

Topknot News

The Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.
Winter 2015



Art by Lucie Langlois

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Letter from the Editor



This is the third issue that the new editorial team has produced. I think it is the best one yet; hope you agree. It is a bit late, I apologize for that but there were some features we wanted to include that we feel are worth the wait. The publication continues to evolve based on comments from the BOD and our readers.. I want to extend a special thank you to the other members of the Topknot News Team., Doris Horton, Perry Rooks, Allan Reznik and Brian Wood. As we go to press the transition to the new BOD is taking place. So we have included a message from both Presidents.

Please be sure you look at the information on the National this year in Rhode Island and the World Congress in Ohio. They both have the promise of being outstanding events. The World Congress gives us the opportunity to showcase our dogs to the world. More important it gives us the opportunity to showcase our hospitality to the fanciers from the rest of the world. It has been over 20 years from the last World Congress in the US. Let's all turn out and make it the best ever.

Some special articles in this issue discuss Tick-Borne Disease, Early Afghans, and a New Judge Interview. Special thanks to Dogs In Review for allowing us to reprint their article on the National authored by Connie Butherus.

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OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Members AHCA,

Welcome to yet another Newsletter from our Fantastic Topknot News Committee. This year will be another challenge for our breed, and it will be up to each member to help Promote our Breed, Our Activities, and Our Great Events. We have some new blood joining our current BOD, and I am positive that they will help direct our Parent Club in the right Direction.

Please be part of our Solutions and help ideas become reality.

Best wishes for a Healthy 2016!

Fondly,
Tony Saia
President 2015

Welcome to the latest edition of Topknot News! I want to personally thank the Topknot News team for the excellent magazine they produce. I moved from Chicago to Atlanta last year and had a chance to sort and file all of the great magazines that have documented our breed over the years— The Afghan Hound Review, Our Afghans, The Afghan Hound Quarterly and Afghan World to name a few. While the economic climate for magazines make it extremely difficult for a for-profit magazine to devote itself to the Afghan Hound, I know everyone appreciates that the Afghan Hound Club of America still publishes a first class magazine documenting our breed and the sport of showing dogs.

And with my first message in this forum I would like to address the unnerving topic of declining entries in Afghan Hounds. I will not go into the causes and potential solutions here (see Facebook!) but I would like to point out that our show numbers are also creating a challenge to find volunteers to run our premier events and staff key working committees. As you may know the 2016 National Specialty would have normally occurred in the West, according to our rotation practices. But the days of multiple (or even single) clubs or chairpersons competing to host the National are in the past. Today the board has to seek out volunteers regardless of their location. Amy Mero and Erica Jantos presented a compelling bid for the 2016 National and since there were no prospective show sites in the West, the Board had to rearrange the rotation this year. There has been a lot of discussion about 1, 2 or 3 permanent sites but unless someone volunteers to chair those events the locations are secondary. So if you have always wanted to host a National Specialty or chair a committee — we're listening!

And as I write this, Jennifer and Jason Taylor are finalizing the details for the Afghan Hound World Congress and our Breeders' Cup in Ohio at the end of March while Amy Mero and Erica Jantos are ramping up for the National Specialty in Warwick in September. Both events look spectacular and I hope to see you there!

As a final note I want to thank Tony Saia for his great work this past year as President of the AHCA and Chairman of the Atlanta National. Tony has always stood up and taken on responsibility when needed to make sure our club has run smoothly. Kudos!

Ken Amos
President 2016

True to Tradition:

The Afghan Hound Club of America 79th National Specialty

By Connie Butherus/Photos by Phyllis Ensley
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National Specialties by their very nature are unique. Traditionally the devotees of the breed plan, anticipate and schedule their time months ahead to be sure they do not overlook important dates, reservations, events and happenings associated with their National Specialty. The breeders, exhibitors, attendees and enthusiasts of Afghan Hounds are true to that tradition.

The Afghan Hound Club of America held its 79th Annual National Specialty show in Atlanta, Ga. from October 18-

22. The five-day event was filled with competitions, meetings, educational offerings, special attractions and opportunities to reconnect with friends. Show chairs Tony Saia, Chuck Milne and Linda Jackson ensured that those attending the specialty had a wealth of events to enjoy and support.

The venue was the Sheraton Atlanta Airport, a convenient shuttle ride from the baggage claim area for those arriving by air. The club held its specialty at the same hotel three years before and was most pleased with the dog-friendly nature of the site and staff. The famous Southern hospitality abounded.

Day One: Coursing

Day one was off to a running start with the lure coursing events, and 41 dogs entered. The coursing was held at Spear's Farm, in Mansfield, Ga. Both ASFA and AKC lure coursing were held with the Chair being Bob Jordan. Judging the events were Dean Wright and Donna Richards. Winning the Best of Breed ASFA competition was FC Kominek's Maid of Sapphires ('Brienne') owned by Eddie and Dr. Selma Kominek. The Best of Breed in the AKC competition was won by Kominek's Rains of Castamere ('Taisto'), also owned by the Komineks. In the run-off Taisto prevailed and was awarded Best in Event.

Back at the hotel the ballroom area was undergoing a spectacular transformation as the conformation ring and trophy display were being put in place. The trophy chair, Tony Saia, had assembled the awards from well-known artists and artisans to complement the traditional club medallions and bronzes offered for the major awards. The theme colors were various shades of blue and the artists had used this in creating their pieces. The



Best of Breed GCh. Agha Djari's Eye Candy Of Sura

result was outstanding in quality and quantity. Chuck Milne used glass towers filled with lavender and magenta orchids to provide additional accents of color.

At the same time the vendors were setting up their booths and filling them with items for sale. There was artwork of every description, photography, grooming and care items, vintage collectibles, silent auctions and the highly competitive rescue raffle.

Day Two: Events, Juniors and Welcome Party

The following day began with the Rescue Meeting led by the Chair of the AHCA Rescue program Martha Powell. This was followed by the Obedience and Rally companion events. Judging these events was Connie Parrish. The High Scoring Afghan Hound in Obedience as well as Highest Scoring AKC Champion of Record in Regular Classes was Ch. Polo's Oolong to Me n'Myway owned by Cynthia Robicheau, Lorianne Amadeo, Mary Ann and David Giordano.

Next was a Juniors seminar coordinated by the club's Juniors Chair, Anna Stromberg, and conducted by none other than the former handler of international renown, Michael Canalizo. Michael was witnessed putting the Juniors through their paces which included the famous "Phantom Turn." After that workout the participants were treated to a Pizza Party.

The vendors sponsored a Welcome Party for all in attendance to begin the evening. This party has become a tradition at the AHCA National Specialty. Chris Kaiser the Vendor Chair instituted the Welcome Party a number of years ago and sees to it that the tradition continues. This year he had the able assistance of Chuck Milne, who is well known for his hospitality expertise.

Following the Welcome Party Bruce Clark of Watkins, Colo., began judging the Sweepstakes competition.



Best of Opposite Sex GCh. Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo



Select Dog and Best Stud Dog, Ch. Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension Of Sura



Select Bitch, GCh. Jakar An Affair Most Wicked

He and Stephen Fisher are the team behind Shylo Kennels. Veterans Sweepstakes was the first competition with the Best in Veteran Sweepstakes going to GCh. Moroki's Blue Resolution owned by Melissa Alexandropoulos. Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to Ch. Llacue's Aloof Inesperada owned by Doris Horton, Wiley Horton, Jesus Llano & Michael Cuevas.

Regular Sweepstakes classes were full of very promising youngsters giving those in attendance a preview of the breed's future. Bruce Clark stated later in the week that his Best in Sweepstakes "blew my socks off." She



Winners Dog and Award of Merit, Kasban Sharja Speakeasy



Best of Winners, Winners Bitch and Best in Sweepstakes, Google Me Of Meadow Valley

was Google Me of Meadow Valley owned by Ria Wagner, Jan Buttler and Mary Jayne Szczurek, from the 12 to 15 Months Bitch class. Best Opposite Sex went to Sharja Sunset owned by Patty Kageals and Linda Shipley out of the 9 to 12 Months Puppy Dog class.

Day Three: AGM, Dog Classes and Breed Education

The morning of Day Three began early with the Annual Membership Meeting. Tony Saia, AHCA President, presided. The business of the parent club filled the morning agenda. After lunch Terry d. Chacon of Redlands, Calif., artist, sculptor and breeder of the ShaCone Afghan Hounds, began adjudicating the class dogs. She went about the challenge with poise and assurance. The Winners Dog came from the 12-18 Months class, Kasban Sharja Speakeasy, owned by Alisa Vickers, Linda Shipley and his breeder, Laura Mauldin. The Reserve Winners Dog was Sharja Sunset owned by Patty Kageals and Linda Shipley coming from the 9-12 Months class. This youngster was also Best Opposite Sex in the Sweepstakes the previous evening. He was bred by Linda Shipley and Ken Amos. Winners Dog and Reserve Winners Dog were sired by the same dog, Sharja Share the Wealth....indeed he did.

One of the annual events at the National Specialty is the AHCA-sponsored Breed Education Symposium. Sandy Frei chaired the evening event which featured Dr. Carmen Battaglia, well known to the Afghan Hound fancy for having presented a breeders education program to the AHCA several years earlier. His topic for the evening was the breeding of better dogs through analysis of structure, movement and pedigree. This was an information-filled presentation and was very well received as evidenced by the sold-out attendance.

Day Four: Judges Education and Bitch Classes

Harry Bennett, the Judges Education Chair, began Day Four with his Judges Education program for those individuals in the process of becoming approved to judge Afghan Hounds. The study group presentation included classroom lecture, PowerPoint, hands-on assessments and ringside tutoring.

Major Awards At a Glance

Best of Breed: GCh. Agha Djari's Eye Candy Of Sura

Best of Opposite Sex: GCh. Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo

Best of Winners, Winners Bitch, Best in Sweepstakes:

Google Me Of Meadow Valley

Select Dog and Best Stud Dog: Ch. Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension Of Sura

Select Bitch: GCh. Jakar An Affair Most Wicked

Winners Dog and Award of Merit: Kasban Sharja Speakeasy

Reserve Winners Dog, Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes and Best Puppy: Sharja Sunset

Additional Awards of Merit: GCh. Charteroak Blustar, Ch. Jorogz' Here For The Party, Ch. Wynsyr Foxrun Femme Fatale and GCh. Elmo's Madonna

Best Bred By Exhibitor: Spice Hill Premier

Best Brood Bitch: Ch. Amon Rih Farouka

High Scoring in Obedience and Highest Scoring AKC

Champion in Regular Classes: Ch. Polo's Oolong To Me N' Myway

Lure Coursing Best in Event: Kominek's Rains Of Casamere, who with FC Kominek's Maid Of Sapphires were together the Best Brace.

Held concurrently was the Regional Club meeting. The AHCA Board of Directors and representatives of the local breed clubs exchanged information and discussed matters of mutual concern regarding the future of the breed and membership. Both the Parent Club and the local clubs shared ideas and suggestions as to how to promote, protect and preserve the breed.

