

TOPKNOT NEWS

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

Summer Edition 2025



F. Schuleit



“RESPECT THE PAST, EMBRACE THE FUTURE”
AHCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY 2025

October 20 - 23, 2025

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ON THE COVER



Butt and tail in the air is an unmistakable invite - Let's play! We hope you enjoy our summer cover boy, "Linus" in this painting by Frances Schuleit which she calls "Shoreline Shenanigans" The following is in her own words:

Myself and my husband, Bob, have adopted Afghan Hounds since 2003 with the help of Afghan Hound Rescue of Central Ohio. Some have come directly through rescue, and some through generous breeders in search of forever homes for their finished champions. Last year, we briefly hosted one year old siblings, Ava (GCHB Valhalla Spitfire at Southern Charms) and Linus (GCH Valhalla Black Prince of Aspen Leaf).

Ava and Linus wiggled their way into our hearts forever. Their antics inspired the painting, "Shoreline Shenanigans." Both Ava and Linus were bred by Ben Franzoso, Clair van den Bergh, and Anna Stromberg. Ava is owned and loved by Kathy Lowery; Linus is owned and loved by Marne Martin-Tucker and Michael Tucker.

Our family's first Afghan Hound was Aristotle. Aristotle's namesake may be considered one of the fathers of logic, but Aristotle (the dog) didn't see a lot of logic in his early life. Enter Maureen Anderson, founder of Afghan Hound Rescue of Central Ohio. With her help, 8-year-old Aristotle, a one-eyed cancer survivor, was the first of six senior Afghan Hounds to join the Schuleit family. Nothing made sense during his difficult early years, but he would keep the experience with him and transform it into a will to live. Showered with love, Ari became a stronger, more compassionate dog. He had one of the most beautiful dispositions found in the Rescue dog community. Ari shared his love with Green Acres Retirement Community daily. When he crossed the Rainbow Bridge at the age of sixteen, everything finally seemed logical to Aristotle, dog and philosopher.

From the Editor

Virginia Katilus

You know
that
Santana
and Rob

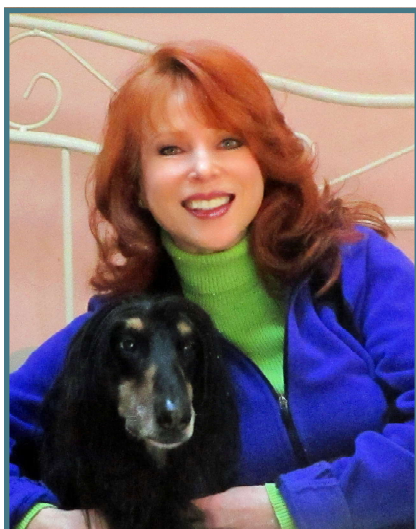
Thomas song?

“Man, it’s a hot one, like seven inches from the midday sun.” That’s exactly how it feels lately—just insanely hot everywhere! I know folks down south and out west are pretty used to scorching temps, but even you have to admit, this is next-level. And for us up here in New England? We’ve basically melted.

We all know it’s super important to keep both people and pups out of hot cars and off sizzling pavement, additionally stick to cool spots, drink plenty of water, and don’t overdo it with exercise. Honestly, that last one is never a problem for me!

As always, looking for reports, photos, and need a graphic layout person for advertising. Please consider volunteering! You can reach me at editortopknotnews@gmail.com. Would love to hear from you!

Stay cool and see you at the shows!



2025 Officers and Directors

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Canine Health: Anna Tyler
Companion Events: Beth Erisman-Thomas
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National Specialty 2025: Chad Alexander
& Chris Belt
National Specialty 2026: Rachel Howard
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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



Connie Butherus



Darla Miller



Christine O'Connor



James Donahue



Beth Erisman-Thomas



Christine Pinkston



Carol Rivette



Barb Hastings



Lynda Hicks



Helen Stein



Anna Tyler



Erica Jantos



Robert Jordan



Eddie Kominek



Amy Mero



President's Report

By: Jennifer Taylor

Dear Fellow Afghan Hound Enthusiasts,

Well, well – summer has arrived! Warm weather, gardening, a summer vacation, and even a dog show here and there... we have been enjoying the season, and I hope you have too.

Now on to Club news. First, the Board was excited to welcome back **Barb Hastings** as our Rescue Chair. Barb has a lot of great ideas (including bringing back the Rescue Calendar!), and the experience to handle the job with aplomb.

At the same time, the Board is also grateful to **Martha Powell** for her past commitment as the Rescue Chair. We thank both ladies for their dedicated service to our Afghan Hounds in need of rescue assistance.

As an administrative matter, note that the vote passed to not have a required annual signature for the Code of Ethics. I know this is a subject which received much debate, and so it's good to have that matter settled

by vote. This decision will simplify our processes while maintaining our commitment to upholding the highest standards.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the Club – I'm thrilled to extend my warmest congratulations to our two new Lifetime Members, **Tony Saia** and **Harry Bennett**! We are delighted to have you both receive this honor – if you see Tony or Harry, please congratulate them. We look forward to celebrating this with you at our upcoming National Specialty.

Speaking of The National Specialty, our annual celebration continues to creep closer! I hope you've already made your hotel reservations, and begun to look forward to old friends, making new friends, and exhibiting your hounds. It certainly is shaping up to be another quality, memorable show. Soon, you'll receive a trophy donation request; please give what you can. We are all responsible for making the event as good as can be, and supporting the trophy fund is a great way to be involved in this annual event.

Your Board of Directors continues to meet regularly, addressing the needs of the club for Membership, Specialties, the National and of course the ongoing administrative issues that need to be addressed to keep our club running smoothly. For example, you should see an email from **Christine O'Connor** raising new ideas for education, pedigree research, and our annual events. Please have a look and provide input on the ideas, or submit ones of your own! We continue to work on new ways to support, celebrate and share our affinity for Afghan Hounds, and certainly appreciate your input as well.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!🐾



AKC DELEGATE REPORT

Submitted by Connie Butherus

The AKC Delegates's meetings were held June 9 and 10 at the usual hotel site at Newark airport. This hotel is very convenient for those Delegates flying to the meetings. For those of us who drive it is not easily accessed especially during high drive times in the NYC area. Wanting to arrive on time for the early AM meetings it can be a challenge.

