

VOX



VOYAGEUR

FALL 2026 ISSUE THREE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN CITIES VOYAGEUR ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL ASSOCIATION

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From The Editor

This Fall is a very busy time for our club. Not only are all of us wrapping up summer activities and preparing for the winter to come but are also preparing to participate and host an embedded specialty at the Crow River Cluster in early October. Many are attending the ESSFTA National Show in Oregon and will be gone 10 or more days. We also host our annual Fall Agility trial during this time. The nominating committee is busy searching for great candidates for a slate of officers for 2027 and the by-law committee is busy review our governing laws. Just do not forget to carve your pumpkin, enjoy playing in the leaves with your dog and have evening bonfires! Alice Musburger

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- News from the board and minutes

Book review, Did You Know, Brags, Litter Brags, Fall Hunting, Barn-Hunt and Upcoming Events as well As News on November Fall Meeting are squeezed in between!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wishing Everyone a Wonderful Fall Season!

The air is getting crisp in the evenings and soon leaves will start changing! It's the best time of year for all things cozy- so snuggle up with your Springer and get ready for a busy fall with TCVESSA!

Please plan to join your fellow club members in October for lots of fun and competition! First up is our concurrent Specialty with four days of supported entries in conjunction with the Crow River Cluster in Hutchinson, MN. There are still trophies to be sponsored, and help will be needed to set up the trophy table, 100th Anniversary ESSFTA Banner, and offer cake to our guests. Please contact a board member or me if you can help! Just a week later, is the ESSFTA National in Oregon. Our very own Liz Pike and Kathy Patrignani are show chairs for the National once again. A tremendous 'Thank You' for all that you both do in support of our beloved breed!

If that wasn't enough, we also have an Agility Trial in October at On The Run! Please check with Courtney or Kathy P. for volunteer opportunities. Help will be needed and appreciated. Thank you all for your support of our club and our breed! Hug your Springer today!

Sincerely,
Sarah Willms

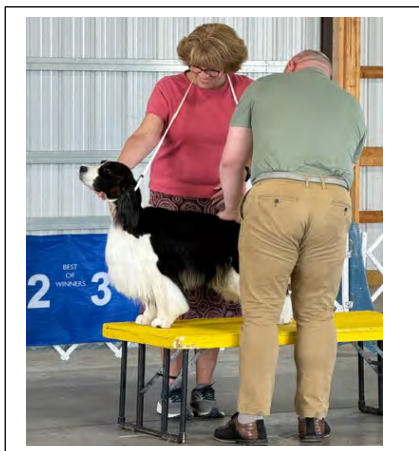


REPORT FROM THE JULY TCVESSA AGILITY TRIAL

July 17-19, 2026, at Cloud Nine

This agility trial is run by our club to raise funds for the parent club National. This year the ESSFTA National will be held October 9-17, in Albany, Oregon. The trial was a success! There were 215 entries on Friday (195 competitors), 296 entries on Saturday (265 competitors) and 222 entries on Sunday (203 competitors). The judge was Mr. David Frasca from Missouri. A big thank you goes out to our Trial Chair, Kathy Patregnani and all the TCVESSA members and friends who showed up to compete and help. Over \$1500 dollars was earned to donate to the National Show. HUGE gratitude to Show Superintendent, Mike The, who went beyond the call of duty! Not only did Mike pick up the judge at the airport at 1:00am in the morning, but Mike hosted the judge at his own home! Mike helped us earn the funds to donate. THANK YOU MIKE!!

SUMMER SOLSTICE SPECIALTY IN PHOTOS



Twin Cities Voyageur English Springer Spaniels 6/20/2026

SWEEPSTAKES

SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER)

JUDGE: Penny Freberg

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Puppy Dogs 9 Mos & Under 12 Mos .](#)

- 1 (5) **OCOOE FIGURE IT'S TIME TO TRAVEL.** SS542353/04. 09/02/2025. BREEDER: Melanie King & Kathy Lurentzen. By Ch Ocoee Figure It Out-Ch Ocoee For Figures Sake. **OWNER: Bonnie & Scott Hendricks.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Junior Dogs 12 Mos & Under 18 mos .](#)

- 1/BSS (11) **KEHRE AND DALIN'S REVERSE FOOL.** SS524034/03. 04/01/2025. BREEDER: L&D Fong D&C English J Fong. By Ch Ch Kehre's Triple 7's-Ch Dalin's & English Built For The Road Ahead. **OWNER: Sidney Bosen & R Gear.**

- A (15) **VINEWOOD'S LORD WALTER OF THE NORTH.** SS532236/06. 05/27/2025. BREEDER: Kathryn Patregnani & Courtney Hanson. By CH MACH VinEwood's Old Time Rock & Roll CDX BN RA-VinEwood's Meant to be in Parls BCAT. **OWNER: Heather Podgorski.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Senior Dogs 18 Mos & Under 24 Mos .](#)

- 1 (19) **VINEWOOD'S HAKUNA MATATA CD BN RN.** SS489848/03. 07/30/2024. BREEDER: Kathryn Patregnani Joanne Riel Liz Riel. By CH Mach VinEwoods old time rock & roll CDX BN RE-Vinewood's Calla Elegant Flower Bcat. **OWNER: Jennifer Jablonski.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Junior Bitches 12 Mos & Under 18 mos .](#)

- 1 (10) **VINEWOOD'S CHOOSER OF THE SLAIN TKN.** SS532236. 05/27/2025. BREEDER: Kathy Patregnani Courtney Bloomer-Hansen. By CH MACH2 VinEwood's Old Time Rock and Roll CDX BN-VinEwood's Meant to be in Pearls BCAT. **OWNER: Gabrielle Klinge.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Senior Bitches 18 Mos & Under 24 Mos .](#)

- 1/OSS (16) **VINEWOOD WEAVER OF WINDS.** SS489848/01. 07/30/2024. BREEDER: Kathryn Ann Patregnani Joanne and Liz Reil. By CH MACH VINEWOOD'S OLD TIME ROCK & ROLL BN JH MXB-VINEWOOD'S CALLA ELEGANT FLOWER BCAT. **OWNER: Kenneth R Wohlford.**

VETERANS SWEEPSTAKES

SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER)

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Veteran Sweepstakes Dogs 7 Yrs & Under 9 Yrs .](#)

- 1/BSS (17) **GCHB CH WIL-ORION'S TRI TO REMEMBER CGC TKN BN.** SS070512/01. 07/24/2018. BREEDER: Janice L Johnson & E & R Brookshire & C Hansen. By CH Foxboro Wil-Orion's Outside The Lines-CH Desertsun Wil-Orion's Goodbye Ordinary. **OWNER: Courtney Hansen & J Jo hnson & E & R Brookshire.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Veteran Sweepstakes Dogs 11 Yrs & Older .](#)

- 1 (23) **CH MACH CEDARWOOD'S ODIN OF ARROWROCK MXG MJG MXP.** SR868305/02. 03/13/2015. BREEDER: Patricia & Wayne Welch. By GCH Cedarwood's Enchanter NA NAJ-GCH Cedarwood's Made For Me. **OWNER: Jean Dockendorf Patricia & Wayne Welch.**

REGULAR CLASSES

SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER)

JUDGE: Jason Hoke

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Puppy Dogs 9 Mos & Under 12 Mos .](#)

- 1 BPY 5 **OCOOE FIGURE IT'S TIME TO TRAVEL.** SS542353/04. 09/02/2025. BREEDER: Melanie King & Kathy Lurentzen. By Ch Ocoee Figure It Out-Ch Ocoee For Figures Sake. **OWNER: Bonnie & Scott Hendricks.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Twelve To Eighteen Month Dogs .](#)

- 1 11 **KEHRE AND DALIN'S REVERSE FOOL.** SS524034/03. 04/01/2025. BREEDER: L&D Fong D&C English J Fong. By GCh Ch Kehre's Triple 7's-Ch Dalin's & English Built For The Road Ahead. **OWNER: Sidney Bosen & R Gear.**

- A 15 **VINEWOOD'S LORD WALTER OF THE NORTH.** SS532236/06. 05/27/2025. BREEDER: Kathryn Patregnani & Courtney Hanson. By CH MACH VinEwood's Old Time Rock & Roll CDX BN RA-VinEwood's Meant to be in Parls BCAT. **OWNER: Heather Podgorski.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), Bred-By-Exhibitor Dogs Adult .](#)

- 1/W 29 **TIFFANY NO GOOD DEED.** SS515702/06. 12/19/2024. BREEDER: Elizabeth Fink & Robin Novack. By Ch Tiffany Showed Up In Boots-Ch Telltale Whoop De Do. **OWNER: Elizabeth Fink & Robin Novack.**

[SPANIELS \(ENGLISH SPRINGER\), American-Bred Dogs .](#)

- 1/RW 19 **VINEWOOD'S HAKUNA MATATA CD BN RN.** SS489848/03. 07/30/2024. BREEDER: Kathryn Patregnani Joanne Riel Liz Riel. By CH Mach VinEwoods old time rock & roll CDX BN RE-Vinewood's Calla Elegant Flower Bcat. **OWNER: Jennifer Jablonski.**

- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Open Dogs .**
- 1 7 VINEWOOD'S FIRESTARTER SHA DJ CGC.** SS420104/02. 06/04/2023. BREEDER: Heather Podgorski & Kathy Patregnani. By Hillcrest Colour Me Cheerful-Vinewood's Sun After The Storm. **OWNER: Brad Carpenter.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Puppy Bitches 9 Mos & Under 12 Mos .**
- A 30 TIFFANY'S PINK PONY CLUB.** SS546234/07. 08/28/2025. BREEDER: Robin Novack & E Fink & T Lowe. By GchB Ch Crossroad Jockeyhill Lets Hear It For The-Ch Tiffany's Bougie Boots. **OWNER: Angela Portner & E Fink & R Novack & L King.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Twelve To Eighteen Month Bitches .**
- 1 10 VINEWOOD'S CHOOSER OF THE SLAIN TKN.** SS532236. 05/27/2025. BREEDER: Kathy Patregnani Courtney Bloomer-Hansen. By CH MACH2 VinEwood's Old Time Rock and Roll CDX BN-VinEwood's Meant to be in Pearls BCAT. **OWNER: Gabrielle Klinge.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Amateur-Owner-Handler Bitches .**
- 1 8 VINEWOOD'S HOLY VALKYRIE CGC TKN.** SS532236/01. 05/27/2025. BREEDER: Kathy Patregnani & Courtney Hanson. By MACH CH VinEwood's Old Time Rock & Roll CDX BN R-VinEwood's Meant to be in Pearls BCAT. **OWNER: Kristeen Klein.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Bred-By-Exhibitor Bitches Adult .**
- A 6 DARTEK'S ELDAMAR & JOURNEY'S SYMPHONY.** SS489251/02. 06/12/2024. BREEDER: Tekla Viker & Kim Bullard & Julie Roberts. By Gch Ch Tiffany's ESSpecial Magic Kingdom BN RN-GchB Ch Dartek's Eldamar & Journey's Allegro BN R. **OWNER: Tekla Viker & K Bullard & J Roberts & G Paulucci.**
- 1/W/BW BBY 28 TIFFANY'S HEAVENS TO BETSY.** SS492324/02. 07/09/2024. BREEDER: Robin Novack & L King & E Fink. By Gch Ch Polesitter Auctioneer-Ch Telltale Made In Heaven. **OWNER: Robin Novack & L King & E Fink.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), American-Bred Bitches .**
- 1/RW 16 VINEWOOD WEAVER OF WINDS.** SS489848/01. 07/30/2024. BREEDER: Kathryn Ann Patregnani Joanne and Liz Reil. By CH MACH VINEWOOD'S OLD TIME ROCK & ROLL BN JH MXB-VINEWOOD'S CALLA ELEGANT FLOWER BCAT. **OWNER: Kenneth R Wohlford.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Open Bitches .**
- 1 18 TROPICAL'S MISTY RIVER AT SENECA.** SS452472/06. 01/12/2024. BREEDER: Susan & Edward Schrank. By Gch Ch Maxwell's Build Me Up Buttercup-Ch Calypso Rhythm Of The Night. **OWNER: Anne Daniel & Susan Schrank.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Veteran Dogs 7 Yrs & Under 9 Yrs .**
- 1/SEL/BOBOH BVT 17 GCHB CH WIL-ORION'S TRI TO REMEMBER CGC TKN BN.** SS070512/01. 07/24/2018. BREEDER: Janice L Johnson & E & R Brookshire & C Hansen. By CH Foxboro Wil-Orion's Outside The Lines-CH Desertsun Wil-Orion's Goodbye Ordinary. **OWNER: Courtney Hansen & J Johnson & E & R Brookshire.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Veteran Dogs 11 Yrs & Older .**
- 1 AM 23 CH MACH CEDARWOOD'S ODIN OF ARROWROCK MXG MJG MXP.** SR868305/02. 03/13/2015. BREEDER: Patricia & Wayne Welch. By GCH Cedarwood's Enchanter NA NAJ-GCH Cedarwood's Made For Me. **OWNER: Jean Dockendorf Patricia & Wayne Welch.**
- SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER), Best of Breed Competition .**
- AM 9 Ch ELDAMAR DARTEK & JOURNEY'S NORSE STAR.** SS489251/03. 06/12/2024. Dog. BREEDER: Tekla Viker Kim Bullard Julie Roberts. By GCH CH Tiffany's ESSpecial Magic Kingdom BN RN-GCHB CH Dartek's Eldamar & Journey's Allegro. **OWNER: Julie M Roberts.**
- SEL 12 CH CROSSROAD JOCKEYHILL MY GIRL.** SS422147/03. 07/05/2023. Bitch. BREEDER: Laurie & Richard Green & E Jesseman & J Garcini. By Polesitter Auctioneer-GCh Ch Crossroad Jockeyhill Gurls Just Wanna Have. **OWNER: Laurie & Richard Green & E Jesseman & J Garcini.**
- AM 14 CH FOXBORO IT ALL BEGAN ON WILDWOOD CGC TKN.** SS415215/01. 05/19/2023. Bitch. BREEDER: Melissa Thorson & Susan Still. By GCHB CH Polesitter Politician-CH Foxboro Justify. **OWNER: Gretta Thorson & Melissa Thorson.**
- OS 26 CH TIFFANY BOHEMIAN GARDEN.** SS419339/01. 06/22/2023. Bitch. BREEDER: Elizabeth Fink & R Novack. By GchG Ch Telltale Bohemian Rhapsody-Ch Telltale Time Will Tell. **OWNER: Robin Novack & Elizabeth Fink & Gina Paulucci.**
- B 27 GCHS CH FOXBORO TIFFANY RUNNING DOWN A DREAM.** SS284469/01. 08/07/2021. Dog. BREEDER: Susan Still & Melissa Thorson. By Ch Foxboro What Dreams Are Made Of-Ch Foxboro Catch A Glimpse. **OWNER: Beth Fink & S Still & L Pike & J Vanderlip & G Paulucci.**

BEST OF BREED LINE UP



DID YOU KNOW?

- There are ways to protect livestock without killing wolves.
- Wolves only have one litter per year.
- Wolves help stabilize the ecosystem.
- Wolves do not kill for sport.
- We have a new member at TCVESSA!
- The club by-laws are undergoing revisions by a board appointed committee.
- **The nominating committee has been named and will present a slate of officers for 2027!**
- September 17, 2026, is the 142nd Anniversary of the AKC!

**WELCOME TO NEW TCVESSA MEMBER, MEGAN
ROBINSON!!!**

meg.robinson91@gmail.com

440-241-4726

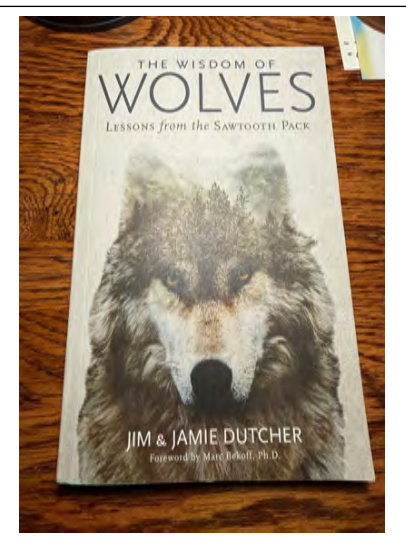
BOOK REVIEW

The Wisdom of Wolves

By Jim and Jamie Dutcher

After six years of living intimately with a four-generation family of gray wolves, Jim and Jamie Dutcher found their lives forever changed. In this book, they share their love and respect for an animal too often maligned in story and real life. Their experiences make reader see the rich and meaningful life these wild animals experience.

I was fascinated by the Dutcher's idea to spend months patiently observing the wolves of the Sawtooth Mountains in the Idaho wild. They built a yurt up on stilts inside of the wolves' camp. From up above, they could watch and film for hours of documentation and thus learn intimate wolf pack behavior. These months became six years and four generations of wolves. I was surprised to learn that the number one priority of the pack was family and not food. The wolves believe in trust, kindness, respect for the elderly and compassion. They also treasured play and cherishing each other. This does not match what I have previously heard about the wild wolves. I can see many of these innate qualities in our descendant dogs. I thoroughly loved this book.



Amazon Paper Back. \$14.99

CLUB CULTURE, BALANCE, CONNECTION AND MENTORSHIP

Back on July 16, 2026, the AKC had an online webinar about club culture and much more. It was presented by Guy Fischer who is the Director of Club Development for the AKC. He has been with the AKC for 12 years as a field rep and in management before handling club relations. He works with Amy Haggie who has a lot of experience with club management, as a show chairman and as an event trial chairman.

Jean Dockendorf, secretary of TVESSA, had time to watch the webinar and sent the link and transcript to our board members. The board felt that there was a lot of information in this webinar and I am passing on to our readers portions of the webinar that are suitable for our club. **THIS IS A MUST READ FOR ALL** of us. Whether you are old our young...a new member or lifetime member...inactive or active...**TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS.** We are all in this together because of our adoration of the English Springer Spaniel. To continue to keep our club going and to build a healthier and stronger club, we can read and learn from this information. We can take away tidbits to implement now and in the future for our club.

Mr. Fischer started with **CLUB CULTURE** because, at the end of the day, what really makes or breaks a club is not just one event or one class or one program. It's how people experience it. So, as you read through this, reflect on what is being discussed and how you experience our club. Keep in mind that I am loosely picking from parts of the presentation. I am trying to take away the parts that ring true for TCVESSA. I surely hope Mr. Fischer does not mind.

Sincerely,
Alice Musburger

Mr. Fischer states:

"One thing that hurts positive club culture is clicks. Most clubs don't believe they have clicks, but new people often experience them that way. So, what feels like longtime friendships to current members can really feel like closed circles to someone new. If someone walks into a meeting, trial or event and no one breaks away to greet them or introduce them or bring them into a conversation, they're not likely to come back. And this is true for all types of organizations, not just dog clubs. Any type of community organization or church that you may have gone into, if you're not welcomed; you're not going to come back. And so, the key thing to

remember here is it's usually not intentional, but in this case, impact really matters more than the intent.

No matter how you see our club, we need to focus more on culture. We need to shift from unintentional exclusion to intentional inclusion. A welcoming club does not happen by accident. It happens when members make a conscious effort to really notice new people, invite them into conversations, and really make them feel like they belong immediately. I'd really encourage you to think about your last meeting or your last event. If someone brand new walked in, what would their experience have been? Do you think they would have felt included right away? Or would they have just felt like they had to work a little to find their place? So, a club, we can say we're welcoming, but newcomers experience culture through actions and not intentions. So, let's talk about where culture really becomes visible immediately. And that's with first impressions.

Let's go back to imagining someone attending their first meeting or their event. They don't know the structure, they don't know the people, and they don't know where to go or what to do. I want to share a conversation that I had with a gentleman last week. He told me that his daughter went to a meeting, and she went to sit down at a table and one of the members put their hand over the seat and said, "this seat is saved." Not, "hi, my name is so-and-so. You know what? This seat is saved but let me grab you another one." Nope, it was just "this seat is saved." Now, I hope she went back. I don't know if I would have gone back. But just think about that. Think about that first impression that was made. Think back to your first dog show or meeting. Did someone bring you in or did you kind of just figure this out on your own? And I bet that if you did have somebody that kind of welcomed you in to show you the ropes, I bet you remember who that person was. And I bet they had a huge impact on your involvement in the dog sport world. So, clubs that grow, they're not leaving this to chance. They really are planning for it. And they make sure that someone is always greeted and guided, and they follow up with them. Try to follow up with any new visitors within 48 hours to make sure that that connection is made. Clubs that grow, they are intentional about everything that they do. They are going to assign someone to greet new attendees and introduce them to people and follow up afterwards. And that follow up is often what turns that one-time attendee into a returning participant because that first experience often determines whether someone's going to come back or not."

Mr. Fischer continues, as he points out that **BALANCE** is another important area in a healthy club. He goes on to state that "newer members often want faster inclusion and clear direction and immediate

opportunities to participate. Whereas longtime members, they may feel a little bit like you need to earn your place first, then learn by observing over time. And neither of those is wrong. But if we don't bridge that gap, that's when we start to lose people. The goal here is balance. We need to value experience and welcome new perspectives and be willing to adapt because adapting doesn't weaken a club. It allows it to strengthen.”

Mr. Fischer also points to the fact that **CONNECTION** is paramount to a healthy club. He says, “First impressions are often what really gets someone through the door the first time, but what keeps them coming back is the connections that they make. And so that really leads to an important question for today's clubs, because how are we creating opportunities for those connections to happen, whether it's online or in person?”

One of the best things clubs can do is to stop labeling people as conformation people or performance people. We are all club people. We're all dog people. And the reality is that we're all on the same team and we need each other. And many of today's newcomers are really entering the sport through performance events. They may discover agility or scent work, fast cat, barn hunt before they ever learn about conformation. And that's not a threat to our clubs. It's an opportunity. So, if someone comes to your rally or obedience trial or scent work event, that's likely not the end of their journey. It may just be the beginning of it. Agility was for me. I started off in. Agility was for me. I started off in agility, and I did just about everything you could think of, rally, fast cat, contest, you name it, before I ever stepped foot in the conformation ring, much less had a litter. In many cases, the performance events are what's generating the significant participation and revenue that's really helping clubs remain financially healthy. For some clubs, those events are what are helping support facilities and equipment and even those conformation events. We've got to stop thinking about who belongs and who doesn't.

So, when we talk about culture and how welcoming your club is and how people are treated, how they experience those first interactions, that's really where everything begins. But the next question, it's just as important once people are there, what happens next? Because creating a welcoming environment is one thing, but keeping those people engaged and involved and coming back that's a whole other, that's something else entirely.