The afternoon was devoted to the judging of the bitch classes by Dr. Edna Kaiser Martin, better known as "Midge" to one and all. She went about assessing her entry with dispatch and obvious pleasure as she winnowed down the classes to the final placements. Winners Bitch was Google Me of Meadow Valley coming from the 12-18 Months class, owned by Ria Wagner, Jan Buttler and Mary Jane Szczurek and bred by Ria and Toni Wagner of Germany. She was also the Best in Sweepstakes winner under Bruce Clark. Reserve Winners Bitch from the 12-18 Months class as well was Elan Sebring Price Above Rubies, bred and owned by Rachel Irvin.

The evening was devoted to food and fun with an Art Auction and dinner featuring Southern cuisine. Jason Taylor was the auctioneer for the event. He used all of his pow-

ers of persuasion as he presented a variety of collectibles, vintage pieces, craft items and works of numerous well-known artists. He was assisted by several delightful "Vannas" who walked through the audience bringing the items to each table for closer inspection. It was a successful evening for all, especially the winning bidders.

Day Five: Best of Breed Judging, Then Party Time

The final day was indeed the Grand Finale in the celebration of the Afghan Hound. The Parade of Veterans followed by the Parade of Rescue always calls for tissues and a redo of the eye makeup. The Veterans strutted their stuff in fine form reflective of their show careers. The rescue dogs demonstrated what good doses of love, care and a forever home can bring to the lives of those unwanted, mistreated and/or abandoned. Their owners' dedication and patience were also on parade as they escorted their adoptees around the ring to enthusiastic applause.

After the presentation of the winners of the performance and companion events, it was Show Time, the Best of Breed competition. It was Terry Chacon who again entered the ring as the 41 dogs and bitches to be judged were brought in one by one for a solo swing around the ring. The judge began selecting those for further consideration as she worked her way through the exhibits, giving each thoughtful evaluation. The final selections emerged and she made the designated placements. Best of Breed was awarded to the bitch GCh. Agha Djari's Eye Candy of Sura. She is owned by James Dalton, Suzanne Neill and Jamie Souza Bartlett and was bred by Stefan Boieck. It had been 7 years since a bitch captured the top award at the AHCA and that bitch was also

bred by Stefan Boieck of Germany. The international blending of bloodlines in the Afghan Hound breed reflects a one-world reality as demonstrated by several of the major 2015 awards and continuing a trend seen over the past number of years.

The Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to GCh. Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo, bred by Ellen Klosson and owner Karen Wagner. The Winners Bitch was Best of Winners.

Select Dog was Ch. Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension of Sura who was bred by Stefan Boieck and has the same American sire as

the Best of Breed. He is owned by Suzanne Neill, Jamie Souza Bartlett and Christine O'Connor. The Select Bitch was GCh. Jakar An Affair Most Wicked owned by Missy Galloway and Shelby Brown.

There were five Awards of Merit: GCh. Charteroak Blustar, Ch. Jorogz' Here For The Party, Ch. Wynsyr Foxrun Femme'Fatale, GCh. Elmo's Madonna and Kasban Sharja Speakeasy (Winners Dog). The Best Puppy was the Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes and Reserve Winners Dog, Sharja Sunset and the Best Bred By Exhibitor award went to the bitch Spice Hill Premier owned by Teri Tevlin and Katrina Hatch.

The Select Dog Ch. Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension of Sura was also Best Stud Dog. The Best Brood Bitch was Ch. Amon Rih Farouka owned by Joy Atkins-Miller. Concluding the awards was Best Brace which went to Kominek's Rains of Castamere shown with FC Kominek's Maid of Sapphires. These two were also the winners in the Lure Coursing events.

Keeping the show on schedule and running smoothly was a group of volunteers who are often unrecognized as they see to it that the exhibits and handlers are where they need to be, wearing the correct arm band, keeping track of the absentees, recording the placements, giving words of encouragement to nervous exhibitors and ensuring that designated trophies and awards are given correctly and in order to the judge. The group was assembled and organized by the Chief Ring Steward, Joanne Buehler. She was assisted by Barb and Russ Hastings, Linda Jackson, Brenda and Neil Brody, Tracee Elwess, Janet Lenobel, Leslie Stofels, and Helen and Bob Stein.



Award of Merit GCh. Elmo's Madonna



Award of Merit Ch. Wynsyr Foxrun Femme Fatale



Award of Merit GCh. CharterOak BluStar.



Award of Merit Ch. Jorogz' Here For The Party



Best of Breed ASFA competition and Best in Event was Kominek's Maid Of Sapphires FCh. 'Brienne

A National Specialty is not complete without the Annual Awards Dinner where one and all are able to relax, dine and enjoy the company of their friends and fellow breed fanciers. Stephen Fisher was the Master of Ceremonies. He had assembled pictures from years ago of many who are still active in the show scene, a good number of whom were not recognizable and needed identification. The laughter echoed throughout the venue as one by one the pictures were flashed on the screen with Stephen adding his dry, witty commentary. This uproarious presentation was followed by the ACHA awards to the top winners of 2014 and specific Club awards. A standing ovation ensued when Lee Canalizo was made an Honorary Member of the AHCA. Lee had judged the 2013 National Specialty prior to her "retirement." A well-deserved honor to a Grand Lady. As the evening ended and the farewells said, plans were developing for the 2016 AHCA National Specialty, "Return to the Sea," which will be held in Warwick, R.I.

National Specialties are indeed unique and follow established traditions. They are the showcase for the breed, a gathering of friends and followers of the breed and reflect the current reality of the breed. The 2015 Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty exemplified this tradition.

The Afghan Hound Club of America 79th National Specialty Judges Critiques

Dog Classes and Intersex Terry d. Chacon (Shacone)

Reflections: One of the highlights that a breeder can have in his or her life is to be voted on by your peers to judge the National Specialty. At the time I was asked to take on this task I was actually painting in the mountains on Catalina Island. My art buddies I'm sure thought I was nuts when I let out a scream of excitement, and probably didn't really understand the magnitude of the honor, but they did help me celebrate.

Junior Showmanship: I was honored to step in for Midge Martin to judge our Junior entry. Each one deserved praise as our breed is not an easy one to show let alone keep in coat and they all did so well. My winner was Danielle Devitt, who I later found out was from Canada and showing a 9-year-old bitch. She looked the part of a professional and was always poised while interacting with her dog to make a very nice-looking team in the ring. She followed all the directions and always had a nice smile not only for me but for her dog as well. *[Editor's note: Unfortunately, the winner was later found to be ineligible.]*

Dog Judging: I was impressed with the overall quality and temperament of my entry. My Winner came from the 12 to 18 Month class: Kasban Sharja Speakeasy, a lovely cream brindle. He had both these virtues along with movement that set him apart from the rest of the dogs on this day. I could watch him move around all day and I think he was in such great condition he would have been happy to oblige. RWD from the 9 to 12 Month puppy class, Sharja Sunset, was a beautiful, young black-masked red, with lovely detail in all directions: head and eye, topline and a beautiful, long ring tail. His overall shape was eye-catching

and in spite of his naughty behavior at times he stood out and was rewarded. He was also given Best Puppy. I later found out that my WD and RWD shared the same sire. Congratulations to the breeders on producing such quality Afghan Hounds. Both dogs will have a great future.

Best of Breed: I see and hear a lot of judges comment in their critiques that they knew the minute a particular dog came into the ring that it would be their winner. I have to say I did not feel this way. Congratulations to the many breeders and owners who showed such fine-quality animals. At one point I was moved to tears of excitement for the future of our breed, as I realized this dream of judging the National was about to end.

My Best of Breed winner: GCh. Agha Djari's Eye Candy of Sura, appropriately named and a beautiful example of our breed. She exudes undeniable breed type and is shown to perfection. What I most admired about her was she had a beautiful Afghan Hound bitch temperament, was in top-notch condition with great muscle tone and weight, an arched neck into the shoulder, and a topline that never faltered on the move or in the stack. These are things I certainly feel that any Afghan Hound -- or any sighthound, for that matter -- should have in order to do their job as a hunter in the field. This girl could do that all day long.

My Best Opposite Sex winner: GCh. Pahlavi Itz Not My First Rodeo, is also a beautiful dog, with a great head and eye, lovely natural coat pattern, fabulous topline, also in wonderful condition with a stallion temperament and shown to perfection. He has a great career ahead of him and I look forward to reading more about his wins in the future.

The breeders and owners of these two exciting Afghan Hounds as well as the Select Dog, Select Bitch and the 5 Awards of Merit should be very proud and I thank them for showing to me. I wish on this day I would have had more ribbons as I had a few more that I felt were deserving of being in the ribbons.

Best Bred By Exhibitor: Spice Hill Premier, a lovely brindle bitch with great carriage and beautiful head and eye. It was my pleasure to award her this honor.

Stud Dog: Ch. Agha Djari's Fifth Dimension of Sura, also Select Dog. Loved to watch this dog move around the ring. Nice muscled topline and in top condition. His get were very similar in type and will also have very promising show careers ahead of them.

Brace: Kominek's Rains of Castamere and FC Kominek's Maid of Sapphires. It is always a pleasure to see a brace class and these two were undeniable and did very well together.

It was such an honor as a breeder/owner-handler of Afghan Hounds for the past 42 years to be asked to judge the AHCA National Specialty. It is a memory I will always cherish and in my book you are all winners and I thank you for supporting the AHCA National Specialty. I would like to thank the chairs of the event: Tony Saia, Linda Jackson and Chuck Milne. What a trio you were, paying attention to every last detail and putting on a beautiful National, one which I will always remember.

Bitch Classes
Edna J. ("Midge") Martin
(Kaihorn/Full Circle)

It was my honor and privilege to judge the bitch classes at the 2015 AHCA National Specialty in Atlanta, Ga. I thank the Show Committee, with Tony Saia at the helm, for taking such good care of Don and me, as well as Sue Busby, Show Secretary, Connie Butherus, announcer and organizer extraordinaire, and the stewards, long time friends all.

I especially want to thank the exhibitors who came to show to me and presented their charges well, winning or losing with grace.

I love judging, especially judging the breed that won my heart over 50 years ago and still holds me in thrall.

When I discuss Afghan Hounds with those new to the breed, or when I address aspiring judges, I try to emphasize just a few major points to hold on to. The opening paragraph of the breed standard lays out the essence of breed type. From there I emphasize that the Afghan Hound is aristocratic, he/she is square, angular, athletic and balanced.

Overall, I think the breed is in good shape—the girls, anyhow—especially seeing the depth of quality evident in the 9-12 Month and 12-18 Month classes. Most all were of proper size and were quite feminine. Fronts are a problem, as in almost every breed, either placed too far forward on the body or with shoulders and upper arms too straight, clearly out of balance with great, swooping rear angulation... or both problems combined. Top-lines were good. Another problem evident in the breed is a flat croup with higher tail set than the standard demands. This throws rear movement off.

