

In this issue...

- 1 Editorial**
by Carol Williamson
- 2 Candidate's Article**
by James R. Dok
- 3 Candidate's Article**
by J. Charles Garvin, MD
- 4 Candidate's Article**
Ronald H. Menaker
- 5 Candidate's Article**
Patricia C. Scully
- 5 The 2014 PAC Challenge**
by Carl Ashby and Gail LaBerge
The importance of the AKC PAC and how we can support it.
- 7 Ways to Support the AKC Canine Health Foundation You May Not Know About**
by Erica Kitchen
Interesting ways to support the AKC Canine Health Foundation
- 9 AKC Canine Health Foundation Donor Advised Fund Program**
by Dr. Duane Butherus
The AKC Canine Health Foundation Donor Advised Fund
- 11 AKC Wilderness and Urban Tracking Titles**
by Lynn Worth Smith
The new SAR-W title.



- 13 Getting to Know You... Elizabeth Tilley-Poole**
by Sylvia Thomas
An interview with a new delegate
- 14 Kachina, The Perfect 10**
by Dee Chuisano
A story about a field trial dog and her perfect 10 score.
- 15 Canine Brucellosis – Not to be Dismissed**
by Margaret Pough and Joellen Gregory, D.V.M
Canine Brucellosis
- 17 A European Dog Show Adventure**
by Dr. Geno Sisneros
Ever wonder what shows are like in other countries?
- 19 Obedience Group Exercises – To Stay, or Not to Stay**
by Barbara L. Norton
Thoughts about the obedience Group exercises

Perspectives WRITERS' GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in contributing to Perspectives. Following are guidelines we ask our contributors to follow. They simplify our jobs as editors and yours as writers and help us produce a quality publication while enabling us to get Perspectives out on time.

- **Write for your audience.** Perspectives is prepared by and for AKC Delegates who represent a wide variety of member clubs through the country. Our readers are very knowledgeable dog people.
- **Be certain that any facts in your article are accurate.** Double-check them. Clearly state when a statement is your own opinion.
- Whenever possible and appropriate, **try to include input/quotes from others who are experts on your topic.** Always attribute any quote to its original source.
- **Articles should be submitted typewritten or electronically, via e-mail.** Solicited articles should be sent to the committee member who requested the article. Unsolicited articles should be submitted to the

Issue Coordinator for the upcoming issue OR the Editor.

- **We suggest articles be approximately 300 to 1000 words in length.**
- Do not rely entirely on spelling and grammar checkers as they do not proof word usage. **After preparing your article, read it once more before submitting it.** Use a dictionary to check word meaning and spelling.
- **Send in your article as early as possible.** Submissions will be due by the 15th of the month following each Delegates Meeting. If your article arrives after the issue deadline, it will likely not be used in the current issue and may be returned to you or held until the next issue.

A submission to Perspectives may not be reproduced in other publications for a period of one year without the written permission of the author and the Perspectives Editor.

Again — thank you for your interest. Without you, there would not be a Perspectives.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Sylvia Arrowwood, Charleston Kennel Club

Dick Blair, Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club

Dr. Gerry Meisels, St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association

Dr. Geno Sisneros, American Pomeranian Club

Daniel J. Smyth, Esquire, Burlington County Kennel Club

Monica Henderson Stoner, Saluki Club of America

Sylvia Thomas (Secretary), Kennel Club of Riverside

Sherry E. Wallis, Akita Club of America

Carol Williamson (Chair, Editor), Houston Kennel Club

Carol.williamson@kirbycorp.com

Carol.williamson0310@gmail.com

Lynn Worth-Smith, Vizsla Club of America

The coordinator for the June 2014 issue of Perspectives will be Monica Henderson Stoner.

Please email articles directly to her at tsent@ix.netcom.com.



Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

Perspectives is a publication for, and written by, the Delegates, with an occasional article solicited by Editorial Board members ONLY from acknowledged experts in their field. It is a forum for the exchange of ideas, for argument, for news. Through this medium, we hope to become better informed and, thereby, better equipped to fulfill our responsibilities as Delegates. Your contributions are welcome, and necessary, in making this publication a useful enterprise. Please assist the Editorial Board by submitting material via e-mail. We reserve the right to reasonably edit all copy submitted. Opinions expressed in Perspectives are not necessarily representative of the views of the Editor, the Perspectives Editorial Board, or of the American Kennel Club.

CAROL WILLIAMSON, *Editor*

Editorial We have not received any letters to the Editor. We know you are reading Perspectives because of your comments at the meeting. Are you not interested? We will try again. Perspectives will once again try something “new.” A “Letters to the Editor” column will allow people who have only one or two suggestions to make, but don’t want to write a whole article, to comment. Or you may want to comment on something you have seen in Perspectives. Letters, not exceeding 200 words, must in-

clude your full name for verification. Letters become the property of Perspectives and may be edited for publication.

This issue contains articles about ways to support the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the AKC Canine Health Foundation Donor Advised Fund program. On the light side is an article on Kachina which will give you the thrill of a field trialer as her dog scores a perfect 10. For variety, we offer an article on a European Dog Show Adventure by Gino Sis-

neros in which he describes his attendance at — and assistance with — shows in Estonia.

Of importance to all of us is an article on Canine Brucellosis. I thought I knew about Brucellosis — but I didn’t know all of the things mentioned in this article!

We want to take this opportunity to invite Delegates to attend our meetings. We meet at 11:30 a.m. Our meetings are very casual. Feel free to stop and pick up a lunch on the way. We will!

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS AKC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CLASS OF 2018

CAROL WILLIAMSON, *Editor*

Every year, the Perspectives Editorial Board invites the candidates for the AKC Board of Directors to submit a short article for inclusion in our March issue. This year, the question was developed by the Perspectives Editorial Board at its meeting held December 12 in Orlando, and the question, along with instructions for submitting a statement, was provided to all candidates on December 20 by email.

To avoid any suggestion that we may favor one candidate over another, the same ground rules apply to all: Responses are limited to 500 words and are sent directly to the Editor. Each response is printed exactly as submitted; we do not edit, correct, or change the candidates’ statements in any way. Any response that exceeds the 500-word limit or misses the 5:00 p.m., January 20, 2014, deadline is

returned and is not printed.

This year, candidates were asked the following question:

“A decision regarding the lease renewal of the New York offices will be made during your term. What is your position on renewal of the New York lease versus relocation to another state?”

You have had an opportunity to get to know the candidates for the AKC Board of Directors, Class of 2018, through their answers to questions posed at the Forum and through their presentations made at the December 2013 Delegates Meeting. You may have also read information on the candidates in commercial dog publications, or in written materials received from the AKC or directly from the candidates. On behalf of the Perspectives Editorial Board, we

encourage you to consider the following statements as part of the information on which you base your vote.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

JAMES R. DOK, *Gig Harbor Kennel Club, Inc.*

Candidate Statement



Significant question, one which I have been advised will not make it into discussion in the Board Room in 2014, but most likely 2015.

The New York lease comes to termination, unless renewed in 2018, while the North Carolina Operations comes up for renewal in 2020.

The separation of only two years gives the Board of Directors an enviable opportunity to integrate its deliberations with both sites. Strategic Planning by the Board of Directors ensued with its January 2014 meeting. To my knowledge, this issue was not addressed, as I had alluded to earlier.

