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# 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 and double spaced 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.** Longer articles should be discussed with the Issue Coordinator or the Editor before being submitted.

- 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. (Remember, computers don't know the difference between a tow head and a tow truck.)
- **Send in your article as early as possible.** Beginning with the March, 2012 issue, 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.

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Lynn Worth-Smith, Vizsla Club of America

The coordinator for the December 2013 issue of Perspectives will be Lynn Worth-Smith.

Please email articles directly to [lynhar@aol.com](mailto:lynhar@aol.com) by October 15, 2013.



## 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.*

**Editorial** Since receiving Sherry Wallis' article on dogs that inappropriately sport service dog vests while awaiting transportation on airlines, I have read two articles on the subject.

An article written in the Orlando Sentinel was carried in the Houston Chronicle, Friday, August 9, 2013. The article was titled, "Bogus service dogs called an 'epidemic'" and advocates for the disabled "say the issue is creating big headaches for those who truly need the canines' assistance."

In fact, Canine Companions for Independence has launched an online petition asking the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to take action. Their goal is 10,000 signers. They want to take the list of signers to the DOJ to ask that something be done.

Already, in 2011, the DOJ issued revisions to its ADA regulations singling out dogs as the only legally protected assistance animals. Before that, people were claiming monkeys, snakes, and other animals were helping them cope with their disabilities. The DOJ also clarified the definition of a service dog as one that is "individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability."

A search of eBay under "service

dog patches," indicates more than 22,000 sellers.

As someone who sits on the board of a service organization, I can tell you that this is a big concern to me. Our people are increasingly being asked to prove that the service animal is legitimate — especially when the service animal is trained to help with those that are hearing-disabled or have epilepsy — the "hidden" disabilities.

I feel that this problem is one that will grow even larger as servicemen return from overseas and gain animals to help calm their fears, help them hear, or walk.

I support Sherry's concerns. We all should.

I want to take this opportunity to invite Delegates who are interested in joining the *Perspectives Editorial Board* to attend our meetings.

Here are the required qualifications:

*Perspectives* is a vehicle for the sharing of news and views among the entire delegate body. Each *Perspectives* Editorial Board member:

- must have been a Delegate for at least two years at the time of nomination;
- must have attended at least half the Delegate meetings

during this tenure; and

- should have qualifications pertaining to writing, journalism, or publishing. Committee members review submitted articles for grammar, punctuation, syntax, organization, and flow.
- Committee members work on each issue by inviting articles and by editing submissions. Each committee member must invite at least six articles per year. (Committee members may write articles; however, only two self-authored articles per year count toward the minimum number of invited articles.)
- Generally, each committee member is responsible for the coordination of one issue every two to two and a half years.
- Committee members shall attend a minimum of two committee meetings per year. Three consecutive absences without the approval of the committee chair shall constitute a resignation from the committee.

We have some openings now and would like to hear from you. If you have questions, please give me a call.

## 2013 AKC DELEGATES MEETINGS

December 12-13, Thursday – Friday • Orlando, Florida

## 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 10 – 11, Wednesday – Thursday • Orlando, FL

## VIVA LA VIV

LISA PRICE, Professional Pointing Breed Trainer, Freelance Writer for hunting magazines, AKC licensed Hunting Test judge  
Invited by Lynn Worth-Smith, Vizsla Club of America, Inc.

### Dogs

In the litter of seven German Shorthaired Pointers, one puppy was noticeably smaller than the rest, and within a few hours, noticeably failing. I called my veterinarian and he advised bottle feeding her.

The next weeks became a blur as I moved a mattress downstairs and fed the puppy every three hours. In between feedings, she slept on a heating pad in a shoe box. One of my friends, Sandy Weingart, spelled me from time to time on the bottle feeding, and early on, Sandy brought me a pink fleece baby blanket with the embroidered words, "I love my mommy."

"Sandy," I said, when I saw the blanket, "this is the kind of thing that could really make me cry if she doesn't make it."

Sandy assured me that she could tell that the puppy was going to live. She started to call her "Viva", for life, which we later shortened to "Viv".

When Viv was three weeks old she weighed just under a pound. I was concerned because I didn't think she'd been able to nurse from her mother and could be susceptible to various dog illnesses. I made an appointment with my veterinarian for an exam and whatever inoculations she could be given.

My veterinarian (Dr Ron Bernard, Ringtown Valley Veterinary Hospital, Ringtown, Pennsylvania) assessed the tiny pup with a glance and immediately opened her mouth. "Here's your problem," he said. "There's a hole in her soft palate."

He showed me the hole in the soft palate and how the bony



ridges of the hard palate inside her mouth didn't line up from side to side. She'd been unable to nurse from her mother or the bottle (I'd had to squeeze the bottle to squirt the milk substitute into her) because the hole meant she couldn't form a vacuum. By sheer luck I hadn't squirted any fluid into the hole, which would have gone right into her lungs.

With Viv on the table between us, my vet said words I know were hard for him. "It's up to you, and you've made a valiant effort," he said, "but this is not a healthy puppy and she's far from out of the woods."

He suggested euthanizing her, but I said I couldn't do it. Her will to live was just too strong. I had to continue the bottle feeding for about another week and then start her on a special canned puppy food that I fed to her by scooping a small dollop onto my pinky and placing it in her throat, past the hole.

Her littermates, in the meantime, had begun the weaning process and were moving around on sturdy

legs, their eyes open. Viv's eyes didn't open until she was nearly five weeks old, and I remember the moment. She was in a bigger box by then, and I'd spoken to her when I came into the room. She'd started moving her head in an odd way, thrusting it forward and back. Suddenly I realized that her eyes had opened and she was trying to focus.

I picked her up and she continued the head movements until she found a spot where she could see me. "Well, hi there," I said and her little tail wagged like crazy.

When she was eight weeks old, I took her to two different veterinary specialists who'd been recommended by my vet. At the first clinic the veterinarian seemed to chastise me for keeping the puppy alive, and admittedly, she was still ridiculously small and weak. The veterinarian said that nothing could be done until she was full grown. "If she lived that long," I was to bring her back.

The next specialist suggested two possible fixes. One repair would be to remove skin from inside her cheek and sew it over the hole. The second option was to sew a piece of plastic over the hole. But the recovery from each operation would be challenged by two things: the great possibility of infection and the possibility that her condition could become worse if the operation failed. Both clinics said that nothing could be done until she was fully-grown.

In the meantime Viv was learning to compensate for her disability. She ate her kibble a piece or two at a time, chewing it thoroughly and tilting her muzzle up to

Dogs

swallow. She drank from a dish with equal care, taking a few laps and then tilting her muzzle up.

When her littermates left home, she was still half their size, but as the weeks and months flew by and some of the littermates visited, I could see that Viv was catching up. Also, she showed a real eagerness for bird work, but I hesitated.

What if she picked up a bird, and sucked feathers into that hole? But she seemed to like pointing birds

so much that I resolved to train her but not allow her to retrieve. She sailed through Junior Hunter with no problems.

As may be the case with most bird dog training, Viv's work in the field did not go perfectly. One day she broke from her point and grabbed the bird. She started to bring it to me but dropped it, looking at me in surprise. Her mouth seemed to be filled with feathers. She spit the feathers out and again

picked up the bird, this time rolling it around on the ground first with her paw and grasping it mainly by the head.

I realized that Viv would compensate for whatever issues her disability created. I'm proud of the Senior Hunter title she earned last year, but the bond we have means more to me than any title she could earn. She's a terrific friend and I feel lucky to share her life.

## AKC DELEGATE TURNOVER

MARY LOU OLSZEWSKI, American Bloodhound Club

Delegates

Turnover can be good or bad! Turnover, in general, is a measure of the effectiveness of an asset. In business a fast inventory turnover can positively affect profit while excessive employee turnover can have a negative effect on many factors including revenue and profit. As Delegates we are the "voice" for our respective clubs as well as major contributors and joint decision makers for many AKC initiatives. In that role we are critical success factors and "assets" of the AKC. My first unofficial "mentor" as an AKC Delegate told me that I wouldn't even get the keys to the ladies room until I was a Delegate for about five years. Obviously a metaphor for how much time it would take for me to learn my way around and while five years may be a bit exaggerated, it is no secret (as each of you can appreciate) that it requires time for new Delegates to become acclimated to their new roles and thus effective "assets" for their clubs and the AKC.

It may or may not surprise you that the Delegate Body turns over at an approximate rate of 10% annually. While we are

not yet prepared to discuss the effects this turnover has to our clubs and the AKC regarding the loss of a Delegate, we can start by helping the AKC understand why over 100 Delegates have left the body over the past 2 ½ years.

Recently Jim Crowley asked the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee (DAAC) to examine why Delegates leave their position. At the June Delegate's meeting Whitney Coombs, Delegate for the Catoctin Kennel Club, and I were asked to take on Jim Crowley's request as a new project. Our first step was to email all the former Delegates and ask them to respond with their story of why they are no longer a Delegate. We received many very interesting responses.

Here is a summary of the email process and results:

Total number of emails sent	100
Number of names without emails on list provided	8
Number of invalid/returned email addresses	14
"Still a Delegate" Responses	4
Valid Participants	74
Responses	31
% of Responses	41.8%

Here are the key categories and number of responses received:

Resigned or Retired	13
Club Politics	9
Still a Delegate	4
Health Issues	3
Term Limits	2

Many of the former Delegates were very candid and seemed to appreciate being asked why they are no longer Delegates.

- Here are a few observations:
- Most all former Delegates valued their time as Delegates and most would welcome an opportunity to return to the Delegate body.
  - At least five of the respondents indicated that the financial burden (travel costs or inability to charge a judging fee) played a role in their decision not to continue as a Delegate.
  - Some were victims of club politics and they weren't even sure what happened. One was devastated but had no recourse.
  - Some shared that their

**Delegates**

Clubs took little interest in their reports and/or the activities of the AKC.

- Others felt that the committee meetings were useful and one felt that the “Tuesday” meeting was not fulfilling and a waste of a vacation day.
- Some were frustrated with the unwillingness of the Delegates to make changes to keep the AKC moving forward.
- One responded that it did take

a long time for Delegates to figure out what they were doing and felt if the AKC could help reduce Delegate turnover, it would be a real positive.

In summary, there are many reasons why the current Delegate turnover is approaching 10% and there are probably even more questions than answers. Unfortunately we can't always control the whims of our Clubs or what is going on in our

personal life but we can help the AKC better understand the issues, and in turn perhaps they can help educate both new and old clubs going forward.

Thank you!

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU... ROBERT BERGMAN

SYLVIA THOMAS, Kennel Club of Riverside

**AKC**

This month, I'm pleased to introduce one of the newest delegates. Meet Robert Bergman. He just attended his first meeting and was kind enough to respond to my interview questions regarding his involvement with dogs, his background, experience, and interests that bring him to the Delegate Body.

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

Like so many of us, Robert grew up with dogs. That said, his wife was not allowed to have dogs when she was growing up, but together they “fixed” that and got their first Soft Coated Wheaten from Cindy Vogels in 1985. Cindy, of course, came highly recommended and was a local Colorado breeder, which helped. As many of you will recall, she judged Best in Show at Westminster last year.