In every meeting that I attended over the two days the decline in registrations became a major topic and concern. This issue was number one and was voiced in the Parent Club Committee, the All Breed Committee, the Coordinating Committee, the Forum and the business meeting. Registrations are a core business of the AKC - the current numbers we were given in the reports were daunting. Total registrations down 14%; litter registrations down 12%; individual dog registration down 18%; conformation entries for the first quarter of 2025 were 13% lower than the same quarter last year. The entries in Performance and Companion events seemed to hold their numbers. The number of events offered have increased.

In the Parent Club and its Breeders Development Committee the impact of Limited Registrations was noted as a possible factor to consider going forward.

In the most recent statistics report 27% of the individual dog registrations were Limited. One example cited was a smaller registration breed having registered 18 individual dogs and having 15 of those as Limited Registration. It is nearly impossible to increase the breed numbers with this limitation on breeding. The above cited numbers were reflected in the financial report by the CFO. Income was decreased but was nearly equalized by the investment numbers. However a major portion of the Forum address the fee structure aka probable fee increase. This will impact every club in the sport and probably entry fees.

The President, CFO, COO and VP of Sports and Events held an open discussion with the Delegates, You may recall the fee increase which had been proposed

and then canceled. The recording and event fees for all events are currently \$3.50 per entry per event. This fee was introduced in 2008 and has not increased since that time. We were informed that \$3.50 in 2008 equates to \$5.15 in 2024 Bottom line - expect a fee increase probably imposed in increments beginning January 1, 2026

We were informed in reply to a suggestion/question that the AKC consolidate its offices to one site. The reply was that the New York City offices are under an ironclad lease contract which is in effect until 2038. Obviously the issue of a sublease is to be investigated. The NYC offices are located in prime "high rent" territory.

It was noted that the Parent Clubs could play a significant role in enhancing the financial picture of the organization by implementing a policy of 100% AKC puppy registrations for all of its membership.

The newly appointed President, Gina DiNardo, has her work outlined for her in technicolor. Sending her every good wish as she tackles the problems.

In her address she announced Grand Champion prefix titles have been instituted for the NOHS competitions.

Economic impact statements of dog events on communities have been developed for each State. One example cited was the \$65,000,000 generated in the Orlando area from the annual AKC show and a simplified registration process.

The Parent Club Committee conducted a survey of the Parent Clubs regarding their five most pressing issues, concerns, problems etc. I was the Committee member designated to assess and quantify the responses. Eighty seven Parent Clubs (87) responded and the content was very well reasoned and thoughtful.

The overwhelming concern reported was membership. Every matter related to membership was cited from recruitment, retention, discord, relevance to volunteers and burnout. Several noted that 20% of the members do 80% of the work.

Breeders, breeding, mentoring, education and finances were the other most cited areas. The purpose of the survey was to develop topics and content for a pro-

**...newly appointed President,
Gina DiNardo, has her work
outlined for her in technicolor.
Sending her every good wish ...**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

posed future virtual Parent Club educational conference. More to follow as this develops.

Assessing the current situation in our chosen sport the following becomes clear. Breeding, breeders and breeder education are essential for the survival and preservation of any breed and hence the future of the sport of dogs. People want to have fun with their dogs. Participants in Performance and Companion events continue to draw entries. Not so in conformation sad to note.

AKC GAZETTE COLUMN REPORT

Submitted by Harry Bennett

Harry was pleased to run Susan Hamlin's article *Afghan Hounds In Afghanistan* in the May 2025 issue of the AKC Gazette: <https://images.akc.org/pdf/gazette/may-2025>.

The full article was initially published in the Spring 2021 edition of TOPKNOT NEWS <https://afghanhoundclubofamerica.org/index.php/club-information/newsletter>

BREEDERS' DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Summary of Report to the Parent Club Committee
June 9, 2025

Members of the Committee: Helen Prince, Chair; Connie Butherus, Katie Campbell, Don Hanson, Doug Johnson, Michael Knight, Mari-Beth O'Neill, Peter Piusz, Sharon Steckler, Fran Stephens, Rick Su.

MISSION STATEMENT: *to work with AKC, Parent Clubs, and breeders in the development and dissemination of resources, information, and programs that help and encourage the responsible breeding of purebred dogs.*

They held three (3) Zoom Meetings since the December PC Committee meeting. The Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month via Zoom from 3:00-4:30 PM EST.

EDDY Award: The first EDDY Awards were presented at the Delegates' Meeting on December 15, 2023. The deadline for applying for this year's awards is September 1, 2025.

Helping Parent Clubs and Breeder Education Coordinator and Chairs: We strongly encourage all Parent Clubs to appoint a Breeder Education Coordinator, and send in the name, along with his/her CORRECT EMAIL contact information. Clubs are allowed

to have Co-chairs if that is their wish, but only ONE email contact may be sent for the Coordinator list. Check with Peter Piusz if you need more information.

A year or so ago, we started sending quarterly a document called **BEC Quarterly Refresh**. Since not every quarter ends up having a lot of new and updated information, we will now send out a Refresh periodically, when there is something new to report. It will be called the **BEC REFRESH BLAST**. Thanks go to Don Hanson who created the original **BEC Quarterly Refresh** packet and the new **BEC REFRESH BLAST** and is doing all the updating.

Interviews of Breeders of the Year: The AKC interviews are called *Legacy Breeder Interviews*. They are being added to the playlist on AKCTV, AKC's YouTube Channel, and in Canine College's Dog Breeding Fundamentals Course. The updated links to see these interviews will be sent to Breeder Education Coordinators and Parent Clubs. The list will also be part of the **BEC REFRESH BLAST**.

Interviews of Their Breeders by Parent Clubs: Clubs are encouraged, urged, to start the process now before they lose more of their most important breeders.

Mentoring Juniors: Fran Stephens and Doug Johnson are continuing their work on a program for mentoring Juniors as breeders, as well as encouraging Juniors to get involved with AKC events. Clubs have been asked to appoint a Juniors Coordinator, so if you have not already done so, send your Juniors Coordinator name and contact information to Mari-Beth O'Neill.

Katie and Doug are also working on a plan for leasing bitches to Juniors for breeding.

Going further, leasing of bitches to people other than Juniors, can also benefit your breed and your breeders. The committee will be exploring this idea more in the future.

