

TOPKNOT NEWS

Official Publication of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.

Spring Edition 2022





7 Afghan Hound Specialties in 10 Days, all on the East Coast!

(9 Opportunities for "Majors")

- **Summer Splash Specialties - Windsor, CT**
4 x Specialties, 2 x Sweeps (June 17-19)
- **Mid Atlantic Specialties - Richmond, Virginia**
6 x Shows, 3 x Specialties (June 23-26)

DATE	EVENT	JUDGE	LOCATION
Friday June 17th	Nutmeg AHC Specialty Nutmeg Sweeps	Claire Millward (UK) Leigh Ann Yandle	Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT
Saturday June 18 th (AM)	Colonial AHC Specialty Colonial Sweeps	Shalisa Neely Lois Ann Snyder	Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT
Saturday June 18 th (PM)	Nutmeg AHC Specialty	Terry Chacon	Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT
Sunday June 19th	Colonial AHC Specialty	Meghen Riese-Bassel	Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT
Thursday June 23rd	All Breed Show	Donald Gill	Richmond Raceway, Richmond, VA
Friday June 24th	Supported Entry All Breed Show Richmond AHC Specialty	Bradley Odagiri Nancy Self	Richmond Raceway, Richmond, VA
Saturday June 25th	Supported Entry All Breed Show Potomac AHC Specialty	Catherine Bell Nancy Edgington	Richmond Raceway, Richmond, VA
Sunday June 26th	Tidewater AHC Specialty	D. Scott Pfeil	Richmond Raceway, Richmond, VA

Plan Your Road Trip Now!



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ON THE COVER....

Her one and only Afghan Hound painting, such the shame, for it is truly lovely. UK artist **Julie Brunn** when asked permission for use as the Spring 2022 cover replied: " I would be happy for you to use it, however, I'm not sure if I have the original photo of it ... it's one I did a few years ago now and I haven't done another Afghan since." From Zoo Keeper to Artist - Having qualified with a fine art degree from Birmingham in 2000 Julie went on to pursue a career in web based graphic design. However, a love and interest in animals had a strong hold and she changed careers completely to become an animal keeper, starting at Longleat Safari Park and then eventually settling at Monkey World. When she started a family it gave her the opportunity to rediscover painting, combining love of nature, animals and art. In studying animals over the years she developed a skill in depicting their character and personality. Although a large proportion of her work is commission based she also paints wildlife. You can see her wide range of subjects and portfolio of work on her web site, www.juliebrunn.com and also on Facebook, www.facebook.com/juliebrunnart

An Editorial Word



The bulbs have finally started to poke their heads from the dark ground; trees are beginning to bud and bloom and allergies abound. Ah Spring!

Spring is also the time most indoor shows here in the northeast move outside. Don't our hounds look glorious in the sunshine with the wind blowing through their hair. But then, they are glorious in any setting.

I would like to welcome our new president, **D. Scott Pfeil** and look forward to working with him along with the great crew of *Topknot News* volunteers.

I especially would like to thank **Stir Green** and **Joanne Sternhell** for their help in making our TN great. They are stepping down and will be sorely missed.

Looking for volunteers! We need assistance not only with ad design, soliciting advertisers but also with reporting, photography and articles. Please consider sharing your talents and becoming a part of our team.

As always, suggestions, comments are most welcome. Reach out to me at editortopknotnews@gmail.com
See you at the shows!

Virginia Katilus



2022 Officers and Directors

President: Scott Pfeil
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Recording Secy.: Eddie Kominek
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Director: Jody Gardner
Director: Beth Anne Hall
Director: Lynda Hicks
Director: Christine O'Connor
Director: Christine Pinkston

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AKC Gazette Column: Harry Bennett
ASFA Delegate: Robert Jordan
Awards: James Donahue
Breed & Public Education: Anna Stromberg
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Breeders' Cup 2022: Christine O'Connor
Canine Health: Anna Tyler
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Inventory Control: Sue Busby
Judges Education: James Donahue
Junior Showmanship: Darla Miller
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www.akc.org/governmentrelations
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Membership Directory: Dorma Sue Busby
Mentor Program: Christine Pinkston
National Events Site Research: Erica Jantos
National Specialty 2022: Jason Tyler
Parliamentarian: Connie Butherus
Performance Events: Eddie Kominek
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Sunshine Committee: Dorma Sue Busby
Topknot News: Virginia Katilus
Ways & Means: Sue Busby
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NEXT DEADLINE: JULY 25 , 2022

Full page color ad: \$75.00 (basic design included)
Payment via PayPal to Paypal@afghanhoundclubofamerica.org Send your email with text and attached image files to:
Advertising@topknot.news or submit print ready ad in PDF format (8.75"x11.25" 300dpi sRGB *note: keep content area to 8.5"x11"* otherwise it will get cut off.) This includes bleed.

AHCA RESCUE HOTLINE
877-237-3728

AHCA Website
www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Harry Bennett



Dorma Sue Busby



James Donahue



Connie Butherus



Lynda Hicks



Erica Jantos



Robert Jordan



Eddie Kominek



Amy Mero



Darla Miller



Christine O'Connor



Christine Pinkston



Martha Powell



Carol Rivette



Anna Stromberg



Jennifer Taylor



Anna Tyler

At the very end of my term as President — and just after the Winter issue of Topknot News was published — there were a couple of changes to committees that I feel are worth noting:

Budget and Finance

This ad hoc committee has been reorganized. Due to personal reasons, **Linda Jackson** has resigned. Linda, who was AHCA Treasurer for many years, will still be available to answer questions and to advise the committee as needed. This committee now consists of **Jody Gardner** (chair), **Bob Jordan**, **Gill Ullom**, and **Helen Stein** and will be reviewing all procedures related to handling of Club finances.

Judges Education

Those two simple words may give you a mental image of a dry, regimented PowerPoint show presented by a dour individual reading from a script. *“No questions until the end!” “There is only one correct answer, only one correct dog!” “All dogs must be judged by what you have read in the breed standard — there need be*

A Final Word

from past AHCA President Helen Stein

no understanding of who the Afghan Hound is, or why he is such a spectacular breed.”

But...if you've ever attended a seminar on the Afghan Hound given by **Harry Bennett**, you would have been exposed to more than just the “blueprint for perfection” — you would have been given a glimpse into the Essence of the Afghan Hound. Harry has been the Judges Education chairman for the AHCA for many years and has made it his mission to convey the beauty and mystery, the athleticism and the elegance, the soundness, humor and keenness of purpose that this breed possesses. And he can explain the coat in its many forms!

After untold years of giving back to the fancy in many ways, Harry has decided to step down from his position as JE Chairman. I've attended Harry's seminar many times as an assistant, and I always learn something. I've heard that same comment from so many AHCA members. I offer my sincere thanks to you, Harry, for caring deeply enough to spend your time and money to educate so many “outsiders”. The Afghan Hound Club of America appreciates you.

We are most fortunate that **James Donahue** has agreed to take over the position of Judges Education Chair! Jamie has extensive experience in giving breed seminar presentations and will of course be working on this with **Scott Pfeil**. Scott and Jamie have given the JE seminars at other AHCA National Specialties as well as presenting to various judges' groups around the country. I attended the seminar in 2019 and was very pleased to hear the many compliments made by students, many of whom judge multiple breeds. Welcome, Jamie, and *thank you!* 🐾



President's Message

D. Scott Pfeil
AHCA President

Dear AHCA Members!

As the first signs of spring emerge, I am excited to be writing to you for my first time as President of the AHCA. Our breed and the people who love it have done so much to enrich my life over the past thirty years. I look forward to my opportunity to give back to the club, the breed, and those who have come before me.

Over the past few years of serving on the AHCA Board, I have listened to several concerns from our membership. I want to help steer the current Board into a more productive and effective body with greater transparency. At the end of the day this is YOUR club. We have a wonderful and dedicated group of Afghan Hound lovers currently serving on the Board. We are here to answer questions and hear your concerns. I want to see the Board meet more frequently so that we can address topics and issues more effectively in a timely manner. The COVID era taught us that remote meetings held via Zoom are both possible and practical. By meeting remotely we can help insure better attendance by eliminating the scheduling and financial burdens posed by in-person meetings.

I also feel that it is time that the Board discusses term limits for Officers. We have many talented people in the club who deserve an opportunity to serve. As such, we are always looking for active committee members. Interested in volunteering? Reach out to me or anyone on the Board!

In order to increase our transparency and better serve our members, I would like to host monthly or bi-monthly info share sessions for the general membership. Such meeting could be held via Zoom to address such topics as our treasury, regional club concerns, National specialties, and other key topics. I would love to hear your suggestions for topics! I feel this could be a great way to bridge the gap between the general membership and the Board of Directors.

It is my belief that one of the most important tasks of a parent club is that of education, and I want to make this a focus of my presidency. In addition to the obvious responsibilities of educating judges and new and longtime Afghan Hound fanciers, it is the duty of our club to educate the public about our wonderful and unique breed.

When it comes to Judges' education, I want to thank **Harry Bennett** for his many years of service to the AHCA as Judges' education chair. As of February 1 of this year, the torch was passed to **James Donahue**,



and the Board looks forward to working with him to make sure that we are meeting the needs of prospective and current Afghan Hound judges. James has previously presented our judge's education seminar and workshop and acted as an AHCA approved judges' mentor. His experience as an approved AKC conformation judge combined with his many years in the education field will allow him to fill this role nicely. One of the first things James plans to do is work with the AKC Canine College on developing their online breed course for judges. Some of this has already been completed but was previously sidelined as the photo and video footage was not satisfactory yet. We will keep the membership posted about the progress of this important project. We also hope to find more opportunities to present our Judges Education seminar and workshop. If you hear of an upcoming workshop in your area, I ask that you please consider volunteering one of your dogs for the program. Hands on opportunities are incredibly important for prospective judges.