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

Robert has owned Wheatens

for 28 years and chose the breed because he and his wife both have allergies.

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

Robert and his wife have been active Wheaten breeders since 1993. They have four dogs, all champions, which live at home with them and currently co-own another 12 dogs. Their kennel name is “Heirloom,” and together they participate in conformation, agility, obedience, tracking and lure coursing. Additionally, they have tested their dogs for herding aptitude. One of the dogs they co-own has been among the top 5 Wheatens in the country for the past 6 years in agility and has performed for the past 5 of those years at the Invitational, in both Long Beach and Orlando.

### *Do you actively exhibit and/or breed your dogs?*

Since they first began breeding Wheatens, Robert and his wife have produced 22 litters and average about one litter every

10-15 months. Currently, they are actively showing 4 dogs in conformation and 2 involved in agility actively.

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

Robert has not taken the plunge into judging!

### *What club do you represent?*

While Robert belongs to several clubs including the Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club, the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club, and Plum Creek Kennel Club (and is an officer in two of the clubs), he represents the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America.

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

Robert volunteered in late January to take on the delegate's position when John Mandeville stepped down. His main interest is in serving his club by having a voice in the direction of the AKC; and learning the inner workings of the AKC.

**AKC**

**Tell us a little about the club you represent? Large? Small? What's on the minds of your members?**

The national membership numbers about 500 to 550. As a parent club, much of the focus of effort and money is on health issues and health education. The breed has a high incidence of PLE (protein losing enteropathy) and PLN (protein losing nephropathy), and the national club and breeders have been working with different veterinary schools for several years, supporting research to identify genetic markers to help address this health issue. Health is a major focus for the club.

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

According to Robert, there are

two issues that should be the focus in growing our sport:

1. Bringing our youth into the sport through Junior Handing efforts. We need young people taking responsibility for the future of the sport.
2. We need to educate the masses regarding pure-bred dogs and the importance of breed development – especially in the areas of reducing animal cruelty and in providing a national image that is viewed as the most supportive on behalf of all dogs.

**Given the many fronts and issues AKC is facing (anti-dog legislation, declining registrations, reduced revenue, competition with other registries), do you have any ideas about what it should do?**

According to Robert, we need to develop strategies to meet

HSUS and PETA head on regarding some of the legislation that they support and their attitudes around pure bred dogs. “I think that the AKC is seen as an elitist organization and has generally catered to the dog fancy. While I think the AKC should continue to meet the needs of the “fancy,” they should develop a second focus for educating the general public regarding dog issues.”

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

Robert wants to travel around the country in his RV almost full time and go to dog shows and agility trials everywhere, large shows and small.

**What can you tell us about yourself that we wouldn't already know?**

Robert retired from IBM in 2007.

## AN EYE FOR A DOG

BRUCE VORAN, American Boxer Club, Inc.

**Opinion**

At one time or other, individuals within the dog community decide to become involved in the Judges Approval Process. Discussions centering on this process often infer that the process itself and the final outcome don't necessarily create or result in “an eye for a dog” nor in good judging.

The expression that ‘good’ dog show judges “have an eye for a dog” is common, but typically reserved for a select few. When a judge places one dog over another, a retort of discontent may be heard among exhibitors that sadly, the judge did not have “an eye for a dog.” All of this begs the question, “What is an eye for

a dog?” Is this a characteristic you are born with or is it an attribute for which one can be trained? The fact that mentoring, kennel visits, institutes, seminars, oral and written presentations on the essence of a breed are offered/required as ways to develop this “eye” would seem to suggest the answer is “yes.” The technical ability to judge can be developed through an acquisition of breed-specific knowledge and refinement of procedure. But a cloud of doubt remains whether some judge-trainees will ever acquire “it” while others acquire “it” or have “it” without training programs.

There is a legendary story,

likely born in myth, of a whaling captain. Captain Hull was the ablest of skippers, pushed out further, lost the fewest men and always returned to New Bedford with the largest catch. Not navigationally trained formally, he was asked how he found his way in the vast sea. He purportedly replied: “When the skies are clear at dusk, I go up on deck and rock slowly with the pitch and roll, then, I listen to the wind in the rigging, take a long look at the brightest star, go below and fix my position and plot my course.” At some point, the company that employed Hull, required all skippers to go to Harvard for training in navigation. Hull happily went

and on the next return of his whaling vessel, he was asked, "How did it go?" Hull replied: "It was wonderful! I would take my sextant and clock, bring the correct stars down to the horizon, mark everything precisely, and then go down and mark my position, and plot my course. After that I would go back on deck, feel the ships pitch and roll, listen to the wind in the rigging and go below and correct my calculations."

How, then, come skippers like Captain Hull? It may lie somewhere between the personal and experiential right brain activity which guided Captain Hull and the propositional left brain activities he learned at Harvard. A person who is "left-brained" is said to be more logical, analytical, and objective, while a person who is "right-brained" is more intuitive, thoughtful, and subjective. This theory, which has a seductive simplicity, grew out of the work of Roger W. Sperry, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1981 for his study on the two hemispheres of the brain.

If you ask a well-respected judge who purportedly has "an eye for a dog" to talk about themselves, you will find they may have difficulty expressing themselves intellectually. It is personal and experiential—it is passion, not exclusively propositional, as the story of the whaling Captain Hull illustrates. Dog shows need rules, structure and left-brained definitions for their continuity. But this is not all there is to judging. The choice to point at one dog and not another can be said to be the difference between a moment of pleasure over a less pleasurable one. An "eye for a dog" is essentially an intuitive,

relational right-brained "choice" and left-brained rules and analytics are called upon to reinforce the right-brained choice. A judge who has "an eye for a dog" exercises both left and right brain abilities, but is often more influenced by the pleasure-seeking dictates of the "right brain." A judge wants to feel good about what he does. But, if questioned on a choice, a judge will often rely on a quantifiable, analytic answer rather than one that implies whimsy or the simple pleasure of the act. Pleasure and whimsy aside, the choice of placements involves interplay between the judgment of reason and the will to choose one dog over another. Two dogs may be described as "good dogs" but the words used don't mean that the two dogs are the same. Similarity in the words does not indicate an equality of form in the dogs. An "eye for a dog" may, in the abstract, be the will to choose the one dog that correctly possesses its various, but similar, parts in a unified form that elevates it to a level of distinction.

At the moment of decision, the judge's point of view is affected by acquired memories, habits, knowledge and passions. Judging only mediocre specimens over time rather than outstanding examples of a breed may create a mental picture affecting a left-brained analytical point of view of what an outstanding example of a breed is and may not be easily changed.

Judges education materials often utilize three or four examples of unacceptable features such as ear set in a breed. Together with these examples is an example of one correct ear set. One correct example is often

over-written in memory by the three or four unacceptable examples. To rid acquired memories, habits and passions embedded in the right brain and reinforced by the analytical left brain may take perseverance and may not be easily shaken off.

Perhaps the approval process will have to walk many a mile before it is perfectly and simplistically both "right and left brained" and may forever be just a fond hope because the distinction between having "an eye for a dog" and the potentiality of finding it in every person who judges dogs is not the same. It can be safely said that no judge sets out to make poor placements. Surely each directs his/her choices with the goal of doing well, insuring some level of personal happiness.

A person who wants to become a judge has the capacity to acquire knowledge such as the written Standard of a breed or to have some form of an "Ah-ha" experience or revelation and possesses the potentiality to use that knowledge. Judges strive for the actualization of their potential, but it does not follow that they all agree on what choosing well means. The precise capacity and use that is possessed is always unknown.

And this brings me back to Captain Hull and the question: Is an "eye for a dog" an attribute for which one can be trained? The capacity for acquiring knowledge is manifest in the human mind, and in all things there is a tendency to develop potentialities and this tendency is said to be good. Without knowledge in some form, potentiality cannot exist. The capacity of acquiring knowledge exists, and the several and variable potentialities of that

Opinion

knowledge exist for its use. The acquisition of knowledge in some form by itself does not achieve nor guarantee the ultimate objective of creating “an eye for a dog.” How the several and variable potentialities are used determines why some, like Captain Hull, are said to have innate ability or in our case “an eye for a dog.” Those who advocate for the idea that the market place is the final arbiter of who is or is not a good judge may be on to some truth. Perhaps then it shall be known who uses the “correct” eye for a dog and who uses the

“wrong” eye.

The foregoing being said, it may add up to this. On any given weekend, a panel of four judges will pass on any given breed and of these four, three may be in agreement and the fourth at odds in terms of placements and winners. The exhibitors who win awards, placements and points certainly don't willingly refuse the honors. While this writer is neither of the stature of Edd Bivin or the late Anne Rogers Clark, who few would deny possessed an eye for a dog, it could be the case that I might be one of

three judges on a weekend panel who is labeled as having an eye for a dog because my placements agree with the majority, but what if I'm the fourth judge whose placements differ from the others?

No matter how the Judges Approval System is tweaked, realigned or managed, some judges will emerge with an eye for a dog and others will not. The long and the short of it all is that it is best to go with what is in place, live with it, do the best we can, and just get over it!

## THE HORRORS OF E-BALLOTING

DON JAMES, *Leonberger Club of America*

E-Balloting

Print advertising requires several elements to be successful.

One of those is known as “The Grabber”. This is a word or phrase that “grabs” your attention. You no doubt remember the day in college when you were on your way to class and came across a flier posted on a bulletin board announcing

**FREE SEX**

It was only when you got within reading distance that you realized the note was an attempt by the Chess Club to recruit new members. It had nothing to do with sex, but I'm guessing it probably got your attention.

The title of this article is intended to be a grabber. I hope I've gotten your attention because I want to tell you there are NO horrors involved with electronic balloting or E-Balloting.

At the Parent Club Committee meeting last March, Katie

Campbell, Delegate for the Basenji Club of America (BCOA), shared a proposal solicited by her club to handle electronic balloting for club elections. At that point, I thought an article about the process might be of value to the Delegate body. However, without adequate explanation, many of you might consider the idea of throwing your secret ballot into the abyss of the Internet to be more than a bit daunting.

This article will attempt to shed some light on the process involved in casting an E-Ballot. Not only will it show that E-Balloting is a great way for a club to save money it spends on the election process, but it's been shown that E-Balloting is a great way to increase overall participation in club elections. Not having to deal with paper ballots, stamps and mailing seems to be an incentive to club members to get involved in a club election.