Stud Dog and Brood Bitch Classes at Specialty Shows: Most Parent Club have Stud Dog and Brood Bitch Classes at their National Specialty Shows, as do some local specialty clubs. These classes are non-regular so they are usually held after judging Best of Breed. There has been a lot of discussion about having these classes before Best of Breed, or on different days of the show weekend, so that people will see them. There are a number of clubs who do have these classes before Best of Breed. AKC has one requirement—that the judge must be licensed to judge your breed. How do you find that judge? Katie and Mari-Beth will work together to develop suggested guidelines for these classes... ..more to report in September.

Parent Club and Pedigree Databases: A formal survey about Pedigree Databases was sent to all Parent Clubs. As a result of that survey the Historian of the Scottish Terrier Club of America, Janet Tomlinson, created a PowerPoint presentation. A webinar about this is “on hold” for the time being. More to report at a future meeting.

Pedigrees are important, not just for breeding. They can be used for research and for health. We encourage all Parent clubs to establish a Pedigree Database.

Breeder Education Materials: AKC has Breeder Education material available on its website.

Therionogenology Students: Mari-Beth O’Neill reports regularly to our committee on vet students in the therionogenology program, and the program at Tufts University which pairs students with breeders.

Breeder Education Programs that Really Work/popular: Rick Su has been reviewing all the EDDY Award winners, looking at their websites, speaking with their coordinators, etc., to compile a list of programs that are popular.

Parent Club Fun Programs: A preliminary list of fun dog-related activities, to encourage participation/attendance and stays at host hotels, at national specialty weekends, has been used successfully by the Scottish Terrier Club of America and will be sent out after this meeting.

Addition of Another Member of this Committee: Dr. Marty Greer, DVM, a Delegate who is also a repro vet and a member of the Canine Health Committee, was approved as a member of the Breeders Development Committee.

BREEDERS’ CUP 2026 COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Joy Atkins-Miller

Tentative Schedule: “Start The Summer in St. Louis, Thursday, 5/28/26:
Gateway Hound Club, morning
AHBC, late afternoon
(Welcome Meet & Greet planned)

We’re ironing out the time. It will probably be late afternoon rather than evening because after 18:00, Purina charges \$175/hr for security.

Friday, 5/29/26:

Missouri Rhineland KC all breed/NOHS
AHCStL 60th concurrent specialty/NOHS

Saturday, 5/30/26:

Missouri Rhineland KC all breed/NOHS
AHCStL 61st concurrent specialty/NOHS

Sunday, 5/31/26:

Mississippi Valley KC all breed
POSSIBLE other AHC specialty

Monday, 6/1/26:

Mississippi Valley KC all breed

Move in/set up is Wednesday, 5/27/26 at 15:00.

Grooming is reserved with a few “Day of Groom” spaces, mostly in the small hall. AHCStL, anticipating getting the AHBC, successfully reserved a block of prime spaces in the Great Hall this year. Either MVKC or MRKC handle reservations (AHCStL will reserve the block) for the whole cluster, so I can’t give exact info but prices this year were from Wednesday to Monday, \$30 for 5’ X 10’ space with electricity (at least 2 dogs per space; stacking is preferred & appreciated).

RV reservations are handled by Purina with this year’s pricing from \$25 to \$50 a night, all with electricity, just for approximation. More to come!

Breeders’ Cup Policy - CHIC Bonus: The AHCA offers a \$500 incentive bonus to the breeder of the winner of the Breeders Cup if both the sire and dam have CHIC numbers listed on the entry form and have passing grades in the required tests for thyroid, CERF and OFA.

This was approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting on March 16, 2012. This \$500 bonus is paid from the AHCA general fund and does not affect the income of the Breeders Cup.

COMMITTEE FOR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by AHCA Board of Directors

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors is honored to announce the election of the following AHCA members to Lifetime Membership, in recognition of their exceptional service and commitment to the Club.

Please join us in congratulating **Harry Bennett** and **Tony Saia** on this well-deserved distinction. We extend our deepest appreciation for their dedication and invaluable contributions to our organization. GUIDELINES FOR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP:

(a) Must have been an AHCA member who has contributed significantly to the AHCA;

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(b) Member for 20 years in good standing with AHCA and AKC;

(c) Minimum 65 years of age;

(d) A committee to nominate candidates for Lifetime membership may be appointed by the Board at the first meeting of the fiscal year and shall consist of two Board members and one current Lifetime member. This committee shall submit names for potential Lifetime Membership to the Board for a Board vote at the summer meeting. The Board may also nominate additional candidates at the summer Board Meeting. A two-thirds vote is required for approval of Lifetime Memberships. (B 09/16);

(e) Lifetime members shall have equal rights, privileges and standing as do regular members, including voting and holding office;

(f) Lifetime Members will receive a 2" AHCA Gold Medallion with the words "Lifetime Member" engraved on the back. A Lifetime Membership Certificate will also be presented.;

(g) Two complimentary tickets to the Annual Awards Dinner will be given to the inductee for the year the Lifetime Member Award is made; and

(h) The President of AHCA will make the presentation at the Annual Awards Dinner.

CANINE HEALTH REPORT

Submitted by Anna Tyler

The AHCA Canine Health has been involved in some very important research in the past year – the membership voted to financially support two Grants –

Grant 02946: Towards Curative Outcomes in Canine Hemangiosarcoma – the Canine Health Foundation sent an updated progress report summary that was shared online with the membership. AHCA members voted to send \$500.00 for this research.

Grant 03134: Use of a Service Dog Breeding Program to Unravel the Genetics of Congenital Idiopathic Megaesophagus in German Shepherd Dogs.

AHCA members voted to send \$500.00 for this research.

I would like to request a motion made that in the spring/summer 2025 we send \$1000 to canine health research that affects the Afghan Hound of the membership's choice. I will take a Facebook poll to see which research the membership would like to support and send a financial donation to this year.

The 2025 AKC Canine Health Foundation Na-

tional Parent Club Canine Health Conference is being held in Durham, North Carolina August 7 – 9, this year. I will be attending remotely and it sounds like fascinating topics will be covered.

(Board of Directors note: Boo Donoho will also attend the conference in person, on behalf of AHCA. Thank you to Anna and Boo!)