Another area in which I want to see continued and increased activity is in public education. I want to thank everyone who has stepped up and volunteered for the various "Meet the Breeds" style events that have happened around the country. I know many such events were sidelined due to the COVID pandemic, but as we move back to normalcy, I hope we can see these events occurring with greater frequency. These events provide an invaluable opportunity to introduce our breed to the public and you never know when the person you meet may be inspired to add an Afghan Hound to their life.

Thank you all for entrusting me to lead the club as President. I am always here to answer questions or hear your concerns. Let's work together to ensure that our breed continues to have a relevant place in our society today and for decades to come! 🐾

*Shining Mountain's
Long Day's Journey Into Night*



KDR Photography

(GCH Prohpecy's Command Performance X GCH Shining Mountain's Rhythm Of The Rain)

Journey

Bred by Brian & Laura Wood — Owned & Loved by Carol Lovekin

AKC DELEGATE REPORT

By Connie Butherus
AKC Delegate for the AHCA

Now that the COVID curse is abating, the AKC Delegates have returned to in person meetings - albeit with masks for all and gallons of sanitizer. We assembled March 7 and 8 at the usual meeting site which is a hotel at Newark Airport. Monday the 7th was devoted to the various Delegate committee meetings from which a great deal of important information is gleaned. Many of the items the Delegates vote on have their birthplace in these Committees.

The AKC Delegates Parent Club Committee agenda was full as is always the case. Significant items addressed were the following: **Sheila Goffe**, Chair of the AKC legislative area, informed us of a situation in Norway regarding the government's ban on the breeding of Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. The reasons cited for this action were based on genetic factors related to "mental and physical health" and the impairment of "natural whelping". Court cases have been lodged but to date the judges have found for the government, The National Kennel Club is appealing these decisions. It is permissible to own these breeds but not to breed them. There was discussion regarding the legislative efforts by the AR groups in the U.S. which most often begin at the local level. In the U.S. a ban of the Norwegian type would be required to go state by state. Dog owners and lovers must be vigilant

regarding any type of regulation which would limit one's ability to own, house, breed, place, show and rescue our beloved dogs.

AKC Reunite reported that there are now 95 disaster relief trailers in place with an additional 13 in the pipeline.

Outreach to Veterinary Schools continues and our **OWN Jerry Klein** works with the AKC staff in this program, The AKC awards \$65,000 in scholarships to students in Veterinary Schools.

All kennel clubs are encouraged to appoint a coordinator for Juniors in an ongoing effort to support the upcoming generation of dog enthusiasts. Three \$10,000

Committee and we have conducted a Breeder Education survey of all Parent Clubs of which 145 of the 210 Parent Clubs responded. The report of the survey is to be sent to all Parent Club Boards. This report profiles the Breeder Education programs and activities of those responding. Clubs which want to develop and/or enhance breeder education programs will find many suggestions and information from this survey. The Committee is working on a number of significant projects which are designed to provide Parent Clubs with tools, information and recognition regarding the breeding of pure bred dogs.

needed IRS status (501 c(3)), storage facilities, role(s) for the Parent Clubs, criteria for acceptance of semen and use etc.

Meet the Breeds continues to present challenges to many Parent Clubs in staffing the booths at the various sites. For those Parent Clubs unable to do so the AKC has developed a plan to go forward. They will seek the assistance of the following in order to have that breed represented:

- Local breed clubs
- Breeders of Merit and Bred With Heart breeders
- Knowledgeable breeders known to AKC Staff in the area
- AKC Staff with knowledge of the breed.

A number of the Parent Clubs have objected to this plan and want to be notified as to who will represent their breed. More to follow to be sure!

From the other Committees we learned that entries, events and registrations have now recovered from the COVID curse and have shown growth. A proposal is in the works which would award points to the second, third and fourth placements in the Groups. Also the elimination of ownership requirements for Junior Showmanship is to be proposed shortly.

At the Delegate meeting - which was also the Annual Meeting of the AKC the required election to the AKC Board of Directors was done and over in seconds as the nominated slate - all current BOD members - was unopposed. This was a first time happening since I have been a Delegate. Re-elected to the Board were **Chris Sweetwood** (Connecticut), **Red Tatro** (Texas) and **Ann Wallin** (Georgia).

The financial picture

A proposal is in the works which would award points to the second, third and fourth placements in the Groups

scholarships have been awarded to Juniors in three areas of competition: Conformation, Companion and Performance sports.

The AKC Library and Archives has a new Archivist, **Jamie Fritz** as of February. She is eager to reach out to Clubs and assist in the preservation of their historical holdings. An extensive report was provided to us to review and I am happy to forward it to any member wishing to have it.....caution it is very lengthy. It has been forwarded to all of the AHCA Board. I am a member of the Parent Club Breeders Development

An award will now be offered yearly at the Orlando AKC show to three Parent Clubs having outstanding breeder education programs. Interviews are to be conducted with iconic breeders in order to capture their knowledge. Guidelines have been developed regarding mentoring for use by Parent Clubs.

The Preservation Bank (AKA Semen Bank) program continues at full speed. FAQs ~~have been developed~~, **Gerald Bell** is working on a White Paper addressing the need for this entity, Lawyers are working on establishing the

from year ending in 2021 remains positive with registrations continuing to grow. Litter registrations are up 12.7% and dogs registrations are increased by 13.7%. Eighty percent of registrations are now completed on line. Events are increased by 80% from last year which of course reflects the COVID effect. Registrations and Events Service Fees represent 80% of operating revenue we were informed. Total assets were reported to be \$198M. There was a 13% return on investments.

AKC Broadcasting and the PR areas gave presentations regarding their accomplishments this past year. All areas of media coverage and programming were addressed and the promotion of the AKC brand via events and print were cited.

The ESPN/Disney link with AKC TV has yielded increased presentations of AKC events.

Both the President, **Dennis Sprung** and the BOD Chair, **Tom Davies**, gave heartfelt and outstanding tributes to the late AKC Board Chair, **Ron Menaker** who we lost in February. He was one of a kind and was held in the highest regard by the Delegates. We will not see his kind again. RIP dear friend.

AKC GAZETTE COLUMN REPORT

By: Harry Bennett
No report

ASFA DELEGATE REPORT

By Bob Jordan
No report

AWARDS REPORT

By James Donahue

As the 2022 specialty season progresses, I am processing applications for the silver-plated BOW medallions as they are received. Specialty Chairs are kindly reminded that for medallions to be sent out, I must receive the application (**Amy Mero** sends these at the time your specialties are approved) AND a copy of the premium list, showing the proper verbiage for the AHCA award. Premium lists may be sent via hard copy, pdf/word document, or a link to an online document.

Due to low stock, I will need to be reordering the following items in the near future: silver-plated medallions, bronze medallions (for the annual awards banquet, and BOB award at limited breed hound shows), white enamel medallions (for Parades of Rescue) and gift boxes for the medallions.

BREED & PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

By Anna Stromberg
No report

BREEDERS' CUP 2022

By Christine O'Connor
Chair

Chair's responsibilities: I want to remind you all that AHCA policy and procedures separate the Chair and Secretary's responsibilities.



The Chair, in effect, provides the setting and logistics for the event which is run by the Secretary who reports directly to the AHCA board. With Lila's move to assisted living, Christine will be listed as chair.

Trophies: Mimi Baker is creating the major trophies – best and best opposite. Pam Patterson will be doing first place painted glasses. We are working on a gift for all entries rather than 2nd, 3rd, and 4th who will still get ribbons. Trophy expenses at this point – approximately \$600 with possible additional charges for shipping. Charlotte and Dallas exploring item for each individual entry.

Trophy Donations: At the end of January, only two donations totally \$150 had been received. Christine put a request for donations on the AHCA BC Facebook group.

On February 25, she contacted the AHCA treasurer, and he ran a report on donations. The total amount was \$912. Christine has received several more checks which when deposited will bring the amount to over \$1200.

Event Promotion: The Arizona Breeder's Cup weekend including the Breeder's Cup premium list is now up on the AHCA Breeder's Cup Group. If you are not a group member (do not need to be a AHCA member), please join. Search **AHCA Breeder's Cup 2022**. **Logo & Swag:** The design is up on the Facebook page. Sue Busby did black t shirts with the wanted poster logo. Christine has received them. Christine has posted the children's contest to color in the wanted poster. Charlotte has received the

bandanas and the caps are on order.

Facebook page: As mentioned, Christine has posted a number of times on the Facebook page. She has requested donations, posted the coloring contest and thanked donors. She visited Steam Pump Ranch this weekend and will be posting more photos. She will work with Erica Jantos, AHCA media person and National event coordinator.

Finance & Reporting: Christine and Helen had a conversation about using this report for the monthly report (a new AHCA requirement since 2019) and discussed the need for journal entries and monthly budget reconciliation.

Board Meeting: The AHCA board has decided to continue with Zoom meetings so the conference room will be cancelled.

