



THE PAW-PRINT



LAB REPORT

Our Next meeting: April 8th, 2024

Come join us at IHOP at address
1310 Dogwood Dr SW, Conyers, GA
30012

Come at 6:30 to eat and the meeting will
begin promptly at 7:30

We welcome newcomers!

CURRENT EVENTS

Our first Handling Class and CGC Class went great! We had a great turnout with 10 people for the handling class and 8 people from the CGC class.

Please come join us weekly on Tuesdays Handling Classes start at 6:45 and CGC classes immediately follow the handling class (7:30).





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BRAGS FROM 3/11/24

Larry Perry's English Setter puppy Stardom and Perry's Dusted in Ash "Dusty" was welcomed into his home. She is adorable and full of spunk - see photo above handling class results!

Gaylord Cleveland's dog Apache completed his Excellent Jumpers Agility Title.

Celeste Silva won her Senior Junior Handler Class out of a lot of competition, even beating her siblings!

When ur human says "who's a good boy" and u already know it's u



FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FOR SIGHTHOUND ENTHUSIASTS

LEGS - Lure Enthusiasts of Georgia Sighthounds is a lure coursing club that is being revived and is located in the Atlanta area. Consider becoming a member and supporting this club to make lure coursing in the Atlanta area possible! LEGS is in the process of becoming an ASFA - American Sighthound Field Association- recognized club.

Their first event is April 20th, 2024 please visit - legscoursing.com

Contact Elizabeth Gearhart for more information at aegearhart@gmail.com





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TROPHY DONATIONS

If you are interested in donating trophies for the club or donating trophies for a specific breed for our yearly AKC show please contact Beth Brunton at Beth.brunton@att.net.



SPRING INTO SAFETY

As spring arrives so do new plants and critters! Stay current on the latest bugs out there that might be harmful to pets. Maintain your pet's pest preventative to keep them happy and healthy as well as maintaining their play areas.

Common and possibly dangerous pests:

- Ticks
- Fleas
- Mosquitoes
- Snakes
- Frogs

Common poisonous plants:

- Philodendron
- Pothos
- Lillies
- Rhododendrons
- Tulips





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SHOW RESULTS FOR CKC MEMBERS LAKE LANIER CLUSTER! LAWRENCEVILLE, GA



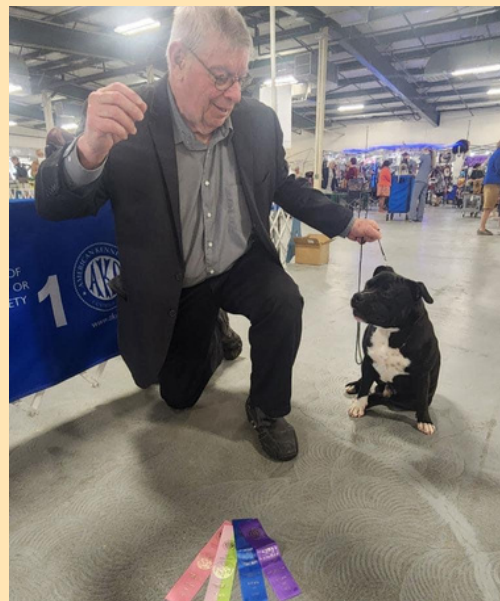
Janice and "Georgia" won BOB and OH BOB at the Hound Specialty!



3Pt Major for Noelle and her Afghan Hound at the Hound Specialty!



Dianna Fielder and her Bred By Airedale - Terrier Specialty Group 2!



Gaylord Cleveland and "Eli" went WD and BISweeps at the Terrier Specialty!



A BLAST FROM THE PAST 1999 AKC Gazette - The Original Purpose of Dog Shows by Patricia Trotter

A breeder's greatest reward is producing a quality dog from a purposeful breeding program.

The dog show as a form of sporting competition evolved as the method by which breeders could showcase their breeding stock while evaluating the breeding stock of others so they could factor it in their future plans. Was there a potential sire out there whom you needed for a particular bitch? Was there a potential brood matron from someone else's kennel who would bring exactly what you needed to your breeding program? What ever happened to that idea anyhow? How did we get so far off track? When did it start having more to do with the blue of the ribbons than with the "blue of the blood"? A recently published eulogy in praise of the beloved Elsie Neustadt of the famed Rudel Greyhounds focused on her foremost desire: to improve the quality of her dogs and their gene pool. The winning records of her dogs were a *byproduct* of the breeding records, an adjunct to them rather than the ultimate purpose of the endeavor, which is what they so often seem to be in today's world of instant gratification.

A Change in the Novice

There was a time when typical young and aspiring dog enthusiasts were avid students who telephoned you with the intent of purchasing a foundation bitch. They were interested in getting involved in the fascinating world of well-bred animals, and they were willing to do both the difficult homework and the continuing labor associated with the improvement of breeding stock.