In order to move to an electronic balloting business model, 3 things must occur:

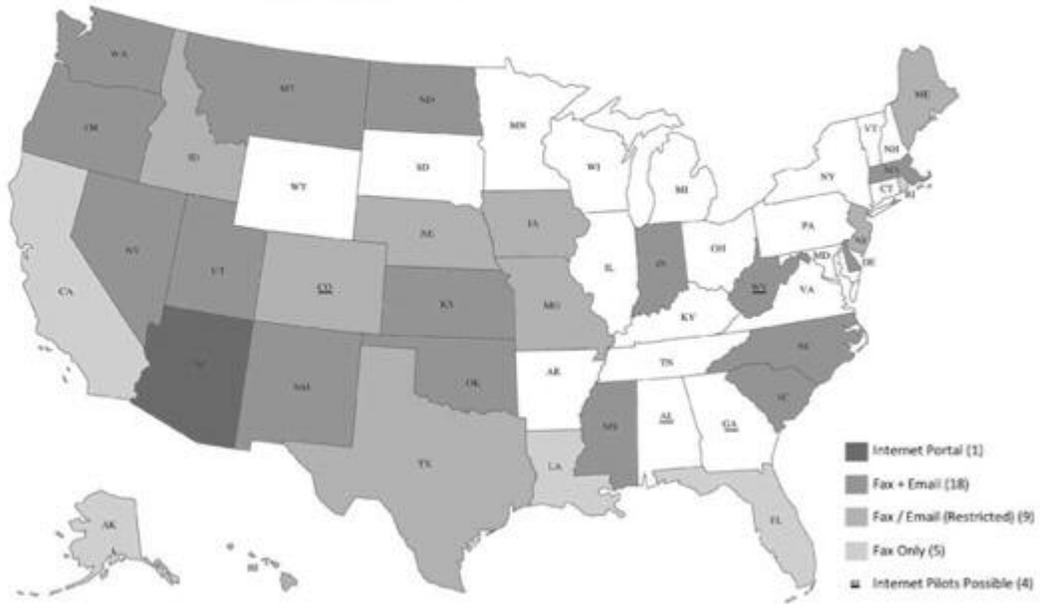
- 1 AKC must agree to allow electronic balloting as a valid method for running club elections.
- 2 A club's By-Laws may have to be revised to allow E-Balloting to be used in their elections.
- 3 The state in which the AKC Club is incorporated must allow E-Balloting as a legal method for conducting elections.

Let's have a look at how Simply Voting Inc., one electronic balloting provider, runs its elections. Different companies might vary in some areas but the overall process is remarkably similar among several such companies I looked at. We'll then provide a comparison of the costs for a Parent Club to run a traditional “snail mail” election vs. holding that same election using electronic ballot-

INTERNET VOTING 2012



E-Balloting



In 2012 there were 32 states that allowed some form of electronic balloting. In the map above, the states listed in white do NOT allow any form of electronic voting.

ing. We'll use a club's Board election as our example.

**1 Election Setup**

- a. The designated club election manager uses the E-Balloting company WEB site to create an election specifying both the dates and times of the election.
- b. Ballots are defined specifying the parameters of the upcoming election.
- c. Pictures and/or candidate statements are uploaded.

**2 Voter Credentials Uploaded**

- a. Every current member of the club will be entered as an eligible voter in this election.
- b. Unique authentication credentials are generated for each eligible voter
- c. An email is sent to each eligible voter. This email contains an electronic link to the ballot with unique secure authentication credentials encrypted into it.

**3 Online Voting**

- a. Voters are automatically authenticated when they click on the ballot e-link included in the email announcing the election.
- b. Once logged in, the voter will be presented with a tamper-proof official ballot for the upcoming election.
- c. When the vote is cast, results are immediately encrypted and remain anonymous. Following completion of the voting process, the member is issued a receipt, which allows the member to verify their vote was cast as desired.
- d. Once completed, that voter will be denied access to that election should he try to login and vote again at a later date.

**4 Results**

- a. When the voting deadline passes, results are tabulated immediately.
- b. The Election Administrator (club member) can down-

load and view election results.

- c. By default, results are not published until they are reviewed by the Administrator, who then makes the call to publish those results on the election website. Those results are then made available to individual club members.

There is no way that a vote and the identity of the voter who cast that vote can ever be identified. Even the engineers of the E-Balloting company have no way of doing this.

Encryption is a process wherein prior to transmission, a ballot's information is transformed into a digital code such that no one but the authorized election judges can read it using their digital keys. Even the internet service provider cannot read the ballot without these keys, which are unique to each election.

The election administrator has the capability of issuing

E-Balloting

reminder emails and can view the up-to-date reports (but not the results) at a midpoint in the balloting schedule.

Many E-Balloting companies will also prepare, send, validate and count paper ballots for those unable or unwilling to use the electronic balloting option.

A Financial Comparison

For purposes of this discussion, I'll use data collected from the 2011 and 2012 National Board elections for my club, the Leonberger Club of America (LCA).

Keep in mind that your mileage may vary.

The LCA does a paper ballot election. The LCA sends ballots to all members in an envelope which also contains candidate statements and a pre-addressed ballot return envelope and a smaller envelope into which the voters inserts and seals his ballot before enclosing it in the return envelope. The postage on that envelope is the responsibility of the individual club member.

In 2011, the LCA mailed 949

ballots at a cost of \$812.52.

In 2012, 1022 ballots were mailed at a cost of 794.32.

(These amounts included the cost of printing, envelopes, and postage to send the ballots to the members. The amount was higher in 2011, because an addendum was added to the ballot and there were more candidates in 2011).

In 2011, 412 ballots were returned at a cost (postage) of \$185.40;

In 2012, 517 ballots were returned at a cost (postage) of \$232.65.

Considering the cost to the club, plus the cost to the member:

The total cost of the 2011 election was \$997.92.

The total cost of the 2012 election was \$1,026.97.

The average cost is \$1012.50 to run a paper "snail mail" election.

Given these same figures, the cost to use an electronic balloting service to run the election would have been \$492.00.\* In this sample, the savings to a club the size of the Leonberger Club of America would amount to

almost \$500 per year for a club running a single election.

\* I used the average number of ballots between 2011 and 2012 to arrive at a figure of 980 ballots. The electronic voting provider Simply Voting (<http://www.simplyvoting.com>) has an online calculator which estimates the cost of running an electronic election based on the number of ballots the customer would expect to be cast.

Simply Voting also offers a demo of what an electronic election might look like to a first time voter. It's located at <https://demo.simplyvoting.com/index.php>.

Given the fact that electronic voting simplifies the process and generally results in more ballots being cast AND offers savings as demonstrated in the example above, this would seem to be a prudent course for clubs to follow in future elections.

THE ELEVATOR PITCH AND HOW IT CAN HELP US

MONICA HENDERSON STONER, Saluki Club of America

Communication

Elevator Pitch" refers to the opportunity to convince someone in the time it takes for an elevator to go from one floor to the next. You might be selling a book, a movie premise, or a new project for your company. You have limited time, and need to be sure your pitch is honed to perfection, conveying everything you need to say in the least number of words.

What does this have to do with purebred dogs? Whether we like the idea or not, we interact in a world dominated by fast action media, where critical decisions are made based upon ideas presented in 140 characters or less. Of course you can choose to opt out of this reality, but if you do, then you can't complain about the world passing you, and this sport we love, in a cloud of dust.

The need for an elevator pitch was brought home to me by another breeder, who wanted me to convince her of the value of full litter registration. My first thought was: "It's obvious." To her, it obviously was not. It would have been counterproductive to point out "any idiot" would know the value of full litter registration. This is an intelligent woman, and she was ask-

ing for a well thought out answer, in as few words as possible. Fortunately I'd been thinking and talking about full litter for a long time, and the reply came easily.

How often do we need to interact with people who are trying to learn, but whose attention span is predicated on quick and easy? Sure we could mock them, ignore them, or give them a quick and easy answer. Since our goal is supposed to be bringing people into our sport, all of these are counterproductive. Instead we need to perfect the concise, clever answer: the elevator pitch.

If someone asks why they should buy a purebred dog instead of a random bred, since they're all "just dogs" and you can get as much love from a mutt as from a dog with a thirty generation pedigree, what do you answer? Do you splutter and fuss and inform them in no uncertain terms how much more special a purebred dog is? Or do you admit to a kernel of truth in

their statement and point out the advantages of buying from a responsible breeder, knowing these advantages because you've thought this answer through in advance, perhaps discussing possible questions and answers with friends?

Bringing the issue closer to home, what if someone asks why they should get their Floogle Hound from you instead of from their co-worker, who doesn't have all those pesky requirements to get a puppy? Do you have a polite, clear answer ready? Something other than your dogs are obviously superior?

We can no longer think these truths are self-evident since for some people they truly are not. To some people our "simple" world of dogs and shows and registrations is frighteningly difficult to navigate and all too often their questions are treated with little respect. What happens then? Does this person stick around to be further slighted or insulted? Or do they

take their energy and interest somewhere else?

What if the questions come from a more critical inquirer, such as a politician or reporter? Are you ready to give those clear, concise answers? Or are you going to gush about how much fun you have with your dogs and how much they love to go to shows? All of which is true, but it's not likely to be picked up for a thirty second bit on the local news.

The time to develop and refine your short sound bites is before you need them; using data gleaned from the information you've collected during your life with dogs. You can talk to AKC's Government Relations group for the important talking points and practice them until they come naturally. Practicing your pitch is not going to make you sound phony. Instead you will sound like someone who knows what they are talking about and who cares about what they're saying.

## AKC WEBHOSTING FOR MEMBER CLUBS

*GINI DENNIGER, Genesee Valley Kennel Club*

The June Delegate meeting was my first. I promised my club, the Genesee Valley Kennel Club, that I would restrain myself and just come to get the lay of the land before opening my mouth...that went well...nowhere! Of course the club members were not surprised and laughed at the idea of me being quiet. After listening to all the speakers through the two days and getting to know people, I began shaping an idea in my head and then floated it with

several Delegates. Happily, I got a positive reaction from them and was urged to submit the idea to Perspectives in the form of an article.

The topic that seemed to garner the most concern at this meeting was the negative publicity that pure-bred dogs and their breeders have accumulated over the years. The postulated reasons for this varied widely, but the groundswell from the Delegates was concern that the AKC was not doing enough. It

seems they are starting to work hard at becoming more proactive on the behalf of breeders, exhibitors, and the many clubs out there, whether performance, breed, or all breed. But one large component is being left out. This component was what got our current President, whether you like him or not, to the Oval Office. He and his team were masters at getting information out not only through national media but more importantly through local grassroots efforts.

The AKC could do the same. The grass-root volunteers are all in place and waiting to be activated: these being all the breed, all-breed, and performance clubs spread over the entire country as far as Hawaii, Alaska, the tip of Florida to Maine and every State in between. These clubs are filled with local members, people with whom average people in any given area can identify, their neighbors, friends, and relatives. Yes, these people and their clubs hold events, some well attended, others not so much. But the events are only a few day's worth of time in the public eye. Wouldn't it benefit the entire sport if our sport and its supporters were in the spotlight everyday? They can be! The public, by a simple form of exposure, can learn what it is that we do, as well as how important what we do is.

They can be exposed to the benefits of owning a pure bred dog over any other type. All this while sitting in the comfort of their home or through their mobile devices while on the go. They can learn all about us through a website.

Yes, I know today most clubs have a website. Some are amazing technological marvels while others are stripped down, bare-bones versions. My proposal is that AKC develop (with the help of a committee of Delegates) a template system for member dog club websites. These templates can be designed with specific purposes, with variations being dependent on the purpose of a club, whether it is a breed, all breed, or performance club.