The AHCA was also notified about a Borzoi and all Sighthound Heart Study led by a genetic testing expert, Dr. Brian Davis at Texas A&M University. Their Office of Veterinary Clinical Investigation is looking for DNA cheek swabs to be sent along with veterinary records on each participating dog to the University. Their email address: vetcclinicaltrials@tamu.edu. Please request a cheek swab kit to be sent to you and when completed mail to: Dr. Brian Davis Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences Texas A&M Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences 4474 TAMU College Station, Texas 77843-4474

Further information on this study can be found at vetmed.tamu.edu/clinical-trials Select *Browse Available Veterinary Clinical Trials* Under "Featured Studies", scroll left or right to *Genetics of inherited heart disease in Borzoi dogs and other sighthound breeds*

Our contact Sarah Fross states "We will continue sampling for the foreseeable future and hope to attend the Afghan National Specialty in Ohio if possible to personally share our research with owners and collect both oral swabs and ECG recordings.

We are willing to sample all Afghans, though our study is focusing on >10 healthy dogs and any with cardiac abnormalities such as DCM or arrhythmias. Additionally, any owner is welcome to visit our Veterinary Clinic here at Texas A&M University for a complimentary cardiac work-up to participate in our study".

The Canine Health Financial Report will appear in the Members Only Pages of this issue.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer 2025!

AHCA Canine Health Report 2025
1ST Quarter Report 2025

ADVANCED CARDIAC:

CANINE HEALTH CHIC #'S EARNED: 9

NORMAL –

NORMAL – AO/CONG, AUSC/ECHO -

BASIC CARDIAC

BCA-BASIC CARDIAC NORMAL/CLEAR –
PRACTIONER - #4

THYROID

NORMAL - # 19

EQUIVACABLE - #1

COMP AUTOIMMUNE THYROIDITIS - #1

HIP

EXCELLENT - #11

GOOD - #4

FAIR -

EYE

NORMAL – 8

NORMAL W/BREEDER OPTIONS NOTED - #7

ELBOWS

NORMAL - #5

DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE 1

UNILATERAL RIGHT - #1

DENTITION:

MISSING TEETH -

DM – DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY -

NORMAL –

CANINE HEALTH RESEARCH GRANTS

Anna Tyler requests approval of \$1,000 to support medical research. She will do an online poll to determine which research funds the members want to support. (approved 6/17/25)

JUNIOR SHOW REPORT

Submitted by Darla Miller

As of March 31, 2025, Canine Chronicle reports we have four Juniors who have shown Afghan Hounds competitively in the Conformation ring defeating other Juniors. I am unable to confirm if we have any Juniors in performance events as those statistics are not reported.

As in past years I will be asking AKC to post an announcement to encourage Juniors to attend our National this year with a link to our National Show site. This is sent out to all Juniors. At this time I am waiting to hear back from the St. Louis and Potomac clubs to see if they will be offering a Juniors class and who will be judging.

I thank all of the Specialty Clubs who have offered Junior Show classes with their shows and encourage anyone needing assistance in finding Junior judges to contact me.

NATIONAL SPECIALTY - 2025 REPORT

Submitted by Chad Alexander & Chris Belt
National Showchairs

Roberts Centre Contract is signed. Judges for all events have been hired.

The 2025 National Specialty Logo, designed by Michele Friesen can be silkscreened onto sales items, and Chad will have silkscreened items with that logo for sale.

In addition there will be embroidered items that display the AHCA Club Logo and the words “AHCA National Specialty 2025”.

Most items will be sold through an online store; there will be a limited number of items available for sale at the National Specialty. Contact Chad for info about the online store: chatter43055@gmail.com

Vellus will sponsor the National Specialty Show and will have a booth at the show; in addition will give a brief product demonstration the evening of Sweepstakes judging. Texas A&M plans to have a booth at the National Specialty to collect cheek swabs for the previously advertised Sighthound Heart Study. Of course we will have a breeder education event and a fabulous Art Auction! Potomac Afghan Hound Club will hold two specialty shows the day following the National Specialty.

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. National Specialty: October 20-23, 2025
Regional Specialties: October 24, 2025
Wilmington, Ohio

Proposed Schedule:

Monday, October 20, 2025

8:00 AM: ASFA Lure Coursing
1:00 PM: AKC Lure Coursing
6:00 PM: Agility Show and Go

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

8:00 AM: Agility: Bill Pinder
9:00 AM: FastCAT
12:00 PM: Obedience & Rally: Fred Buroff
6:00 PM: Welcome Party
6:30 PM: Presentation by Vellus
7:00 PM: Triathlon Conformation Judging:
Julie Roche
Veteran Sweeps: Julie Roche
Puppy Sweeps: Julie Roche

Tempest



**U-CD Shining Mountain's Tempest CDX, BN, RM3, RAE2, JC
NAP, NJP, DCAI, TKA, FITG, CA, TFN, FTN**

- 2025 First Afghan Hound to ever get a Fetch title
- 2024 #1 Rally All Classes
- 2023 #1 Rally Advanced, #1 Rally Excellent
- 2021 #1 Obedience Overall, #1 Obedience Novice, #1 Obedience Open
- 2020 #1 Rally Novice

Tempest is from Shining Mountain's Treasure of the Sun x GCH Shining Mountain's Rhythm of the Rain
owned by Gisela Bailey and bred by Brian and Laura Wood

Brian Wood ☐ Box 153 ☐ Loma, MT 59460 ☐ (406) 621-5699 ☐ facebook.com/ShiningMtn



CH Tarina Adorah Eagle Scout x GCH Prohphecy's Destiny

PROHPHECY AND SHINING MOUNTAIN ANNOUNCE A VERY SPECIAL LITTER WAITING
15 YEARS TO COME INTO THE WORLD.



Four dogs, three
bitches
whelped on
June 2, 2025

Breeders:
Nancy Shandre
and
Brian Wood

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Breakfast buffet seminar & hands-on experience.