Framing such a question so far in advance is somewhat premature, but allows me to share some of my perspectives.

Obviously, North Carolina has some distinct advantages, both in recognized "wage scale" differentiation; "right to work state laws;" and space rental/leaseback options. A significantly larger percentage of AKC staff population/manning are now represented in the North Carolina Operations.

New York Corporate carries the mantle of being the "Dogs

best center of influence", a dog culture which should not be "written off" of any future deliberations coming before the Board of Directors in 2015/2016.

The present opportunities, with regard to "public relations/media access" have several advantages when one takes into balance the New York Corporate platform. This argument has persisted for the past fifteen years. Recently, looking back at the significant technology advances (IT,) on the current scene, that argument is lessened to some degree. Public Relations access opportunities are no longer dependent upon "running into the network of choice" when they call Madison Avenue for a three minute spot!

What about that "new child in the room" Marketing? Evidenced by the "social media outreach" presented by Tom Sharp with AKC/Reunite, all of us may well be witnessing some serious new direction/initiatives by AKC. Long overdue, and welcomed by myself. The "social media" marketing through our AKC website is very exciting...

Where do we need to reside, to affect these "not so subtle marketing strategies? What location "best serves" the American Kennel Club?

Is it "all in one" or a combination from both platforms, given the opportunity before this Board of Directors "to get it right?" Any deliberation by the Board of Directors must arrive at the proper balance to those issues I have touched upon. Not an easy process and one which each of us, in some part, have concerns.

Should I receive your support in the upcoming March elections,

I want to reassure each of you that I am better at asking the difficult questions, when there is a perceived value added to such deliberations in the future.

A very knowledgeable dog person once wrote about forty years ago, the American Kennel Club, our dog shows, and specifically all of us in this body of Delegates. Her remarks were provocative.

... "wouldn't it be easier to educate the public, if we could just get them to like us better?"

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

J. CHARLES GARVIN, MD, Dalmatian Club of America

Candidate Statement



Determining the proper response to the 2018 expiration of the AKC lease at 260 Madison in New York is highly complex because it involves not just the building, but also the entire structure of our organization. The lease in Raleigh expires in 2020, and both must be considered simultaneously.

The fundamental reality is that we are not the same organization now as we were when we entered into these leases, and our needs may not be the same. The total number of employees occupying our buildings is dramatically less than a decade ago. One of the crown jewels in the Raleigh office was the large room full of computer hardware and accompanying support systems, but now much of our computer needs can be better met via remote server farms. Many successful companies are now finding that having employees work from home can be advantageous.

The first step is to determine our true needs, both now and in the foreseeable future. That involves carefully examining the entire company as it exists now, and strategically planning where we want to be in the future. Each

aspect of AKC needs to be examined to determine whether we need to put more or less emphasis and resources in that function, as well as where that function can be best performed.

The issue is often simplified into “New York is too expensive” or “We don’t need two campuses” but it goes much deeper than that. Whether it is New York or Raleigh, or some other location or locations, each place has its own set of advantages and disadvantages, and each has external and internal factors that will be relevant to AKC – and all of these factors will need evaluating.

For example, New York is obviously a very expensive place to have an office and is not the hotbed of dog breeding or exhibiting. However, through the work of our staff, consultants and friends of AKC in New York real estate, we have a very favorable lease, and good knowledge of the real estate market there. Having easy access to the media center of the world in New York has significant value, as does the panache of a Madison Avenue address. A key question is how much cost is associated with that value – that is, is it worth it?

A major reason for the long success of AKC is the quality of the people we employ. We must consider the effects, negative or positive, on our current employees possibly relocating and on our future ability to attract great people to work with us.

Real estate market conditions and the economy will always fluctuate, so we cannot get all the essential facts too soon, yet the multitude of data and options to be considered means that we can’t

wait too long to get started. Now is the time.

The lease question is more than just rented office space in a building; it involves the entire future of our organization. We must manage that decision making process wisely.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

RONALD H. MENAKER, *Rockford-Freepport Illinois Kennel Club*

Candidate Statement



Today we are all but about five years away from the near simultaneous expiration of both leases in New York and Raleigh. I believe the AKC Board acted wisely when they agreed to begin addressing this topic in 2014. Significant due diligence will be necessary to make an informed decision on the matter of lease renewal or relocation, as it would affect not only AKC finances, but a large number of dedicated, loyal, and valuable Staff also. There are numerous important and complex factors that must be considered during the evaluation process. I would recommend using a real estate expert to help the Board and management work through the options, as was done for the previous two leases.

A decision to move from or remain in close proximity to New York City goes far beyond dollars and cents or comparisons of square footage. We maintain a corporate presence in Manhattan for several reasons, including public relations and communications visibility, business relationships, corporate talent and tradition.

Leaving America's number one designated market area (DMA) would equate to many lost opportunities to promote AKC to major, national and local media networks. Through numerous on-air appearances over the years, our brand has garnered positive exposure countrywide and invitations from the media are increasing. Situating our organization with easy access to the media capital of the world affords us these key opportunities, which often present themselves at a moment's notice and require a level of responsiveness that could not be achieved elsewhere.

Relocation of either office would potentially cause our organization an extensive loss of experienced personnel endowed with decades of corporate knowledge across several departments. Numerous challenges would result in the form of expensive recruitment and in-depth training of multiple new employees at all levels. RIF packages, equity buy-outs, relocation expenses of staff and company property plus the rebuilding of office infrastructure must be anticipated, planned and executed.

The best starting point is not with the evaluation of the status quo, but instead with the determination of what is best for the future of our organization. Our next lease(s) are likely to be 15 to 20 years in duration. Defining our optimal organizational structure will be an essential aspect of our real estate analysis and strategy. Decisions about New York, Raleigh, or some other location are complex and interrelated. It is critical that we consider all factors,

all outcomes, and all options before arriving at a conclusion so sure to impact the ultimate future of the American Kennel Club.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

PATRICIA C. SCULLY, Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.

Candidate Statement



An important decision will have to be made in 2018 as to whether to renew the Madison Avenue, New York City lease.

A task force committee of

approximately eight individuals composed of Board members, staff, the fancy, and consultants should investigate if The American Kennel Club would be better served if the corporate office and headquarters remained in New York or moved out of the state.

At the same time, the task force should enumerate the various advantages that there are to being located in Manhattan.

With due diligence, it should be determined if the nationally distributed members of the fancy would be better represented, and the many activities involved better accomplished, at another loca-

tion. The committee should also explore if another site would be economically more reasonable than New York City.

This task force committee should look into suitable locations, and visit the various selected sites in the country in order to do the appropriate and comprehensive research.

A nearby international airport, public transportation, adequate housing, local schools, health facilities, hotels, restaurants, and active downtown business centers should all be in fairly close proximity to the working environment.

THE 2014 PAC CHALLENGE

CARL ASHBY, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, AKC PAC Board President

GAIL LABERGE, Atlanta Obedience Club, AAKC PAC Board Member

AKC PAC Challenge

The AKC PAC is one of the most valuable tools we have when it comes to influencing dog laws and assuring our future as dog owners and breeders. Since 2007, the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) has been supporting candidates for political office who support positive dog laws, are willing to help defeat anti-dog/anti-breeder laws, and who serve in a decision-making capacity over canine policy.

