was found. With the help of Craig's List, Robert and John were able to reunite this dog with his very nice owner within 24 hours. Robert has also tried his hand at judging, and found it very enjoyable. Their dogs are family first and show dogs second. Both Robert and John are happy to be new Parent Club members and wish they had joined sooner.







## Death-defying Performance

*The next Topknot News Deadline is  
April 12, 2013*