- 8:00 AM: Breed Education: “Show Your Dog Like a Pro” Presented by: Bobbie Kinley-Blewett
9:00 AM: Judge Education
11:00 AM: Dog Judging :Sandra Frei
3:00 PM: Bitch Judging: Sandra Frei
6:00 PM: Cash Bar
6:30 PM: Art Auction Dinner
7:00 PM: Art Auction

Thursday, October 23, 2025

- 8:30 AM: Membership Meeting
12:00 PM: Parade of Rescue
Parade of Veterans
Junior Showmanship: Sandra Frei
Best of Breed Judging: Sandra Frei
6:00 PM: Cash Bar
6:30 PM: Awards Dinner

Friday, October 24, 2025

2 specialty shows: PotomacAfghan Hound Club
Reservations for dinners and events can be made on the AHCA website: afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

PERFORMANCE EVENTS REPORT

Submitted by Eddie Kominek

Lure Coursing Rule Change: May, 2025

From: American Kennel Club Performance Events Dept.
To: All Clubs Licensed to Host Lure Coursing Events & Lure Coursing Judges
Subject: Monorchid and Cryptorchid Dogs May Participate

This communication is to inform you of a change to the *Regulations for Lure Coursing Test and Trials*. This update will allow the participation of monorchid and cryptorchid dogs in lure coursing tests and trials provided they have no breed disqualification. The intent is to provide further inclusivity for owners. This change is effective June 1, 2025.

Chapter I, Section 3. Eligibility of Sighthounds.
(2nd paragraph)

A dog with an AKC Limited Registration or Conditional Registration shall be eligible to be entered in Lure Coursing tests and trials. Spayed / and neutered and monorchid / and cryptorchid hounds are eligible to

participate, provided they have no breed disqualifications as listed in the AKC Breed Standard.

(5th paragraph)

Spayed and neutered hounds are eligible to participate in AKC Lure Coursing Test and Trial Events; as well as monorchid and cryptorchid hounds. Conditionally Registered dogs are eligible to participate.

Regulation updates can be found on the Regulation Resources webpage. Please send any questions or comments to: lurecoursing@akc.org

REGIONAL CLUBS REPORT

Submitted by Amy Mero

AKC Certificate of Conformation Assessment title: Submitted by Regional Clubs Chair Amy Mero and Afghan Hound Club of California member Donna Wanser

The AKC has approved title recognition for the “Certificate of Conformation Assessment” (CCA) title for those breeds whose parent club has made the request. The purpose of the CCA is to provide education to owners on proper breed conformation. It is a non-competitive, one-on-one evaluation where dogs are assessed against the standard, not against each other.

The CCA provides the owner with a chance to demonstrate their dog’s qualities in a relaxed environment (dogs are expected to be casually groomed and handled). The owners receive both verbal and written feedback from the evaluator, and evaluations are confidential. The dog receives a numerical score based on the breed standard, and those that score above a 75 are granted the title, which can be put on the dog’s AKC record.

To receive a CCA title, submit the application along with a copy of the parent club documentation and processing fee. To accommodate those who had earned the title in prior years, titles earned as far back as January 1, 2010 will be grandfathered. <https://www.akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/parent-club-title-recognition/cca/> <https://www.apps.akc.org/title-application-portal/> (requires AKC login)

Wed, May 28 at 4:19 PM

To: Amy Mero, Helen Stein

Very nice to meet you (electronically) and hopefully someday in person or on Zoom. If there is anything I can do to help the AHCA work through getting AKC approved for the Conformation Assessment Title

program please let me know. I am very interested in getting more involved at the parent level....Amy gave me some great suggestions that I will check to see if I have any conflicts with my work schedule.

Look forward to working with you both somehow somewhere soon.

Amy I will ensure the Afghan Hound Club of California—notably mentioned in the ShowSight Magazine this past January represents the Afghan Hounds in general with more recognition in 2026!! As we get closer if there are any materials we can get from the parent club (marketing) we can incorporate them since the Palm Springs show kicks off the new year and is a big show for the west coast.

Donna Wanser, AHCC

Show Approvals

Amy received packets from and approved shows for nine clubs since her last report:

Afghan Hound Club of Dallas	4/26- 4/27
Lyzane Hamel	
Rev Rick Martin	
Steve Kelly	
Tidewater Afghan Hound Club	6/27
Richard Albee	
Greater Detroit Afghan Hound Club	8/8
Marla Capozzi	
Midwest Afghan Hound Club	8/8
Yancy Russell	
Afghan Hound Club of Southwestern Ohio	8/10
Jeffery Bazell	
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver	9/5-9/5
Terry Chacon	
JoAnne Buehler	
Afghan Hound Club of Greater Chicago	9/5-9/6
Patricia Cruz	
Michael Savage	
Northern California Afghan Hound Club	9/13
Chuck Milne	
Finger Lakes Afghan Hound Club	9/27
Steve Reale	

RESCUE REPORT

Submitted by Barb Hastings

Well here we are again! First many thanks to the great job Martha has done in rescue! Her work has been greatly appreciated by all.

We start out with four new rescues coming in. Four rather young Afghans from a divorce situation.

Anyone interested can see their pictures and brief descriptions on the Rescue web site at www.afghanhound.net. These youngsters will not last long.

We also have a few older Afghans who are in foster till the right home comes along. Please contact me privately if you have a place for a mid aged dog who may have some special issues.

We are hoping to have our calendar back in publication and available for sale, if not this year by the end of 2026. And will of course be having our Rescue table at this years National.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with Rescue, please contact me at helpafghanhound@gmail.com or the hotline phone number. As always "First the Hounds"

AHCA rescue contact info: website: www.afghanhound.net; Rescue Hotline:877-237-3728; email: helpafghanhound@gmail.com

STATISTICS REPORT

Submitted by Carol Rivette

A 21 page annual report of Afghan Hound registration statistics was received from AKC and posted to the AHCA Facebook page. The full report is available to members upon request. Members requesting a PDF of the complete report should contact Helen Stein at BeanieSue@aol.com

Editor's Note: It was brought to my attention that the Spring 2025 issue of TKN which listed the 2024 Competition Statistics, inadvertently left off the new GRAND champions! Apologies for the omission. Here they are and congratulations!