There should be several versions of templates offered in each category in order to eliminate the worries that the club the next town over is using the exact

“**My proposal is that AKC develop (with the help of a committee of Delegates) a template system for member dog club websites.**”

same template, whether intentionally or by accident.

The websites should automatically convert to be able to be viewed on mobile devices such as phones or tablets. There should be use of QR codes and text-info in any advertising a club does that leads to their site. People can sign up for updates — the added benefit here is that the AKC and local clubs can have access to people who have made inquiries and can use that information in ways that are yet to be decided. All this makes the sites and the information on them widely available to all. This is key to getting our message out in an up-to-date and attractive package, effectively combating the negative publicity we have been subject to courtesy of national media and organizations working towards the sport's demise.

Why have the AKC develop templates and host sites for member clubs? Who pays for this large undertaking? This should be part of the public relations budget. This is the most effective and personal way to reach out to those looking for a dog and to combat the negative publicity the sport gets on a daily basis from large revenue

driven “rescue” organizations or animal rights groups. Combined with the local presence and the power of the AKC behind the local clubs, the pure-bred dog message can be consistent and loudly heard in every corner of this country. This would be a joint effort between the AKC and local clubs to spread the news on why to buy pure-bred dogs as well as an invitation

to join the sport at a local level. By combining the sophistication of a powerful national organization with the local flavor of regional clubs, the AKC and what we in the sport do and stand for, become instantly more accessible and identified with. People want to be a part of this sport because they identify with the local members of the club whose website they are visiting.

The website templates should have a sidebar with daily “news flashes” from the AKC. These can be anything, from Best in Show or performance photos to “Take The Lead Gala” photos. The AKC can use this side-bar to trumpet the latest grant given to improve canine health or tell the public about the disaster readiness trailers. They can tell the world all the good that dog fanciers quietly do for all dogs, not just for pure-breeds. In times of need the side bar can be used to flash out instantly to the entire country a news alert, such as impending or recently occurred disasters with links to informative and helpful sites for those that might need help for their dogs and other animals, as well as give those that want to help options to do so. This side bar should be changed daily to keep

drawing people back to the sites, which aids web rankings.

Eventually our AKC affiliated sites could always be highest ranked and always be the first to pop up and entice potential fanciers or buyers.

These sites are not intended to replace the main AKC website but are an adjunct to it. The AKC can offer framed links to their own site for articles and other information people might be seeking. The AKC should fill the templates with generic articles about purebreds, the reasons to buy purebreds, canine health information and explanations about dog clubs and events they host. The sites could be interactive, allowing the public to submit and/or vote on their favorite dog photos or art, for example. Writers could submit dog stories for publication, for those that enjoy such offerings. There is no limit to what could be offered to the public. This information should be refreshed periodically by the AKC in order to keep it fresh and to keep the sites up in the rankings.

The templates must also have a local familiarity that allows the community to identify with their local club's site. This is created by the individual clubs and what they decide to offer on their site. Clubs should provide their basic information such as when and where they meet and tout their own local news about whatever they chose; should it be about their show, member news or even doggy events in the area such as free rabies clinics.

**“These sites should be made available to clubs at cost and NOT as a profit-driven venture for the AKC.”**

be featured. Breeders' guides, a list of officers, photos, and newsletters can be on the menu for the public — if clubs so choose. There can be a members-only feature with membership lists, minutes of meetings or financials that only members should be privy to. The template needs to be flexible so that the club is in control of what and how much they include - within certain guidelines and parameters of course. The beauty of this whole thing is that the template system will allow any member

Members who do charitable works in the community with their dogs should

added reason for membership with the AKC, and an opportunity for the AKC to spread the message on a local, personal level. One way the costs for this could be alleviated is by offering advertising within certain guidelines. Dog food companies, veterinarians, grocery stores, car dealerships, what ever. The opportunity is there for revenue to come in through advertising which can partially support this venture. If enough traffic is driven to the sites, maybe even all costs can be covered by advertisers. The potential of these sites is immense and can be the most cost-effective way to get favorable attention from the public at large, something that seems to be in short supply according to some fanciers.

**“The potential of these sites is immense and can be the most cost-effective way to get favorable attention from the public-at-large.”**

who has a computer to be the web master for their club. The design concept must be to keep it simple for the local club web masters, all the while making the site look professional and making people want to come back for more.

These sites should be made available to clubs at cost and NOT as a profit driven venture for the AKC. Since most clubs have to pay to have a website hosted, if they have one, it is not unreasonable to ask them to pay the cost for this website. Offering this opportunity to clubs benefits all. It is a value-

The template development must not be driven solely by the AKC headquarters. It is crucial that Delegates, both web-savvy and not, must be involved. Delegates are the tip of the grassroots network that is waiting to be harnessed by the powers that be at the AKC.

They are ready to get the message out, but need to be able to help shape that message. This proposal allows them to do so. It is my understanding that the AKC is developing something similar, but no information has been sent out yet. But unless Delegates have a large hand in the concept, I worry that the potential of something like this will be missed, in order to make a profit in cash instead of garnering goodwill from the public and thereby eventually larger profits through increased interest in purebreds and all that entails.

Let's not be shortsighted in this endeavor.

# K9 VETERANS DAY: HONORING HISTORY TO MOVE FORWARD

MARYLYN DEGREGORIO, Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the US Military had only a handful of dogs in service, and many of them were sled dogs in Alaska. After this attack, a group known as Dogs For Defense began acquiring dogs, many of which were family pets, which were trained and used for guard and patrol duties. On March 13, 1942, the United

us — the border patrol dogs, explosive and narcotic detection dogs, law enforcement dogs, search and rescue dogs, therapy dogs — all are included in recognition on this date.

My husband Tony and his Doberman, Rudy, attended the inaugural New Jersey K9 Veterans Day event in Bergen County, home to the State Legislator who introduced this bill in 2010. There were

tions presented to K9 teams for participation in this event and in events that bring the service of dogs in the military into the public eye. There were six certificates given to each attendee. Each was signed by multiple representatives of that part of government. Since it was Gordon Johnson, the Assemblyman from Bergen County, who initially introduced this legislation, this ceremony was held in

Bergen County. The Bergen County Executive, Kathleen A. Donovan, was a proud participant in the ceremony. It was impressive to see how many people wanted to be a part of this history making event.

My point in relating this story is the following: In keeping with what is often discussed at the Legislative Caucus about finding good bills to suggest to our lawmakers, this bill rises to the top. I have contacted my own Assemblyman to intro-

duce similar legislation in NY. This kind of recognition presents our working dogs — and in fact, all purebred dogs — in a good light, reminds all of their service to our country and opens lines of communication, not unlike the “Convention on Cooperation Among American Working Dog Organizations,” signed by many delegates on 9/11/2011 when Jeff Helsdon brought it to New Jersey.

Information on this bill:  
[http://k9veteransday.org/html/current\\_msg.html](http://k9veteransday.org/html/current_msg.html)  
[http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/AL11/54\\_.HTM](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/AL11/54_.HTM)  
<http://openstates.org/nj/bills/214/S1833/documents/NJD00023113/>



States K9 Corps was founded.

Joseph White, a Vietnam Veteran and military working dog handler, initiated the effort to celebrate March 13 for K9 Veterans. To date there are a few states that have passed proclamations or resolutions for K9 Veteran’s Day: Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New Jersey are among those states.

On March 7, 2012, New Jersey became the first state to recognize K9 Veterans Day as an annual Holiday. This event was officially celebrated on March 13, 2013. This movement to recognize K9 Veterans is not limited to military working dogs, but rather all dogs which work to protect and to serve

some Military K9 Handlers and some Law Enforcement K9’s in attendance. Rudy represented Doberman Veterans. Rudy has a little experience in this; at the New York City 2012 Veteran’s Day Parade, Rudy and Tony were Marine K9 and Marine Officer reenactors on the Military Working Dog float, which held K9 team reenactors from all the US wars from 1812, with the corresponding representative breeds of dogs:

It was because of participation in the Veterans Day event as well as the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 event in Liberty Park that they were invited to the inaugural New Jersey K9 Veterans Day.

There were a number of cita-

# THE CONVENTION ON COOPERATION AMONG AMERICAN WORKING DOG ORGANIZATIONS: FROM BIRTH TO PUPPYHOOD AND BEYOND

JEFFREY PAUL HELSDON, former Doberman Pinscher Club of America delegate  
Invited by Marilyn DeGregorio, Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.

## Legislation

Jeff Helsdon, former DPCA Parent Club delegate, current DPCA Vice President, authored a document titled **The Convention on Cooperation Among American Working Dog Organizations** — document at this link:

<https://www.findingoneanother.org/the-convention-on-cooperation-among-americas-working-dog-organizations/>

I asked Jeff if he could supply a quote for me, but then I thought that my little blurb could be a great segue into an article on what we are all trying to accomplish by this document. It was signed initially at the 100th Anniversary of the Doberman in the AKC, in Topeka; it was signed at the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 in Liberty State Park.

In September, 2007, the telephone rang in my office in Tacoma, Washington. It was fellow member of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America (DPCA), Mr. Brad Dunn. He had called to inform me of several problems that needed to be addressed prior to the forthcoming DPCA National Specialty. Near the end of the conversation, Brad casually dropped that 2008 was the Centennial year of the introduction of the Doberman Pinscher to the United States. I told him: "We need to do something about that," and our call concluded.

During the 2007 National, I gave thought to the Centennial of the Doberman Pinscher in the United States. While standing at the IPO field watching the dogs compete, the idea for the Centennial began

to take shape in my mind. What we needed was a ceremony that honored the historic and proud heritage of the Doberman Pinscher in the United States. The Doberman was the official dog of the Marine Corps in WWII. We needed to locate the remaining Marines of the War Dog Platoons who served in the South Pacific and get them to the DPCA National to honor them at a special ceremony. We needed to honor those search and rescue and other working Doberman teams of today. But we needed to do something more. Of that, I was convinced.

During the ensuing months, the event began to take shape as I formed the Centennial Committee, selected its members and assigned to them certain tasks. After careful research, I learned of a bill that had been introduced in Congress that was designed to increase the number of domestically-bred canines for use in many different areas as working dogs in the United States. The bill was a response to the problem that the vast majority of detection dogs used in this country for civilian and non-military governmental (law enforcement and non-law enforcement) came from Europe. The dogs were purchased by brokers and sold here. The author of the bill, H.R.659 entitled "The Canine Detection Team Improvement Act of 2007," Rep. Mike Rogers, believed that the reliance on foreign dogs for the



*The signing at the 10th Anniversary Tribute to the Working Dog Community of 9/11.*

protection of Americans was a national security issue. I agreed with him.

I began to draft a document to be signed by any like-minded American dog club or dog organization, which I wanted to reflect a treaty between sovereign nations, in which the signers would commit themselves to work together to again provide American dogs for America's security, as we did as a nation in WWII. The idea I had was to have the end of the Centennial event serve as a treaty-signing ceremony, in which each signatory club would pass duplicate originals of the bound document back and forth at a signing table in front of the dais, each keeping an original for itself as well as the pen used to sign it.