Show Secretary: Sue Busby: provides the premium list, catalogue, and program; takes entries; supplies ribbons; oversees judge selection; and reports results. She also supplies a special memorial trophy for best in breeder's cup. She notified all that the judge (based on the votes of breeders who nominated litters) is Israel Garcia. She will be making reservations for the two nights he has decided to stay. He is renting a car so he will not need an airport pick-up or a shuttle. Christine picked up the special memorial trophy and the winner's take home memorial trophy at the National.

SAAHA Specialties

Chris Leighton is the chair. SAAHA have a specialty on Friday after the Breeder's Cup and one on Sunday (that will be our two days of independents for 2022). Russ

Hastings will judge Friday and Marla Capozzi will judge Sunday with sweeps JoAnn Jones.

Trophies: Christine submitted the trophy list for the premium list. Christine has documented by placement all trophies and there was a sign up for donations and dedications. Michael will be finalizing the trophies with dedications list – still time to donate and some spots still open.

Premium List & Catalog: Just a reminder even if you are just watching and not entering be sure to fill out a lunch order form which is in the premium list. Christine will be sending out just the order form to SAAHA members as a reminder. For the catalog, we will need the finalized the trophy list with donations Michael is working on. Charlotte is obtaining the judges bios and photos for the catalog. Deanne will be talking to people in Phoenix about the dedication to Jeannette in the catalog. We should try and have those materials to the show secretary by the first week in March. We have agreed to a late entry close of March 15th so it will be important to have the rest of the catalog ready.

Judges: Charlotte is working with the judges on their hotel reservations, photos and bios.

Phoenix Specialties

Sue Busby has been offered a per specialty stipend to be the onsite secretary for the specialties. She has agreed to be on site secretary for all four shows. SAAHA is working to make all site logistics and hospitality as easy as possible for the two visiting clubs. Christine and Marilyn discussed keeping options on site and outside to stay Covid safe. At the Heart of the Classic shows, the two clubs

decided to work together on raffles/auctions. Dallas from SAAHA and Terri from AHCGP are doing the planning. The tables for both clubs will be set up Friday afternoon through after show on Saturday when all will end together. In addition, Christine asked that others plan for after show Saturday night – both for honoring Jeannette and hospitality. Last time she was taking photos at the same time so she asked for it to be a black box to her but she has heard rumors of a pinata and Mexican food. Christine phoned in to the Phoenix club meeting last Sunday to discuss the weekend and answer any questions.

Breeders' Cup Show Secretary Dorma Sue Busby

There were 13 Litters nominated. Seven Litters with 20 entries. Three of the entries had Chic numbers and qualified for the \$500.00 offered by the AHCA if they won Best in Breeders' Cup. We had a wonderful T-Shirt for sale. We have a limited quantity left for sale. Contact me if you interested in ordering one. Cost is \$20.00 + shipping. T-Shirt is Black w/logo. A few Catalogs are also left. \$15.00.



CANINE HEALTH REPORT

By Anna Tyler

I would like to make a motion to the Board to send \$1,000. from the AHCA CHF (OAF) Donor Advised Fund to support research in Oncology-Hemangiosarcoma Grant 02946 - "Towards Curative Outcomes in Canine Hemangiosarcoma" - a description of the study is attached.

1) The balance in the AHCA Canine Health Foundation's (OAF) Donor Advised Fund -as of 12/31/21 is: \$7,841.61.

2) The AHCA Canine Health 501(3)c checking account is - \$6,556.41.

3) The research that the AHCA supported "Chylothorax in Afghan Hounds" is concluded and the reports from Dr. Johnson are attached.

The OFA Health Testing 4th Quarter 2021:

- ADVANCED CARDIAC Normal - #1
- BASIC CARDIAC Normal - #1
- THYROID Normal - # 13
- Equivocal - #1
- Compromised - #0
- HIP Excellent- #4
- Good - #11
- Mild - #0
- Fair- #0
- Moderate- #0
- EYE Normal - #8
- W/Breeder Option - #3
- ELBOWS Normal - #7
- Degenerative - #0
- DENTITION: Full - #1
- BLOOD KITS DNA: #0
- DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY- #0
- PATELLA Normal: #0

PURINA PARENT CLUB PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (PPCPP)

By Helen Stein
PPCPP Liaison

The Afghan Hound Club of America has received a check in the amount of \$198.10 from Purina for our Club's participation in the PPCPP during 2021.

Under Purina's guidelines, this money is to be used in funding education, health research and/or rescue efforts. In addition, a matching amount will be sent by Purina to the Canine Health Foundation to be used in our Donor Advised Fund (the health-research savings account in the name of the AHCA).

Members of Purina Pro Club earn points for themselves by submitting receipts/weight circles for their purchases of Purina products. Purina tracks these weight circle submissions, and for every \$100 of qualifying weight circle points earned by Pro Club members, Purina donates \$10 to the participating national parent breed club.

As always, thanks very much to all who have participated in this program!

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. Donor Advised Fund
4th Quarter 2021 Statement

1/1/21 Balance: \$4,127.04
Contributions: \$2,723.00
PPCPP Contribution: \$220.01
Investment Earnings/(Losses): \$771.56
Research Support: \$0.00
12/31/21 Balance: \$7,841.61

INVENTORY /WAYS AND MEANS REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby

Parent Club Logo items on sale!
(Prices do not include postage)

- Dark Blue Dress Shirts in M, L, XL and 2X \$40.00 \$40.00
- Baseball Hats Pink, Black, Beige, and Khaki \$20.00
- PC Lapel Pins -14K gold plated - with tie tac or Safety Pin catch \$15.00
- Mouse Pad black w/white logo \$5.00
- Purple Towels \$20.00
- Computer Travel bags black \$50.00
- Logo merchandise from Breeders' Cup. Many more items! Click over to the AHCA web store and take a look!

JUDGES EDUCATION REPORT

By James Donohue

First, I would like to say what an honor it is to be asked to sever the Afghan Hound Club of America as Judges' Education Chair. My predecessor, Harry Bennett has done a wonderful job in this post for many years, and we should all be grateful for his service! Educating prospective judges is one of the most important roles of any parent club. As we look to the future, there are a couple of projects that I would like to move forward.

The first is the AKC Canine College Breed Course. Canine College is an online resource for judges, and the current breed course offerings are increasing daily. To keep up with education opportunities offered by other breeds it is important that the AHCA finalize approval of the Afghan hound course. These courses are multi-installment online courses which feature interviews with judges and breed authorities, illustrate the breed standard with pictorial and video examples, and provide an important overview of the history and function of the breed. Each section concludes with a quiz and judges are given a passing or failing score. Once the course is completed, judges may review the material at any time in their Canine College account. Successfully passing the course will give the prospective to CEUs toward their application to judge the breed. Judges who are applying for Afghans as an additional breed are currently required to earn a total of 10 CEUs if they are approved for less than one full group, and 8 CEUs if they are approved for a group or more. I know that **Helen Stein** and **Harry Bennett** worked with Judging operations back in 2019, and several interviews were filmed as well as footage of a selection of dogs. This project was then tabled, but I would like the Board to give the green light in seeing the course through, as it will provide a valuable, AHCA approved component of education for our judges.

Additionally, I think we should consider offering a webinar on the AKC's webinar series. This is a 1.5-hour online presentation of our AHCA approved breed

seminar, with opportunities for questions and answers. Webinars are worth one CEU for prospective judges.

Finally, I will be presenting our seminar and workshop on April 1 in Lawrenceville, Georgia. The North Georgia Hound Association is sponsoring a series of hound workshops, organized by **Celeste Gonzalez**. This program will be held following Best in Show judging at the all-breed show that day. I will be making a call for volunteers to bring dogs for the hands-on workshop. The North Georgia Hound Association is charging a registration fee of \$30, and 50% of the fees collected will be donated back to the AHCA.

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP REPORT

By Darla Miller
No report

LIBRARY/ARCHIVES REPORT

By Helen Stein

Among the documents in the AHCA Library, there is a small group of files titled "Kennel Histories". We invite all breeders and fanciers of Afghan Hounds to submit a short but thorough biography of your involvement with the breed – what kennel(s) your original dogs came from, what pedigrees influenced your breeding and so forth. While this is not intended to be a "brag box" we would like to have a history of how bloodlines and kennels have come to be. Pho-

tos – clearly identified and with as much information you can include – will be most welcome! Photos will be grouped by owner, not by breeder, so please label clearly.

Secondly, all fanciers are invited to send *any* photos of Afghan Hounds for inclusion in the Library’s scrapbook collection. Please include as much information as you can – such as dog’s registered name and call name, sire and dam, breeders and owners, and approximate date of photo. If there are people in the photos, it would be helpful if they too are identified.

Please send material (photos will be returned) to AHCA Librarian: Helen Stein 13360 Campanile Court., Venice FL 34293 or email jpg and Word files to AHCALibrary@aol.com. *Note that any typos will remain as typos – so be sure your spelling is accurate!*

This is an ongoing project — if you have previously submitted photos or bios this is a reminder to send updates! Thank you!

LURE COURSING REPORT

By Eddie Kominek
No Report

MAILING LIST REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
No Report

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jennifer Taylor

The Board congratulates and welcomes four new members:

- Bodil Arlander
- Linda Christie
- Lauryn Conway, and
- Barb Plum

MENTOR PROGRAM REPORT

By Christine Pinkston

The good news is that many of us have and have always stepped up to offer our counsel as Mentors for those new to the breed. In that we are not lacking. The majority of contact I receive is on inquiry for purchase of an Afghan Hound. I believe that much of the ‘advice’ new people are getting, for better or worse, is obtained off social media. I am hoping that those who place a dog continue with regular contact with the new owner. They appreciate the follow up and you are more likely to know, sooner than later, if there is a problem. Most Afghan Hounds are sold with some sort of a contract, but that doesn’t always mean that the ‘owner’ abides by the conditions outlined.