A campaign contribution made by the AKC PAC and personally delivered to a candidate by constituent club members provides one of the greatest assets you can ask for in politics — *hard to gain access* to legislators who have the ability to influence policy. Access

100 percent of the money that you donate goes directly to supporting the election of important candidates for state offices or Congress.

means the opportunity to have our voices heard – and to educate our legislators about canine issues.

At our upcoming delegates meeting this March, the AKC PAC will be kicking off our biennial election-year PAC challenge. As a fellow delegate and club leader, we will be asking you to do two things:

- ① Contribute to this important fund personally
- ② Help your club's president encourage every member of

your club to also make a contribution.

Federal Elections Rules govern who can contribute to the AKC PAC. The AKC cannot contribute to the AKC PAC fund. This means the AKC PAC is required to raise funds from individuals who are members of AKC clubs. However the AKC pays all overhead costs for the PAC, which means that 100 percent of the money that you donate goes directly to supporting the election of important candidates for state offices or Congress.

It doesn't take a lot of individual money to make a big difference. If everyone contributed just the cost of one show/trial entry – about \$30 – the AKC PAC could have enormous resources. If individual members of each of AKC's 5,000 clubs

collectively contributed \$250 dollars, that could make the AKC PAC a political powerhouse with more than a million-dollars to fight the animal rights agenda and support candidates who value a bright future for dogs.

The AKC PAC is your PAC. It is non-partisan, dedicated to canine issues, and has an election success rate of more than 75 percent. As politically active club members, you get to deliver the PAC check, and you can submit recommendations to the PAC Board for candidates you believe deserve support.

With the kickoff for the 2014 PAC Challenge just around the corner, here are some ideas for assisting your memberships in making the decision to support the AKC PAC.

- A** This is an opportunity for your members to influence an election and fight radical animal rights groups by supporting candidates and officials who are dog friendly and would support dog-friendly legislation if elected.
- B** While only individual members can give to the AKC PAC, clubs can streamline the process by collecting donations & donation forms with individual donor information and writing one check for the total amount to the AKC PAC.
- C** Clubs have numerous ways of assisting their membership in giving to the AKC PAC:
 - ① Urge your club members to donate by providing PAC information and donation forms directly to their members. Forms are available online at www.akc.org/pac. or email akcpac@akc.org for more information.

- ② A “donate button” with a link to the AKC PAC website and online donation form can be placed on a club’s website.
- ③ Include information about PAC donations (including required information) in your club’s membership renewal notice, and have members add that amount to their dues check. The club can then submit a check for that amount to the AKC PAC along with required donor information.
- ④ Challenge your members to give at least the cost of a show, trial or test entry fee and have one member coordinate receiving the donations and donation forms and send them to the AKC PAC.
- ⑤ Hold a drawing for an item to support the AKC PAC. For more details about modest requirements, email the AKC PAC at akcpac@akc.org
- ⑥ Discuss this challenge and/or reprint information about the PAC in your club’s newsletter.
- ⑦ Stay tuned. The AKC PAC Board will be providing additional ideas, tools and strategies to help make this the most successful PAC challenge yet.

As a Delegate YOU can lead by example for your club members by making sure you have donated to the AKC PAC. Even a small amount donated to the AKC PAC assists in the fight. Please remember we are in a fight to preserve our rights to own, breed and show dogs and it is vital that we have in office representatives who support

the future of responsible dog ownership.

As part of the 2014 PAC Challenge, the AKC PAC will be recognizing those clubs who raise the most money from their members for the AKC PAC. Help your club be recognized as one of the top donors to the challenge by assisting your club president in heading up the challenge. For more information on the AKC PAC, along with explanatory flyers, downloadable donation forms, and FAQs go to www.akc.org/pac



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

ERICA KITCHEN, Director of Development & Communications

CHF

Thanks to our many supporters, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) has surpassed \$40 million dedicated to canine health research and educational programs. In 2014 ground-breaking research will be on-going for canine cancer, bloat, anemia, bleeding disorders, chronic pain, heart disease, cartilage disorders, allergies, inflammatory bowel disease, hip dysplasia and much more.

As with any charitable effort, the CHF relies on the support of many individuals and organizations. There are many ways to help raise money for canine health that cost nothing or result from purchases you already make.

Amazon Smile

<http://smile.amazon.com>

Shop on Amazon.com? Simply by starting your purchase at the Amazon Smile site and selecting the AKC Canine Health Foundation as your charity designation, a portion of your purchase will be donated to us. You use your regular Amazon username and password, the only difference is that you start from the Amazon Smile homepage.

Goodsearch

www.goodsearch.com

Set Goodsearch as your default internet search engine and select the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation to earn cash for all your searches. Also from the Goodsearch page, you can take surveys, play games and initiate your online shopping to raise money for the CHF.



eBay Giving Works

<http://givingworks.ebay.com>

Buy or sell items on eBay and fundraise for the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Our Giving Works ID number is 32865.

Black Dog Coffee Traders

www.blackdogcoffeetraders.com

This new coffee company is donating 5% of all their sales to cancer research funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Consider maintaining your caffeine buzz through a company that shares your love of dogs.

Bricks on the Walk of Champions or Path of Honor at the Purina Event Center

<http://support.caninehealthfoundation.org/bricks>

Order a personalized engraved brick on the Walk of Champions or Path of Honor at the Purina Event Center and the proceeds will benefit canine health research. This is an excellent option when you are searching for the perfect gift for a dog lover.

Donations in Lieu of Judging Fees, Trophies or Stud Fees

Instead of accepting a judging fee or a stud fee, ask that the payment be made as a donation to the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Another option popular with some

clubs is to make donations in honor of winning dogs in place of a trophy. The CHF Foundation is happy to create certificates you can give out at your shows indicating that a donation was made in honor of the win.

Create a Personal Fundraising Page

This online feature allows you to build a custom donation page and then invite family and friends to give in memory or honor of a dog or a person who loves dogs. The pages have a place to tell why you support the Foundation and to include a photo. This is also a great way to ask for donations instead of holiday or birthday gifts. Start from the "How you Can Help" section of our website and look for the "Heroes for Health Research" link.

Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat or RV

<http://www.v-dac.com/org/?id=133813813>

You can donate your vehicle to CHF through V-DAC (Vehicle Donation to Any Charity). The process is simple and there may be tax benefits for donating your car, truck, recreational vehicle or boat.

Bequest

A bequest is a written statement in a donor's Will or Trust directing that specific assets be transferred to the AKC Canine Health Foundation at the donor's passing. This is a wonderful way to leave a legacy benefiting dogs that costs nothing during your lifetime. Sample bequest lan-

CHF

guage is available at www.akcchf.org/heritagesociety.

You can learn more about all these ways to give plus many more at www.akcchf.org/donate.

Of course cash donations can also be made online, over the phone or by mail. This year especially, we need your help recruiting new donors and re-engaging

lapsed donors. **In 2014, the American Kennel Club will match contributions to CHF from new and lapsed (last donation occurred on or before 12/31/2011) donors up to \$500,000.** You can find out more about the matching challenge at www.akcchf.org/2014-match. Please help us reach our

goal by encouraging all your dog-loving friends and your dog clubs to contribute.