If we could make that commitment and if the Department of Homeland Security embraced the effort, I thought we could have a powerful ally in the fight against the introduction of anti-dog legislation as it is introduced anywhere in the United States. After all, we would be the breeders who are breeding, raising and training the

**Legislation**

dogs that are keeping Americans safe in their beds at night. After decades of being in the trenches fighting anti-dog legislation after its introduction, I had become tired of trying to fight a wildfire with a garden hose. I wanted to have a powerful weapon to use.

In doing my research, I found an economic cooperation and development treaty that had perfect language. Out of this model came "The Convention on Cooperation Among American Working Dog Organizations."

Through the efforts of Dr. Carmen Battaglia, we were able to secure the attendance at the Centennial of Mr. David Kontny, Deputy Director of the Office for Bombing Prevention of the Department of Homeland Security. The Centennial was an outstanding success, as we had with us ten of the living WWII Marine War Dog Handlers, including Mr. Bob Forsyth, who had his Bronze Star for valor presented to him by Marine Col. Stephen Waldron in full dress uniform.

At the culmination of the Centennial, the Convention on Cooperation was signed by seven clubs and organizations. One of the originals was presented to Mr. Kontny on the dais, who delivered it to DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff.

The next significant development in the young life of the Convention on Cooperation came in June, 2011 when I was asked to produce and ultimately to emcee the 10th Anniversary Tribute to the Working Dog Community of 9/11. The ceremony, held in

Liberty State Park across the Hudson River from Ground Zero, was beautiful, poignant and patriotic. At its conclusion, over 27 dog organizations had signed the Convention on Cooperation.

More now than a mere symbolic effort, various groups have joined together to organize a White House Conference on the Working Dog in America. The model for the inclusion of American breeders in this conference will be the Convention on Cooperation. In connection with it, we expect to see the establishment of a

and breeding was one of the top items that was added to the list.

There is no doubt in my mind that we will see a major concerted effort to get our American-bred dogs involved in the protection of America. All breeds can and will play a role. As this historic effort naturally unfolds, I will make sure that the fancy knows about the effort so that all of us can participate to the uttermost.



*The initial signing of the Convention on Cooperation, at the 2008 DPCA.*

Presidentially-proclaimed National Working Dog Day, with the inaugural activities to be held on the National Mall in Washington D.C. adjacent to the WWII Memorial and the Washington Monument.

The effort is slow. A National Security Staff (NSS) Sub-Interagency Policy Committee (Sub-IPC) for working dogs has been established. Right now they are focusing on the explosives detection front. Moving forward, the goal is to include other disciplines as well, such as SAR, narcotics, therapy etc..... They have also looked at what "enduring capabilities" need to be addressed

# WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

SHERRY E. WALLIS, *Akita Club of America*

Opinion

Flying home after one of the big dog shows like the AKC Eukanuba, Westminster, or their ilk, someone always cynically remarks on the number of inappropriate service dogs waiting in the boarding lines.

Inappropriate, because some of them are recognizable from the show and because the room restrictions on planes make St. Bernards or Neapolitan Mastiffs poor breed choices for that kind of work.

Last year, as I waited in my seat for the rest of the passengers to board, a handler who has actually worked for me and whom I've known for many years, came down the aisle with one of her better-known show dogs. He was now sporting a bright yellow service dog vest. As I looked pointedly at the dog, she smiled sheepishly and shrugged. I was disturbed at her charade and irritated that she clearly expected me to go along with it. But all the time we were outside waiting, everyone looking at the fake service dogs seemed resolved to them. Bowing to peer pressure, I decided I was being a "rule-hound" and just kept my mouth shut.

Since service dogs ride free, passing your show dog off as one is cheating the airlines out of a fare. But these folks are just trying to get their dogs to the show, and the airlines make that so expensive and so hard that working up sympathy for their losing a few dollars is almost impossible. After all, about the only free amenity still left when you fly is the toilet, and pay ones are probably not far away.

Air travel for dogs isn't difficult just because of the cost. I surveyed policies and prices on United,

American, Jet Blue, Southwest, and Delta and found a whole host of hurdles that make traveling by air with dogs difficult and sometimes impossible.

First, none of the airlines accept brachycephalic (short-nosed breeds) under any circumstances. This list includes: American Bulldog, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier,

“We represent the **American Kennel Club** and all its affiliated clubs and events. We're supposed to be **shining examples** of sportsmanship and responsible dog ownership.”

Boston Terrier, Boxer, Brussels Griffon, Bulldog, Chinese Pug, Chow Chow, Dutch Pug, English Bulldog, English Toy Spaniel, French Bulldog, Lhasa Apso, Japanese Boxer, Japanese Pug, Japanese Spaniel (Chin), Mastiff (all breeds), Pekinese, Pit Bull, Pug, Shar Pei, Shih Tzu, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and Tibetan Spaniel.

Then there's the issue of type of plane. United's Express Jets (ERJ) don't accept any pets at all as excess baggage or cargo. Nothing larger than a 400 (large) crate can be put into the McDonnell-Douglas MD aircraft (MD-80, 88, 90) or Boeing's 737s. The Dash Jets (CR7, Sierra) of American Express and United can take up to a 400. Other than the 737, most Boeing jets can accommodate up to a 700 (giant) crate.

However, airlines cannot accept an unlimited number of dogs on any flight. Flights going into and out of cities during big dog shows may be booked far ahead of time. The smaller the planes, the more

likely this is to be so. Even the number of dogs allowed in-cabin is restricted unless they are service dogs.

Further, ambient temperatures at the sites of origin and destination as well as any interim stops have to be considered for dogs as excess baggage or cargo. If it's over 80 degrees, forget it; below 42 degrees requires a veterinary certificate of accommodation, which won't be available for many breeds for obvious reasons. Delta has an embargo for the summer (May 15-Sept 15) for all locations and for some in the winter for all dogs as excess baggage (checked) although not necessarily on dogs as cargo.

Dogs on United no longer can travel as excess baggage. Instead they use a special cargo service called Quik-Pak, which means that at large airports, you'll have to get to the cargo terminal to drop off and pick up the dog. That means you'll need a vehicle. Southwest and Jet Blue only take in-cabin dogs which means the carrier has to fit under the seat. Basically, both only accept dogs under 20 pounds. The same applies to United, Delta, and American, although the size accommodated varies with the plane and seat.

The biggest stumbling block, though, is the price, which is always quoted for one-way, usually without applicable taxes. For Southwest, it's \$75, and Jet-Blue, \$100 (only in-cabin). In cabin on Delta, American, and United is \$125, except that Silver Airways operated United Express flights are \$50. American also notes that their in-cabin price only applies to flights for which they are the operator, so co-shares and partner

flights, even though they have an American flight number, may cost extra or even exclude your pet.

United's prices are the highest. They tack non-taxable fees of \$10 for security and a \$10 for screening onto the price. Then they add a fuel fee of 42 cents/lb. for the total weight of dog and crate to their base price also based on weight beginning with a 10-50 lb. range and ending with 151-200. This ranges from \$219 at the bottom to \$509 at the top. Shipping a dog and crate that weigh a total of 110 lbs. will cost you \$495.20 plus any applicable taxes for one way. Delta's rates are more reasonable, ranging from \$50 for a 100 crate to \$180 for a 700, and American charges \$175 when the dog is checked as baggage vs. being in cabin.

Figuring out how to get even a couple of dogs to a big show venue with an already-busy airport can be a daunting logistical problem. We've all heard nightmare stories about reservation, flight, and plane model issues. Passing the dog off as a service animal turns out to be an absurdly easy alternative, and, it's free!

The Internet is full of sites that offer official-looking certificates and vests for your "service" dog in exchange for your payment. Ironically, while I was researching, a banner ad popped up next to an article objecting to fake service dogs saying: "Take Your Dog Anywhere! Now you can bring your dog ANYWHERE you go for free with no hassles. Planes, Trains, etc."

The "no hassles" part of this ad might be an exaggeration, but the rest of it can very well prove true to those who pay the money to receive their materials. Obtaining credentials and materials from

these sites, incidentally, involves nothing that demonstrates the dog can work as any kind of service dog nor anything regarding the owner's need for one.

Once the dog dons a vest and the pair set out into the world, they may very well be able to go together just about anywhere the owner wants courtesy of The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for title II (state and local government services) and title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities), which basically allows service dogs to go wherever their owners do at no extra expense and with few, if any, questions asked.

For the purposes of these sections, only dogs are considered service animals, and service dogs are defined as those that are:

"...individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA." ([www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm))

State and local laws may define this more broadly, but at the very least, any organization that serves the public, including, state and local governments, businesses, and

nonprofit organizations

"...generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go. For example, in a hospital it would be inappropriate to exclude a service animal from areas such as patient rooms, clinics, cafeterias, or examination rooms. However, it may be appropriate to exclude a service animal from operating rooms or burn units where the animal's presence may compromise a sterile environment." ([www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm))

Changes to the ADA were made in 2010 specifying that business owners could ask that a service animal be removed because of unruly behavior or for its eliminating on premises. They can also ask two questions about service dogs whose function isn't obvious: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. They cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation of that disability, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

By 2008, however, problems with fake service dogs brought about specific changes to the Air Carrier Access Act, giving airlines the ability to differentiate between "trained service dogs," whose function is obvious, such as mobility, hearing, or guide dogs, and the less obvious assistance animals who provide emotional support and psychiatric service. Supposedly, the former are welcome in the aircraft cabin. Owners of the latter, however, must now also provide some documentation

that the dogs are needed.

To travel on Delta with an emotional support/psychiatric assistance dog, the owner has to have a verification letter from his mental health professional. United requires at least 48-hour advance notification to their disability desk in reservation so that they can check the documentation by contacting the mental health care professional. American requires documentation on the professional's letterhead stating that:

- "that passenger has a mental health related disability recognized in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Fourth Edition (DSM IV),
- the passenger needs the emotional support or psychiatric service animal as an accommodation for air travel and/or for activity at the passenger's destination,
- the individual providing the assessment is a licensed mental health professional and the passenger is under his or her professional care issued." (<http://www.aa.com/i18n/travelInformation/specialAssistance/serviceAnimals.jsp>)

Instead of making things better for legitimate service dog owners, though, these measures allow the scam registries to augment their income by offering the services of scam health professionals. For an additional fee, Dr. Donothing will issue a statement on letterhead that you need an assistance dog to alert you to falling blood sugar or impending seizures or to allay your anxiety attacks or depression. All you need is a credit card or a check by mail.

While it might seem that this cot-

tage industry hurts no one but the registrant, long-term, it harms legitimate service dog owners.

"One of the harshest ramifica-

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**"Every time a pet owner tries to fake their dog as a service dog, it makes it all the harder for real service dog handlers."**

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tions of the use of registration and certification being used to gain access to a public venue [is that by] presenting this type of documentation to gatekeepers, one is only further cementing the misconception that it is legally required. Then, the next service dog team comes along, attempts to gain access to the same venue and [is] rejected, because they do not have and/or refuse to present any form of documentation."