And, after that first impression and how you turn initial interest into long-term involvement within your club. We've met people at events and meetings. So now, now what? Think about the last few people who showed interest in your club. Did they become members or did they just come once

and then just disappear? Without a clear path, people really kind of lose that momentum. They come to an event. They had a wonderful experience. And then there's no follow-up. So, then they just move on. What works is having a very simple pipeline for someone attends the event, you connect with them, we follow up with them, we invite them to a meeting, and that's a way to get them involved. And it just doesn't have to be complicated. Again, all this is rather simple, but it does have to be intentional. And without that structure, people just kind of flail and disappear. And the good news is, is that it's one of the easiest areas to improve. Because even something as simple as a quick follow-up e-mail or a personal invitation or assigning someone to be that contact point can immediately increase engagement in our club. The question after this, is now what?"

The answer can be given through **MENTORSHIP**. Mr. Fischer says "Mentorship is one of the most powerful tools that you guys have, but only if it's intentional. And don't leave the newcomer experience to random chance. It's important to assign specific, experienced, and welcoming mentors to new members to really guide them through meetings or show trial systems. A good mentor would introduce the new member to others and really explain the what's and the whys of the club. Be proactive. Too often clubs say, if they have questions, they'll ask. But new people often, they're not going to ask. Just understand that new club members are often hesitant or uncomfortable asking for guidance. So, reach out directly to see how you can be of assistance. An offer in continuous engagement. True mentorship, it's ongoing. It's an active relationship. I would suggest checking in regularly because it really helps build that tight-knit community and promotes sportsmanship as well. In preserving breed education, this one's very important. Use that mentorship to safely convey the crucial breeds standard knowledge and health testing mandates and breeding compliance metrics."

He continues, "So again, mentorship should be assumed or assigned and not assumed, not assumed, assigned, active and not passive. and ongoing. And this creates that connection and connection is what keeps people engaged. And at the heart of engagement, it's something very, very simple. People just want to feel needed. So, if someone attends meetings and they never have a role, they'll eventually just disengage. So ,think about your last few meetings. Were there people there who didn't have a way to get involved? And those are often the people that we lose first. So instead of saying, let us know if you want help, try, would you be willing to help with hospitality at the next event? Kind of like back to my, you know, my hunt test invitation to people. When I started asking personally and specific, that's when I got the engagement. So, invite

them in and make it easy, be specific, and then follow up. Thank them. Ask how it went and don't pick apart their efforts. I know sometimes new people, they may get things wrong, but coach and encourage them and just don't pick apart their efforts. Invite them again. And that's how we can engage and engagement builds up over time.” Another Area Mr. Fischer addresses is club worker burnout:

“Let's talk about burnout. This is something every club experiences, because this is the common reality. About 90% of the work is done by 10% of the people. And I feel like that that's a fact. And we love those people. They're so incredibly dedicated. But that situation, it is not sustainable. And over time, it leads to frustration and resentment and eventually people stepping away. And when those key people step away, clubs really struggle. Think about your club right now. Is most of the work being done by just a few people? Are they asking for help or are they just kind of handling things themselves? Is there a succession plan? And what would happen if that individual stepped away unexpectedly? Strong clubs are not built on a few people doing everything. They're built on many people contributing in manageable ways. So, the solution really isn't asking the same people to do more. It's about spreading the work across more people. And that starts by making it easier to help. So breaking roles into smaller, manageable pieces, coaching or shadowing a co-chair, inviting people to take on specific tasks, and accepting that not everything has to be perfect. And just as importantly is recognizing and appreciating the people who are showing up and doing the work.

I UNDERSTAND that Mr. Fischer means that **Mentorship** can lead to solving the unbalance when burnout is threatening. Mentors guiding the way to involvement, connection and understanding can ease the situation. “So again, mentorship should be assumed or assigned and not assumed, not assumed, assigned, active and not passive. and ongoing. And this creates that connection and connection is what keeps people engaged.”

This is the conclusion of the basics presented in this webinar. There was more on how the AKC Club Development Department can help clubs in other ways such as collecting club event data and community visibility, advertisement and tons more. But this portion on Mentorship speaks directly to TCVESSA.

TCVESSA Annual membership dues are to be paid by January 1, 2027. When you fill out your membership renewal form and your volunteer and interest form, check the box on Mentorship. Write your ideas and areas where you can help in a mentorship effort on the back of your volunteer

form. Think about the areas presented in the webinar summary. Contact any board member about mentorship. Helping our club culture to be more positive, balancing areas that are not currently even and building the connections that we all love will make our club more fun, more inclusive, open and stronger. Organized mentorship sounds like medication we all can seek!

Guy H. Fischer, Director of Club Development
Club Development
Email Guy.Fischer@akc.org.

Phone 919-816-3705

Amy Hagy, Manager of

Email Amy.Hagy@akc.org

Phone 919-816-3701



Our Club By-Laws are in committee process of review. New by-laws are in our near future. Until then, we are using our current by-laws which describe the purpose of our planned Fall Meeting.

One purpose of the Annual Fall Meeting is to vote to approve the slate of officers for 2027 as presented by the Nominating Committee. When we meet, please remember these guidelines:

"Additional nominations may be made, by any member in good standing in attendance at a general membership meeting designated by the board for that purpose, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his/her name is proposed and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at the meeting, the nominating member shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his/her willingness to serve. No person may be a candidate for more than one position. "

"Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than provided in this section."

(By-Laws Section 4. Nominations parts C & D.)

If you would like to be considered for a board position, please contact, Heather Rand at (hrend9@gmail.com). Heather is the chair of the nominating committee.

ANNUAL FALL MEETING IS AT TOTAL RECALL ON NOVEMBER 15, 2026, FROM 1:00-4:00 P.M.

BRAGGS AND PROUD MOMENTS

I know he's not a Springer, BUT, Ammo, a Boykin Spaniel owned by club Member, Brian Schaffer, earned his 1st senior pass at the Rice Creek Dog Club's hunt test held August 22-23 in Little Falls MN.

Ammo is "SHR Springridge Rock Me Ammodues JH FN FDC CGC CGCA".

Brian Schaffer, Springridge Spaniels, Larchwood, IA. springridge01@gmail.com and "Home of the Wild Bunch"

Upper Iowa Training Club Rally trial held at the Good Dog Center on August 8, 2026. 3 Here are three TCVESSA members and their dogs that competed. Jill Dunham, Tekla Viker and Bonnie Maffit. Photo courtesy of Bonnie Maffit.



Wil-Orion 's Tri to Remember (Tatum)

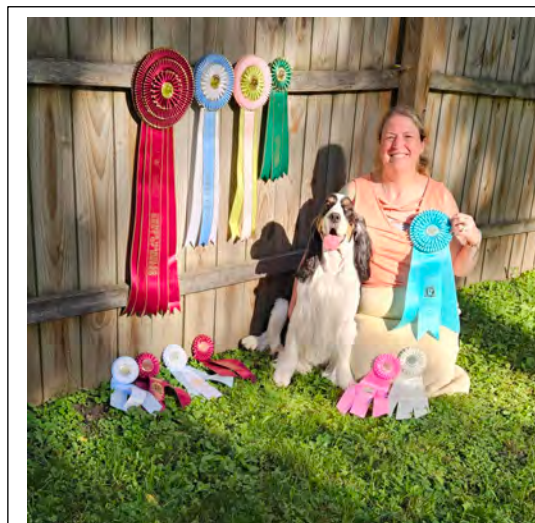
OH Best in Show at Cambridge

Best in Veteran Sweepstakes, Select Dog , Best VET and OHBOB at TCVESSA specialty and lots of FCAT points!

BOB & Veteran Group 1 in Duluth

BOS at Lake Elmo to finish his SILVER GCH

1st leg earned of his CA Title



NEW FROM THE AKC

The AKC is proud to introduce the AKC National Champion (ANC) title, a new prefix title that will be awarded to the dog earning Best in Show at the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. As the highest conformation title awarded by the American Kennel Club, the ANC recognizes one of the most remarkable accomplishments in our sport. It places this achievement alongside AKC's most prestigious nation titles across companion and performance events while honoring the exceptional dogs whose names have become part of our history. This distinction will be awarded retroactively to every previous Best in Show winner of the AKC National Championship, ensuring their accomplishments receive the lasting recognition they deserve.

This article is relevant to all our club members because it is the best single article I have ever read discussing the sometimes confusion over the terms "Type" and "Function". If you are especially just now learning how to understand and appreciate breeding and the conformation ring that give us the soundest dogs, you will appreciate this article. It is a classic from one of the best.

Type and Function Junction

By Bill Shelton

In this extended edition of "Times Past," we go back to our April 1999 issue, where master breeder and judge Bill Shelton held forth on why he considers original function to be the cornerstone of that most elusive of canine qualities : type.

It was recently discovered that the domestic dog existed during the Cro-Magnon era. We have no visual image of the dogs of that era, but we know through DNA that they were present. Long before stud-books, written standards, or dog shows were imagined, specific breeds, some of which are extinct today, existed and flourished. Because survival of the fittest and natural selection were the order of the day, a dog without a strong drive to pursue prey would not survive.

In the early days of the evolution of dogs, people depended on their canine partners to help them achieve their daily tasks and improve the quality of their lives. And as people selected animals to serve them and live with them based on the animals' behavioral characteristics, the animals' progeny began to exhibit physical characteristics like those of their parents. Because the ability to function was paramount, soundness was probably the trait that primarily determined the desirability of a particular dog.

Thus, the principal force behind the development of any group of dogs was the ability to fulfill an important purpose.

SELECTIVE BREEDING

Selective breeding was the tool people used to ensure the continued presence of dogs that would be useful to them. Human beings thereby determined the evolutionary course of dogs, creating a vast number of breeds and varieties to assist in daily life. Not only were we able to influence a dog's "Unkennelling the Royal Hounds on Ascot Heath," by Henry Bernard Chalon from to make it more adept at performing specific tasks, we were also able to design attributes identifying a dog or family of dogs by geographic region of origin or even owner. Many breeds (e.g., spaniels, setters, etc.) even had distinguishable subtypes. A person's occupation or station in society could often be identified by possession of a type of dog. Nowadays, few dogs spend their lives doing what their breed was originally designed to do. There are some dogs that still perform, at least part of the time, the function for which their breed was developed, but they are the exception rather than the rule. The conformation events we created to validate our progress in breeding have perhaps become the chief purpose of existence for a large population of dogs today. If those of us who are conformation-event aficionados wish to preserve and test the essence of type, which is what we breed for to do well at dog shows, we must now consider performance events to be more important than ever before in several breeds. We must use our breeding stock for its intended purpose and encourage others to do the same, rather than idly wait for the next dog show. Although breeders and judges alike make their choices based on standards written for a particular purpose, many have never watched the breeds in question perform the tasks for which they were originally designed. There are many handlers, breeders and judges whose only point of reference for type is the dog show. As dog shows become ever more

popular, but also isolated within their own world, the true purposes of many breeds become more elusive. Judges at these shows evaluate the anatomies of dogs in detail. A judge is expected to do this within two minutes, limiting most inquiries of character to whether an exhibit is shy or aggressive. However, a judge who has extensive experience with a breed will possess a deep-seated intuition regarding the breed. A breed's original purpose should always be foremost in a judge's mind. But safeguarding the essence of type remains the province of the breeder. Unfortunately, we increasingly see the generic behavior that many associate with show dog temperament being rewarded by judges across the board. However, showmanship as it is generally valued and demonstrated may very well conflict with a breed's intended character. Nowadays, the word type is used frequently at shows to substantiate opinions, often by people who wish to create the illusion they have insight into the character of a breed.