CHF is grateful for each and every donation, large and small, old and new. Whether you've given recently, if it's been awhile, or if you've never given before, we hope to earn your support in 2014!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for CONTACT US, FUNDED RESEARCH, FOR RESEARCHERS, NEWS, and DONATE. Below this is a search bar and a main navigation menu with categories: ABOUT US, RESEARCH, CANINE HEALTH, NEWS & EVENTS, and HOW YOU CAN HELP. The main content area features a large banner image of a dog running in water, with the headline "CHF Receives 4-Star Charity Navigator Rating". To the left of the banner is a yellow box with the text "Funding research that helps Dogs Live Longer, Healthier Lives" and a "SIGN UP" section. Below the banner is a "DONATE" section with a "DONATE TODAY" button. The bottom section is divided into three columns: "SUCCESS STORY" featuring a photo of a girl and a dog, "RESEARCH NEEDING SUPPORT" featuring a photo of a woman and a dog, and "LATEST PODCAST" featuring a silhouette of a dog. The "HEROES FOR HEALTH" section is also visible at the bottom right.

AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF) PROGRAM

DR. DUANE BUTHERUS, Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club

CHF

I. How do Donor Advised Funds Work?

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are accounts held by the AKCCHF in the name of Parent Clubs (principally) and other regular repeat donors. DAF accounts receive donations from the clubs, private individuals, and importantly from Nestle Purina's donations through their "Weight Circle" program. These DAF funds are used solely for approved canine research supported by the AKCCHF:

- Donor Advised Funds supply money for particular research grants and for research into broader clinical research areas such as dermatology, musculoskeletal, bloat, cancer etc.
- The holders of the DAFs, typically Parent Club Boards of Directors, receive recommendations for research proposals needing funding from the AKCCHF. They then select which research they will support by releasing their DAF funds to that research grant. Note that the spending approval of the Parent Club is not a legal requirement, as the funds have previously been donated to the AKCCHF, but the approval is part of the agreed-on process between the Parent Clubs and the Foundation.
- The funds (historically around \$400,000 yearly) donated by Nestle Purina under their Parent Club "Weight Circle" program go into the DAF for that Parent Club's breed. In many cases, the majority of

funds in breed club DAFs comes from Nestle Purina. Additionally, any funds earmarked by an individual donor for a particular breed go into the DAF for that breed.

II. Role of Parent Clubs:

Parent Clubs have an important role in identifying and selecting research areas for the Foundation to support. Each year, the AKCCHF requests from each Parent Club the list of health concerns of their particular breed.

- This list of health concerns is ideally generated by each Parent Club through health surveys of their breed
- This list of health concerns is consolidated into a Request for Proposal (RFP) document which is distributed early each year to more than 4000 research groups, including veterinary schools and other research institutions around the world

III. Foundation Process for Addressing Parent Club Health Concerns:

Researchers submit proposals in response to the RFP. These proposals are distributed mid-year for review by Peer Reviewers, experts in the particular scientific disciplines engaged in the proposed research. The reviewers rate the particular proposal on:

- Impact/Importance of health issue
- Design of research procedure
- Quality of principal researchers
- Cost of proposed research

- Using the Breed Club health poll survey as a guide, CHF staff rank grants with fundable scores based on importance to breed clubs
- The AKCCHF Grants Committee is a group of approximately 12 veterinarians, scientists and other subject matter experts who come from the dog community. They rank the proposals on both breed club importance and the four factors listed above and recommend funding of the highest-ranked proposals for which funds are available.
- The AKCCHF Grants Committee then requests that the AKCCHF Board of Directors approve funding of the recommended grants.
- Note that funding of research underway is released incrementally. The AKCCHF Chief Scientific Officer monitors the research projects, receiving six monthly progress reports and approves funding increments based on satisfactory progress.
- Progress reports and concluding final reports are distributed to clubs supporting particular research work via the DAF contacts.

IV. How Well Does This Process Work?

First, the good news: We have had increased contributions to DAF over the last several years. More money than ever is coming out of DAFs to be put towards research. With positive trends in the stock market the total bal-

ances of DAF continues to grow, which gives clubs a tremendous opportunity to have a substantial impact on canine health.

The challenge now is that the need is greater than ever. While we have substantially moved canine health research forward, we unfortunately leave many highly-recommended research proposals unfunded because the needed funds are locked up in DAF. Among these grants are research proposals regarding PRA, mast cell tumors, Chagas disease, chronic kidney disease, pyometra and conditioning programs to prevent injury,

V. Improvement Needed:

The major problem with the DAF program is shown clearly in Fig 1.

- The total of residual, unused funds is steadily increasing, approaching \$4.3 million, the result of slightly more funds going into the DAFs each year than go out to support research, plus the investment gains from the funds.
- This gap between funds in DAF and funds used to sponsor research has impacted our ability to approve new research

grants. Much of the money sitting unused in DAFs was donated by individual donors who want their money to be used to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

VI. How Do We Fix This?

Unlocking the unproductive funds in DAFs will be fixed by clubs committing to annually approve support of research grants up to some pre-determined level. To make this simpler for clubs, the AKCCHF has increased the range of support options available to the clubs:

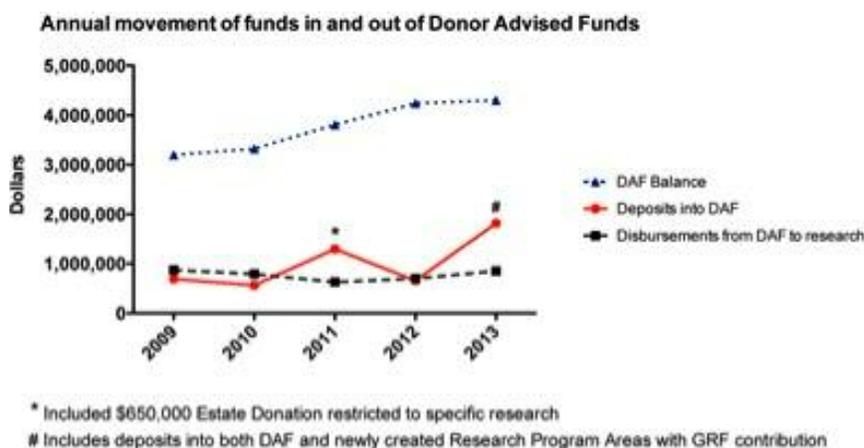
- The cost of many grants is larger than any single club can support, and require support from several clubs. Samantha Wright, who is the DAF contact on the AKCCHF staff, will combine multiple clubs to provide the necessary support for grants.
- We have recently established wider program-area categories for supporting research which will be presented to the clubs for support. Examples of such program areas are:
 - Bloat
 - Dermatology

- Musculoskeletal injury and disease
- Gastrointestinal Disease
- Cardiology
- We recommend that clubs target the annual transfer of up to 80% of the funds of their DAF into research support.
- The AKCCHF often has problems contacting clubs holding DAFs. We have increased our club contact list to include the following:
 - Health Committee chair, or health liaison
 - Corresponding Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - President
 - AKC Delegate

VII. Takeaway

- AKCCHF leaves important science unfunded each year due to stagnant DAF funds.
- Many DAFs hold significant funds which sit idle due to lack of funding decisions from the clubs controlling the DAFs, thus not fulfilling the desires of the donors to prevent, treat and cure canine diseases, and who often are not even members of the club controlling the funds
- The AKCCHF is making available a wider range of funding choices for the clubs
- We need clubs to commit to supporting research by donating up to 80% of funds in their DAFs
- Clubs should consider setting an annual funding level (as a percentage of their DAF) and designate a research area or areas to receive these funds automatically.