(<http://pleasedontpetme.com/certification.php>).

The obvious solution to this issue would seem to be some kind of national certification. Many service dog owners and trainers, however, prefer education to government intervention. As the system works now, people have the right and the ability to train whatever dog they want for their own needs or they can buy one that is already trained.

These are expensive, though, and many people who need a dog cannot afford one. A member of the Akita Club of America told me that when she was injured and confined to a wheelchair, she was out of work and didn't have the money for a service dog. Out of necessity, she trained her Akita, Jade, for what she needed. Jade could pick up dropped items as small as a dime, open and shut doors and

drawers, turn lights on and off, and help pull the wheelchair up inclines.

From their comments on various websites, it's clear that people with assistance and service dogs are worried that the problems presented by fakers will ultimately make some kind of certification necessary. They fear self-trained dogs might then be ineligible or that the red tape and fees involved would be too difficult for many. Worse, all of this would just bleed more money from a group of people who are often out-of-work or marginally employed. None of this would be necessary if fakers weren't becoming such a problem.

As one woman explained about the small dog she had to help with her anxiety issues: "People who get fake certificates and such make it harder on people like me. . . people who have never seen a small service animal. They automatically think my dog is a fake service animal because of his size. That is extremely taxing on me and makes my anxiety worse...Physically, you cannot see what is wrong with me. The whole thing is very upsetting." (<http://www.examiner.com/article/fake-service-dogs-online-websites-who-certify-without-training-are-scams>)

When a fake service dog misbehaves, all legitimate service dogs are tarred with the same brush, because most people don't realize fake service dogs even exist. A service dog owners explains, ". . . as someone with a service dog, I am furious that anyone would 'wink' at the prospect of faking their dog as a service dog. This is why my rights as a person with a disability that uses a service dog to mitigate the symptoms of the disability stands in danger of losing some rights on airlines. Fakers hurt peo-

Opinion

ple with disabilities. Fakers perpetuate discriminatory behavior.

Fakers hurt me.”

(<http://thebark.com/content/unethical-or-responsible-pet-care>)

Another comment sums up the issues nicely:

“People who fake their pets as service dogs really do harm the reputation of real service dogs and real disabled people.

“Disabled people do not have their dog with them because it is nice, comforting, or they just want to; they have their dog with them because they need to or else they would not be able to do the things that you take for granted every day, such as walk, buy groceries, etc. If a disabled person has a pet they want to travel with, they have to follow all the same rules as everybody else (such as putting the dog in cargo if it is too large for the cabin or choosing not to fly).

“It is hard enough for disabled people, especially those who have to deal with access issues because people like you try to pass their pets off as highly-trained assistance dogs, so please don't make life even harder for us just because you feel a little inconvenienced to drive to your destination, use a dog airline, leave your dog at home, put your dog safely in cargo, etc. (A relatively small number of incidents does not make cargo too dangerous any more than car/train/plane crashes make car/train/plane trips too dangerous.)

“You have plenty of options on what to do with your pet. Disabled people with service dogs do not. Every time a pet owner tries to fake their dog as a service dog, it makes it all the harder for real

service dog handlers. It truly, in all reality, most certainly does affect disabled service dog handlers.

“Please, stop being so selfish and think of others!”

(<http://thebark.com/content/unethical-or-responsible-pet-care>)

Poor behavior, however, isn't so likely from dogs participating in AKC events. They're used to many of the same situations as service dogs and can sit quietly for hours, go hours without a potty break, tolerate crowds and odd locations. Many of them work as therapy dogs; although a therapy dog is not a service dog. If they don't reflect poorly on the real thing, is that so wrong?

Well, just think for a moment about who we purport ourselves to be.

We represent the American Kennel Club and all its affiliated clubs and events. We're supposed to be shining examples of sportsmanship and responsible dog ownership. We should show a little more respect for the working dogs we've honored the night before than to pass our show dogs off as such to save some money on airfare.

We should begin taking a stand against these fake service dogs, both by peer pressure on handlers and owners and by official statements. The AKC Board of Directors should join us in this by issuing a statement of disapproval. The “wink-wink nudge-nudge” attitude with which we've viewed the parade of fakes boarding planes after big shows reflects poorly on all of us. It's wrong because we know better.

# COMMUNICATIONS OF INTEREST TO DELEGATES – AKC BREEDER NEWSLETTER

BY LISA PETERSON, Director of Communications  
Invited by Carol Williamson, Houston Kennel Club

Education

The AKC Communications Department is responsible for creating and distributing a wealth of information, news and updates of interest to the fancy and the public, from newsletters to blog posts and beyond. This article will be the first in a series highlighting the wide variety of content we create with our beloved canines in mind.

Launched in 2005, *AKC Breeder* is a quarterly publication, sponsored by Royal Canin, available in print and as an e-newsletter. Archived copies can be found on [akc.org](http://akc.org) under Breeder Education. This publication contains articles, columns, photos and breeder profiles of interest to all breeders, from novice to experienced, from large to small. Content over the years has included such diverse topics as how to care for the breeding female, to the latest technologies in canine reproduction, to how breeders can make the best match of playful puppy with his new owners.

## Breeder of the Year Profiles and Articles

One of the most prestigious awards bestowed on any responsible breeder is the *AKC Breeder of the Year* award. *AKC Breeder* has been proud to feature articles written by and about many of the group finalists and winners over the years. Content like this gives readers decades of expertise distilled into snapshots of the joys and challenges of being a passionate, dedicated purebred dog breeder. For example, the 'Accumulated Wisdom' of Bo-Bett's Carol Harris' 78 years of breeding Whippets and Italian



Greyhounds was a popular feature, as well as Stagedoor's Joan Savage's walk through those crucial first eight weeks of puppyhood in her insightful article. We will continue to publish *Breeder of the Year* honorees' stories and articles, since they continue to be such a valuable asset!

## AKC Gazette Material

Another great asset of *AKC Breeder* is the ability to include new and archived material from the *AKC Gazette*. In each issue, we feature at least one of the Breed Columns. Breed Columnist Editor Arliss Paddock combs through the submissions from the parent club breed columnist, with her trained eye, and selects those that would be of great interest to breeders. In addition, we have recently included past columns, such as 'Better Breeding' to bring purposeful timeless content to a new audience.

## News You Can Use

*AKC Breeder* will continue to contain important information for breeders from the AKC Canine Health Foundation on new grants

and research to updates from health registries, veterinary schools and experts in the field of canine reproduction. All in all, everything useful to promote the health and well-being of purebred dogs.

Other upcoming features will be expanded coverage to include more articles highlighting the important relationship between veterinarians and breeders, including profiles and advice from veterinarians that are also breeders.

## Join Us!

In today's social media world, the ultimate goal is to have sharable content, bits of information that are easily understood and packaged into an easily digestible and entertaining format, that you want to share with your friends. Our goal at *AKC Breeder* is to also create great content and share it with you. Another aspect of social media we'd love to emulate is user-generated content. That means articles, tips, photos or videos created by you! Consider this an open invitation to all Delegate/Breeders to share your breed-specific experiences, customized best breeding practices or anything else you think is worthy. Starting with the Fall 2013 issue we will have an exciting new design, so feel free to contact me at [AKCBreeder@akc.org](mailto:AKCBreeder@akc.org) or call 212-696-8360 to talk about your potential contributions. I look forward to hearing for you. Thanks!

You can subscribe to *AKC Breeder* as an e-newsletter or you can send your name and mailing address to [AKC Breeder@akc.org](mailto:AKC Breeder@akc.org) to get a print version.

# PROFILE OF A “RENAISSANCE” AKC VP

BY Members of the FIELD TRIAL AND HUNTING TEST EVENTS COMMITTEE

**People** The trite phrase – “credit should be given where credit is due” – directly applies in the case of AKC Vice President for Companion and Performance Events, Doug Ljungren. Actually, most Delegates know or assume that Doug is highly credentialed in the field trial world.

Doug is so modest, though, that few Delegates are fully aware of the extent of his field achievements, let alone his (and his wife’s) success in multiple other venues over the past 35 years. Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee members, therefore, would like all Delegates to be a bit more aware of the breadth and depth of Doug’s accomplishments in the sport of dogs.

Doug acquired his first German Wirehaired Pointer (“GWP”) in 1976; and, since then, his “Sure Shot” line has produced more than 25 Field Champions and Amateur Field Champions, as well as multiple Master Hunters. As detailed in a recent article (i.e., in the April 6, 2013 issue of “Best in Show Daily”) by Susan Chaney — aptly entitled *Merging Lives, Loves, and Lines* — Doug’s Wife, Judy Cheshire, also acquired her first GWP in 1976.

Thereafter, Doug and Judy began to cross paths at the annual GWP Club of America National Specialty, with Doug competing annually in the GWP national field championship and Judy competing primarily in the conformation ring.

As the Chaney article further chronicles, Doug and Judy lived for years in opposite ends of the country; but, some thirteen years ago, their long-time acquaintanceship had blossomed into full romance, leading to the “merger of their per-

sonal lives” (plus Judy moving to Washington State, where Doug’s business career had positioned him).

The Chaney article starts with its focus on a recent best-in-show



*Doug and Darla hunting*

GWP bitch from Doug’s and Judy’s breeding – “Heyleigh” – the third BIS winner from their lines; and it goes on to paint the picture of remarkable accomplishments over the past three and a half decades. (Since Doug joined the AKC, neither he nor Judy can compete in AKC events, but they continue to breed GWPs.)

In addition to the field achievements noted above, their GWP lines have led to thirteen National Championship titles, three BIS dogs, a GWPCA National Specialty Show winner, multiple group winners, obedience-titled dogs at the utility level, and numerous Hunt Test title-holders.

Doug and Judy concentrate on “dual qualities” in their breeding program. Notably, their dogs include six dual champions, three of which Doug exclusively handled to their titles in both field trials and in the show ring. Their focus on merging structural quality with field ability is signaled in Doug’s own modest words (as quoted in

the Chaney article):

“I have been lucky enough to have owned and bred many good field dogs,’ he says, including 11 field champions that either he or his immediate family have owned. ‘I can’t really say which one was the best or most successful. I believe what is more important than any one dog is the family of dogs that a breeder is able to develop. This has a more lasting impact. It provides a base for others to build upon in the future.’

“The line that I was fortunate enough to inherit and which was further developed from my breeding program has been successful in field trial competition for over 30 years. I have been fortunate enough to not have any major health problems. Several of the good field dogs have also been show champions. Other owners have enjoyed the benefit of this effort. I enjoy watching these dogs succeed and find it quite satisfying.’”

In recent years, Doug’s responsibilities at the AKC have increased. Indeed, in terms of Delegates Committees, he is the Staff Liaison to three such Committees – the Obedience, Tracking & Agility; and Herding, Earth Dog & Coursing Events Committees, as well as the Field Trial & Hunting Test Events Committee.