When I walked out to center stage and looked at the Winners Bitch class, I was moved to tears of joy. Here were bitches exhibiting breed type, femininity and lovely proportions. They showed the five points stated earlier: they were aristocratic, square, angular, athletic and balanced. They covered ground well.

My eventual Winners Bitch, Google Me of Meadow Valley, bred by Ria and Toni Wagner, owned by Ria Wagner, Jan Buttler and Mary Jayne Szczurek, would not be denied on the day. Piloted by Bobbi Kinley-Blewett, she was everything I could have asked for. Lovely girl face, impeccable around the ring as well as going and coming, she filled my eye and my hands and stole my heart.

Reserve Winners, and a 3-point major, also came from the 12-18 Month class. A stunning black-masked red girl, Elan Sebring Price Above Rubies, bred and owned by Rachel Irvin, she moved “with style and beauty.” She was pushed by the beautiful black girl from the Open class, but her front and balance prevailed.

Class winners were as follows: There were no 6-9 Month entries in either dogs or bitches. Too bad, as I love puppies..

9-12 Month class was won by Amon Rih Andros Galabiyah, an upstanding, free-moving young lady.

12-18 Month class: Google Me of Meadow Valley, a lovely self-masked cream with beautiful pigment.

Bred-by-Exhibitor class: Spice Hill Premier, a red brindle girl.

American-Bred class: Golden Hills Yazhi, a black-masked red old-fashioned, patterned girl. Very refreshing to see.

Open class: Luu Luu Bint Benazir von Haussman, a typey, classy black bitch of impeccable proportions.

Brood Bitch class winner was CH Amon Rih Farouka, owned by Joy Atkins-Miller.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to judge the breed I cherish in the greatest venue, the National Specialty. I will hold the memory forever.

**Sweepstakes
Bruce Clark
(Shylo)**

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who decided to give me the honor of judging the Sweepstakes at the 2015 National Specialty. I enjoyed it immensely.

The evening began with Veteran Dog and Bitch Sweepstakes. There were 4 entries, 2 dogs and 2 bitches. Both dogs were in the 9-12 Year class. First Place went to a blue dog, GCh. Moroki's Blue Resolution. He had a nice square outline, very balanced movement, and carried himself around the ring beautifully. Second

went to Ch. Ingenue Kabul JC, CGC. He was a little longer cast than the first-place dog and moved with a little too much work, not as effortlessly as the first-place dog.

The bitches were both in the 7-9 Year class. First place went to a black-masked red bitch, Ch. Llacue's Aloof Inesperada. She had a pretty face and nice carriage and movement, although I thought her tail came over a bit too much. Second was Ch. Kasban Crème Brulee, who was a little longer cast than the first-place bitch and her carriage wasn't as nice. Both bitches could have used better topline, in my opinion.

My selection for Best Veteran in Sweepstakes went to the dog, GCh Moroki's Blue Resolution because he had a better topline, both moving and standing, and carried himself around the ring better than the bitch. Ch. Llacue's Aloof Inesperada was BOS.

After a break, it was the youngsters' turn. There were no 6-9 Month entries in either dogs or bitches (I guess nobody had puppies during that time period!), so the first class was 9-12 Month dogs. First place went to a black-masked red puppy, Sharja Sunset. I loved his leggy, square outline and pretty face. He had beautiful dark eyes and carried himself well. His movement was very light and effortless, although he kept trying to cut the corners and pull away from his handler going around the ring. She dealt with that problem and eventually got him to behave. Second was another black-masked red, Sharja Supernatural, who was also very nice, but not quite as pretty in the head as the first-place dog and didn't move with as much purpose. I learned later that my first three placements in that class were all brothers, although I sort of guessed that when judging because they were all so similar in outline.

Next were the 12-15 Month dogs. First went to Sura Mickey Finn, a blue brindle dog. He had good reach and drive and a nice outline. I thought his face was a little bit overdone and his eye placement off, but overall a very nice dog. Second went to Kasban Sharja Speakeasy, a pretty silver brindle dog. His performance that night was not great – he kept breaking gait and charging ahead of his handler, so it was difficult to see his full potential. He had a nice head and a nice topline. When I watched regular Dog judging the next day, I was amazed at how different he looked and performed! Had he done that for me the night before, the placements could have been reversed. Unfortunately, you have to judge the dogs on the day.

First in the 15-18 Month dog class went to a cream dog, Elg Chase's Asland of Alazar. He was a big dog, with nice reach and drive and an attractive head. I didn't care for his tail. Second was a black dog, Azari Ruzka Dark Side of the Moon, who was much more moderate than the first-place dog but didn't move as well from the side.

My next challenge was the girls.

The 9-12 Month bitch class was won by a really neat black-masked red, Jolie Muse. She caught my eye the minute she entered the ring, with her beautiful carriage, beautiful topline, wonderful side gait and a "look at me" attitude. Her timing on the move was impeccable. She gave her handler a bit of a problem at times, but she pulled it together when it counted. Her head was a little plain for my taste, but she had very pretty, dark eyes. She was an easy winner of that class. Second went to another black-masked red, Sharja Sienne, who was also very nice. She was leggy and square, with a pretty face and dark eyes and she moved well, just not with the gusto that the first-place bitch had.

Next came the 12-15 Month bitches. In this class there were two bitches that really caught my eye. They were both cream or white. First place went to Google Me of Meadow Valley, who came into the ring like she owned it. She had incredible, powerful side gait and beautiful carriage. She also had a long, beautiful head with lots of chiseling and pretty dark eyes. She is a beautiful package and there is nothing I would change about her except her size. She is much too large for a bitch, in my opinion, but she has kept her femininity. I would just like to see her a couple of inches shorter. Second in the class was Kasban Chandelier. She is also very large in my estimation, but has beautiful, easy side gait and a good topline. Her pigment could have been better and she did not have as pretty a head as the first-place bitch.

In the 15-18 Month bitch class, first place went to Azari Ruzka Twilight Eclipse, who was a nice mover with a good topline. She was a little long cast for me, but overall a good package. Second was Calloway Monkey Shine of Mihdian, who didn't move as well as the first-place bitch, but overall had a nice outline.

Now came the climax – deciding Best In Sweepstakes and Best Opposite.

As they all came into the ring I was very pleased with what I had to choose from. All of the dogs were good representatives of the breed. I was drawn to three specifically and pulled them out for further evaluation. They were the 12-15 Month bitch, Google Me of Meadow Valley, the 9-12 bitch, Jolie Muse, and the 9-12 dog, Sharja Sunset. I moved them all around again and couldn't keep my eyes off the 12-15 Month bitch. She showed her heart out and asked for it the whole time. My selection for Best in Sweepstakes was Google Me of Meadow Valley and Best Opposite was Sharja Sunset.

In the end, it was a very thrilling experience. All a judge ever wants is to have dogs shown to him that exemplify what his idea of an Afghan is, and in the end, I could have taken any of the three I pulled out home with me and been very happy. That is all you can ever ask for and I thank everyone again for the opportunity to evaluate their dogs.

I also want to thank all the people who did the hard work of putting on the National Specialty. Their dedication and time is greatly appreciated.

Allan Reznik received this letter from Janie Getz after our National Specialty. In this world where criticism is all we ever seem to receive this is a welcome change of pace. We should all try to do this kind of thing more often. Congratulations to the Afghan Hound Club of America....Job Well Done and Thank You Janie.

Congratulations to our National Specialty

Hey Allan!

I wanted to let you know what a great time I had at the National this year in Atlanta. I saw so many people I have not seen since the last National I attended four years ago. The show went off well. The meetings were held early enough in the morning for a lot of people to attend. In the meetings I was impressed with the discussion—positive and without animosity or catty remarks. I have been to National meetings in the past that were not nearly as nicely done. Good going, Board and Officers! The hotel was wonderful. I have never been to a hotel where the workers were so nice, helpful, kind and friendly to me and to Jasper. I hope you all will consider the time we had to sit and visit with friends. The down time we had between events was great. I hope it remains a four-day show and not a shortened one. I just plain loved this National as it was done.

***Thank you,
Janie Getz
Dunedin, Fla.***

Afghan Hound Club of America 2015 National Specialty Lure Coursing

The Afghan Hound Club of America held the 2015 National Championship Lure Coursing Trials on October 18th in Mansfield, Georgia.

The venue was outstanding and the weather perfect.



A big thank you to club members Dan Elkes and Patty Dahlman who worked so hard at setup/breakdown, plus serving the lunch for judges, field workers and competitors. Lunch was provided by the Gulf Coast Sighthound Club as part of thanking AHCA for mentoring their first AKC and ASFA Trials the previous day.

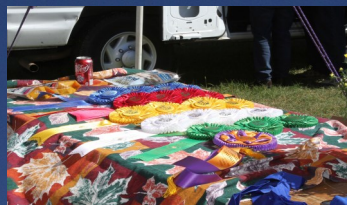
The Trials opened with a symbolic release of balloons in memory of our past companions. This followed the reading of the poem "The Fourth Dog" and was such a poignant moment as we all reflected on the wonderful dogs of the past running over the "rainbow bridge."

Afghan Hound Club of America 2015 National Specialty Lure Coursing

Candid Shots



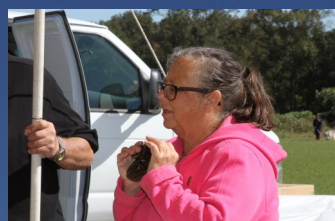
View of the Field



Ribbons



Release of balloons



Trial Secretary: Linda Jordan



Trial Chair: Bob Jordan



Selma & Eddie Kominick and
Eileen Laudermilch



Dan Elkes



David Hall

Our Judges

Donna Richards & Dean Wright



Afghan Hound Club of America 2015 National Specialty Lure Coursing

Winners

Best in Event: "Taisto"

FC Kominek's Rains of Castamere SC
Owners: Eddie and Selma Kominek



Best of Breed — AKC: "Taisto"

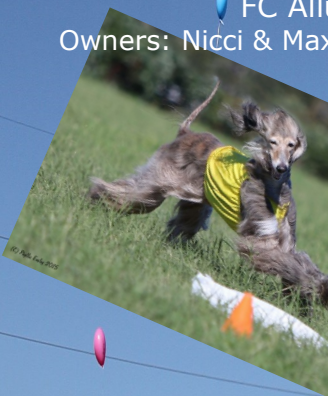
FC Kominek's Rains of Castamere SC

Best of Breed — ASFA: "Brienne"

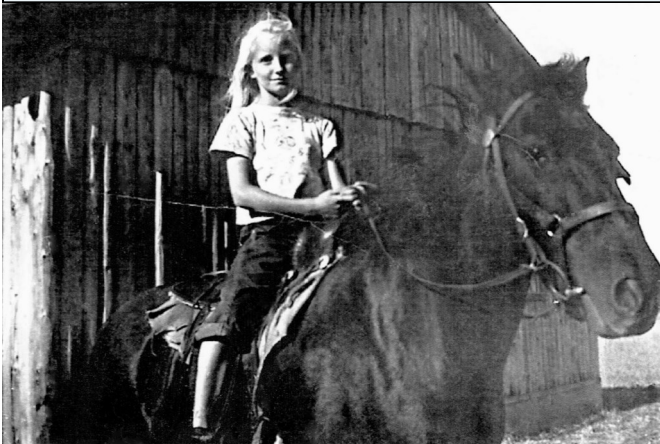
FC Kominek's Maid Of Sapphires SC FCh

Oldest Dog in AKC & ASFA with a Qualifying Score & Winner of ASFA Veterans Class "Lyric" (10 years old)

FC Allure's I'm No Angel SC
Owners: Nicci & Max von Broembsen and Stephani Norris



Nuggets of Nostalgia...