And, it’s interesting to note, I guess as in all things....that some of us do better follow up than others. If you are informed that a dog you’ve placed is being relinquished, how about act on it right away? Be prompt on your follow up with the ‘intermediary’, if there is one....and, take a prompt interest in the condition of the dog.

Mentor the new when you can. Follow up when you can. And, check in on old friends - they might need help too.

NATIONAL EVENTS SITE RESEARCH REPORT

By Erica Jantos
No report

NATIONAL SPECIALITY REPORT 2022

By Jason Taylor
No report

PERFORMANCE EVENTS / POLICIES & PROCEDURES REPORT

By Lynda Hicks

My suggested changes to rules, entry form and scoresheet for Triathlon (rally and obedience) indicated in **RED** below:
OBEDIENCE: The obedience score will be ½ of the total points earned in a regular, preferred, or optional obedience class, or 100 points maximum. **Beginner Novice Class scores will not count towards Triathlon.** The following point deductions shall be applied in calculating the total score: Preferred Novice, deduct 10 points. If the dog enters more than one class the higher score will be used in scoring this dog for the Triathlon.

RALLY: The rally score will be 100% of the total points earned in Rally Advanced, Excellent or **Master Class.**

On the entry form/scoresheet, the following changes:

OBEDIENCE TRIAL - MAXIMUM 100 POINTS
1/2 of the total points earned in a regular, preferred, or optional class - Preferred Novice, deduct 10 points.

Beginner Novice scores do not quality.

RALLY TRIAL- MAXIMUM 100 POINTS
100% of the total points earned in RALLY ADVANCED, EXCELLENT OR **MASTER CLASS**

Proposed wording for modification of (315.1.e,) and proposed form CA7 for use in claiming award.

These items are *approved* by Performance Events Chair: (315.1.e)

e. Each year a 2" Bronze Plated Medallion suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon will be offered to the Afghan Hound Breed Finalist at the AKC National Lure Coursing Championship. They must be at least two Afghan Hounds in competition at the event. The AHCA Performance Events Chair is responsible to provide Form CA7 (AKC NLCC Afghan Hound Breed Finalist Trophy Notification Application) to the AHCA Awards Chair, who will mail the award to the recipient.

CA7 AKC NLCC Afghan Hound Breed Finalist Trophy Application

Date: Club: Trial Date(s): The AHCA offers a trophy for Afghan Hound Breed Finalist at the AKC National Lure Coursing Championship. There must be at least two

Afghan Hounds competing at the event in order for the trophy to be awarded.

Application for this trophy must be received after entries close for the event, but no later than 2 weeks prior to the event, and must be accompanied by your Premium List which contains a description as follows:

Afghan Hound Breed Finalist – The Afghan Hound Club of America offers a 2" Bronze Plated Medallion depicting the club emblem, suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon.

If the Premium List refers to a separate trophy list available upon request, a copy of the trophy list containing the above description must be included in your Premium List and this Trophy application.

Please send the Premium List (and trophy listing, if necessary) along with this trophy applications to: AHCA Awards Chairperson: *Name, Address & Email of AHCA Awards Chair Name & Address where your club wishes trophy mailed:*

Sincerely,
[Name] Chair
The AHCA Performance Events Chairperson

REGIONAL CLUBS REPORT

By Amy Mero

I have received packets from approved shows for three clubs since the last report: Listed in show date order:

Afghan Hound Club of Dallas

April 29,30, May 1
Judges:
Robert Godfrey

Chuck Milne
William Flynn

Afghan Hound Club of Northern New Jersey

May 6
Judge: Lisa Hoffman

Afghan Hound Club of St Louis

June 4-5
Judge: TBA

Nutmeg Afghan Hound Club

June 17 - 18
Judges:
Claire Millward (UK)
Terry Chacon

Colonial Afghan Hound Club

June 18-19
Judges:
Shalisa Neely
Meghen Riese-Bassel

Afghan Hound Club of Greater Portland

June 17-18
Judges:
Age Gjetnes
Espen Engh

Richmond Afghan Hound Club

June 24
Judge: Nancy Self

Potomac Afghan Hound Club

June 25
Judge: Nancy Edgington

Tidewater Afghan Hound Club

June 26
Judge: D. Scott Pfeil

Evergreen Afghan Hound Club

July 8
Judge: Allan Reznik

Midwest Afghan Hound Club

August 12
Judge: Tom Kirstein

Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club

August 12 PM
Judge: James Dalton

Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio

August 13
Judge: Lex Robertson

Afghan Hound Club of Columbus

August 14
Judge: JoAnne Buehler

RESCUE REPORT

By Martha Powell
No Report

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

By Erica Jantos
No Report

STATISTICS REPORT

By Carol Rivette
No Report

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
See page 6

TOPKNOT NEWS REPORT

By Virginia Katilus

Hope you had a wonderful holiday season! Looking forward to Spring and our first issue of 2022.

Deadline is March 24, 2022 - rally those articles and advertisers!

Right now PAHC has submitted their "humble beginnings" so it's a start.

Scott or Dorma Sue, if you have the dates for Board and Regular Meetings scheduled for the year it would be a great help if you could share.

Thanks to ALL of you for volunteering! YOU ROCK! Looking forward to a great 2022!

WAYS & MEANS REPORT

By Dorma Sue Busby
See page

WEBSITE ADMIN REPORT

By Eddie Kominek
No Report

DESIGNATED FOR SPECIAL REPORTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Monthly Board of Directors meeting. Submitted by Scott Pfeil

B. Ordering of Medallions

C. Breeders' Cup Proposals

D. Solidify our vote for holding the National at the Roberts Centre through 2025.

E. Zoom topic schedule

BACK IN TIME

(April 1967 PAHC publication of *Ring Tales*, editor Beverly McCollom)

The Potomac Afghan Hound Club's past is rich in history. As one of the oldest regional clubs in the country, PAHC continues to thrive with membership and commitment to the breed.

In the 1950s, PAHC specialties included winners like: Ch. Asri-Havid of Five Mile (Gudgeon); Ch Majara Mirza & Majara Menelel (Jagger); Ch Karli Ben Ghazi (Tongren & Baird); Djinn of Grandeur (Howland); Sormhill Silver Dream (Withington).

And in the 1960s PAHC specialty winners included: Ch Shirkhan of Grandeur (Shay & Chenade); Cammar's Pa Yunga of Grandeur (Shay & Marcus); Ch Holly Hill Desert Wind (Porter); Holly Hill Midnight (Long); Ch Pandora of Stormhill (Withington); Ch Rujha's Windman of Grandeur (Shay & Orr); Ch Mar-T's Yusef of Scheherezade (Guedel) and Ch Shangrila Pharahna Phaedra (Kennedy).

The list goes on. In total the Potomac Afghan Club has hosted 75 Specialty shows with 64 different winners.



Photo by] [Commercial Engravers Ltd.
Int. Ch. ASRI-HAVID OF FIVE MILE

Who remembers the Oktoberfest specialties in the 1970s/1980s with the Gala that followed? These were indeed unique and memorable times.

Traditions are hard to maintain. We applaud the PAHC for its continued commitment to its' members and the breed.

- contributed by PAHC member David Hall

“We would not be members of the Potomac Afghan Hound Club unless we were seriously interested in the progress of the club and the betterment of the breed”.

HASSAN AFGHANS

520 744 2668 BOBHASSAN@Q.COM

HOME OF "MINGUS"- GCH
SBIS SANRE' MYSTIC FLYER
OF HASSAN *

(NEO - CH ELAN SEBRING THE MATRIX

X

YASMINE - CH SANRE'S MIDNIGHT MYSTIQUE)

AND HIS SONS:

"ELVIS" - GCH HASSAN'S HUNKA BURNIN' LOVE

"MICKEY"- GCH HASSAN'S GOT THE MOVES LIKE JAGGER

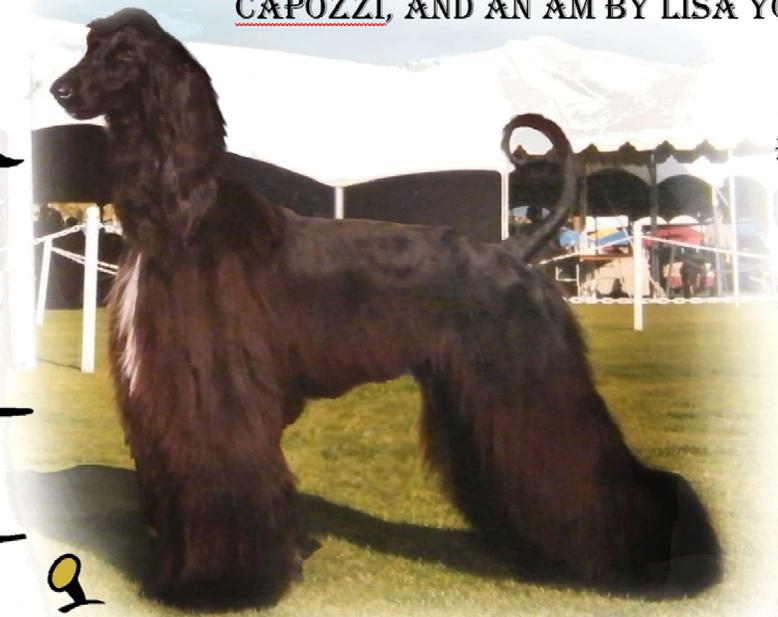
HOME OF "GRACIE" - CH. SOVEREIGN LEATHER 'N LACE SHANTE
BIG THANKS TO JUDGE ISRAEL GARCIA FOR HONORING
OUR GRACIE" AS BEST IN THE BREEDERS' CUP.