Clearly, Doug’s AKC duties today impact the interests of most member clubs, and it should be reassuring to all Delegates that every day Doug brings to the Raleigh office the diversity of his experiences and remarkable accomplishments in the canine arena.

# KISSING BUGS AND CHAGAS DISEASE IN THE SOUTHERN US: AN ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH APPROACH TO IMPROVE HUMAN AND CANINE HEALTH

RACHEL CURTIS, PhD student, AND SARAH A. HAMER PhD DVM, Assistant Professor  
Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and  
Biomedical Sciences, Texas A & M university

Invited by Sherry Wallis, Akita Club of America

## Health

### Chagas disease and kissing bugs: the basics

The parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi* causes Chagas disease in humans, dogs, and other mammals. The insect vector, commonly known as



Figure 1. Three species of kissing bugs that can be found in Texas. From left to right: *Triatoma sanguisuga*, *T. gerstaeckeri*, and *T. protracta*. Scale bar, 1 inch. Photo: Dr. Gabriel Hamer.

the kissing bug (Figure 1), can transmit the parasite to hosts by biting and subsequently defecating near the site of the bite. The parasites live in the digestive tract of the bugs and are shed in the bug feces. When infectious bug fecal material contaminates the mucous membranes or the site of bug bite on a mammal, transmission of the parasite can occur. While this 'vector-fecal' transmission route is thought to be the most common mode of transmission for humans, dogs can also become infected through the consumption of infected bugs.

Additionally, the parasite can be trans-

mitted congenitally, through blood transfusion, and through transplantation of infected organs. Chagas disease is endemic throughout central and South America, and is increasingly recognized as both a human and veterinary health concern in the southern US. Chagas disease became a reportable disease in Texas in 2013.

Kissing bugs are nocturnal, blood-feeding insects that are members of the Reduviidae family of insects. Other reduviids that are similar in appearance feed on plants and other insects and can inflict a painful bite when disturbed, however only kissing bugs are known to transmit the Chagas parasite. Kissing bugs are found throughout the Americas. In the US, kissing bugs are established in 28 states (Figure 2). A total of 11 different species of kissing bugs have been documented in the US, with the highest diversity and density in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona (Bern et al 2011).

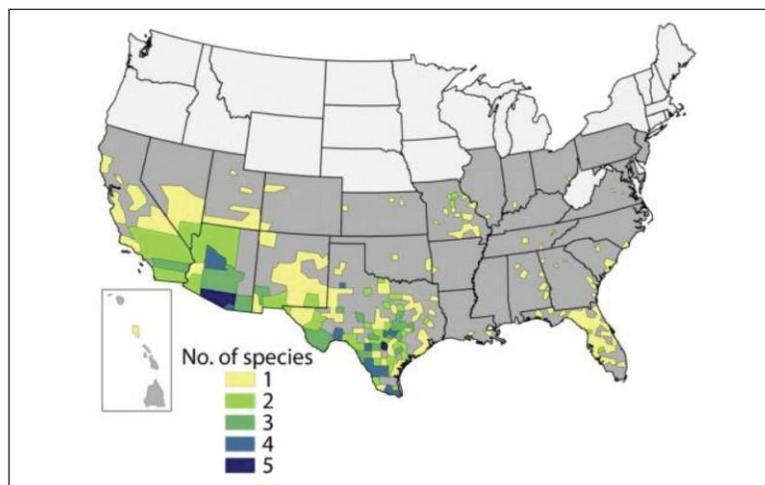


Figure 2. Distribution of kissing bugs throughout the United States. From Bern et al., 2011.

Previous studies have found that, on average, 50% of kissing bugs are infected with the Chagas parasite. Kissing bugs develop into adults after a series of immature life stages called nymphs, and both nymphs and adults engage in bloodfeeding behavior. Bugs feed on diverse wild and domestic animals including wild rodents, other wild mammals, and domestic dogs.

Many of the species of animals upon which kissing bugs feed can serve as a source of parasite infection to the bug, and the *Trypanosoma cruzi* parasite has been found to infect domestic dogs, humans, opossums, woodrats, armadillos, coyotes, mice, raccoons, skunks, and foxes (Bern et al. 2011). Therefore, Chagas disease emerges at the intersection of wildlife, domestic animals, humans, and vector populations.

### A growing concern for human health

The public health burden of Chagas disease in the US is largely unknown, because most states are not required to keep track of the number of confirmed human cases. Estimates of human cases of Chagas disease in the US range from 300,000 to over 1 million, with particular concern for those living in the US/Mexico border regions.

In addition to documented cases in immi-

**Health**

grants who were infected in central and South America, there are increasing reports of human cases of Chagas disease acquired in the US. In humans, Chagas disease manifests in two phases: acute phase and chronic phase. After becoming infected with the parasite (Figure 3), the acute phase can last for a few weeks or months. This phase can be symptom-free or difficult to diagnose because the symptoms are common for many types of sicknesses, including fever, fatigue, body aches, headache, rash, loss of appetite, diarrhea, and vomiting (CDC Chagas General Info).

Of those who are infected with the parasite, approximately 30% are at risk of developing chronic Chagas disease. Chronic Chagas disease includes cardiac complications and/or intestinal complications, and these signs may not be apparent until decades after the initial infection. Cardiac signs include enlarged heart, heart failure, altered heart rate, and/or cardiac arrest. Intestinal signs include an enlarged esophagus or colon, which can cause difficulties with digestion. Concerned individuals should discuss testing options with their physicians.

Treatment of Chagas disease can be difficult, and drugs are available

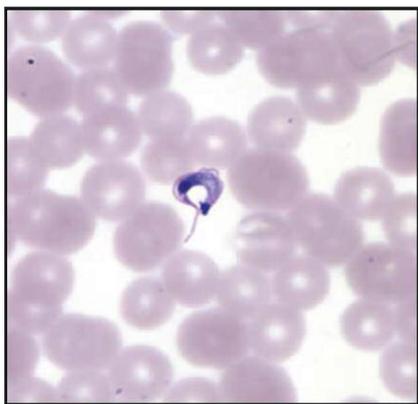


Figure 3. *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the parasite that causes Chagas disease, in blood. Photo: Centers for Disease Control.

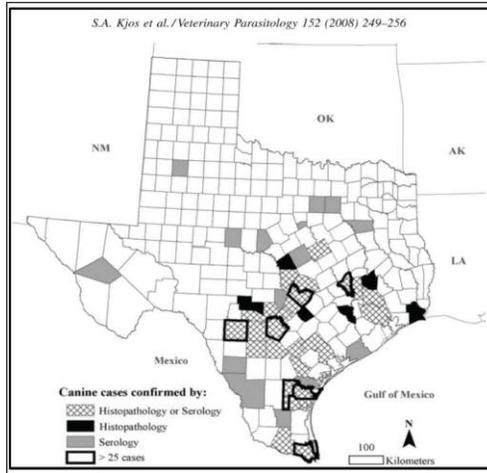


Figure 4. Distribution of canine Chagas disease in Texas (Kjos et al., 2008)

only through the CDC after consultation with a physician.

**Increasing recognition for canine disease**

In dogs, infection with the Chagas parasite can cause severe heart disease, however many infected dogs may remain asymptomatic.

There is variation in the degree of complications that likely relate to the age of the dog, the activity level of the dog, and the genetic strain of the parasite. Cardiac rhythm abnormalities and sudden death may occur, as well as bloat due to reduced cardiac function and inability to properly pump fluids throughout the body.

Testing for canine Chagas disease is in the form of a blood test, and is available through the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. Blood is screened for antibodies to the *T. cruzi* parasite, and a positive result indicates that the dog has been exposed at some time in past. Unfortunately, treatment options are not readily available, although some research teams are developing new treatment approaches that are promising.

There is currently no vaccination that protects against Chagas dis-

ease for either dogs or humans. A recent veterinary study documented Chagas disease in domestic dogs throughout many counties in Texas (Figure 4). As awareness of Chagas disease grows and more cases are confirmed, we can expect many more counties to be added to the current map.

**The kennel environment as a hotspot for Chagas disease transmission?**

Dog kennels are environments that may be particularly suitable for the establishment of Chagas disease transmission cycles. High densities of dogs in confined areas are associated with heat and carbon dioxide that attract kissing bugs that seek bloodmeals.

Furthermore, dogs may easily consume kissing bugs in kennels. Kissing bug control can be difficult in kennels, particularly in areas where human development is relatively recent and kennels are surrounded by natural habitats where wildlife occur. Adult kissing bugs engage in nocturnal flights to search for mates and mammals for blood-feeding. Because adult bugs fly towards lights, we recommend that lights be turned off at night around kennels. Some insecticides are effective against kissing bugs when sprayed around the kennel area. However, because kissing bugs can fly in from many yards away or from nearby wildlife habitats, new colonization of treated areas can easily occur.

**New research efforts at Texas A&M University- we need your help!**

Our research team combines experts in veterinary medicine, parasitology, entomology, ecology, and public health. We are taking a 'One Health' approach to study the

ecology and epidemiology of Chagas disease in the southern US. With this approach, we are combining studies of vector populations, wildlife reservoirs, domestic dogs,



Figure 5. Our 'citizen science' approach has resulted in access to kissing bugs collected in diverse ecoregions in Texas. Through boosting the sample size of kissing bugs we can analyze in our laboratory, the impact of our science is much broader than otherwise would be possible.

parasite genetic strains, laboratory animals, and human risk. We are engaged in field collections of kissing bugs using diverse trapping techniques across private and public lands.

We have established a state-wide public outreach effort through which we are inviting citizens to submit kissing bugs to our laboratory for identification and testing. This 'citizen science' approach is allowing us to obtain samples from many ecoregions of the state and

has broadened the impact of our research (Figure 5).

Furthermore, through this effort we are also educating veterinarians and physicians to be aware of Chagas disease and its status in Texas. Our wildlife studies involve live trapping and release of diverse small mammal species and solicitation of blood and tissue samples from hunter-harvested wild animals.

We have established a network of seven animal shelters in the state, and we are assessing the burden of Chagas disease in shelter dogs to provide an index of local risk. In the laboratory, we are identifying bugs to the species level and testing bugs and wildlife samples for *T. cruzi*.

We are particularly interested in using genetic approaches to determine the strains of parasite that circulate in different regions, because different strains are associated with different disease outcomes in humans and animals. We are complementing our studies of natural populations in the field with an experimental model of animal infection using mice in the laboratory. These studies are broadly ecological in nature, focusing on the interaction of species in their natural environments.

We expect that our data will provide critical information useful in

efforts to predict and reduce *T. cruzi* infection in human and animal populations.

If you are interested in submitting kissing bugs for testing, we are currently accepting carefully collected and well-labeled samples from diverse geographic areas across the southern US. Prior to submission, please email us so we may provide details on safe collection methods and shipping instructions. We look forward to developing strong relationships with dog owners throughout Texas and the southern US to better understand the ecology and epidemiology of Chagas disease as a critical prerequisite for the development of treatments, vaccinations, and risk reduction measures.