*Can You Identify This Young
Afghan Hound Enthusiast?*

* * * * *

*-Past National Sweepstakes Judge
-BIS Afghan Hound
-Cofounder of Specialty Club
(Answer on Page 24)*

Recent Memories Making the Scene...

*Bathing Boutique at
2015 National*




Follow Signs
To
Bathing
Boutique

*AHCA Meet the Breed
Booth at Eukanuba*





In the Company of Kings



HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR CHECKLIST???



Register for the World Congress at www.ahwc2016.com

or send registration to:

**Linda Jackson, Treasurer – In the Company of Kings
206 Oakwood Ct.
McDonough, GA 30252**



Enter your puppies in the 2016 Breeders' Cup!

Premium List available at www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org



Reserve your space at the Breeders' Cup Banquet by sending \$35 per person to:

**Jan Buttler, AHCA Breeders' Cup Banquet Chair
50 Lorraine Blvd.
Pickerington, OH 43147**



Make a Breeders' Cup Trophy Donation to:

**Jennifer Taylor, AHCA Breeders' Cup Trophy Chair
5001 Destin Ln.
College Grove, TN 37046**



Enter the Spring Buckeye Bash (3 Specialties!)

Premium List available at www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org



Submit your Ads for the Breeders' Cup and Buckeye Bash Catalogs to Toni Richmond: trichmondlaw@gmail.com

REGIONAL CLUB SPECIALTY SHOW DATES

See AHCA National Information for Regional Specialties around that event

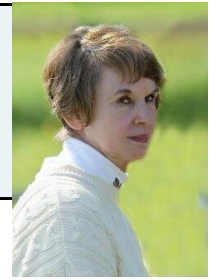
**Note: This information was gathered by TN Editor from other sources, and accuracy cannot be guaranteed.*

Please refer to <http://www.akc> or <http://afghanhoundclubofamerica.org/> for more detailed information.

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix Scottsdale, AZ Judge: Mark Cocozza Sweeps: Beverly R Anderson Thursday - March 24, 2016	Tara Afghan Hound Club (2 Shows) Atlanta, GA Judge First Show: H Russell Hastings III Sweeps: Pam McQueen Judge Second Show: Gareth Morgan-Jones Sweeps: Robert DiNicola Saturday & Sunday May 28-29, 2016
AHCA Breeders Cup Wilmington, OH Judge: Diane Fife Friday - April 1, 2016	Afghan Hound Club of St. Louis Gray Summit, MO Judge: D. Scott Pfeil Sweeps: Rick Martin Monday - June 6, 2016
Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio Wilmington, OH Judge: Juan Miranda Sweeps: Gayle Irwin Friday - April 1, 2016	Afghan Hound Club of Greater Chicago (2 shows) Joliet, IL Judge First Show: Mara Lynn Mercer Sweeps: Louise Paulson Judge Second Show: Anna Tyler Friday - June 10, 2016
Midwest Afghan Hound Club Wilmington, OH Judge: Betty Richards Saturday - April 2, 2016	Richmond Afghan Hound Club Richmond, VA Judge: Patrick Byrne No Sweeps Saturday - June 25, 2016
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Columbus Wilmington, OH Judge: Mickey Koss Saturday - April 2, 2016	Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club Monroe, MI Friday and Saturday - July 8 & 9, 2016
Afghan Hound Club of California (2 Shows) Silverado, CA Judge First Show: Hank Nave Sweeps: Nikki Gardner Judge Second Show: Heather Lindberg Friday - April 15, 2016	Evergreen Afghan Hound Club (2 Shows) Auburn, WA Judge First Show: Lucy Orlowski Sweeps: Jan Buttler Judge Second Show: Ken Tippie Sweeps: Lonnie Patterson Friday & Saturday August 5-6, 2016
Dallas Afghan Hound Club (2 shows) Parker, TX Judge First Show: Richard Albee Sweeps: Debra Howard Judge Second Show: Kristie Wheeler Sweeps: Penny Whitaker Friday - April 30, 2016	Afghan Hound Club of America National Specialty Warwick, RI Judge Dogs/Intersex: Stephen Fisher Judge Bitches: Dr. Jerry Klein Sweeps: Rosemary Sutton Saturday-Wednesday - September 17-21, 2016
Afghan Hound Club of Austin Parker, TX Judge: Lucy Orlowski Sweeps: Elizabeth Arthur Sunday - May 1, 2016	Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club Warwick, RI Judge: Diane Burvee Sweeps: Christine Farrar Thursday - September 22, 2016 Potomac Afghan Hound Club Warwick, RI Thursday - September 22, 2016
Afghan Hound Club of Northern New Jersey Erwinna, PA Judge: Lex Robertson Sweeps: Harry Bennett Friday - May 6, 2016	Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Assoc. (2 Shows) Frenchtown, NJ Judge First Show: Dominique Gorgon-Denis Sweeps: Melissa Williams Judge Second Show: H. Russell Hastings III Sunday - October 9, 2016

AKC Delegate Report

Connie Butherus



The reports of the quarterly Delegate and Committee meetings are published in TopKnot News. I have tried to provide the AHCA Board and members with relevant content and include the background information, when possible, to provide for better understanding of the workings of the organization. As an AKC Delegate one wears two hats. First is to represent and advocate for the AHCA in the Delegate body and Committees. Second is to deliver information back from the Delegates' sessions and the communications from the AKC to the AHCA Board and members.

The past year we have seen numerous changes at the AKC. Many have been positive, others...not so much.

In December of 2014 we learned that the existing CFO was no longer the CFO. The new CFO being Joseph Baffuto from the Finance Department. Since that change the financial reports have improved significantly. At the September meeting we were told the following:

- 1.2% increase in dogs registered; and

- 0.3% decrease in litters registered.

The decline in registrations experienced since the 1990s seems to have leveled off in spite of the 30 + other competing registries. Additional information presented at the December meeting follows. As of 10-31-15:

- Revenue has increased 4.8%;

- Expenses are up 0.2%

- Payroll has decreased (It was reported at another meeting that the AKC is down 27 positions)

- Total net assets are \$63.2 M

- Investment return is off 2.1%

- Litters registered off 0.4%

- Dogs registered increased 1.5%

The Board of Directors March 2015 election and the candidates' traditional speeches resulted in the reelection of two sitting Board members, Carmen Battaglia and Steven Gladstone. Tom Davies who had served on the Board several years ago was also elected. Following the election the Board elected a new Chairman, Ron Menaker to replace Alan Kalter, who had replaced Ron several years previously when Ron was term limited off the Board. (All of the three elected to the Board this year had stated in a Q&A session the day before the election their intention to support Ron for the Chairmanship.) An interesting turn of events. Dennis Sprung, an AHCA member, was reelected as President.

There are 7 Delegates running for the 3 Board positions in the March 2016 election. They are Gretchen Bernardi, Rita Biddle, Patricia Cruz, William Feeney, Linda Ayers Turner Knorr, Karolynne McAteer and Thomas Powers. They all participated in a Q and A session and had the opportunity to give their 3 minute campaign speech. I will ask the AHCA Board for direction as to how they wish me to vote in the March election. Also at the December meeting the Delegates defeated a proposed amendment which would have eliminated the current term limits for the Board of Directors of two consecutive terms of 4 years each.

The proposed amendments to permit the use of electronic documents for premium lists, judging programs and even catalogs if the club wishes passed with flying colors at the December meeting.

A new program to further the recognition of breeders has been introduced, Bred With HEART.

The HEART being:

- H-Health- Parent Club designated health screenings/test preformed;

- E-Education- Required continuing education with testing;

- A-Accountability- Compliance with AKC Care and Conditions requirements and all federal and local rules and regulations with supporting documentation;

- R-Responsibility-See above plus a required Disaster Plan, maintain required records and documentation, all dogs identified with verifiable proof etc.; and

- T- Tradition- Honors the traditions of the AKC and the specific breed.

There are now over 486 breeders enrolled in the program with on-site inspections being completed by AKC field staff. One of the goals of the program is to reach out to the " casual breeders " who are not from the core fancy (us). Some commercial breeders are enrolled, about 10% and Breeders of Merit represent 33% of the enrolled so far.

AKC Delegate Report (cont.)

Connie Butherus



The AKC has established a search committee to make recommendations regarding the future location of the AKC. We understand the current Raleigh and NYC sites have leases due to expire in 2017. The Raleigh offices reduced their space use requirements this past year. Selected staff, 47, are now doing work from home rather than on site in Raleigh.

The issue of exclusivity regarding the territory of clubs has yet to be resolved. It was sent back to the Dog Show Rules Committee at the June meeting. This is an ongoing concern as more and more show sites are no longer available for dog shows or are priced out of reach for many clubs. Due to this a number of clubs are choosing to not hold their shows. It was reported that there has been a 12% decline in events this past year. The applicable AKC rules regarding territory have been in place since the early 1900s. Much has changed since then!

The Owner Handled competition regulations, which had been mandated, have been adjusted much to the relief of show giving clubs. This program has been well received by those who participate but not so much by some other groups.

The much discussed new Judges' Application procedure is now in effect. Again there are those who sing its praises and others who are critical. As one Delegate who is a Judge said, "Please keep it the same for awhile. Every time I apply for additional breeds the procedure/requirements change before I can complete the process!" Applause followed.

The AKC launched a new and improved web site in 2015 only to have produced a less than desirable product. The complaints were countless. The VP who was the driving force behind it quit. Many reported using Google to find anything AKC related as AKC.org was too difficult to navigate. Each Parent Club was asked to designate one knowledgeable person to work with the AKC staff in making the corrections and edits. So far 61 Parent Clubs were reported to have done so. A subcommittee of Delegates has been established to work directly with the IT staff to correct problems as they are reported. This seems to have been a positive move. It was reported the site has had over 4 million hits so far with an additional 4.7 on Facebook.