SHE IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL, AS ARE HER BREEDERS SAM
MCGEACHY AND MARILYN DOMHOFF.

SHE WAS ADDITIONALLY GRACED WITH SELECT BITCH BY 3
JUDGES: RUSS HASTINGS, MARILYN THOMPSON & MARLA
CAPOZZI, AND AN AM BY LISA YOUNG.

SHE HAS 4
MAJORS AND 20
PTS FOR HER GR.

"GRACIE" HAD
A GREAT
WEEKEND AND
SAYS "THANK
YOU" FOR THE
GREAT
COMPLIMENTS
DIRECTED HER
WAY.



*FROZEN AVAILABLE.



Thirty-Third Annual Breeders' Cup

Friday, March 25, 2022

By Christine O'Connor
Show Chair

The sun has set on another successful Breeders' Cup Weekend. I am still wrapping up all the event details, but finally have a few minutes to reflect on the event.

I am grateful for so very much. The cooperative staff of Historic Steam Pump Ranch who went beyond their usual operations and expectations to make their first dog show event a success. The committed, dedicated, and discipline preservation breeders who make any gathering of Afghan Hounds possible. Our exhibitors who traveled to Arizona and faced the heat (it was cool both before and after our three days) and created a very collegial, supportive, and fun environment for all three days. Everywhere I looked people were enjoying the event, the Afghan Hounds and each other.

A panel of judges, starting with Breeders' Cup judge, **Israel Garcia**, whose kindness, easy hand with the dogs, and obvious emersion in the finer points of each class added to the event. All of the incredibly hardworking members of the three clubs, the

Afghan Hound Club of America, the **Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix** and the **Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Association**, who joined together to do whatever needed to be done – before, after, and during the event. Some of the hardest workers do not currently show in conformation but have such a passion for the breed. This is the recipe for a bright future for the Afghan Hound.

The premier event the AHCA Breeders' Cup is a chance to honor those who diligently preserve our breed and to greet a whole new

generation of Afghan Hounds.

The mountains and desert of Arizona are both a wonderful backdrop for their beauty and a reminder of why our hounds evolved as such tenacious, hardy athletes.

Our site, Historic Steam Pump Ranch, recalls the hard work and sacrifice that drove pioneers across the continent to create great things. Our breeders work hard and sacrifice, and, yes, often go many miles (literally and figuratively), to see and share their Afghan Hounds.

This is the fourth time since 2012 that Arizona has hosted the Afghan Hound Club of America's Breeders' Cup. We are grateful to the two hard working regional clubs for all their support. The Afghan Hound Club of Greater Phoenix and the Southern Arizona Afghan Hound Association have a history of working together to create a sustainable Afghan Hound community that helps and supports both novice and seasoned Afghan Hound exhibitors and owners.

The Breeder's Cup judge, **Israel Garcia** of Casa Real fame, had an entry of 20 from 7 of the 13 litters nominated to adjudicate.

In the end he pointed to the bitch CH Sovereign Laced in Leather Shante bred by **Marilyn Domhoff** and **Samuel McGeachy** and owned by **Charlotte Bender**, **Samuel McGeachy** and **Marilyn Domhoff**.

His Best of Opposite in Breeder's Cup was Jorogz N Zia



The Purple Reign bred by **Billie Wilson** and **John Roger Morton**. Owned by **Billie Wilson, Juli Szymanski** and **John Roger Morton**. Attendees applauded all dogs, helped each other, mentored the next generation, and savored being together again. 🐾

Dog Classes

6-9 Months Puppy Dogs

2 KAMY THUNDERBIRD.
7/27/21 Breeder: Kazuyo Miura & Takayochi Miura By: GRCH Genesis Silverado Maestos Marie of Fancy Floral. Owner: Karuyo & Takayoshi Miura.

1 EMPIRE PIRATES LIFE IN THE FAST LANE
9/15/21 Breeder: Jennifer Flynn & Catherine Harker. By: CH Pahlavi California Chrome x GRCH Countrywinds Black Pearl. Owner: Lynda Hartman & Jennifer Flynn.

9-12 Months Puppy Dogs

1 CH JOROGZ N ZIA THE PURPLE REIGN
4/07/21 Breeder: Billie Wilson & John Roger Morton. By: Ch Jorogz Party Boy x GCHB Jorogz N Zia Waiting To Exhale Owner: Billie Wilson & Julie Szymanski & John Roger Morton.

12-15 Months Dogs

AB CH SHYLO ABSOLUT THE WEATHER MAN
3/06/21. Breeder: Dallas Nunnery, Bruce Clark, Stephen Fisher & Kelly Ray. By: Ch Pahlavi California Chrome x Ch Shylo Abaca Stormy Weather.

Owner: Bruce Clark & Stephen Fisher.

15-18 Months Dogs

2 SHANTE SOVEREIGN BUCKSKIN BRITCHES
12/13/20 Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff and Samuel McGeachy. By: GRCH Thera's The Quite Man at Kattana x GRCH Enarki Fairest of Them All Owner: Ellen Tanner.

1 WHO WEARS THE PANTS AT SOVEREIGN
12/13/20 Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff and Samuel McGeachy. By: GRCH Thera's The Quite Man at Kattana x GRCH Enarki Fairest of Them All Owner: Marilyn Domhoff & Samuel McGeachy.

AB SOVEREIGNS SHANTE DOG OF THUNDER
11/23/20 Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff and Samuel McGeachy. By: GCHS Shante Chandon x Kzar Shante Hoodwinked. Owner: Raul Boulivar & Samuel McGeachy.

Bitch Classes

6-9 Months Puppy Bitches

1 EMPIRE SHIVER ME TIMBERS OF COUNTRYWIND
9/15/21. Breeder: Jennifer Flynn & Catherine Harker. By: CH Pahlavi California Chrome x GRCH Countrywinds Black Pearl. Owner: Catherine Harker & Jennifer Flynn.

2 COUNTRYWINDS CALYPSO
9/15/21. Breeder: Jennifer Flynn & Catherine Harker. By: CH Pahlavi California Chrome x GRCH Countrywinds Black Pearl. Owner: Catherine Harker.

4 EMPIRE BOTTLE O'RUM
9/15/21. Breeder: Jennifer Flynn & Catherine Harker. By: CH Pahlavi California Chrome x GRCH Countrywinds Black Pearl. Owner: Jennifer Flynn & Catherine Harker.

3 EMPIRE TAHITIAN PEARL BY COUNTRYWINDS.
9/15/21. Breeder: Jennifer Flynn & Catherine Harker. By: CH Pahlavi California Chrome x GRCH Countrywinds Black Pearl. Owner: Jennifer Flynn.

AB JAADA'S ONE MADD MOMENT AT KAMY
7/27/21. Breeder: Kazuyo Miura & Takayochi Miura. By: GRCH Genesis Silverado x Maestos Marie of Fancy Floral. Owner: Denise Kelly & Braxton Hernandez.

9-12 Months Puppy Bitches

1 CH JOROGZ' N ZIA DIRTY DANCING.
4/07/21. Breeder: Billie Wilson & John Roger Morton. By: Ch Jorogz' Party Boy x GCHB Jorogz' N Zia Waiting To Exhale Owner: Lyndell Ackerman & Billie Wilson & Julie Szymanski.

2 JOROGZ' N ZIA ONLY GAME IN TOWN.
4/07/21. Breeder: Billie Wilson & John Roger Morton. By: Ch Jorogz' Party Boy x GCHB Jorogz' N Zia Waiting To Exhale Owner: Billie Wilson & Guy Byfield.

3 JOROGZ' N ZIA DOMINO BOMBSHELL.
4/07/21. Breeder: Billie Wilson & John Roger Morton. By: Ch Jorogz' Party Boy x GCHB Jorogz' N Zia Waiting To Exhale Owner: Karen Marshall & John Roger Morton.

15-18 Months Bitches

1 SOVEREIGN LACED IN LEATHER SHANTE.
12/13/20. Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff & Samuel McGeachy. By: GRCH Thera's The Quite Man at Kattana x GRCH Enarki Fairest of Them All Owner: Charlotte Bender & Samuel McGeachy & Marilyn Domhoff.

3 SOVEREIGN SHANTE PAISLEY FACE.
12/13/20. Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff & Samuel McGeachy. By: GRCH Thera's The Quite Man at Kattana x GRCH Enarki Fairest of Them All Owner: Marilyn Domhoff & Samuel McGeachy.

2 SHANTE N SOVEREIGN SUEDE.
12/13/20. Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff & Samuel McGeachy. By: GRCH Thera's The Quite Man at Kattana x GRCH Enarki Fairest of Them All Owner: Marilyn Domhoff & Samuel McGeachy.

CH SOVEREIGN'S GODDESS OF SHANTE.
11/23/2020. Breeder: Marilyn Domhoff & Samuel McGeachy. By: GRCHS Shante Chaudon x Kzar Shante Hoodwinked Owner: Gail Wright.