Figure 1.



- In order for a club to have an impact on the health and well-being of their breed, they must support canine health research to the greatest extent possible.

Research is usually initiated for the breeds with the largest numbers because studies require large numbers of dogs to have adequate statistical power. Information from research is commonly transferred across breeds once it is gained (see

<http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/library/articles/the-value-of-supporting.html>).

Collaborative funding of major health concerns is the only way to move research forward and solve our greatest health problems. Waiting for a study to come along that specifically names your breed and health concern is not a realistic expectation to have of the veterinary research community.

The AKCCHF thanks all the clubs for their long support. By

increasing the range of available research and improving our communication with the clubs, we anticipate significant increase in our mutual goals of preventing, treating and curing canine disease.

We welcome any questions or suggestions for improvements in how we do our work. Please contact me (duaneb@ptd.net), our CEO, Terry Warren (ttw@akcckf.org), or our Program Manager, Samantha Wright (sjw@akcchf.org).

AKC WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE TITLES

LYNN WORTH SMITH, *Vizsla Club of America*

“Dogs have a very special role in the world of Search and Rescue (“SAR”), as their keen sense of smell, enhanced hearing, night vision and endurance have proved invaluable in the effort to locate missing, lost and injured persons. Because of their extraordinary abilities, dogs are often able to reduce the time spent searching, thereby increasing the chances that the missing person will be found alive. Experts estimate that a single dog team can be as effective as 20

to 30 human searchers in locating a missing person in a given period of time. Search and Rescue dogs can be trained in land cadaver, tracking, trailing, air scenting, urban or wilderness search and rescue. Tracking and trailing dogs can be trained for scent discrimination, wilderness tracking or variable surface/hard surface tracking. Some dogs can be cross-

trained in a number of these areas.” (*Highland Canine Training website*)

Dogs that meet the following criteria are eligible for the titles pro-



Water-certified K9 “Abby”

vided they are registered with AKC if purebred or enrolled in the Canine Partners program as a mixed breed. Wilderness SAR title (SAR-W), effective June 2013, requires that the dogs have participated in a minimum of 5 actual wilderness SAR efforts and are certified by an AKC recognized SAR certification organization. Applications to procure these titles are available from

AKC.

Search and Rescue is a team effort. The commitment of the dog’s handler is significant. It normally takes at least a year of training to be mission-ready.

Jennifer Culver has three dogs titled.

She explained that many of their searches are in the status of confidentiality. One of her K9s found a runaway teenager in December 2013 who had just been dropped off at his therapeutic school and became lost in the woods trying to escape. The dog was able to confirm the boy’s direction of travel and – off

lead – trailed him for over 5 miles. Then the dog, via air scent, found the actual location of the boy and stopped him from continuing to run. He was safely returned to the school – where he hasn’t left again.

Amy Lavoie from California has two SAR dogs.

“I have 2 certified search and rescue (SAR) dogs that recently were

SMITH, cont'd

awarded the new AKC Wilderness Search and Rescue (SAR-W) title. My first certified SAR dog is a German Shepherd Dog found as a puppy on the streets in the Watts section of Los Angeles. He is an Area Search (air scenting) dog. My other certified SAR dog, a Belgian Malinois, is a Trailing dog from an AKC breeder. We work with a very active, all-volunteer team in the San Diego, California area. This team, Southwest Search Dogs, has a working relationship with various law enforcement agencies around the area including the San Diego Police Department.

I had trained and competed in agility for years and wanted to try something different with them. I was looking for something that could help the community and strengthen my relationship with my dogs. Search and Rescue seemed to be a perfect fit.

In the last 5 years we have been on many, many searches throughout San Diego County, generally looking for missing people. One

very memorable search occurred soon after my Malinois, Bodie, was Trailing certified. We were looking for a mentally challenged middle-aged woman. She left her place of work to walk home, but did not arrive home as usual. A personal item of the missing woman was used as a "scent article" and presented to Bodie to begin his search. He trailed her for about 1.5 miles and we came upon her walking along the sidewalk. It was a cold night and she had been walking for several hours. Bodie seemed to sense she was nervous around dogs and was very calm when he approached



"Bodie" SAR-W (Amy's)



"Soren" HRD (SAR-W-Applied for) (Jennifer's)

SAR dogs are there to provide their assistance." said Doug Ljungren, AKC Vice President for Sports and Events. "The AKC is proud to acknowledge the skill and service of these dogs by offering the SAR-W title which will appear on the dog's AKC pedigree."

her. She was safe, and the police officer along with us arranged her return home.

For me, the working partnership that I have with my SAR dogs is unlike any relationship I have had before with dogs. We are a true team that I believe helps make a difference in others' lives. It is truly wonderful that AKC is awarding titles to these hardworking K9s."

The American Kennel Club started acknowledging the skill of Wilderness Search and Rescue dogs in June 2013. "Search and Rescue is a valuable, modern day working activity for dogs. At the time of greatest need, when we are looking for lost or trapped people,



MACH-7 "Gunner," SAR-W (Amy's)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU... ELIZABETH TILLEY-POOLE

The Pekinese Club of America

SYLVIA THOMAS, Kennel Club of Riverside

Delegates

If you do a little Internet research which translates to a “Google” search on Elizabeth Tilley-Poole, you’ll be wowed by the number of stunning images of Pekinese that pop up bearing the Pleiku kennel name. Elizabeth is recognized as a Breeder of Excellence by the Pekinese Association, Inc., a distinction that is awarded to members who have bred 12 or more AKC Champions. Equally, important, Elizabeth or “Betty” as she is known to friends, is a member of the Delegate Body.

In getting to know “Betty”, I asked her to respond to a few questions and appreciate her honesty and willingness to share more about herself with us

How did you become involved in dogs? How long ago was that?

Betty indicated that she bought her first Pekinese in New Mexico in 1966 and two years later in England, she bought her second. If you do the math, with or without a calculator, that’s 48 years ago! That’s a love affair and a life of dedication that rivals most!

What breed(s) do you have and how did you choose your first breed?

Betty has both Pekinese and Japanese Chin, but her first love is the Peke! She first met the breed in New Mexico where a friend had a Pekinese. Her husband gifted her with one for Christmas.

Are you involved in conformation, obedience, or other performance events?

Today, Betty remains involved in the breed through conformation



events and she continues to breed. Though she didn’t mention this in her interview, Betty has owned/bred 92 Champion Pekinese including Specialty and Group winners as well as a Best in Show winner. Betty re-defines the meaning of “active” as she has been a member of 7 different Pekinese Clubs and has held virtually every office including President and Treasurer.

Do you judge? If so, what breeds or groups do you have?

Betty started her judging career in England in 1972 and continued it in the United States beginning in 1997. Sadly, she gave up judging when her husband became ill a few years ago.

What club do you represent?

By now, it probably won’t surprise you to learn that Betty represents the Pekinese Club of America. In April 2013, Betty was selected to be the Delegate and attended her first Delegates’ meeting in June.