The new AKC Marketplace program was placed on hold which was also related to the loss of the above cited VP. Impacting this further being the several personnel changes in the Communication and IT areas. It is now being launched again with one of the goals being to connect with new and potential puppy buyers. The motto is "Pure Love-Pure Happiness-Pure Bred" This is intended to replace the on line breeders classified offering. In listing the breeds it will contain the the Parent Club approved health testing along with specific breed information. The classified section will have breeder profile information, contact information, photos and litter listings.

Canine Good Citizen titles continue to increase at a steady pace. There were 39,600 titles issued as of 11-30-15. Every one of these dogs must be AKC registered and this is a financial plus to the AKC.

The Delegates' Parent Club Committee conducted a health survey of all Parent Clubs. So far 98 clubs have responded. The health screenings/testing as specified by each Parent Club will be used in both the breed information for the Marketplace breeders classified ads and as the health requirements for the Bred With HEART program. The AHCA is one of the Clubs having responded.

In the past 2 years the Disaster Trailer program has raised over \$1,109,000 and delivered 36 fully outfitted trailers, 10 more are totally funded and are being completed with an additional 31 for which full funding is being raised. Three hundred and nine Clubs, the AKC Humane Fund and AKC Reunite have donated funds toward this project. This is an outstanding AKC program and well deserving of support. The next effort will be to reach out to the corporate world for additional financial support.

At the September meeting annual election for the Delegate Committees was held. Currently the AHCA has 3 of its members having been elected to these Committees:

All Breed Clubs- Sandy Frei

Dog Show Rules- Duane Butherus

Parent Clubs- Yours Truly

AKC Delegate Report (cont.)

Connie Butherus



The proposed Certificate of Merit (COM) for the 4-6 month puppy competition has run into buzz saw. The concept behind the proposal being to encourage new puppy owners to continue on in competition once having success in the 4-6 month experience. To be noted is a 37% decline in the entries in the puppy classes. Thus the first idea put forth was to award 1 Championship point and a Certificate of Merit to each puppy having earned a specified number (15) non championship points in this non-regular competition. That proposal was quickly amended as the Delegates and their Clubs erupted with a great deal of negative response about awarding the 1 Championship point. The problems have continued, however. At the September meeting the entire amendment was sent back to the Board. Three significant problems are noted:

The COM is a designation in use by the AKC in another area of competition as an award;

The award could well be given to a puppy who did not defeat a single puppy of its own breed.

(72% of these entries have no competition in their breed); and a question,

Is this, the COM, to be a suffix title? A new proposal is being developed by the staff we understand as the relevant Delegate Committees were asked for their comments. More to follow to be sure...

A study has been done regarding the economic impact of dog shows on communities. The results show a very positive outcome for communities having events in their area. A brochure is available for Clubs to use when working with Community leaders, officials and venue owners.

The Rescue Alliance e-list developed by the Parent Club Committee has 240 Parent Club designated participants with 102 Clubs having responded. The current exchanges are addressing the needs rescue groups have for adequate insurance coverage, the non profit status of many of these groups and how to protect rescue volunteers.

The AKC Communication Department will do email blasts to the owners of newly registered puppies for Clubs wishing to promote their shows and events. A study is being done regarding Parent Club National Specialties. Very nice!

There are over 11,000 Breeders of Merit so far. A survey was done to determine the club membership of these breeders. About 1200 individuals responded. Of those responding 92% indicated membership in the Parent Club of their primary breed.

Dr. Jerry Klein has been appointed as the AKC Chief Veterinary Officer. He addressed the Delegates at the December meeting and was very well received. AHCA members continue to be well represented in the ranks of the AKC. Also in the area of Canine Health it was reported that CHIC has 140,000 individual dogs in the program with over 20,000 DNA samples available for research purposes. The AKC Canine Health Foundation has a new Chief Science Officer, Dianne Brown. She addressed the Delegates Canine Health Committee and explained the review process that all grants applications must follow. The Request for Proposals have gone out to the research community for 2016 grant applications. The health surveys done by the Parent Clubs are used to determine which diseases are to be studied.

President Dennis Sprung announced a new award The AKC Visionary Award. The 2015 honorees were:

Viola Burgos for community outreach and increasing public awareness;

David Hopkins for working to eradicate a deadly plant seed affecting Field Trial Dogs;

Patricia Laurans for her work on the Disaster Trailer program;

Thomas Pincus for the public relations and promotion of the Houston show cluster;

Patti Strand for the establishment of the National Animal Interest Alliance; and

Peggy Wampold for community outreach, promotion of programs to attract young folks and establishing an outstanding Meet the Breeds event.

It has been an honor to serve as the Delegate of the AHCA. I have attempted to represent our interests and to keep you and the AHCA Board of Directors informed throughout the year. Our mutual goal is to protect, promote and preserve our beloved breed. Thank you for permitting me to serve as your Delegate.

Respectfully Submitted

Connie Butherus

AKC Delegate for the AHCA

RESCUE REPORT

Martha Powell, Rescue Chair



Rescue committee report January 2016

I want to express my gratitude for all the wonderful contributors to the rescue table at our National. Dozens of people mailed, shipped and hand-delivered so many awesome pieces of artwork, jewelry, and paintings. The purchases, daily raffles and silent auctions all raised so much needed money for rescue.

We have just finished shipping the last rescue calendar for 2016. We sold out our original order, ordered a smaller reprint, and sold all of those. Thank you to everyone who contributed the photos of their beautiful Afghans. Huge thanks to Joanne Anderson and Marilyn Danko, for their superb work in putting together the calendar. The funds were much needed, because of the large number of elderly and ill rescues that we have taken in the past year.

We have several rescues needing homes at the present time. Thanks to a great shelter in Mississippi, we were able to retrieve two Afghans that were turned in by the breeder. Folks, they are 12 and 14 years old! I will never understand someone dumping an elderly animal. Fantastic fosters, Dan Elkes and Patti Dahlman, are taking care of these two grand old dames for us. If you can open your heart and your home to these two ladies, please contact me. We also have a four year old male and two seven year old girls.

I am trying to compile an up-to-date volunteer list. If you can do home visits in your area, or you can provide a foster home for one of our rescues, please contact me and tell me your interest. It would be great if I could flip to a database when I need a home visit in a particular area, instead of having to scramble around to find help.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Powell, Chair
Afghan Hound Club of America - Rescue
[205-621-2010 h.](tel:205-621-2010) [205-823-4059 w.](tel:205-823-4059) [205-588-9189 c](tel:205-588-9189)
[251 Warwick Lane.](mailto:251.WarwickLane@alabaster.al) [Alabaster, AL](mailto:Alabaster.AL) 35007

CANINE HEALTH REPORT

Eileen Laudermilch



In the second quarter:

16 eyes all normal
Hips: 10 excellent, 8 good, 1 fair and 1 moderate dysplasia
Cardiac: 7 normal
Thyroid 9 normal and 1 equivocal

In the 3rd quarter:

Elbows 3 normal
Hips: 4 excellent, 14 good and 1 fair
Eyes 10 normal
Thyroid 9 normal
Degenerative Myelopathy 1 normal

So much is happening in the world of canine research and much of it such as gene therapy in cancer treatment and tendon regeneration has a direct correlation and information shared in the human research. I wish this club could do more. The AHCA was recognized as contributing 100% of funds (\$2500) to be a full sponsor in the Bloat Initiative.

One thing that people have asked is "Why are there no studies on Afghan Hounds?" There are a few factors, one of which we cannot ignore is our low numbers. Other factors include lack of funds. Most studies are \$20,000 to \$50,000. Studies involving any sort of gene therapy are in excess of \$100,000. I know I have shared the information in the past that The Golden Retriever Club donated 1.5 million to study hemangiosarcoma and lymphoma. I am so excited about this as you all should be, these studies help all dogs and humans. The gene directed therapy is now in use to fight human cancer. Most of our funds come from the Purina Parent Club Partnership. If you feed Purina, please sign up for this program. The weight circles are matched by Purina and contributed to our club. Another huge problem is we have no blood DNA bank. (Sorry 1 sample) Cheeks swabs have very limited use. A few years ago I attempted to get cheek swabs, however very few were even willing to do this when there was no cost involved. Our breed enthusiasts really do not support research as I wish they would. Information on the DNA bank can be obtained at <http://www.offa.org/chicdnabank.htm/> This site will give information on collection and how to submit a sample. I communicated with Eddie Dziuk and his response is as follows. "Collecting a blood sample when a thyroid test is done would certainly be ideal to avoid an additional office call fee, and to take advantage of someone already drawing blood. Note--different tube type, for DNA banking, we're not looking for serum, the blood sample submitted needs to be whole blood collected in a standard EDTA/Purple (lavender) top tube. When registering for the bank (downloadable form on the linked page above), the owner will then receive collection and shipping instructions, along with coded bar code labels to affix to the sample tubes. On receipt of the blood, DNA is isolated, and the

Canine Health Report (cont.)

DNA is frozen and stored for future testing and health research. The onetime fee is \$20 unless the dog has a positive diagnosis of an inherited disease that we are specifically interested in having in the bank. The \$20 fee is a pass-through, the OFA does not make any profit, this is the fee the U of MO in turn charges us for the DNA isolation and long term storage. The data is confidential from a public stance, although obviously not from any researcher that receives the sample. If the research actually leads to the development of a DNA test, some researchers will share the results to the study participants, although there is no guarantee, and that is not a stipulation for the researcher to receive samples.

The payoff for all of this is the future. Please consider taking a proactive stance for the health and future research for our beloved dogs. Even if we do not have the funds financially, researchers would have the means to study our dogs OK, I will climb down from my soapbox but I am passionate about health and wish for so much for Afghan Hounds.

There has been a small study involving coagulopathy issues in a few Afghan Hounds. I spoke to the researcher and she told me that because there are so few dogs and the fact that they are related, she has no plans to apply for research funds. I reminded her that we can only use our monies for research through the Canine Health Fund.

Have a wonderful New Year and I have so much information to share in the future from the Canine Health Conference.

Respectfully,
Eileen
Laudermilch RN CCRN, AHCA Health Chair

Nuggets of Nostalgia... (Answer)

If you guessed Mary Blacker, you are correct!

Mary was our featured story in the
Summer 2015 Topknot News.

From Dayton, Ohio Mary acquired her first afghan
hound at the age of 15 and

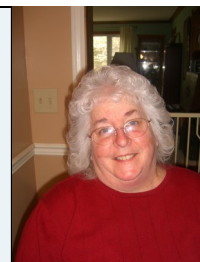
In 1955, Mary went Best in Show with him.

BIS Ch. Zaaarakuri of Ghazni (Kuri)

She cofounded the AHC of Southwestern Ohio
And in the mid '80s judged Sweeps at the National.