4 WYNSYR CHICAGO WIND OF PAMELONS.
10/23/20. Breeder: James Donahue, D. Scott Pfeil & Fran Donahue By: GRCHP Elmo's Martin Chronicles x CH Wynsyr Summerwind's Vanity Fair. Owner: Lonnie & Pamela Patterson.

Best in Breeders' Cup

SOVEREIGN LACED IN
LEATHER SHANTE

Breeder:s Marilyn Domhoff and
Samuel McGeachy
Owners: Charlotte Bender, Samuel
McGeachy and Marilyn Domhoff



Best of Opposite Sex in Breeders' Cup

CH JOROGZ N ZIA
THE PURPLE REIGN

Breeders: Billie Wilson and
John Roger Morton
Owners: Billie Wilson, Julie Szymanski
and John Roger Morton

*Thanks to Show Secretary Dorma Sue Busy for the results.
Photos by Show Chair Christine O'Connor*

Junior Spotlight

- Number 1 Afghan Hound Jr. Handler 2021*
- Number 2 Afghan Hound Owner Handler -2021*
- Number 32 Afghan Hound Breed- 2021*



*Canine Chronical end of year stats 2021

By Darla Miller
AHCA Jr. Handler Chair

Wow! Let me introduce **Teah Menough**, another one of our shining youths who has made a mark for herself in a short period of time. In May she will be turning 18, graduating and pledges to continue in the dog show world so watch for her!

Thank you to AHCA members **Chad Alexander**, **Chris Belt** and **PJ DerringerMatteo** for entrusting Teah with their SBIS GCH Belexander's Shot of Tequilla, "Jose" to be shown as a junior handler showmanship dog. We need more members like them to step up and help young people. Thank you **Bobbi Kinley-Blewett** for taking Teah under your wing and mentoring her. What a fantastic teacher! Hats off to Mr. and Mrs. Menough for providing the support for their talented daughter.

With that being said, Teah Menough shares her story and delights us with a few of her pictures. Enjoy the narrative of this humble young lady.

I did not get my first Afghan Hound until I had been showing dogs for 7 years. I was lucky enough to meet Bobbi Kinley Blewett. Bobbi helped me get my first Afghan Hound and taught me how to train and handle. I am the first generation to show dogs in my family. My first Afghan Hound was SBIS GCH Belexander's Shot of Tequilla also known as Jose. Jose is owned by Chris and Chad Alexander and bred by PJ Derringer Matteo.

I had always admired the breed from watching Bobbi handle them in the ring. I loved the elegance, goofy personality, and true love you get from the breed! I started travelling with Bobbi, Chris, Chad and PJ. They allowed Jose to travel with me and go on wonderful adventures where I accomplished so many things. To name a few - I won Best Junior at the



Teah sharing a win with her mentor
Bobbi Kinley-Blewett



84th AHCA National specialty and received a beautiful ribbon. I was also awarded a Best in Specialty and an Owner Handler Best in Show. We ended 2021 as Number 1 Afghan Hound Junior Handler, Number 2 in Afghan Hound Owner-Handler, and ranked number 32 in Breed!

The amount of support I have received has been wonderful. I would like to thank Bobbi, Chris, Chad, PJ, my parents, and all my wonderful friends I have met along the way. I wouldn't be where I am today without the love and support of everyone I have met at the dog shows. I am looking forward to showing and loving Afghan Hounds for the rest of my life! 🐾

What The Standard Doesn't Tell You

Richard Souza ponders what goes unsaid in that essential document

Semi-confined during our Covid-19 pandemic, I spent some time surfing the web for interesting doggy stuff. I happened to stumble onto a tribute to a Dan Belkin, Ph.D., a name unfamiliar to me, but whose fascinating background caught my eye.

Dr. Belkin's story revolved around a serious dedication to coursing animals, primarily Salukis, and interested me on several levels, not the least of which was my own involvement with a coursing breed — Afghans. He'd had a long-running interest in falconry before he transitioned to coursing dogs. As people familiar with the breed know, Afghans were routinely partnered with falcons in their native lands, and

since Salukis and Afghans are of similar, if not the same, origins way back when, for this article I submit that what applies to one could reasonably apply to the other. Both breeds were used to hunt small, and not so small, prey in Middle Eastern terrain.

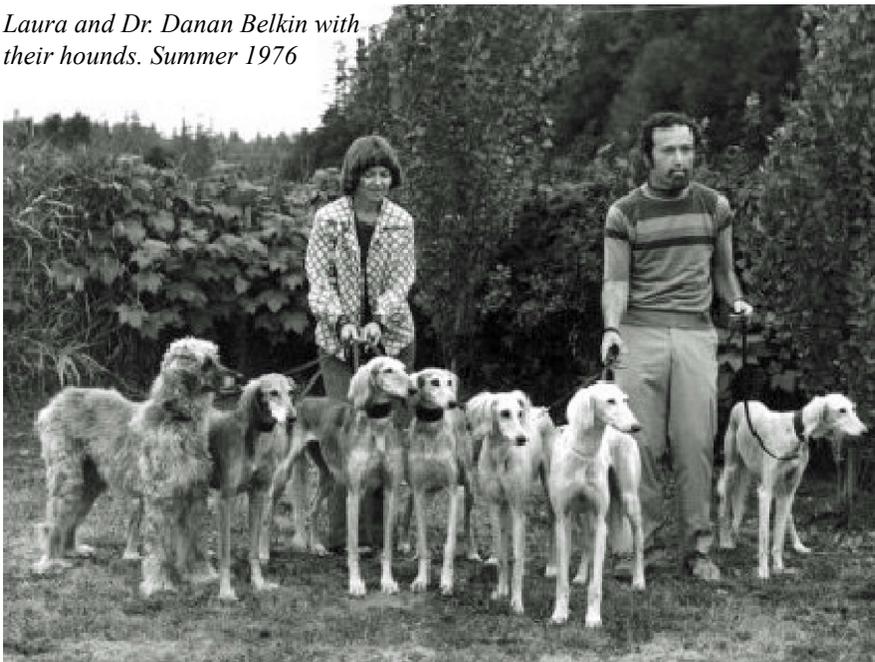
I won't reprint the complete article. It was in the form of a lengthy tribute. Instead, I've taken a few of Dr. Belkin's findings to create the spine of "What the Standard Doesn't Tell You." But I highly recommend you pull up and read the whole thing. For any exhibitor, breeder, judge and/or Sighthound person, it's a really informative look into coursing hounds and their mental, as well as their physical, makeup. Well worth the time. You can find it at

www.lenstreephotography.com/belkin

Dr. Belkin compared the Saluki standard, point by point, against how function can be a far cry from appearance as it is officially described. Basically, he offers evidence that what a coursing dog looked like often had nothing to do with how all the parts work together in the field. So, I pose a question: Can the "form" we see in the show ring actually function as it is supposed to? And can we tell? Or do we, of necessity and for reasons of expediency, merely give in to what we have formulated in our heads based solely on the written word, accepting the standard as complete and total gospel? It makes for a conundrum. The truth is, given the limitations of time and show-ring procedure, there is little other choice. Another truth is: What works in the ring doesn't necessarily work in the field.

Dr. Belkin was an evolutionary biologist specializing in physiological and ethological ecology whose interest in the Saluki, as I said, shifted from his experience in falconry. He began flying hawks in 1947 and flew passage peregrines from 1956 to 1970. He had a lifelong interest in predator/prey ethology and in 1971 abandoned his scientific career in order to course Salukis under the Bayt Shahin prefix, which he and his wife, Laura, did until 1985. He was active as a judge and

Laura and Dr. Danan Belkin with their hounds. Summer 1976



continued to observe coursing breeds with what could only be characterized as rapt dedication. A seminar he gave at the Saluki Club of America National Specialty in June 1993 was taped, transcribed and edited by Vicky Clarke and posted as a memorial to him on the web page I noted above. The lessons he learned and the conclusions he drew came from a hands-on, in-the-field education. In the seminar he compared what he saw happen (function) to what was written (form). Or, what was not written. There were compelling contradictions. Dr. Belkin died of an inoperable brain tumor in April 1998.

First, Dr. Belkin's idea of "pure bred" is generally different than ours. We think of our AKC breeds as being "pure." To us as breeders, it means we accept that most breeds (actually all – since dogs originated from some form of Pleistocene wolf that lived 20,000 to 40,000 years ago) are combinations of other breeds developed by humans to serve a specific purpose. We have subsequently "purely" bred them. No genes from other breeds muddying the waters. We do our damndest to satisfy, as best we can, what our standards tells us to do. In the case of coursing dogs this, according to Dr. Belkin, can be a problematic fly in the ointment. My two cents: There is also the matter of semantics.