**For bug submission inquiries or questions about Chagas disease, please contact our Texas A&M Research Team at [KissingBug@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:KissingBug@cvm.tamu.edu).**

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CDC, Chagas disease: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/chagas/>

### Special thanks to Dick Blair.

As always, he performed a sterling job in gathering and editing these articles.

As always, thanks also, 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**

# WHAT'S IN A NAME? (DOES A ROSE BY ANOTHER NAME REALLY SMELL AS SWEET?)

PATRICIA D. REYNOLDS, Yorkshire Terrier Club of America

Fun  
Stuff

When I got my first show dog, a little Maltese, I was trying to come up with a name for her as I drove out to the breeder's house to pick her up. I got off the interstate in an unfamiliar area and right in front of me was an XXX-rated club with a flashing sign saying "Silk n' Satin, Leather 'n' Lace." I had already decided that the little puppy's call name would be Gidget, after one of my favorite childhood movie series. So based on that sign she became Al-Mar's Silk 'n' Satin Gidget, although I never mentioned to the breeder of Gidget where I got the idea for the rest of her name. Many of my yorkies (Gidget was my only Maltese) also bore the moniker "Silk 'n' Satin."

My first yorkie was Silk 'n' Satin Holly Berry, as she was my Christmas present to myself. Silk 'n' Satin Desert Storm came to live with me on January 17, 1991, the day that the first Iraq war was code-named Operation Desert Storm. Her sire was named Dot's Storm Warning, so I wanted to use Storm in her name—and President Bush helped out on that one, as I was having a lot of trouble coming up with a good name for Stormy.

When I peruse show catalogs and the various show dog magazines and their campaign ads, I am amazed at the creative names so many people come up with for their dogs. So I thought it would be fun to survey some of our delegates to see how they come up with names, both for their individual dogs and litters, as well as their kennel names. What follows is the result of that survey.

## *From Marilyn Currey, American Chinese Crested Club Delegate:*

My litters are always named for song titles with a word removed and "wrinkles" substituted for the word that was removed. The removed word becomes the Dog's call name. For example Sundried's Wrinkles On My Mind is call named "Georgia", and Sundried's Goin' Back to Wrinkles is call name "Houston." I used to take a good deal of teasing from my handler about this system until he forgot the call name of one of the dogs I sent with him. He explained the system to another handler and said this one was Sundried's I Love Wrinkles. The other handler immediately replied "Paris" and the dog started wagging his tail madly. (For those of you who may be confused why the Chinese Crested delegate uses the "Wrinkles" name, please note that her own breed is Chinese Shar-Pei.)

## *From Blackie Nygood, Mispillion Kennel Club:*

When I first started showing and breeding Basset Hounds (with my ex-husband), I did the usual, safe thing and named the litters alphabetically. We (when Howard and I got married) were also breeding Dachshunds, and they were named in memory of our first one owned together, starting with SCH which led to Schwellelegant, Schwizzle, S\*C\*H\*M\*A\*S\*H, etc. Then we no longer bred Dachshunds, so that tradition ended.

When we moved to Delaware, my home state, we decided to name them after Delaware places

or traditions. There followed Ms Pillion (for the Mispillion River), Bethany Bitch (for Bethany Beach), Roxana (for a small town near here), and Rabbit-Nip (for a tiny settlement, now long gone). Another wound up with Blue Hen's Chick (for the University of Delaware football team, the Blue Hens). I still have a lot of wonderful names on my list, including Corner Ketch, a town in upstate Delaware, and Sally Cove for an area near Rehoboth Bay. It is fun, but I am glad that I do not have many litters, as Delaware is a small state!

When Howard and I married we used the kennel name "Riverlane" as we lived in a house in Connecticut between a river and a lane. When we moved to Delaware we changed it to Rum Bridge as that is the name of our country road which crosses Rum Trickle Creek. Now anyone who knows me will realize I could not resist a name with booze in it!

## *From Jim Corbett, Tualatin Kennel Club:*

Since we have a view of Mt. Hood, we selected the kennel name of Wy'East, which is the Native American name for the mountain. All of our dog names begin with "W." Examples are Wy'East Wanderlust, Wy'East Whistling Dixie, Wy'East Why Not West, Wy'East Wolfman Jack, etc. However, some "W" names are avoided, such as Walks With a Limp, Wooden Leg, or What A Loser!

## *From Pam Helmer, Talbot Kennel Club:*

About 10 years ago, my co-

breeder and I bred a litter of PBGV puppies, and we were trying to select a name for the bitch puppy that we kept. Her father's name was "Bailey" and she was very fat. So I did some research to find out the name of the fat lady in the Barnum & Bailey circus. The fat lady's name was Jolly Fairchild. Thus, my puppy became Celestial-Cjs Jolly Fairchild, better known as "Fairchild," who went on to become the winningest PBGV ever.

***From Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, Canada del Oro Kennel Club:***

In bygone days, I used the old standby of naming each puppy starting with the same letter of the alphabet. Later I used a variety of ways. There were litters where each puppy name started with the same three letters just because it made it a bit harder to come up with a name, for example, Khartoum, Khaptivation, Khaiber, Khan, Khalua, and Khareem, or Whisper, Whimsy, Whinot, and Whillow. Other litters were theme-named, such as volcanoes (Kakatoa, Sakura Jima, Akutan, Vesuvius, and Tambora). There was a litter named after stars because mom was Silver Star and was number one Akita in 1979: Aldebaran, Arcturus, Capella and Bellatrix. One of my dogs waited six months to be registered because I did not want to waste a great name! He became Am. Eng. BIS Ch. Tamarlane's Veni Vidi Vici ROM; both a Best in Show and a National Specialty Best of Breed winner in the U.S. as well as in England. Many of "Victor's" offspring were given names starting with the letter "V" in his honor. I could go on and on.

As for the kennel name, other

than being the name for one of the Mongol Khans in the days of the Mongol hordes, it was the name of an Arabian stallion I fell in love with when I was about twelve years old. I decided then that I would use it as a kennel name when I started breeding dogs. I hate to admit this, but it was in the middle-fifties.

***From Patricia C. Sarles, Twin Brooks Kennel Club:***

When I first got into Tibetan Spaniels my husband told me that if I want to do this all our dogs have to be named after race horses. For our first litter, we started with our kennel (and my husband's last) name – Wassong – and began the litter names with the letter "W": Wassong's Whirlaway, Winning Colors, and War Admiral. The next litter was "M": Wassong's Man O War and Majestic Prince. We cheated a little with W, M and then went to the "S" for my last name (Sarles) and it was Wassong's Secretariat, Seattle Slew, Sea Biscuit, Skywalker, Shennanigans, Sir Barton and Sly Fox.

In many ways this makes it easy to remember who is who and their birth dates. We draw names from every country. Two from the "D" litter were French, Wassong's Djebel of Lollipop and Wassong's Dahlia of Lollipop. We are now on the "U" litter, Wassong's Unbridled Dreamer, Upstart, and Unbridled Syd.

Our method might be simple, but we love our little Tibbies; and while the names are there, the challenge is to match the name to the appropriate Tibbie!

***From Anne H. Bowes, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.:***

I always have a theme for my litters. After breeding 100+ litters, it helps me remember which puppy was in which litter! The themes are determined in a variety of ways: often, it has to do with the day the litter was born. I have had two litters on Mozart's birthday—the first was named for Mozart's family and famous operas, the second was named for musical terms. Litters born on Harrison Ford and Gina Davis's birthdays were named for their films. I have had litters born on election day, President's Day, and Inauguration Day; and of course these were all named for Presidents and politicians.

One of my best names was a litter born the day Martha Stewart was released from prison, so those puppies were named for famous prison inmates like Martha, Rosa Parks, Gordon Liddy, and Nelson Mandela. Sometimes the litter names are taken from the name of one or both of the parents. For example, a litter of ten puppies whose mother's name was Winnie and whose father's name was Robin was named, of course, for the characters in "Winnie The Pooh."

A litter whose mother's name was "Starburst" (her litter had been named for candies) was named for constellations: Cassiopeia, Orion, Sirius, etc. My current litter's dam's name is Cockatoo Ridge, named for an Australian Vineyard as her father was an Australian import, and I had recently judged in South Australia and visited the vineyards there.

When she whelped nine puppies, I knew I would need a lot of names, so I chose cocktails (staying with the "alcohol" theme!). There are a LOT of cocktails.

When I first started naming litters with a theme forty years ago, we had to think up the names by ourselves, Now, of course, we have the internet and it is MUCH easier to come up with clever themes and names matching that theme.

My kennel name is "Heronsway."

I chose it forty-five years ago as a combination of my maiden name, "Hathaway" and my mother-in-law's maiden name, "Herron." I took one "r" out of Herron to make it like the bird, as my husband is an avid bird watcher.

Serendipitously, fifteen years after I chose the name, we moved

to a home in Duxbury, Massachusetts, where we overlook Duxbury Bay and often see herons flying by. Great Blue Herons are my "good luck" sign. When I see one before a dog show, I always think I will have good luck — and most of the time I do!

## STERLING IDEA — WISH I HAD THOUGHT OF IT!

SYLVIA ARROWWOOD, Charleston Kennel Club

The Steel Valley Cluster which is held in late July in Northern Ohio, in Canfield, is a very popular four-day cluster. Many specialties and supported entries choose to gather at Canfield which makes for large entries and many, many majors.

There are also many other events which take place during this four-day cluster. This year, there is a new event titled a "Dog Supply Drive" which is an event where gently used dog supplies are donated for distribution to those canine facilities that are in need of crates, combs, leads, collars, harnesses, shampoos, toys, and other dog related items. Of course these events could be enlarged to encompass cat or pet related items. Food was left out as a possible donation.

Most of us probably have dog-related items that are not of utility to us but would be greatly appreciated by others. Perhaps our clubs could be the go-between and act as a conduit to gather and distribute items where they are needed.

The ultimate goal is two-fold - to help rid those who have for some reason or another accumulated the above dog supplies and have no immediate use of same and would be willing to help out

others who can utilize the gently used dog-related articles.

Collected items could be donated to local shelters and rescue groups who are most often in dire straits, making a real difference for some needy pets.

This same concept of a dog supply drive could be conducted at locations other than dog shows such as a church or community center. Of course the event could include cat or pet items also. The possibilities are manifold. Often the need for these items is paramount.

This event would also generate very much needed positive publicity and the cost of manpower and funds needed to conduct the drive would most likely be nil or approaching nil. Said events would be a wonderful opportunity for our clubs to engage in community service.

Notification of dog and/or pet supply drives could be printed in premium lists and local news media and the internet could be utilized to advise the general public.

Hey, it might even introduce into our sport some individuals who wish to donate supplies and come to the show to drop them off and linger for a while just to see what is going on. Hopefully

these individuals will wish to join in further.

The fact that these persons are in possession of gently used dog items would indicate possession and/or an interest in dogs and a willingness to help out when needed which are good signs for potential new members for our clubs.

The possibilities are endless. Use your club's imagination. In the words of John Lennon, "Imagine if you can."

Thank you for your consideration of this type of endeavor.