AWARDS REPORT

Barb Hastings



2014 Competition Statistics

The Top-Producing Sire - 7 Champion Offspring

GCH Polo's Air Force One

Owner: L. Amadeo

Breeder: L. Faro & M. Thompson & L. Amadeo

The Top-Producing Dam - 5 Champion Offspring

GCH Countrywinds Courtesan JC

Owner/Breeder: C. Harker

and

GCH Rustic Title Paige Of Spirit Ridge

Owner: W. J. Mines, E. Wolfe and K. A. Larsen

Breeder: E. Wolfe, K. A. Larsen and L. Schanzle

The Top-Winning Dog in breed competition - 1,000

GCH Exlysta Aries Ciel Noir

Owner: P Rooks, C Smith, P Schafmayer and S Ferraro

Breeder: Perry Rooks and Christine Anderson Smith

The Top-Winning Bitch in breed competition - 706

GCH Agha Djari's Eye Candy Of Sura CGC

Owner: J Dalton/S Neill/J Souza

Breeder: Stefan Boieck

Top Junior Handler – 235

Libbie Flanagan

Top Lure Coursing dog AKC- 99 pts

GCH DC Bakura Suni Formula One SC LCX CGC

Owner: Lynda Hicks & Toni King

Breeder: Toni King

Top Lure Coursing dog ASFA - 71 Hounds Defeated

El Zagel's Centuries of Youth, FCh,GRC,SOR,ORC

Owner: Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

Breeders: Bonnie Schulz

Top Obedience Dog – 577.0

Sabrina BN RN

Owners: Suzanne Harvey

Top Agility Afghan Hound

CH MACH9 Stormhill's Red Zinger JC MXB5 MJG5 FTC1
MFB2 TQX T2B

Owner Robin Cohen, Robin Kletke & Sandra Frei

Breeder: Mary Offerman, Terri Vanderzee & Sandra Frei

Top AKC Rally Afghan

She Rides The Short Bus, CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP

Owner: Dr. Cheryl A. Helsing

Best in Novice Rally - 291

Popovs Purrfection At Cayblu RA JC AX AXJ RATN

Owner: Cathy Kirchmeyer

Breeder: Faye Tromp

CERTIFICATE AWARDS

Best in Advance Rally - 290

She Rides The Short Bus, CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP

Owner: Dr. Cheryl A. Helsing

Best in Excellent Rally - 305

She Rides The Short Bus, CD BN RAE JC NAP NJP NFP

Owner: Dr. Cheryl A. Helsing

AWARDS PRESENTED AT 2015 NATIONAL

Tony Saia-Six inch Gary Newton Sculptured Bronze for service as Show Chair

Linda Jackson-Three inch Terry d.Chacon sculptured bronze for service as Assistant Show Chair

Chuck Milne-Three inch Terry d.Chacon sculptured bronze for service as Assistant Show Chair

Tony Saia-Six inch Gary Newton Sculptured Bronze for service as President AHCA

Linda Jackson-Six inch Gary Newton Sculptured Bronze for 10 years service as AHCA Treasurer (outgoing)

Linda Jackson-Three inch Terry d.Chacon sculptured bronze for service on AHCA BOD (outgoing)

Eileen Laudermilch-Three inch Terry d.Chacon sculptured bronze for service as AHCA Recording Secretary(outgoing)

Jay Johnson-Three inch Terry d.Chacon sculptured bronze for service on AHCA BOD (outgoing)

Barb Hastings-Six inch Gary Newton Sculptured Bronze for service as Rescue Chair

Sandy Nelson-AKC Good Sportsmanship Award for service to the AHCA



Sandy Nelson receiving AKC Good Sportsmanship Award from President Tony Saia

***Life Membership to AHCA
Awarded at 2015 National
Banquet to Lee Canalizo***



THANK YOU FROM LEE

The following note came from Lee Canalizo. A most deserving recipient of an AHCA Honorary Membership at the National.

Hi Dorma Sue,

I want to thank the Officers, Board and entire membership of the Afghan Hound Club of America for the lovely surprise and honor you gave me at the annual dinner. The roses were lovely and have just today lost their splendor!

Membership has been within my grasp so many times over my many years involved with our breed, but with one thing or another, life just got in the way. In spite of that I have always done what I felt was in the best interest of our chosen breed and I will continue to do the same in the future.

I look forward to the future of our beloved Afghan Hounds and the friendship of all of you, some of whom I have known for fifty years or more.

Wishing you all health and happiness in the coming year!

Fondly,
Lee Canalizo

AGILITY

Lynda Hicks



many of the Border Collies and Shelties we watch that have seasoned handlers who know how to cue clearly and in timely fashion! I see it with Caeden. If I don't cue clearly or early enough or if I babysit him and wait for him vs. cuing and leaving and pushing and challenging him...he gets bored and loses interest. If I trust him and push him, he speeds up and has a blast.

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Anna Stromberg



Hello 2016!

The past year has seen some juniors activity all around the country and our National brought 4 juniors competing. Eventual best junior came from Canada - Danielle Devins. Congratulations! Mr. Canalizo held an informative seminar and we even had a guest attending all the way from New Zealand. After pizza and some chatter among us, the donated show leads (thank you again to our anonymous donor) were a hit as a token for attending.

Most of our juniors did show their charges in the regular classes as well and it was so pleasing to see them work hard and get rewarded accordingly.

I am hoping that the local clubs will focus on small fun gatherings all around the country to include possible juniors as well as possible new homes and in so doing, increase the interest in our breed. It will only help for the future!

The top ten list of juniors is available on caninechronicle.com under statistics and our top junior this past year was Elizabeth Edgerton of Ohio. Congratulations!

BREED & PUBLIC EDUCATION

Domenick & Marcia Morelli



Our Meet the Breed booth at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship at the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL, in December was again a huge success.



Meet Caeden - CH Wynsyr Foxrun It's All About Cadence OA, OAJ, NAJ, NJP.

Caden is an up-and-coming Agility Star, owned, trained and handled by AHCA club member Ulrike Reinisch, and bred by AHCA club members Lynn Mercer and Scott Pfeil.

He will be four this March, and is quite an accomplished young man. Having finished his conformation championship in June 2014, he started competing in AKC agility in August 2014 (although his training started much earlier than that). In just over a year of competition, Caden and Ulrike have earned four Agility titles (2 Novice and 2 Open), and are now competing at the Excellent (top) level.

Ulrike says, "Our biggest accomplishment is his joyful and enthusiastic attitude when running agility! He has developed quite a fan club at local agility trials because of that...so many people comment how much they love watching us run, not just because of how he looks gorgeous doing it, but because of his joy and enthusiasm. He keeps blowing me away by looks but how QUICKLY he learns things (faster than my Whippet Whimsey who is a phenomenal agility dog). When I give clear, timely cues he reads them perfectly and has no problem with even USDAA masters level courses (we see them in training...don't compete in USDAA yet, although we plan to).

"It's funny... awhile ago there was a discussion on why most Afghans look so slow and uninterested in doing agility...and my point was that the vast majority of Afghans running in agility have novice and 'hobby' handlers vs.

AHCA History and Archives

Helen Stein



The videos listed below are now all on DVD and are available for rental to clubs and members.

I have also included an updated list of the "Recommended Reading" list. A summary of books and magazines available to rent will be reported at a later date.

Helen Stein
AHCA Archivist/Librarian

National Specialty Videos

1973-1976 Best of Breed (selected scenes) - from Super 8 video by John Fish
1977 Best of Breed - from Super 8 video by John Fish
1986-1990
1994-1999
2001-2014
Afghan Hound Lure Coursing 2004 National Specialty St. Cloud, MN (31 min)
AHCA Breeders cup 1995

Other Videos

--A Key To Movement -- DVD by Karen Armistead
--A Retrospective View of Afghan Hounds in America 1940-1980
--DogSteps - A study of Canine Structure and Movement by Rachel Page Elliott
--(revised) DogSteps - What to Look for in a Dog - Rachel Page Elliott
--Canine Cineradiography - A study of Bone and Joint Motion as Seen through Moving x-Rays
--The Afghan Hound - American Kennel Club video c. 1980
---"Great Afghan Hounds" - video by Peter Belmont
--Three Super 8 reels from Werner Sheldon, converted to VHS in 1993 and converted to DVD in 2015
--Juliette of the Herbs - a video of Juliette de Barclai Levy
--Afghan Hounds of the 1950's; Afghan Hounds of the 1960's (both very short videos with some narration)
--"Breed All About It" Afghan Hound episode
--Gait - Observing Dogs In Motion -- video by American Kennel Club
--Tara Specialty 1973 (no audio)
--Midwest Afghan Hound Club specialty 1971, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (no audio)
--Northern California Afghan Hound Club specialty, 1972 (no audio)

SUGGESTED READING updated 9/23/15

MAGAZINES and ONLINE INFORMATION

THE AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA WEBSITE

Information about Afghan Hound clubs, health, events, and much more

The web address is <http://clubs.akc.org/ahca>

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB WEBSITE

The best source of information about purebred dogs, registration and events. The website is www.akc.org and there are many sections of interest to the newcomer. We recommend starting with the tabs "Breeds", "Clubs" (to find a local Afghan Hound Club), and "Future Dog Owners"

AFGHANS ONLINE

WEBSITE www.afghansonline.com

AFGHAN HOUND REVIEW

<https://www.facebook.com/afghanhoundreview>

AFGHAN HOUNDS INTERNATIONAL

AND THE PEDIGREE DATABASE (website)

<http://ahinternational.co.uk>

BOOKS

INTRODUCTION TO THE AFGHAN HOUND Published by the Afghan Hound Club of America. An Owners Manual for the new or aspiring Afghan Hound owner.

\$5.00 per copy (includes postage)

Available from Afghan Hound Club of America,
178 Windfall Creek Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27517
e-mail: Beaniesue@aol.com

THIS IS THE AFGHAN HOUND By Joan McDonald Brearly (1965)

YOUR AFGHAN HOUND By Sue A. Kauffman (1965)

ARCHITECTURE OF THE AFGHAN HOUND By Barb Bornstein

Published by Trims International, 1995

\$25 Includes Postage. Available at 9622 N 52nd Lane, Glendale, AZ 85302
or inquire by e-mail: DancingTree@trims.com

THE COMPLETE AFGHAN HOUND By Constance O. Miller & Edward Gilbert, Jr. (1966)

VISUALIZATION OF THE AFGHAN HOUND Written & published by Janis Reital, Sandy Frei & Julie Roche. \$10 plus \$3 Postage. Available from Jan Reital, P.O. Box 998, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 (858)-945-6587 or from Sandy Frei, P.O. Box 1245, Woodinville, WA 98072 425-788-4794

VIDEOS

DVD: A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF AFGHAN HOUNDS IN AMERICA 1940-1980 \$10.00 including Postage Available from Afghan Hound Club of America,
178 Windfall Creek Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27517 e-mail: Beaniesue@aol.com

JULIETTE OF THE HERBS Film biography of Juliette de Bairacli Levy, breeder of Turkoman Afghan Hounds. Available from Mabington Films

P.O. Box 92 Spencertown, NY 12165 USA Tel (518) 392-4257

A KEY TO MOVEMENT By Karen G. Armistead

\$49.95 plus Postage. Available from the American Dog Show Judges, Dr. Gerard C. Penta, 200 Lakeside Way, Greensburg, PA 15601.
penta@helicon.net

ARTICLES ON GROOMING

<http://afghanhoundclubofamerica.org/index.php/information/grooming>
<http://www.afghansofgrandeur.com/pubs/coatcare.html>

Tick-borne Disease: Prevalence, Prevention and Treatment

Contributed by Eileen Laudermilch

Tick-borne Disease: Prevalence, Prevention and Treatment

Peer review at Canine Health Conference

Reprinted with permission from the AKC Canine Health Foundation

Submitted by Eileen Laudermilch RN CCRN, Health Chair

Ticks have been well known to infect a dog by transmitting a pathogens into the body by its bite. Some of these pathogens have the ability to infect humans. The transmission requires another bite from the host tick from the dog and then to the person. The disease cannot be spread directly in as the pathogens must complete its lifecycle first. The most common tick borne diseases are Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis, Hepatozoonosis, Babesiosis, and Lyme disease. The feeding time needed for transmission varies between the tick and the disease. Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever can be transmitted within 3-6 hours from tick attachment. Lyme disease causing bacterial transmission can require 24-48 hours of feeding before the host is infected.