HOW IMPORTANT IS TYPE?

As a judge, what importance do I ascribe to type in a particular breed? Before deciding, I must first have a clear understanding of the breed's purpose and know the reasons for its physical form and its temperament. Form follows function, a principle that leads a Bulldog and a Basenji, for example, to be so different from one another physically. Similarly, the "merry" Cocker Spaniel will behave quite differently than the Rottweiler. The ideal form, once perceived, must be visualized clearly in the mind's eye. Second, I must know something about the breed's history that will give me insight into the path its evolution has taken and the reasons behind any variations breeders are familiar with. A simple but distinctive example is the Bullmastiff, which is 40 percent Bulldog and 60 percent Mastiff. When a Bullmastiff's dominant characteristics show an excessive amount of either progenitor's influence, it is a fault. Third, I must identify those traits that have been so accentuated within a breed that they have become faults. If judges reward such dogs, it may encourage other breeders to follow the same path. Such extremes, like the topknot in Shih Tzu, the unwarranted length of coat in Cockers, or excessive soft furnishings on Giant Schnauzers, are only a few examples out of many that are currently prevalent. Such trends have no relevance to the breed's purpose. Fourth, although I admit I tend to overemphasize detail myself, a breeder's stock must first possess a sound foundation, predicated upon specific forms. Fifth, as the great breeder Beatrice Godsol wrote, "All the grooming and skillful handling cannot change a mediocre dog into a top one, nor are beauty treatments transmitted."

THE CORNERSTONE OF TYPE

How do I see type? Part of it can be almost illusory at first glance. A dog with an otherwise ideal physique that does not possess its breed's distinct demeanor will not be a wholly acceptable example of its breed. These behaviors are often insufficiently studied by and known among judges. On the more tangible side, a dog must also display a distinct form to be instantly identifiable as its breed. Beyond this we have many styles within a breed, all of which may still possess type. As a judge it is my duty to seek out type by continuously studying and increasing my familiarity with each breed I judge. A judge has the responsibility to be a guardian and student of the standards and a confidante to breeders. We may never all agree on what type really means, but there is no denying that the original purpose of a breed should be the cornerstone of our definition. Fortunately, throughout history the concept of type has been held in the hands of those who cherish and guard its very existence.—B.S.

Bill Shelton is the founding breeder of Coventry Pembroke Welsh Corgis. He is a columnist, lecturer, and judge.

AKC GAZETTE AUGUST 2026



PHOTOS OF "SPARX" OWNED BY TCVESSA MEMBER LAURA SCHRIENER. Submitted by Kayla Nyvold

IN THE WHELPING BOX



The dam is “Faith”, Spellbound's Trust His Timing! She is owned by Courtney Hansen(Spellbound). The Sire is Willie, Polesitter's Auctioneer (Mike Bockhorn.) Five beautiful babies were welcomed into the world late at night on August 5, 2026. There are two black and white girls, one black and white boy and two liver and white boys.



The Milk Bar



Pile of Puppies



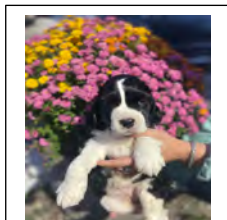
Milk Coma!



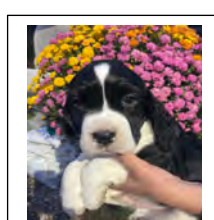
Litter theme is the singer song writer “PINK”



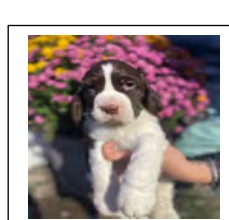
Debut (M)



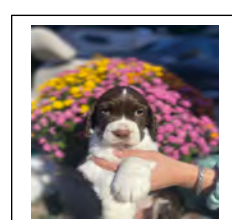
Emmy (F)



Grammy (F)



Rockstar (M)



Encore (M)

Puppies AVAILABLE!! Contact Courtney Hansen (spellboundess@yahoo.com)

FALL HUNTING 2026

I checked with Brian Schaffer about hunt tests in our area for this Fall. Turns out some fun has already been happening. The Rice Creek Hunting Dog Club held a flushing breed hunt test August 22-23 by Little Falls, MN. It was an AKC Sanction Event.

The Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association (MHSA) held Fun Trials. One was in July and one was in August. Fun trials are a fun, non-threatening way to learn and participate in Field Trial-style events. For all stakes except Hunting and Shooting, gunners will be provided by the MHSA Club. Ribbons are awarded to all placing Handlers/Dogs. Judges will have the option of awarding up to 2 Awards of Merit per class. Entry Fee I \$35 per dog per stake (subject to change).

Hunt Tests for flushing breeds are also held by MHSA. Spaniels are flushing breed and their primary purpose is to hunt, find, flush and return birds to hand as quickly as possible in a pleasing and obedient manner. Judges evaluate the performance of each spaniel entered according to a specific scoring system based on their natural ability to hunt, find game, flush and retrieve. Judges also score a spaniel's work in the field based on their learned abilities – range, pattern, gun response and response to commands. MHSA held their annual test September 5-6, 2026, near Baldwin, Wisconsin. Baldwin is only 48 miles East of Minneapolis in St. Croix County, WI. Heads up for next year and exploring the MHSA website.

MINNESOTA HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPRINGERS

- The Minnesota Mourning Dove Season is September 1-November 29, 2026.
- Ruffed, Spruce, Hungarian and Partridge Grouse (Statewide) is September 19-January 3, 2027.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse (Northwest Zone) is September 19- November 30, 2026.
- Pheasant (Statewide) is October 10, January 3, 2027.

Please review DNR MN licensing and regulations. For your Area. Also, take special care of yourself and your dogs if this heat and humidity continue. It's going to be important that we know what to look for in our dogs and how to treat heat related issues with our dogs no matter the breed.



WEEZ BRED TO DO DIS!!!!

ALL ABOUT THE AKC NOHS PROGRAM

Did you know that more than 80% of show dogs are handled by their owners? To celebrate the dedication and enthusiasm of owner-handler exhibitors the American Kennel Club has created the new AKC National Owner-Handled Series. This non-titling competition will be held at select dog shows across the country.

The AKC National Owner-Handled Series will be conducted following Best of Breed judging in each breed ring. All dogs in the BOB competition (including WD & WB) will stay in the ring after the judge makes their placements in BOB competition. The ring steward will ask all professional handlers, household members and current assistants to professional handler to leave the ring and then the judge will then select the Best Owner-Handled (BOH). The dog and its owner will continue to accrue points for any group placements or Bests in Show.

The top-ranked dogs from the AKC National Owner-Handled Series are posted on the [AKC National Owner-Handled Series Points Ranking](#) page on AKC website. Rankings of the dogs competing in the Series are compiled based on the Best of Breed, Group, and Best in Show placements in this specific Series competition (See Point Schedule). The end of year competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series will be held in conjunction with the AKC show in December. Dogs that finished ranked in the top ten (plus ties) for their breed during the qualifying period will be allowed to compete in the competition. The qualifying period is usually a date in September from one year to the next. It can be found on the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Points Ranking page at the AKC website. (Example for this year is September 18, 2025 – September 15, 2026.). Dogs exhibited by professional handlers on the day of the event are not eligible for this competition. Dogs exhibited by current assistants and household members of a professional handler on the day of the event are not eligible to enter this competition. Current assistants that are eligible to compete in Junior Showmanship (meet age and amateur status requirements) may participate in NOHS.

Professional handlers are defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers' organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay within the last five years.

NOHS LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Consistent with the AKC's ongoing efforts to grow the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) program and the sport overall, the American Kennel Club (AKC®) has launched the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Levels of Achievement that offers Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum recognition to exhibits obtaining a predetermined number of NOHS points for each level of award.

NOHS Levels of Achievement certificates are available for printing! You can print a certificate for each NOHS Level of Achievement a dog has earned using the AKC website. NOHS titles maybe added to a dog's registered name using the AKC Title Portal.

Overview

The NOHS Levels of Achievement utilizes the same NOHS point system used to determine the annual rankings for the NOHS. The Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum NOHS Levels of Achievement are earned by obtaining a minimum number of lifetime NOHS points

LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT	MINIMUM LIFETIME NOHS POINTS
<i>Bronze</i>	250
<i>Silver</i>	500
<i>Gold</i>	1,000
<i>Platinum</i>	2,000

The AKC is providing a commemorative pin and a downloadable certificate for the highest Level of Achievement the dog had earned (using lifetime NOHS points) at the time of program implementation. After the initial implementation, the AKC will provide a commemorative pin and a downloadable certificate for each additional Level of Achievement earned. Any owner can download a certificate. The pin is provided to one owner of the dog. Additional NOHS Level of Achievement pins can be purchased for \$10 each by contacting AKC Sports Services at 919-233-9767 Option 4, Option 1. Please have your dog's registration number available when you call.

AKC NOHS POINT SCALE AND RIBBON COLORS

At an individual show a dog earns the cumulative number of AKC National Owner-Handled Series points associated with each placement.

Placement	Points	Ribbon Color*
Owner-Handled Best in Show	100	Turquoise
Owner-Handled Reserve Best in Show	75	Light Green
Owner-Handled Group 1	30	Neon Pink
Owner-Handled Group 2	20	Neon Green
Owner-Handled Group 3	15	Teal
Owner-Handled Group 4	10	Cream
Owner-Handled Best of Breed	5	Maroon
Owner-Handled Best of Breed at National Specialty	10	Maroon

JUDGING PROCEDURE FOR NOHS

Determining Exhibitor Eligibility

The first step in judging the AKC National Owner-Handled Series is determining exhibitor eligibility. Follow these tips to properly make the eligibility determination:

- Exhibitors must declare their dog AKC National Owner-Handled Series eligible at the time of entry using the check box on the entry form.

- The handler must be an owner of record according to the AKC's records as of the date of the show.
- Dogs declared eligible will be identified by an asterisk or other representative mark in the steward's book and in the show catalog.
- Professional handlers, household members and current assistants to professional handlers may not exhibit. A current assistant is defined as anyone employed by a professional handler on a full-time basis or assisting a professional handler at the show or any show during the cluster/weekend.
- Dogs must be handled by an owner-handler eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series throughout the breed level competition for the regular show. This includes the class competition and subsequent competition in the breed ring. Additionally, dogs must be handled by an eligible owner-handler for all AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition.
- The Owner-Handled Best of Breed will be selected from the eligible dogs that competed in the Best of Breed/Variety competition for the regular show. This includes Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, and the undefeated winners of the non-regular classes. *This excludes all dogs defeated during class and winners competition for the regular show.*

Determining Best of Breed/Variety

Breed judging for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series is conducted following Best of Breed judging in each breed ring. All dogs in the BOB competition (including WD & WB) will stay in the ring after the judge makes their placements in BOB competition. The ring steward will ask all professional handlers, household members of and current assistants to a professional handler, and any exhibitor that did not indicate on their entry that they were eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series to leave the ring and then the judge will then select the Owner-Handled Best of Breed. A dog being "cut" or otherwise "defeated" in the Best of Breed ring remains eligible to compete in the AKC National Owner-Handled Series. The Owner-Handled Best of Breed will be selected from the eligible exhibits based on the program guidelines and procedures.