When did you become a delegate? What was your interest in becoming a delegate?

Tell us a little about the club you represent? Large? Small? What’s on the minds of your members? How do club members feel or view the AKC?

In the last 6 years our club has gone from over 400 members to 200. I would call it small. We have a new board and we are trying to get the club back on track. The new Board took over in February 2013, during a trying time for the club with nothing in the treasury, outstanding bills, and a host of challenging issues. The members are pleased to once again be included in the running of the club and especially happy about receiving information from the Board.

What do you think is the most pressing issue facing our sport? Why?

People cannot afford to keep large kennels and breed within their own kennels to develop their own lines like in the past. Most couples in a household work and do not have the time or money to breed or show dogs in these economic times.

When it comes to dogs, what one thing is still on your “bucket list?”

I would like to reach 100 Champions. I have bred or finished 93. I would also like to personally show to an all-breed BIS. I have bred BIS winners but only achieved a RBIS when handling myself.

My thanks to Betty for sharing her insight and background with us. At an upcoming delegates’ meeting, check out the name tags across the room or table and if you see Betty, please welcome her to the group!

KACHINA, THE PERFECT 10

DEE CHUISANO, *Invited by Lynn Worth-Smith of America*

Field Events

November 2, 2013 – Nutmeg Weimeraner Club Master Hunter Test.

The weather was sunny, brisk and breezy. Kachina loves to hunt, gets excited, leaps upright in the air and barks whenever I let her out of the car. November 2 was no exception. I let her jump and bark as we walked to the line. About 10 feet from the start I stopped and asked her to heel. She settled down and moved into position. We walked as a team the last few feet. I told her to “whoa” and unclipped the leash.

“When you’re ready,” the judge said. I reached to blow my whistle. It wasn’t around my neck. I held my breath, “DARN” I forgot it. OK, let’s not get nervous.

“I will not hold this brace up.” I told the judges. “I can run without it”

Kachina and her bracemate, a German Shorthaired Pointer, took off as if in a race, then settled into quartering back and forth independently out in front of us. I watched Kachina leap over the high grass and work the wind in search for birds. She WAS a beautiful sight.

We were almost through the back course when Kachina abruptly slammed into a staunch point. I raised my hand and yelled, “Dog on point.” Judges let me know they were on it and told me to work the bird. The cover was thick. It took a few moments to locate the quail. It was almost hidden under heavy grass. I told the judges that I saw it, had my blank gun in my hand, ready. I stomped my foot behind the quail. It started lifting but the thick grass prevented its full flight. I shot the blank as I watched the quail land 3 feet to the left of Kachina. Her front feet lifted as she turned,



marked the bird's new location and pointed again.

She needed to get away from that bird, so I walked away, told her “NO BIRD,” patted my thigh and said, “HEEL.” It took her a while to give up the bird. She finally looked at me then heeled away. PHEW. “What a good girl”, I told her and sent her off.

She continued hunting with drive and determination searching for another bird. We entered the bird field. She quartered from one side of the field to the other. Halfway through I noticed the German Shorthaired Pointer on point, way ahead of us. I started working Kachina in that direction so we could get our honor. We were about 100 feet away when she slammed on point. “Dog on Point,” I said to the judges.

They had a short conference and decided to work the German Shorthaired Pointer first. Kachina kept her eye on the bird as the judges and gunners walked away.

I saw the German Shorthaired Pointer’s handler kick up the bird and watched it fly right in our direction. “OH, NO,” I said to myself seeing it fly over Kachina's head. She heard the flapping of the wings, looked up, then focused back on her bird. “What a super dog,” I said

to myself.

The judges and gunners started to walk our way. I looked back at Kachina. She was still on a staunch point. The bracemate needed an honor so the judges discussed that possibility and decided Kachina had waited long enough.

It seemed like an eternity from the time she had pointed that bird, but I'm sure it was no longer than 5 minutes. Everyone finally gathered in place, judges in the background, gunners on either side. I walked in, found the bird, observed the direction it was facing, and considered which was the safest direction for it to fly. I stomped just behind the bird and it lifted up into flight. I heard the 2 shots, marked its fall then looked back. Kachina was still standing, waiting for her command to retrieve. “Kachina, get it.” She thundered past me.

She had marked the general location but overshot the fall. She was searching too far. Then I saw her bracemate run into the area of the downed bird. My mind screamed. “OH, DARN, this is going to mess up her retrieve.” Kachina saw him, continued her search, found the bird, snatched it up, and ran back to me. A retrieve to hand. “GREAT DOG, WELL DONE.”

Now the other dog needed to find a bird to retrieve and Kachina needed an honor. The dogs worked the field, criss-crossing back and forth. I heard the judge say, “Dog on Point Handler,” so I directed Kachina to come around for her honor but I could not see the GSP in the thick cover. We came around the tall grass, Kachina ahead of me. She stopped. “Beautiful Honor.” She stood and watched the other dog’s flush, shot and retrieve.

“OK, handlers,” the judge said, “Vizsla needs to find a bird so the shorthair gets an honor.” Off Kachina went to hunt another bird. Out in front of me, I saw her slow down, her nose worked the wind to locate the bird. Then she came to a halt, a classic point, front leg up, tail to the sky.

The GSP was called around. I watched him coming. He eyeballed her, started to slow down sniffing the air, and walked right in front of her to steal point. Kachina did not move but gave me the weirdest look. Judges announced, “Thank you, handlers, pick up your dogs.”



I said “NO BIRD,” to Kachina. “HEEL.” She turned away from the bird and came into heel position, I put on her leash. We walked out of the field proudly, knowing we had our second Master pass.

When I got my ribbon, I saw the scores...

- HUNTING – 10
- BIRD FINDING – 10
- POINTING – 10
- TRAINABILITY – 10
- HONORING – 10
- A PERFECT 10.**

What a thrill ! How exciting how totally rare and unbelievable!

I walked over to the judge, shook his hand and thanked him.

“Your dog totally deserved that score,” he said...I’ve judged you before and you have come so close to passing but some unforeseeable thing seemed to happen. Today everything that could go wrong, did go wrong and your dog worked through it. Congratulations.” I gave him a hug and thanked him again.

I walked over to the other judge and thanked her. “I have never given a perfect 10 score,” she said. “Never even came close, but your dog was remarkable today and it was my pleasure to judge her.”

A special run for a special girl. Kachina in the spirit of her ancestors.



CANINE BRUCELLOSIS—NOT TO BE DISMISSED

MARGARET POUGH, *Finger Lakes Kennel Club*

JOELLEN GREGORY, D.V.M., *Otterhound Club of America*

Canine Brucellosis is caused by small, rough or mucoid Gram-negative intracellular bacterium. Transmission can occur through breeding, via semen, or by direct transmission through nasal and oral contact with urine from infected males or by contact with aborted tissues as well as vaginal discharge from a bitch that has aborted.

Animals that have never been bred can still become infected. Infected bitches will shed the bacterium in normal vaginal secretions, especially during estrus. It may also be transmitted through the milk, and puppies may be infected in utero. Brucella organisms may per-

sist on contaminated surfaces, in tissues, feces, and in the soil for several months in conditions of high humidity and low temperatures (including freezing.) It can be killed by most common disinfectants, including bleach. However, disinfectants should be used following a complete cleaning.