GRAND CHAMPION

GCH CH Duet's Salvation Song Owner: Susan Patricia Weatherhead & Lorene French & Louise

Paulson Breeder: Lorene French & Louise Paulson & Ms. Anna C Tyler & Cynthia Byington

GCH CH Eden Private Party
Owner: Meredith Kline Breeder: Meredith Kline & Joann Jones

GCH CH Jaada Carnis Smoke On The Water Owner: Jaime L Scott & Denise Kelly Breeder: Dennis G Schmidt & Denise Kelly & Michael A Bell

GCH CH Sandscript-Summerwinds Arctic Storm
Owner: Donald P. Janousek & Nancy Janousek Breeder: Tracee Elwess & Rosemary Sutton

GCH CH Pyramyd's All About The Journey Owner: Lynda L Marx & Cindi Gredys Breeder: Lynda L Marx

GCH CH Pahlavi Blame It On The Night Owner: Joan Baukus & Harry Bennett & Karen Wagner Breeder: Karen Wagner

GCH CH Carousel Rock2 The Eye Of The Tiger Owner: Ms. Gerri Wampler & Paul Clas Breeder: Mrs. Jean Laga

GCH CH Summerwinds-Aslan Son Of A King! Owner: Payden Steele Breeder: Rosemary Sutton & Lori M Stephen & Mark Stephen

GCH CH Ruzka's Star Player
Owner: Marissa Louise Gillispie & Darla Hichborn Breeder: Darla Hichborn & Kathleen Smith & Karen Irazabal

GCH CH Sunlit Mandalorian This Is The Way To Myarka
Owner: Michael G Knight & Ms. Tara Richardson & Mark Dewitt Breeder: Ms. Tara Richardson & Jamie Souza-Bartlett & Alicia Jones & Rachel Irvin

GCH CH Zen High On The Cosmic Horizon CGC Owner: Ellen Klosson Breeder: Ellen Klosson & Sharon Ferraro

GCH CH Valhalla Tom Magnum Owner: Howard Schaeffer & Anna Stromberg & Scott C Kemp Breeder: Anna Stromberg & Ben Franzoso & Clair Van Den Berg

GCH CH Dragonfly Ecco's Lip Service Owner: Lucia Brown Breeder: Lucia Brown & Philip Schafmayer

GCH CH Jorogz' N Zia Domino Bombshell Owner: Karen D Marshall & John Roger Morton Breeder: Billie Wilson & John Roger Morton

GCH CH Ziv Hii's Dragon Of Ash And Stars CA BCAT
Owner: Grace Lossman & Carla L. Helm Breeder: Carla L Helm

GCH CH Royal Legacy Opus One Owner: Olga Hislop & Alan Hislop & Nicholas Scroggins Breeder: Olga Hislop & Alan Hislop & Nicholas Scroggins

GCH CH Exquisite Seas The Day Skylar Of Ciera RN CGC
Owner: Brigitte M Kroll & Beth Anne Hall & Hartley Hall & David Hall Breeder: Beth Anne Hall & Hartley Hall & David Hall

GCH CH Jaadas Set Fire To The Rain Owner: Margaret Williams & Denise Kelly & Braxton Hernandez Breeder: Denise Kelly & Cathy Hjelm & Braxton Hernandez

GCH CH Singh Shekinah Paisley Stockings Owner: Toni M Richmond & Jody Gardner & Linda Shipley & Leslie Stoffels Breeder: Toni M Richmond & Leslie Stoffels

GCH CH Jaada's Never Ending Story Owner: Denise Kelly & Braxton Hernandez Breeder: Denise Kelly & Cathy Hjelm & Braxton Hernandez

GCH CH Mihdian-Nor Mystic Dimension Owner: Debbie Fertitta-Rogers Breeder: Rose Marie Johansen & John Schoolcraft

GCH CH Sunlit Kala Nanak
Owner: Ms. Tara Richardson & Barbara Schaffer Breeder: Ms. Tara Richardson & Adrienne Scott

GCH CH Ahreabic's Elements From Heaven Owner: Juli M Szymanski & Mrs. Karen S Shaver Breeder: Juli M Szymanski & John Roger Morton & Gregory Jay Byfield

GCH CH Mozart's Yankee Doodle Dandy Owner: Lisa Lackey & Robert Godfrey Breeder: Lisa Lackey & Robert Whipkey

GCH CH Daykeyne Wait There I'll Go First Owner: Tabatha Buckley-Bettis & Mark Bettis Breeder: Tabatha Buckley-Bettis & Mark Bettis

GCH CH Golddragon Snow Copito Owner: Yannorkis Perez Napoles Breeder: Mario Joaquin Martinez-Sanchez

GCH CH Duet's Seaglass
Owner: Lorene Claire French & Louise Ellen Paulson Breeder: Lorene French & Louise Paulson & Ms. Anna C Tyler & Cynthia Byington

GCH CH Khasbek The Shallow Now Owner: Howard Schaeffer & Didier Coton Breeder: Didier Coton

GCH CH Ruzka For The Love Of Thunder Owner: Darla Hichborn Breeder: Darla Hichborn

GCH CH Sunlit's I Want It All By Sunset Owner: Mrs. Marla Meindl-Capozzi & Mr. Michael Capozzi & Mr. Cameron Capozzi Breeder: Ms. Tara Richardson & Adrienne Scott

GCH CH Countrywind's Cuppa Joe Owner: Catherine Harker & Carol Chapek & Cindy Lietz Breeder: Catherine Harker

GCH CH Jorogz' N Zia's Dirty Dancing JC Owner: Joni K Deutsch & Juli Szymanski Breeder: Billie Wilson & John Roger Morton

GCH CH Jorogz' Prosecco Party Owner: Debby Mertl & John Roger Morton Breeder: Robert Lindberg & John Roger Morton & Heather Lindberg & Gregory Jay Byfield & Debby Mertl

GCH CH Calloway Shai-Tam Golden Sparkler Owner: Pam Brannock & Melinda Rumpf Breeder: Pam Brannock & Melinda Rumpf

GCH CH Windigo Spirit Of The Hawk BCAT Owner: Deborah S Peters & Jennifer Heflin Breeder: Deborah S Peters

GCH CH Golddragon Nothing Else Matters Owner: Yannorkis Perez Breeder: Mr. Mario Martinez Sanchez

GCH CH Dragonfly Ecco's If I Ever Fall In Love Again Owner: Joanne Sternhell & Lucia Brown Breeder: Lucia Brown & Philip J Schafmayer

GCH CH Abaca Shylo Sahhaar Owner: Jerrilyn Brutsche & Abbe R Shaw Breeder: Abbe R Shaw & David Sorey & Robert Ungar & Stephen P Fisher & Bruce Stafford Clark