Judging of the breed/variety for the regular show may determine the dog that is awarded Owner-Handled Best of Breed. Please follow these guidelines:

- If the Best of Breed/Variety winner of the regular show is eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition, it will also be awarded Owner-Handled Best of Breed. In this case the dog will be eligible to compete in group competition for the regular show and group competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series.
- If the regular show Best of Breed/Variety winner is not eligible for AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition and the regular show Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed/Variety is eligible, the regular show Best of Opposite Sex to Best of

Breed/Variety will compete against the eligible exhibits of the other sex to determine Owner-Handled Best of Breed.

- If neither the Best of Breed nor the Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed/Variety from the regular show is eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition and both the Select Dog and Select Bitch are eligible, the judge is to choose Owner-Handled Best of Breed from the Selects and any eligible Winners Dog or Winners Bitch.
- If one of the Selects from the regular show is eligible for AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition, excuse all eligible champions and non-regular class winners of the same sex and then choose Owner-Handled Best of Breed from the remaining eligible dogs of the opposite sex including the eligible Winners.
- If the regular show Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, Select Dog & Select Bitch are not eligible, the judge may choose any eligible dog who competed in Best of Breed including Winners Dog or Winners Bitch as the Owner-Handled Best of Breed.

If no dog remaining in the ring is eligible for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition, Owner-Handled Best of Breed will not be awarded, and the breed/variety will not be represented in group competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series.

Group and Best in Show Competition

Some guidelines for judging Group and Best in Show competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series:

- Eligibility should be checked before each level of AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition. In the Group and Best in Show competition, special attention must be paid to the requirement that dogs must be handled throughout the competition by an eligible owner.
- Group judging for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series may take place in separate rings from regular group judging. It is recommended that the group judging for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series begin at least thirty minutes prior to regular group judging. Judging may be adjusted to prevent any delays or interference with the regular group judging.
- Judging for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Best in Show may take place prior to or after regular Best in Show judging.

NOHS REGIONAL COMPETITION

The AKC NOHS Regional program provides Owner-Handler enthusiasts the opportunity to compete against Owner-Handled dogs for NOHS Regional wins. The event recognizes the quality dogs being exhibited by owner handlers across the country. These regional competitions were added to the program in 2024.

Look for a NOHS Regional Event coming to a location near you during the 2025 – 2026 season!

Warren County Kennel Club of Ohio

Location: Roberts Center, Wilmington OH

Date: March 2026

San Luis Obispo Kennel Club

Location: Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield CA

Date: March 2026

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa

Location: Tulsa Expo Square, Tulsa OK

Date: April 2026

Spokane Kennel Club

Location: Spokane Expo Center, Spokane WA

Date: May 2026

Bryn Mawr Kennel Club

Location: Ludwigs Corner Show Grounds, Ludwigs Corner PA

Date: June 2026

Greater Monroe Kennel Club

Location: Cabarrus Arena, Concord NC

Date: July 2026

Topeka Kennel Club

Location: Stormont Vail Events Center, Topeka KS

Date: August 2026

AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals held in conjunction with the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin

Orange County Convention Center

Orlando, Florida

December 12 & 13, 2026



Empty heading

The AKC National Owner-Handled Series recognizes and showcases the quality dogs being exhibited by owner/handlers and provides a venue for the owner/handlers to compete against their peers. The determination of the awards in the AKC National Owner-Handled Series is based solely on the quality of the entry. The owner/handler's handling ability is not of consideration.

The end of year competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series will be held in conjunction with the AKC National Championship. Dogs that finished ranked in the top ten (plus ties) for their breed for the current qualifying period will be invited to compete in the competition.

Again, this year, NOHS breed and group judging will take place over the weekend, with events scheduled for both Saturday and Sunday. The NOHS judging for the Terrier, Working, and Herding groups will be held on Saturday, while the Sporting, Hound, Toy, and Non-Sporting groups will be judged on Sunday. The NOHS breed judging will occur on the opposite day of the regular breed judging at the National Championship to allow for participation in both events. Best in Show for the NOHS Finals will be judged on Sunday evening.

AKC TITLE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

"A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." — Colin Powell

There are many reasons to put in the time and resources necessary to earn recognition of your dog's abilities: You might do it to show off their superior abilities; or you might do it for the personal satisfaction that comes from hard work. Or both. Regardless, achieving a goal you've set out to do is something to be very proud of, and why we offer many titling programs for dog owners to have their dog's accomplishment recognized by the American Kennel Club. Learn more about the types of Title Recognition Programs that are available. Almost all these programs welcome all dogs, purebred or mixed breed.

As with any sport, we recommend finding an AKC Club near you with a training facility for the sport you're interested in. Once you're ready, your Club can help you find events to enter. Earning a title means you can add it to your dog's permanent AKC record but, most of all, it's an excellent reminder of the hard work and determination that you and your dog have shared.

Each title has its own requirements for eligibility. Chose the event you're interested in to find eligibility rules. Also, Your dog also must be registered or enrolled with AKC by any one of these options:

AKC Registration Number – This number is provided to a dog owner via a registration certificate received from the previous owner, or via a puppy registration paper given to the new owner by the breeder.

Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) – If a dog is purebred but an AKC Registration Number is not possible, owners can apply for PAL number

AKC Canine Partners Number – This number is given to either mixed breed dogs or a purebred.

Foundation Stock Service®(FSS) Number – This number is used for breeds whose status is currently in the foundational stage of being recorded into our registry and requires a copy of the dog's pedigree.

The current list of dog events includes Barn Hunt, Trick Dog, Canine Good Citizen, Therapy Dogs, Dock Diving, Parent Club and Working Dogs, Flyball, Seach and Rescue and Disc Dog.

This Issue of the VOX will focus on Barn Hunt.

Barn Hunt



Not everyone will understand the importance of “rat catchers,” but if you live in the countryside, you sure do! “Rat catchers” rid farms of destructive vermin – and the hunting and teamwork skills required to do so are the foundation of the sport of Barn Hunt. Dogs and their handlers work as a team to locate and mark rats (which are always safely held in aerated tubes) hidden in a maze of straw or hay bales.

Some breeds are specifically created to fill this role as well as some mixed breeds being up to the task, but if your dog can fit through an 18" wide by bale-height tall tunnel, he's eligible! “Barn Hunt tests the nose, speed, agility, and surefootedness of dogs that have a history of above-ground vermin hunting,” said Robin Nuttall, founder of the Barn Hunt Association.”

Barn Hunt events include a pass/fail instinct class for owners who want to familiarize their dog with the test. Courses are made increasingly difficult by adding more obstacles, additional diversions and more rats to find. There are several types of Barn Hunt titles your dog can earn:

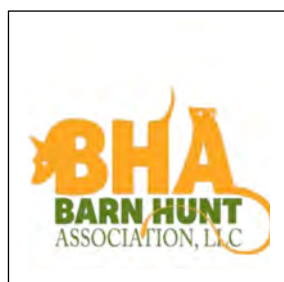
Novice Barn Hunt (RATN),
Open Barn Hunt (RATO),
Senior Barn Hunt (RATS),
Master Barn Hunt (RATM),
Barn Hunt Champion (RATCh),
Master Champion (RATChX),
Crazy 8s Bronze (CZ8B),
Crazy 8s Silver (CZ8S),
Crazy 8s Gold (CZ8G),
Crazy 8s Platinum (CZ8P)

The Barn Hunt Association is an independent organization where titles earned can be recognized by The American Kennel Club. Titles earned in Novice and above will be recognized by The American Kennel Club. To apply for your dog's Barn Hunt title simply complete the application found at the TAP site at AKC Web.

WHAT IS THE TITLE APPLICATION PORTAL (TAP) YOU ASK?????

THE AKC TITLE APPLICATION PORTAL (TAP)

Apply for recognition through The American Kennel Club's Title Recognition Programs using the options shown on the TAP website. Some International Titles are now being included. Go to the AKC website at AKC.org. One must either have an AKC website account or create one when logging in. Search for the TAP. The dog's AKC registration number is also required.



Confirmation
Certificate

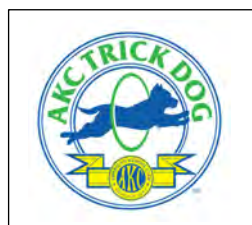


Parent Club

Public Service Dog



Search & Rescue



Parent Club



Conformation, Rally & Obedience.

AKC.org. Search for TAP

CROW RIVER CLASSIC OCTOBER 1-4, 2026

MCLOUD COUNTY FAIRGROUND, Hutchinson, MN

SUPPORTED ENTRY THURSDAY & FRIDAY

October 1 & 2, 2026 The Twin Cities Voyageur English Springer Spaniel Assoc. supports the entry of their breed with the following: Rosette for Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Winners, Select Dog/Bitch, Best Owner Handled, Winners Dog/Bitch, & Reserve Winners Dog/Bitch.

SUPPORTED ENTRY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

October 3 & 4, 2026 The Twin Cities Voyageur English Springer Spaniel Assoc. supports the entry of their breed with the following:
Rosette for Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Winners, Select Dog/Bitch, Best Owner Handled, Winners Dog/Bitch, & Reserve Winners Dog/Bitch.
October 3 & 4, 2026 (prizes both days)

ENTIRE SHOW PREMIUM IS AVAILABLE AT BARAY.COM

Canine Conformation & Movement

Peering at the Bone Pile: The Physics of Balance

\$30 PER PERSON

Why Attend?

"Think bones. Think anatomy. Think balance."

Build a better eye

See beyond coat and presentation.

Understand movement

Connect balance, structure, reach, and drive.

Evaluate soundness

Assess shoulders, pelvis, pasterns, and hocks.

Protect function

Support decisions for long-term canine health.

Presented by Dr. Terill Udenberg

Friday, October 2, 2026 - After Best in Show | McLeod County Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, MN

[Register Online: 2026 Educational Seminar](#)

WRIGHT COUNTY KENNEL CLUB B MATCH - EVENT #2026246305

Friday October 2, 2026 ,30 minutes after Best in Show.

Entry forms available Thursday & Friday at the Catalog/Club Table until noon on Friday or online at crowriverfallclassic.org

- Dogs that are Champions of Record or have earned a major are ineligible to participate.
- Puppy's and Adult dogs will not compete against one another. Puppies as young as 3 months are eligible to participate.
- Rings & Group order will be posted at Catalog/Club Table.
- Dogs/Puppies must be up to date on immunizations. \$10/entry

Prizes: Best Puppy & Best Adult in Match - Hand Towel & Small Bamboo Board offered by Wright County KC and Best of Breed – Waste Bag Holder offered by Wright County KC.
Best Puppy & Best Adult in Match - Hand Towel & Small Bamboo Board offered by Wright County KC and Best of Breed – Waste Bag Holder offered by Wright County KC.

CGC, CGC ADVANCED & TRICK DOG TESTING

Testing will take place Thursday & Friday. Visit the club table for times and location

Thursday & Friday - October 1 & 2

Evaluator: Amber Roberts (Trick Dog, CGC & CGC Advanced)

All-Breed OFA Eye & OFA Cardiac Clinics

Eyes and Cardiac (including echocardiograms!)