In some states, Canine Brucellosis (*Brucella canis*) is not a reportable disease. It is in the state of Michigan, and recent cases in commercial kennels have made the news. Brucellosis is known to be endemic in stray and feral dogs in many of the southern states. It has also been reported world-wide, ex-

cept for New Zealand and Australia, which both require negative tests prior to import.

There is a false security among many rescue groups that spaying and castration of rescue dogs will stop the transmission of Canine Brucellosis. All dogs coming into rescue from commercial breeding establishments, endemic regions, or unknown sources should be isolated and tested, even if these animals are already neutered. Breeders who foster rescue dogs should be particularly careful.

There is no drug approved for the treatment of Brucellosis in the US. Antibiotic treatment is not reliable

in clearing Brucellosis. It takes long term treatment, usually with two different antibiotics, and even then the organism may persist in the blood and tissues. Multiple blood cultures at three month intervals post treatment would be necessary to declare that a dog was truly negative. Some dogs that are blood culture positive and are treated, may clear the infection, but in other cases, dogs have remained positive for years even following spaying and castration, and may shed *Brucella*. Although natural clearing of the infection has been reported in some stray and feral dogs, this is not a risk that we should be taking.

Any dog with fertility issues should be tested for Brucellosis; as should all dogs prior to breeding. Some positive dogs show no clinical signs. Castrated male dogs can continue to shed bacteria in their urine. Asymptomatic infected bitches will shed bacteria at every estrus and may produce asymptomatic puppies that are sold as pets.

Infected puppies will test negative on serology until at least one or two months after initial infection. In 2010, a commercial breeding establishment in Romulus, N.Y., killed 90 Brucellosis positive dogs. However, prior to that, many dogs had been sold as pets. These dogs could be contaminating other local dogs. Most breeders of "designer" breeds do not do any health testing, and, as such, are at risk of spreading Brucellosis (as well as genetic diseases.)

Even spayed and castrated dogs can have clinical signs such as discospondylitis or uveitis. Two neutered rescue dogs from Kentucky were diagnosed with spondylitis and were tested and found to be Brucellosis positive.

Dog breeders should be aware that Canine Brucellosis testing

should be done as soon as the bitch comes into estrus, so that there is time for confirmatory testing if needed. Stud dogs also should be tested before breeding and at least every six months thereafter, depending on their breeding history.

Because of research done at Cornell on Canine Brucellosis, The Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC) at Cornell is recognized as an American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) reference laboratory for serodiagnosis of this condition. As such, the laboratory gets referrals from other testing laboratories. There continues to be a high incidence in the number and percentage of dogs that test Agar Gel ImmunoDiffusion test (AGID) positive using their cytoplasmic antigen.

AGID positive dogs are considered infected and should not be bred unless confirmed negative by blood culture. Confirmation by blood culture is recommended for all AGID positive dogs. A disturbing trend is the number and percentage of dogs that tested negative on the slide screening test, but are AGID positive. This can occur when dogs have been placed on antibiotics which may result in a negative slide test even though the dogs are still truly infected.

It is important that the history on these dogs is honestly evaluated to know if they need further testing to confirm their status. This situation is often seen in dogs from commercial breeding kennels. Dogs are placed on antibiotics that will mask positive results. These positive dogs are then sold with a 30 day guarantee of testing Brucellosis negative.

Canine Brucellosis serology testing continues to have problems. The AHDC at Cornell recommends submitting samples directly to the

AHDC for application of tests that they know will more accurately classify the infection status of dogs. Less rigorous testing procedures may generate false positive or false negative test results, with considerable consequences for the dog.

Dogs can also become infected with other species of *Brucella*. There are recent cases of hounds that have been infected with *Brucella suis* after being used for hunting wild boar and feral swine. Serology tests for *Brucella canis* will be negative on dogs infected with *B. suis*. Blood cultures will be positive for *Brucella* species, but specific tests are needed to determine the specific type of Brucellosis. *B. suis* is transmissible to humans and can cause disease.

All *Brucella* species can infect other species, including humans. Although human infections with *Brucella canis* are rare, they have been reported. People at risk include infants and children, pregnant women, the elderly, cancer patients, and other immunocompromised individuals. Clinical signs are often vague, and certainly Canine Brucellosis infection is not high on the diagnostic rule-outs of most physicians.

Veterinarians should read *Canine Brucellosis: A Diagnostician's Dilemma*, in **Seminars in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (Small Animal) Vol. 11, No.3 (August) 1996: pp161-165.**

For an overview of the disease read *Canine Brucellosis: Brucella canis*, from Iowa State University, Center for Food Safety and Animal Health, updated in April, 2012, published on line at

www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/brucellosis_canis.pdf

A EUROPEAN DOG SHOW ADVENTURE

DR. GENO SISNEROS, American Pomeranian Club, Inc.

In late 2006, a friend of mine asked me if I had a Pomeranian that I could send to Estonia for a year to be shown, as some other arrangements for a good Pom breeder and close friend of his had fallen through. At the time all I had was a young dog that had won several BBE Bests In Show and a couple of Group placements, and I did not even know where Estonia was on the map. At the time, though, I didn't feel I had the experience to do the dog justice and wanted him to get more exposure, so I took a leap of faith and let him go.

He came home a little over a year later as the Number One dog in Estonia for 2007, with an FCI championship, championships in 5 additional countries, and multiple Bests In Show. He also came home with albums full of ribbons, certificates, written critiques, as well as several heavy granite trophies. I was amazed and intrigued at how different the dog world seemed over there.

I finally got the opportunity to travel to Estonia in 2013 to visit and attend some shows. My gracious hosts were the family who owned and showed my dog while he was there and their close friend who is a breeder, judge, translator, and is involved with several dog clubs. I arrived in the beautiful capital city of Tallinn and was picked up and taken by car to Parnu, the summer capital, on the southern coast. We went directly to the show site where they were preparing for 2 Group shows that afternoon.

The show site was a grassy area



behind a small community center. Four rings were delineated by plastic tape with a small tent and table and chairs in the corner opposite the "entrance" to the rings. As exhibitors arrived, they set up tents (yes, camping tents) all along the edges of the ring. Instead of using the entrance, they would simply come out of their tents and walk over the tape into the ring and then exit the same way when finished.

I can't speak for all of Europe, but in Estonia they do not have superintendents like we do here in the States. The show committees do everything, with the show secretary handling the entries. Entries are ac-



cepted by mail or email starting 4-6 months before the show, and entry fees increase until the entries close approximately one month before the show. For international shows, the entry fees may start at 25 EUR (\$34 US) and end up at 75 EUR (\$102 US) if you wait until the last minute!

I helped set up the rings and handed out dog treats at the check-in table and pointed exhibitors toward

their rings. Luckily, I had learned some Estonian on "You Tube" and most people knew a few words in English. Many breeds have the same names over there, but it took me the longest time to figure out that "mopsid" or "mops" is a Pug and get them to the correct ring.

Obviously many more breeds are allowed and the standards differ from AKC's, but it was especially strange seeing the breeds that we typically crop and dock: Brussels Griffons with huge ears and long tails arching over their backs - Miniature Pinschers with ears and long tails that move like any other dog. Several breeds were breathtaking, though...many of the Spitz-type breeds like Pomeranians, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Akitas, as well as German Shepherd Dogs, Collies, and Schnauzers, just to name a few.