GCH CH Mihdian-Nor Mind Of Light Owner: Hidalia Andre Breeder: Rose Marie Johansen & John Schoolcraft

GCH CH Valhalla Spitfire @ Southern Charms Owner: Mrs. Kathy Lowery & Mrs. Anna Stromberg Breeder: Anna Stromberg & Ben Franzoso & Clair Van Den Berg

GCH CH Mozart's Yankee Doodle Dandy StarsNStripes For Eva Owner: Ms. Donna Wanser & Lisa Lackey Breeder: Lisa Lackey & Robert Whipkey

GCH CH Countrywind's Calypso Owner: Emma Clara Evaristo & Catherine Harker Breeder: Jennifer Flynn & Catherine Harker

GCH CH Jahara's Blue Victory Of Centurion SC BCAT CGC TKN Owner: Xochitl Berns & Margaret Robertson Breeder: Margaret Robertson & John Roger Morton & Pete Robertson

GCH CH Ruzka Azari Lady Of Hendricks Isle Owner: Mary Messner & Darla Hichborn & Michael Leibowitz Breeder: Karen Irazabal & Darla Hichborn & Kathleen Smith

GCH CH Agha Djari's Water Colors Owner: Bradley Phifer Breeder: Stefan Boieck & Nico Kersten

GCH CH Jorogz' Ember Wings Owner: Mrs. Marcy Doerr

Breeder: Michael Schember & John Roger Morton

GCH CH Whirlaway's Dom Perignon CA BCAT CGC TKI FITB Owner: Dr. Maria V Barkmeier & Steven W Barkmeier Breeder: Aleta Sharafanowich

GCH CH Criston A Thousand Splendid Suns Owner: Christine Pinkston & Anna Stromberg & Patricia Warner Breeder: Christine Pinkston & Anna Stromberg & Patricia Warner

GCH CH Mihdian-Nor 5th Element Owner: Maggie Rado & John Schoolcraft & Rose Marie Johansen Breeder: Rose Marie Jonansen & John Schoolcraft

TOPKNOT NEWS REPORT

Submitted by Virginia Katilus

Hello everyone! Our next issue of TKN will feature the AHCA National and would love your help. If you wish to contribute any photos, articles, show reports, or even just a short write-up about this event (or ANY Afghan Hound shows you attended) please send them my way. No need to be a professional! Candid shots are especially appreciated. If you want to be the "reporter on the street" YES PLEASE! Email me at editortopknotnews@gmail.com

I'm also looking for someone to help with advertising and layout in general. If you're interested or have experience in that area, please let me know. Your contributions will make our newsletter even better-thank you in advance!

AFGHAN HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

88TH NATIONAL SPECIALTY



CATALOG ADVERTISING RATES

	AHCA Members	Non-Members
One Page	\$40/page	\$45/page
Two Pages	\$35/page	\$40/page
Three or more pages	\$30/page	\$35/page

Inside Front Cover, Inside Back Cover, & Outside Back Cover \$100

FREE Catalog With a 2 Page Ad

Regional Clubs - Now is the time to advertise your 2026 Upcoming Specialty or any news you may want to share! \$25.00 per Ad

All Advertising will be in COLOR

All ad materials need to be submitted to Lukas Cohen. All Materials should be Photo Ready. If sent electronically, the photos need to be scanned at 300 dpi or higher. Please send Ads in COLOR to ensure the best reproduction. Include one photo and 50-75 words of copy. Thank you for supporting the 2025 AHCA Show Catalog.

Deadline for advertising is September 5, 2025.

Payments can be made on the AHCA Website:
www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.org

cell phone: 314-201-2339

LukasCohen80@gmail.com



CH SPICE HILL IN MY PJs

Am GCHB & Can CH Kamy Heir to Poseidon of Spice Hill x CH Criston Nocturne of Spice Hill
 Breeders: Teri Tevlin, Ulrike Reinisch, Christine Pinkston

Breeders' Cup Overview

By: Billy Webb

I am happy to report that the event supported itself and had a profit of \$315.

This year's event in Frenchtown, New Jersey was well attended, even though the weather, as expected, was unpredictable. Cloudy, overcast and then sunny and

warmer than usual. The dogs and Exhibitors handled it well.

The morning hospitality, provided by the Breeders' Cup, was very well received and featured a bagel bar with smoked salmon and all the usual accoutrements: breakfast sausage, bacon, pastries, juices and since the NNJ hospitality wasn't planned until after their Specialty judging we also had a build your own sandwich bar. We didn't want anyone hangry.

Each class was filled with

quality exhibits and our Judge, Ms. Lucia Brown (Dragonfly Afghan Hounds) had some difficult decisions.

Each class placement received a two quart SS bucket with sample size #1 All Systems product. First place also received the Irene Eaton Portfolio "I Am Afghan".

A huge "THANK YOU" to Roberta Lombardi for providing the samples. This year's Rosettes and Best of Breed and Best Opposite shadow boxes were well received

BREEDERS' CUP 2025

Frenchtown, New Jersey
May 2, 2025



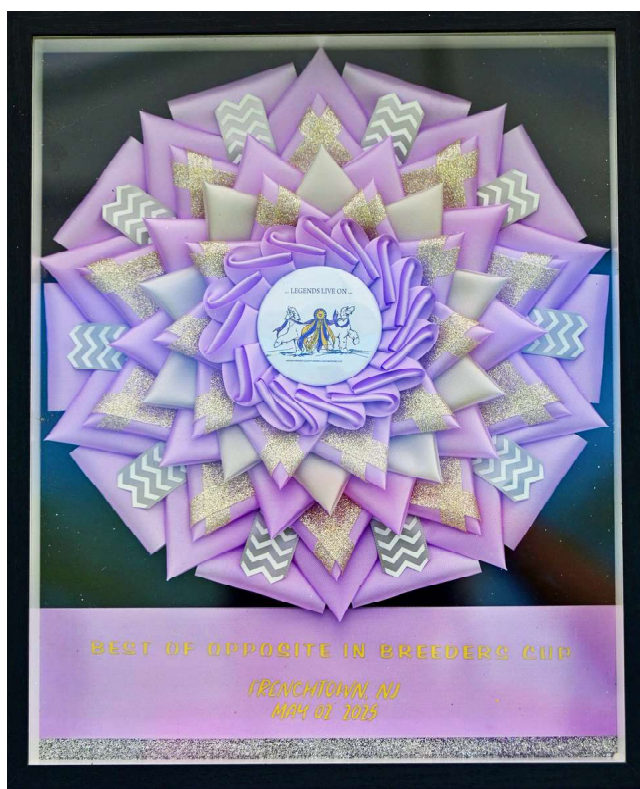
Thank you to Dorothy Fisher of Fisher Photography
for the wonderful win and candid photos!
<https://fisherphotography.zenfolio.com/>