Here's what he says: "To a biologist, the idea of dogs being 'pure bred' is absurd. Most dog breeds are as diverse genetically as are full species of other animals. Genetic diversity is beneficial. It contributes to both species and individual adaptability and vigor. The only mammals that approach a genetic uniformity that might qualify them for being called pure bred are certain strains of laboratory mice and rats, and perhaps cheetahs." (Why cheetahs? Dr. Belkin explains that not too long ago

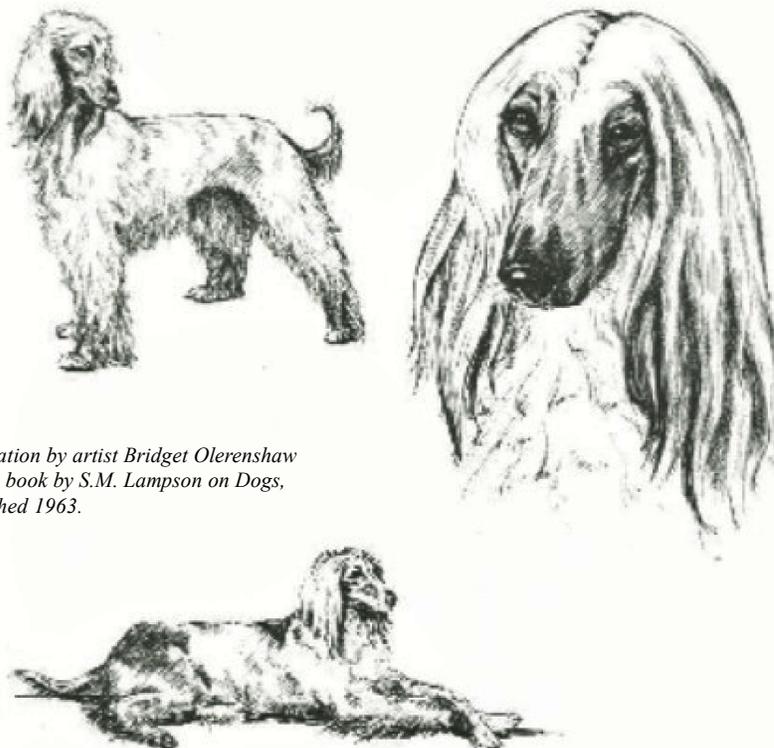


Illustration by artist Bridget Olerenshaw from a book by S.M. Lampson on Dogs, published 1963.

the world population was reduced to a very small number. So, when those numbers interbred, genetically they became close to being clones of one another.)

Here's another quote from the presentation, the notion of which, in and of itself, is intriguing. It makes me think. He says, "I want you to leave here [the seminar] with this idea: things you cannot see are more important than things you can." As this relates to the way our animals are compared, sorted and awarded ribbons, it means that a judge can't see and can't feel — what? The answer: Functionality. Which means, according to Dr. Belkin, "the standard may preserve appearance, but that's all it preserves." He goes on to say, "... Standards (he's referring to Sighthound standards) were written describing the appearance of the breed, implying that its appearance is the cause of the function. Wrong! The function led to the appearance. If we want to try to preserve the abilities for which a breed was originally created, we cannot do it by just looking at the dog, because what

it looks like doesn't tell us what it can do." Again, this pertains to Sighthounds. Exceptions: breeds created as "lap" dogs, for example.

Dr. Belkin continues: "People who have coursed dogs for any length of time learn that all their preconceived correlations between form and function have a lot of exceptions. Additionally," he says, "a mistake has crept into dog standards. The people who originally wrote them were small groups who didn't necessarily [my word added] know any more about dogs than we do." I say "necessarily" because it's possible some of them, in fact, did. "They needed a form to follow so they seem to have looked at horse standards." Note: Dr. Belkin does concede that even after years of documentation some of his conclusions are theory and/or conjecture, even though they are based on what he, himself, has seen over and over again in the field.

As good as the Afghan Hound standard is — and, in my opinion, very good compared to some others



This image is from a series of notecards illustrated by U.K. artist Edwin Megargee

— it is still open to wide and sometimes disparate interpretations. As in all things, the same words mean different things to different people. For instance, the standard calls for the overall appearance to be “exotic,” “eastern in expression.” What is exotic to me may not be exotic to you. “Tail set not too high”: How high is too high? Or “head is of good length”: How good is good? And so on. Semantics. Degrees.

The only characteristic NOT a matter of semantics and not open to interpretation, however, is height: “Dogs, 27 inches, plus or minus one inch; bitches, 25 inches, plus or minus one inch.” It’s something you can physically measure. However, in actual practice, in terms of the show ring, how many Afghan judges do? Or even consider doing, myself included? (Note: It’s not a disqualification.) And yet it is ironic that, more often than not, correct size ends up being low man on the totem

pole to most judges. Even though the standard is unequivocal. The majority of Afghans in the show ring are bigger than the standard allows. Why? Bigger is better. Bigger is easier to win with. How big is big? Sometimes WAY big! Likewise, coat. How much coat? More, not less. Coat and size and a little razzle-dazzle routinely walk away with a lion’s share of ribbons. Don’t take my word for it. Watch Afghan judging. (A digression. Sorry.) Would that we could also compare the same entry of the same dogs at the same show against one another in the field. You and I both know that’s not happening.

As a specific, consider Dr. Belkin’s comments on heads. I site the Afghan headpiece according to the standard. (Because the description is lengthy, I paraphrase it.) It says: Both the length of muzzle and refinement should be good. (Beating that dead horse, how good is good?) It speaks to the balance of the head, noting the

occipital bone, calling for profuse topknot, pointing out nose shape (“slightly Roman” — how slight is slightly?), foreface, jaws, mouth (meaning teeth) level — neither overshot nor undershot. A level bite is preferred, but “this is a difficult mouth to breed.” (Aside: Level bites are practically non-existent. They are typically a tight scissors over.) It speaks of the ears, ear-leather length, eyes — shape and color, all in more detail than here. Also lists faults. All in all, pretty comprehensive.

But according to Dr. Belkin: “The standard says nothing whatsoever about the most important aspect of the head: what’s inside it.” Think about that for a minute and what it means in a coursing breed — an animal whose highly complex brain is made up of many factors, all of which affect its abilities, i.e., its function — desire, logic, a thing called “running cunning,” the ability to think ahead of the prey, ahead of

the curve. Out of the box. None of this we find even hinted at in the standard, but clearly is key to how the dog functions — virtually impossible to evaluate in the dog-show format. To a degree, you can observe a certain amount of “running cunning” in agility and/or obedience. To a degree. Agility and obedience are mostly about training.

There might be flashes here and there in the ring that suggest Afghans’ ability to think for themselves — the operative word being “might.” I can attest to one possible example.

It happened a long time ago at a national specialty where I was showing a young bitch in the Bred-By class. We were in the first leg of the individual “down and back” and were about halfway down when a flock of blackbirds, about 10 or 15 as I remember, landed in the ring obliquely ahead of us about 25 feet. The bitch zeroed in on the birds as if they were her last meal, her main and only purpose in life. She broke the trot that she had been well trained to do, veered toward them, and crouched stealthily with her head down, stalking. At this point I was entirely irrelevant and knew it. I allowed her the full length of a loose lead and ran behind. She charged the birds, and the flock flew off in a flurry. The ringside applauded. She smiled and wagged as if she had done something special. Maybe she had.

Was this a demonstration of her ability to think out of the box? That she was more than what the standard said she was? More than what ring procedure could measure? Maybe. Even so, how can a judge factor functional intelligence into an evaluation that’s supposed to gel in — what? — three minutes? It’s not possible. No allusion to running cunning in the standard. It’s pretty important.

Another element of the standard that raises questions for me after reading Dr. Belkin’s seminar: front assembly. A hot-button topic with many definite opinions. Here’s what the standard says: Shoulders have plenty of angulation so that the legs are set well underneath the dog. Too much straightness of shoulder causes the dog to break down in the pasterns ...

And here are Dr. Belkin’s findings: “Dogs who have shoulders set very far forward seem to turn better than those with shoulder set far back. Dog with upright shoulders can usually run faster than those with sloping shoulders, at a gallop they appear to have more reach than do those with more shoulder angulation. There are no bone-to-bone attachments of the shoulder girdle to the rest of the skeleton. It’s only attached by ligaments and muscles, so it can be set almost anywhere.”

As to Dr. Belkin’s own dogs, he’d had a number who had lived 15 years or so. Some had upright shoulders. Some had highly angulated shoulders. All had been coursed almost daily for years, often on hard ground. Aside from minor arthritis, none had broken down, a fact he attributes to the premise that they were, and should be, bred to gallop, not trot — the only gait we see in the ring. His determination: Upright shoulders cause more stress in trotting, not galloping. Also, that forces imposed by large size were more influential in predisposing dogs to injury than the minor concussion they might receive from trotting on excessively upright forelimbs. Larger, heavier running dogs were more likely to break down than small, light ones. Could this be why there is technically little wiggle room as to size according to the standard? Could be.

The rest of Dr. Belkin’s observations, which examine point by point each

element of the standard, I leave to you as your homework, hoping the few examples here have piqued your interest. And I sign off with a dog-show story from long ago that relates somehow (I’m not entirely sure how) to “What the Standard Doesn’t Tell You.” It was a brief moment in dog-world time that’s been stuck in my craw. I need to unstick it. And, well, it’s my column, so I’m allowed. Make of it what you will.

Years ago, I watched a highly respected all-rounder do the Afghan national — someone whose gynormous reputation preceded her. “She has such great hands on a dog!” (Yes, it was a woman. But, sorry. That’s as much as I’ll say, except that she has long since left us.) To my surprise (and disappointment) in Best of Breed judging she systematically dismissed in a fairly imperious way many, if not most, of the dogs who had, in my opinion, the best type of the lot and gave the breed to a nice, what I considered “middle of the road perfect” dog.

This is not what I need to unstick. I later overheard her respond to a question asked in a very pleasant and non-confrontive, non-critical way by a casual spectator. Quizzically he said, “Just curious. Why him for the breed?” The answer — terse, brief and, I might add, knowing this particular judge’s high opinion of her omniscience on all things dog world related, a touch condescending: With her head tilted pontificatingly back, she looked down her nose (she was very tall) through her half-lens glasses and gruffed, “He had the best shoulders.” Period. End of story.