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 9am-3pm

Pre-registration for both clinics closes September 28, 2026

❖ OFA Eye Clinic ❖

Dr. Melissa Lively, DVM, DACVO - From the Animal Eye Specialty Center

\$52.00 per dog, pre-registered PayPal Limited walk-ins are welcome the day of the clinic:

\$58.00 walk-in PayPal or \$55.00 walk-in cash

Note: Bring your dog's AKC registration & microchip numbers to complete the form you will mail into the OFA. This clinic does not utilize the online system.

Please arrive 20 minutes before your scheduled appointment for dilating drops to be applied.

Dilation typically lasts 4-6 hours

Questions about the eye clinic or to sign up: Email: northroe@gmail.com

Eye Clinic Online Registration: <https://forms.gle/gcGCm32P1h8r41Xa9>

❖ OFA Cardiac Clinic ❖

Chris Stauthammer, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM

(Cardiology) From The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

OFA Cardiac Echocardiograms & Auscultations

\$335 per echo, \$55.00 per auscultation, pre-registered PayPal.

Limited walk-ins are welcome the day of the clinic if the doctor's minimum appointment requirement is met: \$365 walk-in echo in PayPal or \$350 walk-in cash;

\$65 auscultations walk-in PayPal or \$60 walk-in cash.

Cardiac Clinic Registration Form Link:

Cardiac Clinic Registration Form Link: <https://forms.gle/aV6wXtwMh8tgFSRn8>

Note: To submit the OFA Cardiac Exam, your dog must be at least 1 year old. Bring your dog's AKC registration & microchip numbers.

If you cannot access the online forms or have questions, email

Sarah Schaaf at: northroe@gmail.com

Walk-in appointments first come, first served, based on availability.

ARROWOOD VETERINARY MOBILE SERVICES CLINIC

Rabies, Oral Bordetella, Lepto \$30 * OFA Basic Cardiac Auscultation \$55

DA2PP +/- Lepto \$31 * OFA Reversible Sedation (if req. for xray positioning) \$55

AKC Microchip (pre-registered) \$45 * OFA Elbows \$130

Lyme, 4Dx \$55 * OFA Trachea \$160

* OFA Dentition \$30 * OFA Thyroid \$175

* OFA Patellas \$55 * OFA Hips (+ Legg-Calve-Perthes \$70) \$200

Dr. Annika Arrowwood will be on-site all four days of the cluster!

Register for Services here: <https://forms.gle/VnQh9GzjUKcoueBg8>

Complete OFA applications at the OFA website, print and bring them to your appointment.

Appointments will be set once the judging program is out. Walk-ins will be available if

time allows. For more information, email: annika.DVM@gmail.com

* Prices do NOT include OFA submission - \$10 discount for multiple OFA tests of a single animal.

RING STEWARDS WANTED!

Give us 4 hours of your time as a Ring Steward and we will give you a FREE LUNCH. Questions?

CONTACT: Cindi Myhre (Chief Ring Steward) at shamrockess@msn.com or 763-229-2707

THE ESSFTA 2026 NATIONALS

JOIN US AT THE 2026 NATIONAL SPECIALTY!

By Liz Pike

I wanted to issue a special invitation to all my fellow TCVESSA Springer Lovers to join us at the 2026 National Specialty in Albany, Oregon. This has been a true team effort, combining the two local clubs, Puget Sound ESS and Willamette Valley ESS, with the National Specialty committee to put together a truly amazing week with something for everyone. Add to that the beauty (and wineries) of the Pacific Northwest and I can guarantee that you will come away with some amazing experiences and lasting memories.

We are starting the week on Saturday and Sunday, October 10th and 11th with scent work trials, followed by two Hunt tests on Monday, October 12th. Also, on Monday will be the PSESSA regional Specialty, followed on Tuesday by the WVESSA regional Specialty. The National Specialty classes kick off on Wednesday with Puppy and Veteran Sweeps (come cheer and get teary eyed seeing our oldsters strut their stuff!), followed by Beginner Puppy and Class Dogs (Thursday), Class Bitches (Friday) and Breed (Saturday). We'll have two days of Agility (Tuesday/Wednesday) followed by two days of Rally and Obedience (Thursday/Friday).

The National Specialty is much, much more than the "official" events – we'll have a fabulous Welcome Party on Monday to reconnect with old friends and meet some new people, presentations by the ESS Foundation and the Breeder's Showcase on Tuesday, the Parent Club meeting on Wednesday, Breeders Ed and the Top 20 Celebration on Thursday, Judges' Ed, PeeWees/Plush Puppy, the Annual Parent Club Awards ceremony, and the very touching Parade of Rescues.

TCVESSA has a rich history of success at National Specialties – we've had multiple Best of Breed winners, Best of Opposite, Winners Dog/Bitch, and High in Trial in Obedience and Agility. I'm proud of the many accomplishments of our members and hope we'll add a few more accolades to our list this year. What makes this year even more special is that the ESSFTA is celebrating our centennial of being recognized by AKC as the Parent Club of the English Springer Spaniel. We're excited to share this milestone with the attendees at this year's National.

For more detailed information, to sign up for events, to donate, and to order merchandise (which is amazing!), check out the National Specialty website at <https://englishspringerspaniels.org/2026-national-specialty/>.

I hope to see all of you in Oregon!

P.S. For information about Scent Work, CGC, Tricks, Weave Pole Challenge, Wine Pull Fund Raiser, entries and much, much more go to ESSFTA Nationals 2026 website.

TCVESSA FALL AGILITY TRIAL

October 16-18, 2026

On The Run Canine Center

13835 Aberdeen Street NE, Ham Lake, MN. 55304

(763-208-5025)

SPECIAL HELP NEEDED FOR THIS TRIAL!

Our agility show chair and crew will be at the National for this trial.

We need EXTRA help in the absences of Kathy Patregnani, Courtney Hansen and crew
To host and run this trial.

Thursday evening at 8:15 pm, October, 15

At least 4 persons are needed to set up the agility ring for the Friday morning trial. Ring gates rearranged and equipment set up for first course. Same persons need to set up the crating rooms for the competitors. (Day class ring gates removed, floors covered with plastic, etc.). Restrooms readied. Report to Mike Teh and Sheila Koon for directions.

Two persons are needed to set up tables for food and to arrange food, beverages, supplies and store refrigerated food. Raffle ticket bags need to be set up and prizes displayed. Trial ribbons and MACH/PACH bars place out.

Friday, October 16 & Saturday, October, 17

Workers needed to bar set, leash run, course set, etc. for running trial from 7:30-10:30 am

Workers needed to bar set, leash run, course set, for running trial from 10:30 am-1:30pm

1-2 workers needed to set food up by 10:30 am, cleaned up by 1:00 pm and snacks set out.

1-2 workers needed to float between raffle bags and prizes, food and rings. (One in am and one in pm.)

Sunday, October 18

Workers needed to bar set etc. as for Friday and Saturday above from 7:30-10:30 am

Workers needed to bar set etc. as for Friday and Saturday above from 10:30-1:30 pm

Pizza will be served for lunch. Only one person needed to set up and clean up from 11:00-1:00 pm.

Many persons needed to clean up everything and restore all of building for classes Monday.

There will be a check list of duties to follow. Sheila Koon will be in charge.

MORE INFORMATION will be put out closer to the trial. If you can help, please contact Alice Musburger (rosebudspringers@gmail.com) or Jean Dockendorf (jeans77@hotmail) ASAP ☺

WE HAVE A **SUNSHINE** COORDINATOR FOR TCVESSA!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO DIANE SLAIS!!!!

The duties of a sunshine coordinator would be to work with the membership chair to observe club member birthdays as indicated on the club roster. This coordinator would send out "birthday cards" via email and or Face Book. This person would also send out, via U.S. Mail, sympathy cards for club members who experience human or canine loss. This chair would need to report semi-annually to the board about these duties and occasions as they occur as monetary reimbursement may be needed. For example, cards and postage could add up and flowers or other reflections of emotional celebration or support may could occur.



If you become aware of any situations as described above (other than birthdays), please contact Diane Slais and support her efforts. (dlstrapster@aol.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nominating committee looking for board position members. Contact Heather Rand, committee chair if you are interested (hrand9@gmail.com)
- Crow River Cluster, Hutchinson, MN, Mcleod, County Fairgrounds, Oct 1-4
- TCVESSA supported entry all 4 days plus Specialty on Oct 3
- Volunteers needed Oct at above show! Contact Sarah Willms (sarahwillms@yahoo.com)
- TCVESSA agility trial at OTR Oct. 16-18. (See Special Orange PAGE in VOX)
- ESSFTA Nationals in Albany, Oregon Oct 10-17
- TCVESSA ALL-MEMBER MEETING at Total Recall November 15, 1-4 p.m.
- Deadline for Winter VOX December FIRST
- Look Ahead to December VOX for Annual Awards information Dec 15
- TCVESSA Agility Trial at OTR Dec 18-20
- TCVESSA Agility Trial at OTR Jan 29-31
- **MEMBERSHIP DUES paid by January First**
- **Everyone including lifetime members to fill out new volunteer/interest form Jan First**

NEWS FROM THE BOARD AND RECENT BOARD MINUTES

The board for TCVESSA has been unusually busy late summer and early fall. Juggling between wrapping up summer activities and planning the details for the upcoming Crow River Cluster October 1-4 and the fall Agility Trial October 16-18 is a lot without having many members attend the ESSFTA National 2026 October 10-17 in Albany, Oregon in the middle of the month! The by-law committee has begun the lengthy process of reviewing and rewriting our club by-laws which was last done in 2008. Also, the nominating committee has been named (Heather Rand, Alice Musburger, Karin Anderson and Carol Hathaway) and is working to come up with the best slate of officers for 2027. Plan to attend the ALL-MEMBER ANNUAL FALL MEETING at TOTAL RECALL on November 15, from 1-4 pm to approve the new slate of officers. Please review the UPCOMING EVENTS calendar and refer to the attached minutes from the June, July and August Minutes for detailed information.

Total Recall School For Dogs. 17285 Forest Blvd., North Hwy 61, Hugo, MN. 55038
(651-464- 1799)

THIS SPACE IS FOR FREE!!!

PLEASE LET ME KNOW THINGS YOU WOULD WANT TO SEE IN THE **VOX!**

I GET VERY LITTLE INPUT.

HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU THINK A CLUB MEMBER SHOULD
VOLUNTEER IN A YEAR?

DO YOU THINK MENTORING IS A GOOD IDEA!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MENTOR ?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MENORED IN AN AREA?

(Let me know your thoughts. Information is confidential)

Alice Musburger (rosebudspringers@gmail.com)

TCVESSA Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, June 10 at 8:00 PM CST

Attendees: Kathy Patregnani, Courtney Hansen, Tekla Viker, Jean Dockendorf, Heather Rand.
 Late arrival: Gretta Thorson, Diane Slais, Alice Musburger.
 Absent: Sarah Willms.

Meeting Called to Order: by Jean Dockendorf at 8:06 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: from May 7, 2026. Heather moved to approve. Courtney 2nd. Approved.

President's Report (Sarah - absent):

Sarah emailed questions about Cambridge logistics to the board that are addressed in that section of the minutes. Also working with Michelle B to get tags with errors corrected.