CH SUNLIT MY PENNIES MADE YOUR CROWN AT SUNSET

Ch. Sunlit King of Queens x Ch. Sunlit The One That Got Away
Bred and Owned by Tara Richardson, Alexis Jones and Alicia Jones
CO Owned by Denise Hall



BEST OPPOSITE SEX



and beautiful, made by Brittany Gunter Milligan (Carolina Legacy Awards). Also, “Thank you” to Katrina Hatch for the beautiful snoods for Best and Best of Opposite.

Our winner this year was from the 18 - 21 month class - AHCA Best in Breeders Cup 2025: CH Spice Hill in my PJs, Sire: Am GCHB & Can CH Kamy Heir to Poseidon of Spice Hill (breeder Kazuyo Miura) Dam: CH Criston Nocturne of Spice Hill (breeder Teri Tevlin) Breeders: Teri Tevlin, Ulrike Reinisch, Christine Pinkston

AHCA Best of Opposite in Breeders Cup 2025: Ch. Sunlit My Pennies Made Your Crown at Sunset (Ch. Sunlit King of Queens x Ch. Sunlit The One That Got Away) Bred and Owned by Tara Richardson, Alexis Jones and Alicia Jones. Co-Owned by Denise Hall.

This year’s fundraising was a challenge. This current group of aficionados are not as generous. Juli

O’Connor, Lynda Hicks, Russ Hastings, Debbie Rogers and Don Janousek for your donations. “Thank you” also to the members who donated to the General Trophy Fund

I know this is a bone of contention with the BOD but I have only gotten positive feedback from the Exhibitors who were asked to sponsor the class they won, this got our efforts off to a great start (\$800). I have been told it was an honor. I am well aware of the P&P but feel that the BOD need to loosen

Symanski, our Trophy Chairwoman attended many Specialties and all breed shows and had all of three donations.

At the 2024 National I solicited Tuesday through Thursday. Lots of people stopped by the table and ate the taffy but few donated.

“Thank you” to All the 2024 Class Winners, Susan Weatherhead, Christine

the reins and let the Show Chairman use all the tools in his toolbox to fundraise. The current way doesn’t allow for much thinking outside the box.

If we are to move the Breeders Cup forward we must find a way to get more people involved. I do believe that the Breeders Cup needs to remain a stand-alone event but we need to figure out how best the parent club can support the Regional Clubs that choose to host it.

I will remain available to assist the Regional Club that chooses to host the 2026 event in anyway they need.



36th Annual Breeders' Cup 2025 Critique

Judge Lucia Brown

I was truly honored to be chosen to judge the 36th Breeders Cup which was held in conjunction with the AHCNNJ's 50th Anniversary Show. The venue was lovely with a very nice sized ring and beautiful country backdrop. Thank you to Billy Webb, Amy Mero and the members of the parent club for all their hard work to make this an outstanding show.

Many of the classes had depth of quality in the entries and in some cases it was a tough call. The day was clear but very warm and some of the exhibits were bothered by the heat, however, I did try to make some concession for that when I was taken by the structure and balance of the animal.

6-9 Month Puppy Dogs

There were two in this class and the winner was a pretty black puppy, Sunlit's Reign On, who was moving nicely while trying to keep the puppy antics in check. Short backed with nice angles, he used himself well for a 6 month old.

9-12 Month Puppy Dogs

A single entry, Kominek's Lamborghini At Eximus, black masked red boy who was a nice mover and clean coming and going.

12-15 Month Dogs

There were six entries in this class. The winner was Province Unbrindled, a pretty black and tan boy. He has nice balance when he moves and he easily catches the eye with his style. He was pressed by his brother, Province Untouchable, another nice moving black and tan with good reach and drive.

15-18 Month Dogs

Seven entries in this class which was won by my ultimate Best In Breeders Cup winner, Ch, Spice Hill In My PJ's. A cream domino brindle boy, this dog is wonderful to go over. Clean fall away under the eyes with no interference, no stop, slight Romanization. Beautiful transition from neck into well set in shoulders with a level topline and nice croup and tailset.

His movement was sound, light and consistently balanced, a true reconnaissance trot, and I had the feeling he could go all day.

My second in the class pushed for the win, Shante Mahakalla Sovereign, a beautiful black masked red boy with very good reach and drive. Two different types of dogs both lovely in their own way however my winner took it on overall balance.

18-21 Month Dogs

Six entries, won by Ch. SciurusDeloubelle Celebration. A beautiful young black masked red dog with a very pretty head and eye, an easy gait and balanced sound movement.

Second in the class, Sunlit's King Of Thieves, nice moving black male with good structure and correct size.

6-9 Month Puppy Bitches

Two entries won by Ledgehill's You Make My Heart Sing, pretty domino girl with a square outline, nice angles and pretty head.

12-15 Month Bitches

Seven entries won by Ruzka Maya's Gift From Heaven. Beautiful white bitch with a gorgeous head and eye. I really like this girl's soundness and structure however



she didn't want to give too much on the day.

Second in the class was Sodo Italian Ice, pretty red brindle girl with nice topline, reach and drive.

15-18 Month Bitches

Six entries won by Sovereign Shante Hollyhock. Black masked red girl with pretty head and expression, quite nicely constructed with long upper arm well set under and balanced angles.

Second in the class was Ch. Spice Hill Perfect Journey, black bitch with style, good topline, croup and tailset.

18-21 Month Bitches

Six in the class won by Sunlit's and Sunset Heir Apparent. She was my BOS in Breeders Cup. A square, balanced bitch, good neck into shoulders, sound on the down and back and good reach and drive.

Second in the class was a lovely blue brindle girl Coupd'e'tat Make It Happen with a beautiful head and eye.

I was delighted to have such a large entry of beautiful young Afghan Hounds and I certainly feel our breed is in good shape moving to the future.

Thank you everyone.