Unfortunate that the question hadn’t come from Dr. Belkin. I would have loved to have heard his response. 🐾

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The following articles are part of Anna Tyler's AHCA Health Chair Committee Report.

ONCOLOGY - HEMANGIOSARCOMA

02946: TOWARDS CURATIVE OUTCOMES IN CANINE HEMANGIOSARCOMA

Principal Investigator: Chand Khanna, DVM, PHO
Ethos Discovery Total Grant Amount: \$348,559
Grant Period: 11/1/2021 - 10/31/2026

Canine hemangiosarcoma is the most aggressive cancer seen in all dogs, but disproportionately affects older, large breed dogs. Despite aggressive treatment with surgery and chemotherapy, more than 50% of dogs die due to metastatic spread of their cancer within 6 months and no significant advancements in the treatment of hemangiosarcoma have occurred in over 30 years.

Several challenges have hindered improvements in outcomes including limitations in the capabilities of current imaging and/or blood - based markers to detect early relapse/metastasis, gaps in current understanding of the molecular biology of hemangiosarcoma, and a lack of effective therapies that effectively alter the aggressive metastatic behavior of this cancer. A nation-wide clinical trial for 400 dogs with splenic hemangiosarcoma seeks to deliver curative outcomes for dogs with this disease. With collaboration from AKC Canine Health Foundation, dog-owning families from outside the geographical enactment of 30 Ethos veterinary hospitals can join the trial to receive care, and to conduct genomic correlative studies with two internationally recognized scientific teams to gain critical new knowledge necessary to propel the field to this future goal of curative outcomes. Researchers will utilize a patient-forward approach and leverage genomic insight into hemangiosarcoma to propose and answer the following questions:

- (1) Are there molecular biomarkers that predict prognosis in dogs with this disease?
- (2) Can we define genomic subgroups of dogs with hemangiosarcoma who are most likely to benefit from specific anticancer drugs?
- (3) Can we define new therapeutic approaches to prevent the spread of this cancer?

This approach follows the road map used in transforming childhood leukemia from a fatal diagnosis



to a commonly cured disease. By leveraging the strengths of a unique and multidisciplinary team of clinicians and scientists, this canine hemangiosarcoma study will lay the foundation for accelerating drug development and improving patient outcomes for dogs with this devastating disease.

RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT

Grant 02804-MOU:

Searching for a Genetic Risk Factor for Idiopathic Chylothorax in Afghan Hounds

Principal Investigator: Gary Johnson, DVM, PhD

Research Institution: University of Missouri

Grant Amount: \$15,000

Start Date: 2/1/2020

Report Due: 7/31/2020

End Date: 7/31/2021

Report Received: 8/26/2020

(The content of this report is not confidential and may be used in communications with your organization.)

Original Project Description:

Chylothorax is a disease in which lymph leaks into the thorax causing coughing, difficulty breathing, a weakened immune system and/or severe metabolic disorders. Previous publications report that some Afghan Hounds are more likely to develop chylothorax.

The reason for the greater susceptibility of some Afghan Hounds is unknown, but many authorities have suggested a mutation as a yet unidentified gene may be responsible. The investigators will compare the DNA of affected and healthy Afghan Hounds, in an effort to discover a mutation that increases susceptibility for developing chylothorax in some Afghan Hounds.

Funding for the research is provided through the collaborative efforts and generosity of Afghan Hound Club of America and William Dean Ill Charitable Trust. The AKC Canine Health Foundation supports the funding of this effort and will oversee grant administration and scientific progress.

Publications: None at this time.

Presentations: None at this time.

Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

We have produced separate whole genome sequences from DNA isolated from blood samples from seven different Afghan Hounds diagnosed with chylothorax. In addition, we produced whole genome sequences from DNA from three different Afghan Hounds that reached old age without developing chylothorax. These three whole genome sequences served as breed-specific controls. We combined whole genome sequence data from the three control Afghan Hounds with data from 90 previously produced whole genome sequences from dogs of various other breeds that were affected with diseases unrelated to chylothorax to create a 93-dog control group. This provided us with giant computer files from each dog containing DNA sequences for almost all of the known canine genes.

Each file contained over five million instances where the DNA of the sequenced dogs differed from that of a sequenced Boxer genome that serves as a reference sequence. We refer to these sequence differences as variants. The initial analysis indicated that these 100 whole genome sequences contained nearly 150,000 variants that alter the structure of the protein they encode. We call these “coding variants.” Our next job is to determine which, if any, for these coding variants put Afghan Hounds at risk for developing chylothorax.

Because mice with a defective ITGA9 gene have been reported to develop chylothorax, we checked if there were any variants in the canine version of ITGA9; however, none were found. We next assumed a recessive inheritance pattern for the risk of developing chylothorax and did a computer screen of the almost 150,000 coding variants to search for candidate variants that were inherited from both parents in all seven chylothorax-affected Afghan Hounds but were rare in the controls. We found only two candidate variants that met these criteria and both are currently under further investigation.

We next assumed a dominant inheritance pattern for the risk of developing chylothorax and did a computer screen of the almost 150,000 coding variants to search for candidate variants that were inherited from at least one parent in all seven chylothorax-affected Afghan Hounds but were rare in the controls. In this case we found 185 candidate variants, which is too many for individual analyses. We are currently reviewing the scientific literature to determine the known biological functions of the genes that harbor these variants. This should help us decide which, if any, of them warrant additional investigation.

Going forward, we plan to produce one additional whole genome sequence from a control Afghan Hound and then redo our data analysis with the help of a vastly improved canine genome reference sequence expected to become available later this year or early next year.

Some authorities have suggested that the Afghan Hounds’ risk of developing chylothorax stems from their deep narrow chest cavities, an anatomic feature that is uniform in the breed. If these authorities are correct, we may be searching for something that does not exist.

RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FINAL

Grant 02804-MOU:

Searching for a Genetic Risk Factor for Idiopathic Chylothorax in Afghan Hounds

Principal Investigator: Gary Johnson, DVM, PhD
Research Institution: University of Missouri
Grant Amount: \$15,000
Start Date: 2/1/2020
End Date: 7/31/2021
Report Received: 12/6/2021

(The content of this report is not confidential and may be used in communications with your organization.)

Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

We have produced separate whole genome sequences from DNA isolated from blood samples from eleven different Afghan Hounds including an affected group that was diagnosed with chylothorax and a chylothorax-free control group. In addition, for a second control group, we downloaded over 2,500 canine whole genome sequences from a publicly available internet source. These whole genome sequences were generated by laboratories around the world with DNA from dogs with a variety of diseases, but not chylothorax. This provided us with giant computer files from each dog containing DNA sequences for almost all of the known canine genes. These individual whole genome sequences typically contained over five million instances where the DNA of the sequenced dogs differed from that of a recently improved Boxer genome sequence that serves as a reference sequence. We refer to these sequence differences as variants. We analyzed these data with computer programs that pinpoint the chromosomal locations of disease-causing mutations by identifying chromosomal regions with reduced variant complexity in an affected group compared to a control group. None were found.

In addition, we screened the data for gene-associated variants that altered the structure of the encoded proteins products and were common in the affected group but rare in both control groups. In this analysis, we identified over 41,000 variants that changed the encoded proteins and occurred in one or more of the 11 Afghan Hound whole genome sequences generated for this study. Over 13,000 of these variants had frequencies of less than 1% in the larger control group. Only four of these rare variants were homozygous in all of the affected Afghan Hounds and only one of these variants was less common in the control Afghan Hounds. We consider this variant to be a weak candidate for causing chylothorax because we expected to find some neutral variants fitting our criteria by

random chance and because there is nothing about the known function of the gene that contains this variant to suggest an association with chylothorax. Nonetheless, we would like to further evaluate this variant in new cases of Afghan Hound chylothorax. Although the chylothorax project is now officially concluded, if we receive blood samples and clinical records from new cases of Afghan Hound chylothorax before the end of 2022, we will test them for free for the candidate variant. Our failure to find a chromosomal region of reduced variant complexity or to find a strong candidate for a chylothorax genetic risk factor candidate is consistent with, but does not prove, the possibility that the risk of developing chylothorax results from the breed's characteristic skeletal conformation.

One of the Afghan Hound samples used as a control for the chylothorax analysis was from a dog that was euthanized because he began showing neurologic deficits including seizures and central blindness during the first year of life. To identify potential causal variants, we used a strategy similar to that describe that described above except in this case we had only one affected whole genome sequence and all of the other whole genome sequences were considered controls.

We identified a variant that was homozygous in the affected Afghan Hound puppy's whole genome sequence but absent in all of the control whole genome sequences. We consider this variant to be a strong candidate for causing the puppy's disease because mutations in the human version of the associated gene cause a neurologic disease with clinical features that are similar to those of the Afghan Hound puppy. We will need to test samples from one or more additional affected Afghan Hound puppies to confirm that the variant was the cause of the neurologic deficits. We screened 32 archived DNA samples from Afghan Hounds and found two heterozygotes. Because we found two heterozygotes among our archived Afghan Hound samples, we expect homozygous puppies are produced from time-to-time. Thus, we are offering free testing for all Afghan Hound puppies showing signs of neurologic disease. If the homozygous variant proves to be causal, we will publish the finding and offer a DNA test so that Afghan breeders can avoid producing affected puppies in the future.

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