Tick borne disease is associated with the ticks found in that area. Some of these infections vary with weather, rainfall and climate. The actual number of cases of tick borne disease is probably much higher than reported because so few dogs are tested. The species of ticks that are known to carry disease are American Dog Tick, Deer Tick, Brown Dog Tick (found in colder regions of North America including Canada and Alaska and can infest inside and around homes and kennels), Gulf Coast Tick, Lone Star Tick (as well as black legged and Western black legged ticks are commonly found in leaf litter in natural wooded area frequented by wildlife. The edge of such areas around homes support these ticks), Rock Mountain Wood Tick (along with Rocky Mountain wood ticks and Gulf Coast ticks are found in tall grassy areas, along trail, open woods and in open fields), Spinose Ear Tick (found in areas west of the Mississippi in the south central and south west), and Western Black legged Tick.

Diseases:

Ehrlichiosis is transmitted by the brown dog tick. Symptoms include loss of appetite, depression, loss of energy, runny eyes and nose discharge, spontaneous nose bleeds, bruising on gums and belly, lameness and joint pain, and spontaneous and shifting leg lameness with reluctance to move.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is transmitted by the American dog tick and the lone star tick. The disease appears suddenly and it is a severe illness lasting roughly 2 weeks. If not treated early enough it will result in death. This infection can also be transmitted to humans. Symptoms include, acute fever, depression, lack of energy, neurological abnormalities and arthritic like stiffness when walking.

Lyme Disease is transmitted by the deer tick and the western black-legged tick. Lyme disease is found throughout the US but is most often diagnosed in the northeast, mid-Atlantic, north-central US and also California. Symptoms include reluctance to move, fatigue, loss of appetite, depression and spontaneous and shifting leg lameness that lasts 3-4 days with recurrent lameness due to joint inflammation. Serious complications include kidney damage, and heart and nervous system. The symptoms can often mimic other health conditions and a severe inflection can result in death.

Anaplasmosis is transmitted by the deer tick and the western black-legged tick. Anaplasmosis is of two types; *plagocytophilum* and *platys*. These are the same ticks that transmit Lyme disease and can cause multiple infections. and can be also transmitted to people. Areas include the northeast, Mid-Atlantic, north-central Us, California and Canada. *Anaplasma platys* is transmitted by the brown tick and is found in the South west and gulf Coast. Symptoms of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* include loss of appetite, lethargy, lameness, reluctance to move, neck pain and neurological signs in some cases. Symptoms of *Anaplasma platys* infects platelets and affect clotting. There are bruising on the gums and belly, and spontaneous nosebleeds.

Babesiosis is transmitted by the brown dog tick. However, other species can be transmitted from dog to dog if an infected dog bites another dog or from a blood transfusion from an infected dog. This disease is found throughout the US and Canada. Symptoms include Lack of activity, lethargy, generalized weakness, loss of appetite vomiting and weight loss.

Hepatozoonosis (*americanum*) is transmitted by the Gulf Coast tick. There are two types. The other is *canis* and is transmitted by the brown dog tick. This is found in the eastern and middle southern areas of the US. Both forms are transmitted by the dog ingesting an infected tick and not by a bite. Symptoms of *canis* are loss of appetite, lethargy and weight loss. Symptoms of *americanum* can result in debilitating and potential fatal condition. These include, fever, depression, generalized pain, discharge from the eyes and loss of muscle mass with chronic weight loss.

Tick-borne Disease: Prevalence, Prevention and Treatment

Contributed by Eileen Laudermilch

(cont.)

Tick-borne Disease: Prevalence, Prevention and Treatment

Peer review at Canine Health Conference

Reprinted with permission from the AKC Canine Health Foundation

Submitted by Eileen Laudermilch RN CCRN, Health Chair

Ticks have been well known to infect a dog by transmitting a pathogens into the body by their bite. Some of these pathogens have the ability to infect humans. The transmission requires another bite from the host tick from the dog and then to the person. The disease cannot be spread directly in as the pathogens must complete its lifecycle first. The most common tick borne diseases are Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis, Hepatozoonosis, Babesiosis, and Lyme disease. The feeding time

How to keep your dog safe from Tick-borne diseases

1. Learn about the ticks and diseases in your area
2. Use preventives, including topical medication and tick collars. These do not prevent disease transmission but they reduce risk by reducing the tick levels in the dog's environment.
3. If your dog spends time outdoors, check them daily for ticks. Be sure to check head, ears, shoulder and upper leg areas carefully
4. Remove ticks immediately with a tweezers, avoid squeezing the tick to prevent transfer of tick fluids into dog.
5. Do not use humans tick spray on dogs, it is toxic if they ingest it.
6. Talk to your vet about testing
7. Be aware that if your dog shows symptoms the test might be negative initially. The test measures for antibodies and they take time to reach measurable levels in the blood

If your dog is positive, is treatment necessary? Most veterinarians are able to treat most tick-borne infections. There is controversy in treating a dog with no symptoms. After a positive test, recheck in 6 months including serum chemistries, a CBC, and urinalysis. The decision to treat is between you and your veterinarian. It is important to retest yearly for the rest of the dog's life.

Address Changes

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12004 Crestwood Rd.
Newbury, OH 44065
rmiklacic57@roadrunner.com

Anna Stromberg
29390 Wildlife Ln,
Brooksville FL 34602

Jennifer and Jason Taylor
5001 Destin Lane
College Grove, TN 37046

Kennel Name Correction:

Donna Johnson
P.O. Box 1245
Granite Falls, WA 98252
TanisHounds@msn.com



Saki of Paghman & Billy (of Kabul)

By Murray Anderson ('Tazi Tourist'), New Zealand

In the 1992 Afghan Hound Year Book (UK), I wrote about my then recent seven-month sojourn in the soon-to-be-besieged Afghan capital, my attempts to locate and photograph a native AfghanHound/tazi, and my success in finding at least one, an elderly blue-grey male named Billy, whose white-colored dam had come from Paghman, a district/place some 15 miles/24kms away. This article, along with a number of photographs of Kabul and Billy, I also sent to an American Afghan Hound magazine, who without permission, consultation, or prudence, decided to use the photos of Billy for their own designs, sending copies to a selection of various Afghan Hound personalities, and asking them whether it was an Afghan Hound or not, and their evaluation of the specimen. It was at least gratifying that at least two (only) of these respondents, namely Lee Canalizo (Kandahara, USA), a long-time judge and a person very familiar with the blue Grandeur lines of Sunny Shay, and Inge(borg) James (Spectrum, Canada), whose historical research on Canadian and American Afghan Hound history remains unparalleled, (her 'IMPACT!' books are highly recommended reading),



Saki of Paghman

both recognised in Billy, essential breed characteristics and similarities to the early imports from Afghanistan. As to those respondents in the negative, well I think enough was said at the time about their appraisal!

During the 'heat' of this debate with its detractors, I pondered the co-incidence of the rarer, less common, blue-grey color, and the fact that the only native import I knew of with this coloration (though some like Khan of Ghazni possessed, passed on the blue-gene, which later produced the color), was the blue-grey bitch Saki of Paghman, named after the place where she was obtained way back in 1934 by Laurance and Claire Peters, and taken back by them to the USA with her native kennel mate Tazi of Beg Tute, a self-masked fawn, where they produced four litters together, from which the new bloodline and blue gene inheritance was bred on from. Co-incidentally, two formative pioneers of the breed and native imports to the UK owned by Mrs Mary Amps, also came from these two places: UK Ch Sirdar of Ghazni was bred by an Afghan shikari (hunter) from Paghman; and his kennel-mate Rani of Ghazni by a shikari in Beg-Toot, both in 1923 according to their KC registration details, only about a decade prior to the Peters' acquisitions.



Billy (of Kabul)

Despite searching and asking, I never found a photo of Saki, but still it stayed in the back of my mind. Even Karen Armistead, another noted Afghan Hound historian and custodian of the AHC of America archives, did not have a photo in that collection. She did say, that if I ever found one she would be delighted to have a copy, likewise Inge.

Well, awhile back I managed to locate several photos of Saki, mostly at a young age, but one, obviously older, though looking a bit bony and possibly having just had a litter, pictured **above** alongside Billy for comparison purposes. Though their Paghman connection is some fifty years apart, through Billy's dam, and nothing except coincidence to ponder whether they shared some family ancestors, looking at the photos shows a certain degree of similarity, apart from the color. While the coats are quite sparse (no evidence, let alone room for trimming or clipping!), the ears are covered in long hair (but Saki's are higher set), and there is noticeable fringing on the back of the forelegs and front of the hindquarters, as well as some tufts on the feet. Though Billy appears a darker shade of blue-grey, tones/patterns, darker on the back and body, lighter on the stomach and legs, are also similar. Typical of blues, foreface/muzzle whiter with age. The heads, of good length, show a not dissimilar shape, with back skull rounded and evenly balanced, rather than too narrow or heavy. Joint absence of any topknot is probably the most discouraging breed feature. The muzzles, neither too fine nor coarse, appear not dissimilar, with a recognisable stop. Eyes, almond-shaped rather than triangular, but Billy's darker. Necks of good length, strong and arched, but Billy's a bit thick. Shoulder placement average to good, and hind angulation also both moderate. Croup/fallaway at a similar angle and length, though Saki's tail possessed a ring, whereas Billy only a curve. Saki's hipbones definitely more prominent! Deep chests, the older type dip behind the withers clearly visible, and toplines a bit different from today's requirements! I would assume that Saki too was on the smaller size, as was Billy. Overall, squarish, with proportions balanced. Neither the taller, rangier Bell Murray type, nor cobbier, shorter-coupled, heavier-coated Ghazni variety. Obviously one can read too much into a photograph, but I think there appears enough on the surface for the reader to appreciate a reasonable degree of likeness in appearance between these two tazis.