Treasurer's Report (Greta):

- Gretta presented financial results for May 1st through June 10th, showing a slight loss in monthly finances but a gain of \$2,500 for the May Obedience and Rally Trial. The team discussed how to properly attribute various expenses, particularly ribbons and awards, with some costs like Cambridge-related items and prizes already allocated. The group acknowledged that donations and fundraisers significantly impacted the trial's financial performance. Also discussed trophy sponsorship progress for both Cambridge and Hutchinson events.

TCVESSA Monthly Financial			
		5/1/2026 - 6/10/2026	
Opening Balance			6159.82
INCOME	Event Income		
	Event Income	\$ 4,386.00	
	TOTAL Event Income		\$ 4,386.00
	Donations (Trophy)		\$ 120.00
	Dues		\$ 20.00
	Fundraiser (Raffles, mug)		\$ 1,130.00
	Interest Inc		\$ 0.02
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 5,656.02
EXPENSES	Business Expenses		
	Business Expenses:Incidentals	\$ 10.48	
	TOTAL Business Expenses		\$ 10.48
	Events:AKC Application Fee		\$ 25.00
	Events:AKC Recording Fees		\$ 742.00
	Events:Secretary Fee		\$ 1,092.00
	Events:Facility		\$ 1,250.00
	Events:Food and Supplies		\$ 923.23
	Events:Ribbons and Awards		\$ 1,349.44
	Judges:		
	Events:Judges:Judge Fee	\$ 640.60	
	Total Event:Judges		\$ 640.60
	TOTAL Events		\$ 6,022.27
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 6,032.75
Ending Balance			\$ 5,783.09
NET GAIN/LOSS			\$ (376.73)

Treasurer's Report (cont.)

Category	2025 May Obe...	2026 May Obe...
INFLOWS		
Donations	0.00	1,380.00
Event Income	4,795.10	4,386.00
Fundraiser	90.00	1,160.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	4,885.10	6,926.00
OUTFLOWS		
Events		
AKC Application Fee	150.00	200.00
AKC Recording Fees	641.50	742.00
Facility	1,200.00	1,250.00
Food and Supplies	286.12	306.35
Judges		
Judge Fee	1,071.60	640.60
Judge Travel	149.95	0.00
TOTAL Judges	1,221.55	640.60
Ribbons and Awards	868.81	136.80
Secretary Fee	1,391.00	1,092.00
Volunteer Recognition Thank yous	60.00	0.00
TOTAL Events	5,818.98	4,367.75
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	5,818.98	4,367.75
OVERALL TOTAL	-933.88	2,558.25

Secretary's Report (Jean):

- New member application: First Reading: Megan Robison from Baltimore, MD. Dues paid.

Old Business:

1. TCVESSA Obedience & Rally Trial, May 16 & 17 at Cloud 9 (Kathy):

- a. Trial ran smoothly. Special thanks to all the ring stewards.
- b. Special thanks to Sandy Klimers, Bonnie Maffit, Courtney & Kathy for coordinating raffle; thanks to all who donated raffle items; and thanks to all those who purchased tickets!

- c. Special thanks to Alice for coordinating trophy sponsorship signup sheet and to all who donated toward trophies. Also thanks for setting up the TCVESSA display.
- d. Next Year's Trial is May 22 & 23, 2027. Location = Cloud 9

2. Agility Trial Updates (Kathy)

- o Request for funds to purchase ribbons for agility trials to be made at next meeting. Kathy to look into pricing and availability of ribbons from Ravishing Rosettes for comparison with Hodges, and report back to the group.

Upcoming Agility Events:

- a. ESSFTA Agility Trial Fundraiser, July 17-19, Cloud 9
- b. TCVESSA Agility Trial, October 16-18 at On the Run: Approved
- c. TCVESSA Agility Trial, December 18-20 at On the Run: Approved
- d. TCVESSA Agility Trial, January 29-31, 2027 at On the Run: Pending

3. VOX Newsletter: (Alice):

- a. Reminder to submit dog-related articles, book reviews, etc. in addition to Brags, etc.
- b. Next publication date is June 15.

4. Summer Solstice/Cambridge Conformation shows, June 18-21, (Sarah/Courtney)

- a. 4 supported entries, one each day; Saturday concurrent specialty in p.m.
 - i. 20 ENG SPRINGER 6-7- 2-3; 2 VETERAN DOGS
 - ii. 6 SWEEPSTAKES; 2 VETERANS SWEEPSTAKES
 - iii. 1 JR SHOW NV JR; 1 JR SHOW OP IN
 - iv. BPUP: 3 ENG SPRINGER 1-2- 0-0
- b. Specialty Ribbons & Prizes (Tekla/Courtney): Courtney has coffee mugs and cooling towels for first-place winners. Tekla confirmed she has minky blankets and ribbons for larger awards.
- c. Courtney to bring tables for prizes, cooler with bottled water to Cambridge. Purchase \$50 Visa/MasterCard gift card and fill judge's mug with small gifts (chocolates, coffee items, etc.) for Penny Freeburg (sweeps judge).
- d. Alice to check with Sarah regarding the status of trophy/award sponsor sign-ups for both Cambridge and Hutchinson.
- e. Refreshment Table: Jean will get ESSFTA anniversary cake. Kathy to send logo. Club will be reimbursed up to \$50.
- f. ESSFTA banner (Sarah) to contact Liz about obtaining one for the June specialty.
- g. Judge contacts: signed contract from Jason Hoke (regular classes) and for Penny Freberg (sweeps) received.

Crow River/Hutchinson Conformation shows Oct. 6-9, Hutchinson, (Sarah/Michelle B)

- h. 3 supported entries, 1 concurrent specialty.
- i. ESSFTA 100th anniversary cake (?) The club will be reimbursed for up to \$50.
- j. ESSFTA Banner (Sarah?)
- k. Judge contacts: Jean sent contract to Thomas Alexander (regular classes) , to Kristi Howe (Sweeps) and to Dr. Jennie Chen (Juniors). Awaiting replies.
- l. Sponsor signup for trophies & ribbons (Alice?)

5. Fund Raising (Diane S):

- a. **TCVESSA Logo gear/Big Frog:** Sarah to ask Ruth Dehmel about new art
- b. **Dog Portrait Fundraising:**
 - i. Diane to schedule meeting to discuss details.

6. Volunteer Opportunities (Alice):

- a. Collect ideas on volunteer recognition/management and discuss
- b. Alice to create drafts of job descriptions (emailed)

7. Bylaws Committee (Alice M/Heather):

- a. Committee members: Alice, Heather, Karin Andersen, Carol Hathaway
- b. Goal: Have all revisions completed so that Bylaws can be voted on at our annual fall meeting.
- c. Alice asked all board members to review the bylaws with highlighter and send feedback to bylaws committee before their first meeting on June 23.

8. Fall All-Member Meeting:

- a. Bark & Bond is not available.
- b. Total Recall at \$350 for half a day as the best indoor option available,
- c. Sarah to contact Joan about possible activity after dates and venue confirmed.
- d. Further discussion tabled to next meeting.

New Business:

- 1. Briefly discussed hosting Fast Cat or scent work trials. Will need a lot of volunteers - possibility for future.

Next Meeting

- e. The next general membership meeting will be **July 15th at 8 p.m.**
- f. Jean to send link to all members

TCVESSA All Member Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 15 at 8:00 PM CST

Board Member Attendees: Sarah Willms, Kathy Patregnani, Courtney Hansen, Tekla Viker, Jean Dockendorf, Heather Rand, Gretta Thorson, Diane Slais, Alice Musburger.

Club Member Attendees: Liz Pike, Carmen Laing, Karen Andersen

Meeting Called to Order: at 8:05 p.m. by Sarah, second by Jean.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: from June 10, 2026. Motion to accept by Liz, second by Heather.

President's Report (Sarah): Sarah thanked all the volunteers who helped at the recent specialty show, agility trial, and obedience/rally trial. Sarah also reminded attendees of open opportunities for volunteering.

Treasurer's Report (Greta):

- Gretta advised that expenses for Ribbons and Awards were overstated in last month's report. She has corrected it so our opening balance is higher than previously reported (\$6,429.17 instead of \$5,783.09). We have a total net gain of \$4,721.86 year to date.
- Sarah requested that trophy donations be "restricted funds" and used only for trophies and not put into the general fund. Gretta will present trophy donations separately.
- Alice reported that we have trophy donations for most awards at the Hutchinson show. Sarah will post donation sheet on Facebook.

TCVESSA Monthly Financial				
				6/11/2026 - 7/15/2026
Opening Balance				\$ 6,429.17
INCOME	Event	Income		
		Event Income:Banquet		
		Event Income	\$ 16,100.00	
		TOTAL Event Income		\$ 16,100.00
		Donations (Trophy)		\$ 250.00
		Dues		\$ -
		Fundraiser (Raffles, mug)		\$ -
		Interest Inc		\$ 0.05
TOTAL INCOME				\$ 16,350.05
EXPENSES	Business Expenses			
		Business Expenses:Incidentals	\$ 7.48	
		Business Expenses:Insurance	\$ -	
		Business Expenses:Website and Zoom	\$ -	
		TOTAL Business Expenses		\$ 7.48
		Events:AKC Application Fee		\$ 300.00
		Events:AKC Recording Fees		\$ 4,477.50
		Events:Secretary Fee		\$ 3,233.75
		Events:Equipment		\$ 100.00
		Events:Facility		\$ 3,551.91
		Events:Food and Supplies		\$ 28.08
		Events:Ribbons and Awards		\$ 134.43
		Events:Volunteer Recognition Thank yous		\$ -
	Judges:			
		Events:Judges:General		
		Events:Judges:Judge Fee	\$ 1,741.25	
		Events:Judges:Judge Incidentals	\$ 255.37	
		Events:Judges:Judge Lodging		
		Events:Judges:Judge Travel		
		Total Event:Judges		\$ 1,996.62
		TOTAL Events		\$ 13,822.29
TOTAL EXPENSES				\$ 13,829.77
Ending Balance				\$ 8,949.45
NET GAIN/LOSS				\$ 2,520.28

Secretary's Report (Jean):

- New member application: Second Reading for Megan Robison from Baltimore, MD. Motion to accept by Courtney, second by Alice. Welcome Megan!! Alice to send official welcome packet she created.

Old Business:

1. Agility Trial Updates (Kathy)

- o Request for up to \$1200 in funds to purchase ribbons for agility trials that should last approximately 2 years (8 trials). Kathy checked with Ravishing Rosettes and they can offer better pricing and no shipping costs (located in Rochester, MN). This expense to be amortized over the next eight trials. Motion to approve Heather, second by Diane.

Upcoming Agility Events:

- a. ESSFTA Agility Trial Fundraiser, July 17-19, Cloud 9:
Trial didn't fill, but decent numbers. Mike to pick up judge from airport and will host him, so no hotel charge. Gretta or Karen will give judge a ride back to airport on Sunday. A fundraiser for a vest for the new K9 office in Maple Grove will be held. Kathy will also be selling raffle tickets for the ESSFTA National.
- b. TCVESSA Agility Trial, October 16-18 at On the Run: Approved
- c. TCVESSA Agility Trial, December 18-20 at On the Run: Approved
- d. TCVESSA Agility Trial, January 29-31, 2027 at On the Run: Pending

2. Summer Solstice/Cambridge Conformation shows, June 18-21, (Sarah/Courtney)

- a. Sarah provided the following observations: smaller entry, not a lot of time for advertising, hotel rooms very difficult to get. Prizes were well received. Jason Hoke did not charge for entries because of the all-breed. Nice Building, but would need fans in case of extreme heat.
- b. Alice indicated that she would like to purchase a few mums for more informal photos/selfies. She will also investigate purchasing a new vertical banner for the club's 50th anniversary next year.
- c. We are invited back to Cambridge next year. Decision on whether to participate again was tabled until next meeting. May also want to consider a stand-alone spring specialty at St. Croix Valley in May.