Nowadays, fledgling fanciers with a year or two under their belt phone a breeder in search of a "group dog." They may not know the prosternum from the croup, but they do know what they want: a group winner!

Exactly what effect the attitude of such fanciers and the dog shows in which they participate have on the breeders of today is difficult to assess. Parent clubs and all-breed clubs are often stalled by people who have been in the sport for less than five years. Long-term, dedicated breeders are members of an endangered species. The gene



pools of many breeds are in the hands of novice breeders.

All too often we hear of instant success in the show ring followed by ill-advised breeding efforts that produce disappointing results. Unable to deal with later losses in the ring and the downside of breeding dogs, these people go on to other hobbies. One respected Poodle breeder recently commented that these people "do their damage and leave."

An even more tragic effect on the long-term prospects of the sport we love is the loss of those who have the talent to develop the skills of a master breeder but lack the tenacity to deal with the negative side of breeding and showing. Experiences such as presenting a truly correct dog in excellent condition and seeing it beaten repeatedly by incorrect ones that catch on for one reason or another can be deeply disheartening. A breeder who is understandably unable to accept such a painful injustice may also be unable to enjoy the simple reward of having produced an excellent animal.

What can we do to encourage these people? How do we get across the message of Dr. Neustadt and others like her that the most important reward of the wonderful world of dogs is producing a quality dog from a purposeful breeding program? Such an outstanding animal may never have a big record; all too often the records belong to the ones that show up the most! Nonetheless, it is important that a breeder bear in mind that not all good dogs are in the hands of those who exhibit more than 100 times per year.



From a 1999 AKC Gazette - Continued



BY PATRICIA V. TROTTER

Knowing What Is Important

Learning to dismiss records when evaluating potential breeding stock is proof that a breeder is maturing. A good record may have been acquired through a combination of factors that have nothing to do with the genetic potential of the animal. Learning to measure the value of a master judge's opinion on breeding stock can be more constructive for your breeding program than being influenced by the collective opinions associated with records. I say this even though I acknowledge that it takes an excellent animal to satisfy a cross section of experts.

The correct selection of breeding stock is influenced by much more than the credentials of the current winner. What are the needs of your bitch and your family of dogs? What are the needs of your breed at the moment? Is there a dog who is strong where the breed is weak? Especially important, is there a dog who is strong where your bitch is weak? Does his pedigree feel right to you? When he has been bred to other bitches, has he produced the particular strengths that you seek? It would be particularly meaningful if his outstanding progeny are out of bitches similar to the bitch you plan to bring to him.

In other words, your job is to eliminate those elements that have nothing to do with the gene pool yet tend to influence breeding decisions. At the top of that list is the show record. Concentrate on bringing the strongest genetic material to your breeding program

and make sure that it satisfies the toughest criteria for mental and physical health as well as breed type and soundness. Breeders who follow this kind of plan will eventually have their day in the show ring when they bring the well-conditioned excellent dog to the discerning judge.

But the show ring itself should not become the focus of all breedings. A dedicated breeder's most meaningful rewards should come when evaluating a quality litter or showing an excellent young homebred to a respected fellow breeder. Mutual appreciation by outstanding breeders of the good stock of their competitors is a necessary ingredient in the growth process of a breed and is vital to the breed's preservation. Breeds that have a number of master breeders participating in this process are blessed and are destined to benefit from their expertise.

Most shows today present little real opportunity to study the overall picture of potential breeding stock or to assess the state of the breed. This is because there are so many dog shows that the entry has become watered down at each of them, resulting in less competition in each breed. That is why national specialties and other large gatherings in a particular

breed have so much to offer the exhibitor — win, lose or draw. It is an opportunity to evaluate breeding stock regardless of how it is judged by those wearing the badges. This of course assumes that the ringsider in search of quality knows the difference between the dog that represents true breeding-stock quality and the show ring dazzler that is totally incorrect for the breed.

Each fancier who strives to be a breeder should learn everything possible about the conformation of their breed as it relates to the breed's historical purpose and expresses how that form evolved to best enable that breed to perform its function. (And I do not mean the function of winning dog shows!) Once the breeder has a clear picture of the correct conformation, the focus should be on the nuances of the breed that differentiate it from all others.

Decide that dog shows are much more important than the chase for accolades. When everyone thinks the chase for accolades is all-important, there is no winning, just various degrees of losing. Seek out judges whose knowledge provides leadership and guidance at shows where there will be a quality entry. Learn from those discriminating decisions. When your definition of dog shows is that they are showplaces to evaluate breeding stock, you will become part of the original and purest purpose of dog shows. ♦

Patricia V. Trotter is a longtime breeder of Norwegian Elkhounds and is approved to judge more than 20 breeds, as well as Junior Showmanship. She is the author of Born to Win.