Afghanistan 1934 - Claire Peters with Tazi(l) & Saki(r).



Saki of Paghman(f) and Tazi of Beg Tute(b)

As previously mentioned, Saki and Tazi had four litters, in 1935,36,37 & 39, totalling 21 pups, at least 9 of which produced 14 litters/68 Tazi-Saki grandchildren. Tazi also sired another three litters from different bitches. These lines were to be incorporated in the 1940s and 50s in many well-known, and lesser-known, American Afghan Hound kennels, though surprisingly they do not appear behind the most famous blue-grey Afghan Hound of all time, Westminster-winner, Am,Can Ch Shirkhan of Grandeur. Consequently, overtime and through many generations of breeding, Saki and Tazi have become entrenched in Afghan Hound pedigrees, not just in the USA but

worldwide, through American exports to various corners of the globe. There would be very few, if any at all, Afghan Hounds outside of their native environment who do not go back in their pedigree to these two canine “Afghani-emigrants.”

These welcome fresh native genes, and some blue ones at that, did not arrive in the UK until the early 1960s, some 27 years after their arrival in the USA, and figure behind the influential American Crown Crest (Kay Finch)-based imports: UK Ch Wazir of Desertaire & Crown Crest Zardeeka (1961/Sheila Devitt, Carloway & Claire Race, Rifka); Crown Crest Leo el Kabul (1963/Dr Betsy Porter); and also the American/Spanish Grandeur-based ‘colored’ Branwens (Cynthia Madigan-Boissevain): the brindle, Ajman Branwen Kandahar (1962/Patricia Kean & Elizabeth Mackenzie); the black, Chandhara Branwen Sheen Kamri (1962/Stephanie Hunt-Crowley); and Khanabad Branwen Sheen Kurram and Khalifa, (Margaret Niblock’s two 1964 ‘blues brothers’); re-introducing the brindle pattern and blue color which had been lost in the UK some years prior.



Laurance and Claire Peters w/ Saki and Tazi

Sadly, both Inge and Karen have passed away some years ago, but I would like the opportunity to dedicate this article about Saki of Paghman, to them and their memory, with grateful thanks for all the marvellous historical work that they did for our breed. And lastly/mostly, thanks to Laurance and Claire Peters for enriching our breed by importing Tazi and Saki 80 years ago, and their family for providing these wonderful photographs.



Saki and Tazi States-bound on board ship



Saki of Paghman, January 1937



Tazi and Saki in the snow, USA



Claire Peters, Tazi(l) and Saki(r) on a house-boat, Srinagar, Kashmir 1934

MEMORIAL

Members who have crossed
the Rainbow Bridge:

Joanne Alft
Sally Frank
Delberta Gogulski
Bruce Goodspeed
Jim Uihlein
Sharon Watson

They are missed by us all.

HELP US STAY INFORMED

Please contact Dorma Sue Busby
when you hear of members who
are seriously ill or have passed
away.

FOR SALE

The Afghan Hound Club of America Topknot News is now
offering business card size (approximately 2.5" x 3.75" same
as this size) For Sale Ads.

Ads are to be for Afghan Hound related items which are for
sale or services. No "Win" ads or other animal ads will be
accepted. Acceptance or rejection of ads is at the sole discre-
tion of the Afghan Hound Club of America BOD.

Cost is \$50/issue or \$125/3 consecutive issues. Ads must be
submitted camera ready. Submit to Editor Topknot News
hrh3judge@verizon.net

Getting to Know You: Spotlight on our New Breeder-Judges

By Allan Reznik



ANNA C. TYLER, INISFREE AFGHANS, ST. MICHAEL, MINN.

Did you grow up in a doggy household?

No, not a doggy family, so to speak. Typical household with two parents, five kids and the family dog. My family was transferred a lot because of my father's position with Control Data Corp. and Laddie, our Sheltie, traveled with us everywhere.

When did you see your first Afghan Hound? Was it love at first sight and did you know this was the breed you wanted to devote your life to?

I had a book called the *Complete Dog Book* and I read the description and viewed the photo of the Afghan Hound until the binding fell apart. It was in 1975 that I saw my first Afghan Hound. He was an adult male in full black coat walking with his owner, a tall man with long black hair. Together they were a striking image. I saw them a couple of times and this amazing dog was very dignified and confident. That is when I knew I had to pursue this breed and someday be owned by one. I was obsessed with this magnificent breed!

Getting to Know You: Spotlight on our New Breeder-Judges

By Allan Reznik
(Cont.)

Where and when did you get your first Afghan Hound?

In 1980 I sought out a pet Afghan Hound. "Rajah" was his name and he was a clown, but protective and great with my kids. We simply adored him. It wasn't until 1989, however, before I actively went searching and talking to breeders across the country. I went to several dog shows and show kennels to meet people and see their dogs. In 1990 I bought my first show dog who would become Ch. Orion's Crystal Illusion – "Alex" – and I started the process of learning how to show him. He was the son of SBIS BIS Ch. Fox Run's Revolution – "Prince."

What are the defining characteristics of the breed for you?

There is breed type and, in my opinion, a defining characteristic is the movement of this breed. This is an athletic dog that should be able to MOVE – gracefully and with little effort, with balanced reach and drive.

What qualities do you worry we might be losing in the breed?

Over the years I have seen breeders self-correct soft tops, long loins, overdone rears, forward fronts and the height issues. We need to continue to be concerned with these issues, as well as a few others, to protect our breed. Good fronts and smooth, laid-back shoulders will always be sought after with balanced reach and drive – reach from the shoulder and not the elbow. Also, while good stable temperament is important, of course, this is a primitive breed and I am worried that the arrogant, proud dog that walks in the ring knowing he owns the ground he walks on is becoming harder to find. After all, this is the Afghan Hound – the King of Dogs.

Name two or three dogs and two or three bitches that were most influential in your breeding program.

BIS, SBIS, NSBIS Ch. Kabik's the Challenger; BIS, SBIS Ch. Fox Run's Revolution; BIS, SBIS, NSBIS Ch. Tifarah's Hi Flying Victory; Ch. Orion's Crystal Illusion; Ch. Fox Run Chandar's Mothr Suprior; Gr. DC Ch. Inisfree's Superior Majic SC, CD, RA, NJP; Gr.Ch. Sirae' Inisfree's Baby's Got Bling; SBIS Ch. Surra's Hollywood Nights and SBIS Gr. Ch. Sirae' Inisfree's High Velocity are dogs that have been influential in my breeding program.

Who do you consider the greatest Afghan Hound you ever saw?

BIS, SBIS, NSBIS Ch. Triumph of Grandeur; BIS, SBIS, NSBIS Ch. Pahlavi Puttin' On the Ritz; BIS, SBIS, NSBIS Ch. Tifarah's Hi Flying Victory and of course, although I never saw him in person but in video, BIS, SBIS, NSBIS Ch. Kabik's the Challenger.

Who were your mentors in the breed and in the sport?

I met Lynn Mercer in 1989 and we traveled to shows for many years and bred the Francis/Flyer litter together. We would talk structure, pedigrees and breeding for hours at a time over the years. Her passion and her dedication to the breed are contagious. I will always be grateful for her friendship and support.

Also, my dear friends and kennel partners over the years have been Louise Paulson, Lorene French and Cynthia Byington, as well as many other friends in our Afghan Hound family.

Would you ever withhold awards?

I would hope that I wouldn't have to. I would hope that breeders would do their due diligence and guide the novice exhibitor against showing their dog if it was not meant for the conformation ring. Every dog has its strengths and perhaps it should be trained in obedience, lure coursing or agility.

What advice would you give an exhibitor showing to you for the first time?

I realize dog shows are serious business. Every exhibitor should come away knowing they got a fair look. New exhibitors are nervous enough and I would encourage them to "Take your time, when you are ready, down and back...."

Thank you Michele Trifiro!



Oh the joy of finding goose poop!

WHAT IS
THAT?

A rare breed ...
an untrimmed
Afghan!



AHCA INVENTORY ITEMS AVAILABLE
To order any of the inventory items contact: Sue Busby
PAYPAL/VISA/MC ACCEPTED

TOP KNOT NEWS
Inventory November 2015



Submitted by Dorma Sue Busby
 barakiafs@peoplepc.com or 586-264-4292

Breeders' Cup Items

2010 Breeders' Cup Items
 T-Shirts Beige 2 (sm)

\$5.00



2011 Breeders' Cup Items
 T-Shirts Carolina Blue 2 (sm)

\$5.00



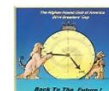
2013 Breeders' Cup
 Stainless Steel Travel Cup 7

\$5.00



2014 Breeders' Cup
 Travel Bags Royal Blue 15

\$5.00



2015 Breeders' Cup
 Sapphire Blue T-Shirt 1-m
 Lime Green T-Shirt 2-l

\$5.00

\$5.00



National Sales Items

T-Shirt
 Black (sm) 1

\$10.00

Ladies full zip Jacket/embr logo
 Beige(sm)-2 (m)-2 (lg)-1

\$30.00



Catalog 12

\$15.00

Parent Club Logo Items

Ways & Means

6-Pak Coolers Grey 2 \$5.00

Bath Towels Black/Gold logo 7 \$20.00

Christmas Ornaments
 White/Gold Logo 12 \$5.00



W/Parent Club Logo Items

PC Lapel Pins 14K gold plated
 Tie Tac or Safety Pin catch \$15.00

Directors Chairs/side table
 Green 9 \$40.00

Baseball Caps/Black PC logo \$20.00
 Pink /3 Sage/3 Gray/2 Beige/2

Prices do not include postage

The Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.
Proudly Presents
The 80th National Specialty Show
Saturday, September 17th—Wednesday, September 17th 2016
Warwick, RI
Crowne Plaza Providence-Warwick



Amy Mero, Show Chairman

508-584-8411

Erica Jantos, Assistant Show Chairperson

206-427-3929

Dorma Sue Busby, Show Secretary

586-264-4292

Judges

Stephen Fisher
Jerry Klein
Rosemary Sutton
TBA
TBA
TBA

Regular and Non-Regular Dog Classes and Best of Breed
Regular and Non-Regular Bitch Classes, Junior Showmanship Classes
Sweepstakes Classes (All), Triathlon
Agility Classes
Lure Coursing
Obedience & Rally

Crown Plaza Providence-Warwick Hotel

801 Greenwich Ave

Warwick, RI 02886

Reservations: 401-732-6000

Room Rate \$129/night

Call Reservations and request Group Rate "Afghan Hound Club of America"



Thursday September 15, 2016

Cape Cod Kennel Club

Friday September 16, 2016

South Shore Kennel Club

Sunday September 17, 2016

Cape Cod Kennel Club

Thursday September 22, 2016

Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club

Thursday September 22, 2016

Potomac Afghan Hound Club



Visit the AHCA Website at
afghanhoundclubofamerica.org
Rescue Hotline: 1-877-AF-RESCU
(1-877-237-3728)