3. Crow River/Hutchinson Conformation shows Oct. 6-9, Hutchinson, (Sarah/Michelle B)

- a. 4 supported entries, 1 concurrent specialty (Saturday).

- b. Will want to order another ESSFTA 100th anniversary cake. The club will be reimbursed for up to \$50.
- c. ESSFTA Banner (Sarah)
- d. Judge contacts:
 - i. Jean sent contract to Thomas Alexander (regular classes), to Kristi Howe (Sweeps) and to Dr. Jennie Chen (Juniors). All at no cost other than gifts/gas money.
- e. Sponsor signup for trophies & ribbons (Alice)

4. Volunteer Opportunities (Alice):

- a. Alice created drafts of job descriptions for membership chair and sunshine person (emailed). No volunteers so far.
- b. Jean will continue as acting membership chair.
- c. Alice suggested emphasizing the all-volunteer nature of the club rather than implementing a strict hour requirement. The discussion concluded with agreement to separate membership applications from volunteering forms and add a paragraph explaining the purpose of volunteer commitment.

5. Fall All-Member Meeting:

- a. Discussed the following options for the Fall All-Member Meeting:
 - i. Total Recall at \$350 for half a day
 - ii. Canine & Coffee #2 discussion at Byerly's Community room, no charge.
 - iii. Dog Tank for 4 hours: Dock Diving plus the little training area for our meeting. Available Sunday, November 8. Cost is \$600.
- b. It was decided that Kathy would contact Total Recall to check availability for November 8 or 15, from about 1-4 p.m. Total Recall has a kitchen area we could use for food.
- c. Club members will need to vote on the Bylaws changes.
- d. We could possibly to run-thrus for agility, obedience and rally.
- e. Sarah to contact Joan about possible activity after dates and venue confirmed.

6. VOX Newsletter: (Alice):

- a. Submitted dog-related articles, book reviews, etc. in addition to Brags, etc.
- b. Next publication date is September 15. Deadline for submissions is September 1.

7. Fund Raising (Diane S):

- a. **TCVESSA Logo gear/Big Frog:** Sarah to ask Ruth Dehmel about new art after illustrated standard is complete.

- b. **Dog Portrait Fundraising:** Diane to work with Sarah to plan the introduction of the artist Catherine for the pet portrait fundraiser, targeting the October agility trial.

8. Bylaws Committee (Alice M/Heather):

- a. Committee members: Alice, Heather, Karin Andersen, Carol Hathaway
- b. Goal: Have all revisions completed so that Bylaws can be voted on at our annual fall meeting. Draft to board before September meeting.

New Business

- a. Discussed 2027 Awards Banquet: Carmen to reserve Lord Fletchers again for next year. Jean moved, Tekla Second.
- b. Alice: Deadline to appoint a nominating committee for officers would be September 8.

Next Meeting

- a. The next board meeting will be on Monday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Jean, second Tekla.

TCVESSA Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17 at 7:30 PM CST

Board Member Attendees:

Sarah Willms, Courtney Hansen, Jean Dockendorf, Heather Rand, Alice Musburger, Diane Slais, Tekla Viker.

Absent: Gretta Thorson; Leaving early: Kathy Patregnani

Meeting Called to Order: by Sarah at 7:34 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: from July 16, 2026. Moved by Alice, second by Courtney. Changes that have occurred after that meeting will be reflected in the next month's meeting minutes.

President's Report (Sarah):

- Sarah will reach out to Joan or another artist to clean up our TCVESSA logo.

Treasurer's Report (Greta): emailed report. There was very little activity in our accounts, as you can see below. I am still in the process of making changes to our reporting to separate restricted trophy funds. I'm able to track from the beginning of 2024. I know what came in, but I will need some help determining which expenses should use restricted funds as opposed to general cash. I'll send a list of expenses that may have been eligible to the board soon.

TCVESSA Monthly Financial					
		7/15/2026 - 8/16/2026		YTD	
Opening Balance			\$ 8,949.45		\$ 4,227.59
INCOME	Event Income				
	Event Income:Banquet			\$ (1,608.83)	
	Event Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,147.00	
	TOTAL Event Income		\$ -		\$ 50,538.17
	Dues		\$ -		\$ 370.00
	Trophy Fund (restricted funds)		\$ -		\$ 2,835.00
	Fundraisers (Raffles, mug)		\$ -		\$ 1,800.00
	Interest Inc		\$ 0.06		\$ 0.27
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 0.06		\$ 55,543.44
EXPENSES	Business Expenses				
	Business Expenses:Incidentals	\$ -		\$ 23.07	\$ 41.03
	Business Expenses:Insurance	\$ -		\$ 723.00	\$ 723.00
	Business Expenses:Website and Zoom	\$ -		\$ 348.67	\$ 348.67
	TOTAL Business Expenses		\$ -		\$ 1,112.70
	Events:AKC Application Fee		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	Events:AKC Recording Fees		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,240.00
	Events:Secretary Fee		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,790.00
	Events:Equipment		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
	Events:Facility		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,905.73
	Events:Food and Supplies		\$ 36.74	\$ -	\$ 2,047.33
	Events:Ribbons and Awards		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,420.77
	Events:Trophy Expenses		\$ 481.25		\$ 1,122.33
	Events:Volunteer Recognition Thank yous		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 275.00
	Judges:				
	Events:Judges:General		\$ -	\$ 1,657.25	
	Events:Judges:Judge Fee		\$ -	\$ 4,142.35	
	Events:Judges:Judge Incidentals		\$ -	\$ 522.87	
	Events:Judges:Judge Lodging		\$ -	\$ 500.18	
	Events:Judges:Judge Travel		\$ -	\$ 1,303.00	
	Total Event:Judges		\$ -		\$ 8,125.65
	TOTAL Events		\$ 517.99		\$ 50,226.81
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 517.99		\$ 51,339.51
Ending Balance			\$ 8,431.52		\$ 8,431.52
NET GAIN/LOSS			\$ (517.93)		\$ 4,203.93

Secretary's Report (Jean):

- Attended AKC culture webinar.

- Alice to put a blurb about mentoring in the next VOX.
- Alice also volunteer to make an invitation to the fall meeting to hand out at Hutchinson.

Old Business:

1. Agility Trial Updates (Kathy)

- a. TCVESSA Agility Trial, October 16-18 at On the Run: Approved
 - i. Co-chair: Jean will be on-site contact
 - ii. Kathy to provide soup and salad one day, pizza one day and we will discuss third day. Will see if Jill is attending and can bring food.
 - iii. Alice can possibly run stuff on Thursday (ribbons, MACH bar, bags and stuff for worker raffle).
 - iv. Kathy/Courtney will order ribbons.
- b. TCVESSA Agility Trial, December 18-20 at On the Run: Approved
- c. TCVESSA Agility Trial, January 29-31, 2027 at On the Run: Pending

2. Crow River/Hutchinson Conformation shows Oct. 6-9, Hutchinson, (Sarah/Michelle B)

- a. 4 supported entries, 1 concurrent specialty (Saturday). AKC approved 2026247512
- b. Current show chairs were left off some important communications regarding the Premium list, but current chairpersons were able to scramble at last minute and get the information required.
- c. Tekla: ribbons ordered. Prizes (dog beds) ordered. Working with Gretta on payment. Alice is working on racoon tails for first places.
- d. ESSFTA Cake: Jean to order.
- e. ESSFTA Banner (Sarah)
- f. Flowers/Photo Booth (Alice) We will try to publish a time for cake and photo.
- g. Judge contacts: Jean sent reminders. Waiting for Kristi Howe to confirm. All at no cost other than gifts/gas money.
- h. Sponsor signup for trophies & ribbons: Sarah posted on Facebook.
- i. Grooming Reservations close Wednesday, Sept 16 or when sold out.
<https://crowriverfallclassic.org/homepage-2/about-the-show/2026-grooming-reservations/>

3. Summer Solstice/Cambridge Conformation shows, June 18-21, (Sarah/Courtney)

- a. We are invited back to Cambridge next year. Discussion on whether to participate again in 2027 was mostly positive. Negative comments were mostly about hotels which sell

out early; Best Western in Isanti is best option, but pricey. We would need to promote soon and frequently.

- i. Moved by Courtney, second by Alice to do specialty there again. Approved.
 - ii. Alice volunteered to see about a 10-room block.
 - iii. Sarah, Tekla & Courtney to make recommendation on whether we should host two specialties, supported entry, etc. to increase entries by next meeting.
 - iv. Sarah, Tekla, Courtney to report back with judge recommendations.
- b. Discussion on whether to conduct a stand-alone spring specialty at St. Croix Valley in May. (Grass Classic <https://www.scvkc.com/scvkc-annual-grass-classic/> ?)
- i. Will consider this for 2028.

4. Volunteer Opportunities (Alice):

- a. Sunshine person (open position). Two potential candidates have contacted Alice. She will follow up.

5. Fall All-Member Meeting:

- a. Kathy contacted Total Recall and reserved it for November 15, from about 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$350 for half a day
- b. Alice will bring ramp for conformation run-thrus. Also possibly run-thrus for agility, obedience and rally.
- c. Total Recall has a kitchen area we could use for food.
- d. Club members will need to vote on the Bylaws changes.
- e. Sarah to contact Joan about possible activity after dates and venue confirmed.

6. VOX Newsletter: (Alice):

- a. Submitted dog-related articles, book reviews, etc. in addition to Brags, etc.
- b. Next publication date is September 15. Deadline for submissions is September 1.

7. Fund Raising (Diane S):

- a. **TCVESSA Logo gear/Big Frog:** Sarah to ask Ruth Dehmel about new art after illustrated standard is complete.
- b. **Dog Portrait Fundraising:** Diane to work with Sarah to plan the introduction of the artist Catherine for the pet portrait fundraiser, targeting the **December** agility trial.

8. Bylaws Committee (Alice M/Heather):

- a. Committee members: Alice, Heather, Karin Andersen, Carol Hathaway
- b. Goal: Draft to board before to be voted on by September 15 meeting.

- c. Recommendations from the board about revisions need to be completed by October 31-Nov 1 in order to vote at Fall Meeting.
- d. We are an independent club, so we do not have to send to AKC to approve bylaws.

9. Nominating Committee:

- a. Deadline to appoint the Nominating Committee is September 15.
- b. Chair would then have until October 4 to call the committee to meet.
- c. The slate can go out to the club members is October 24-25 which is 3 weeks before the Fall meeting.
- d. Slate is voted on at Fall Meeting
- e. Could then to Zoom meeting in December to approve board.
- f. Heather agreed to be chair of the Nominating committee chair. She will reach out to suggested members to fill be committee members.

10. Awards Banquet:

- a. Carmen to reserve Lord Fletchers again for next year.

New Business

- 1. Courtney brought up making Calendars as a fundraising idea. We could potentially sell chances for whichever month (silent auction or raffle).

Next Meeting

- a. The next board meeting will be September 14 at 7:30 p.m.
- b. At that time, the board will schedule a separate meeting to review the proposed bylaws changes.

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Courtney, second by Diane.