The next two days were large all-breed international shows held in what looked like a football stadium across the street from the beach. Lining one street were several charter buses from other countries, as dog show tours are often organized to include transportation as well as lodging for exhibitors and their dogs. Again, the rings were set out

with plastic tape but with much nicer tents in the corners, again surrounded by a sea of tents. Vendors lined the track of the stadium.

These were all-day affairs. Breed judging is much more complex and time consuming. Every dog receives a written evaluation, and this is usually dictated by the judge while going over the dog and during a time when the dog is stacked and the judge completes the written evaluation.

Classes are separated by sex and are as follows: Baby class (4-6 month), Puppy class (6-9 month), Junior class (9-18 month), Intermediate class (15-24 month), Open class, and Working class (15 month and over) (if applicable), Champion class (15 month and over), Veterans class (8+ years and over). Each dog is graded EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD, GOOD, SUFFICIENT, DISQUALIFIED, or CANNOT BE JUDGED.

Only dogs receiving "excellent" are eligible for a certificate and are able to compete further, and only one dog and one bitch can receive a certificate on a given day, though at times a certificate may not be given if no dog is of age or needs it.

The Best Male competition is next, where each dog of certificate quality (CQ) returns in order and are then placed first though fourth. The Best Dog will compete for Best of Breed against the Best Bitch, who is chosen the same way.

Following Best of Breed is competition for Couples (or Brace), Breeders



was confusing at first, and there was a lot of going around and around. The judge actually picked winners backwards, pulling fourth, then after another go around third, then second, then first, so even with a Pomeranian I was worn out. I appreciated receiving the written critique immediately and think it can really provide direction to the breeder or exhibitor.

Remember when I said it is an all-day affair? Next are all the Group competitions...Baby Puppy Group, Juniors (Puppy) Group, Regular Group, Brace Group, Breeder Group, Progeny Group...followed by all the different Bests In Show... and remember that FCI has 10 Groups. Thus, if you are showing more than one dog, you could be there all day.

It was obvious, too, that men are a minority in the ring. I was one of a handful of men showing dogs. One was in shorts and flip flops, a few were in pants and long sleeved shirts, and I was overdressed (and hot) in my suit and tie. It was a much more casual affair and the atmosphere more relaxed, and people were friendly.

It was definitely an eye-opening experience and one which made me see the bigger picture, that many of the things we complain about here or changes we are afraid to make in Group or show structure are really not that big of a deal, that it is just a dog show after all.



(groups of 3-5 dogs), Progeny (groups of 3-5 dogs plus the sire and dam of the litter).

I was lucky to be able to show a daughter of the dog I sent over. It



OBEDIENCE GROUP EXERCISES TO STAY, OR NOT TO STAY

BARBARA L NORTON, Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club of Idaho Falls

Obedience

I believe that the long sit and long down are very important exercises. But because of the potential for negative impact, either emotionally or physically, to another dog, I believe that it would be wise to restructure this exercise so it would be a positive and safe experience. Possibly, the dog could do the sit/down individually while the handler leaves for a distance, returns with a leash and then on the judges command, releases the dog and leaves the ring (As in Rally). Or, the dog could do the sit/down while the handler walks around the inside perimeter of the ring (as in Beginner Novice). Judges would be supervising and scoring only one dog. Another idea would be to have a Group ring with only one dog or two dogs at opposite ends. This would require an extra ring with a judge to score and time the dog. An extra ring plus an extra judge would require added space and the expense of another judge.

Due to the declining enrollment in obedience, attracting and keeping participants is very important. Although the incidents in groups can be minor, merely annoying, or occasionally even humorous, they can also be terrifying to the dog and even tragic. If the experience while showing is uncomfortable for handlers and their dogs, people may choose to show in other venues. Years ago there were limited options for people who wanted to train their dogs (Hunting, Obedience, Tracking, Herding). Now, there are many options.

The Obedience Group Exercise is the only situation in which I have

to place my dog at risk and depend on others for his safety. I cannot train for, nor be responsible for, lack of training, clueless attitude of the owner, or other outside influences over which I have no control. I have shown five generations of Shelties in Obedience and every one of these dogs has had a very negative experience which was caused by another dog in the Group exercises. My Sheltie bitch, Pippin UDT, was urinated on by a large, male dog while everyone watched aghast! Of course, my

The Obedience Group Exercise is the only situation in which I have to place my dog at risk and depend on others for his safety.

dogs were given the opportunity to re-do the exercise. But, they were nervous, worried, and frightened while repeating the exercise. And, despite extensive re-training, they continued to be nervous, worried, and scared for months or years after the occurrence. Our Sheltie, MACH Kelross Black Enchanter CDX, TD, RAE5, MXF, "Chance", was always interested, happy and looking around at the sights during the Groups. After being chased around the ring by a large dog, he would still sit and stay, but he was shaking with his head between his shoulders. So, we finally decided to discontinue showing in Obedience. We continue to train and show in Agility and Rally. My current dog, Kalea Tristan RAE, MX, MJB, MXF, is an excellent agility dog as well as winning second in Excellent at the AKC Rally Nationals in

2013. Yes, he can and does heel quite nicely. Though he can accomplish all of the skills through Open, he has never been shown in an Obedience Trial.

From the other side of the spectrum, I trained and showed my Giant Schnauzer, Am/Canadian Champion Siegfried von Donnerain, UDT, Schutzhund 2, Canadian CD in many obedience classes. Though he had completed the Utility title, I continued to show in Open. At one show, I returned to Siegfried after the long sit. The

steward walked over to me and told me that he was very impressed by my dog. I said, "Why? He just sat there". The steward then told me that a smaller dog had approached, barked, snapped, and lunged in Siegfried's direction. I asked

why they hadn't removed the small dog immediately. He explained that they could not catch the small dog. I said that it was good that they finally caught the dog because if he had bitten Siegfried there might have been pieces of the smaller dog scattered around the ring! Because of this incident, I discontinued showing in Open and returned to the Schutzhund underground.

My Border Collie, Detania Belle UD, handled wayward dogs approaching her in the Groups in a different manner. She gave the dogs the "Border Collie Glare", which resembles a raptor intent on a rabbit, and the dogs targeted another dog!

What I have learned over the years from these varied experiences is that I cannot safely show my dog in Groups. It is assumed that dogs are well trained and reli-

NORTON, *cont'd*

able prior to entering a trial. Some are not. For a variety of reasons, there is always some hesitation on the part of the judge and stewards to intercept or remove a dog who has broken position or location. If a dog determinedly decides to visit, investigate, or attack another dog,

it is difficult for the judge or stewards to move quickly enough to intercept it. Rules have been changed to help address the situation (less dogs in a group, greater distance between dogs) but this has not seemed to correct the problem.

We need to take out the fear and put back the fun if we are to increase obedience entries.

2014 AKC DELEGATES MEETINGS

March 10 – 11, Monday – Tuesday, New York City area

June 8 – 9, Sunday – Monday, New York City area

September 7 – 8, Sunday – Monday, New York City area

December 11 – 12, Thursday – Friday, Orlando, Florida

As always, thanks to the members of our committee and to the authors who contributed to this issue. Without you, there would be no *Perspectives*.

Carol Williamson, Editor

◀ [Back to Table of Contents](#)