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President's Message

Hello, all.

As always, I hope everyone is well. This year is flying by and we are already creeping up on our National Specialty in Orlando, Florida December 9th. It is a supported entry specialty and the judge is Wendy Corr. I'm excited to see you all there and to have non-cyber time with all of you.

If you are wondering if you should go, know that all are invited and encouraged to come, whether you are showing or not. If you would like to dip your toes into conformation, it is a great time to do it. Please feel free to reach out for advice. We have plenty of seasoned show people in this group.

NLAA is conducting our annual member meeting during the Orlando event. The meeting's location and time will be announced closer to the show.

To continue on the subject of our specialty, the Board had a meeting in which we invited those who made show site proposals for 2027. We decided the best proposal was to return to Bloomington, Illinois. This show will be a supported entry and taking place in May 2027.

We have a very capable club member to assist with next year's specialty and are in need of a show chairperson.

This is a great opportunity to help out our U.S.-based Lundehunds. So let us see some hands raised and new folks getting involved.

Best to you all and love a Lundie,

Kristina Leach Knubel
President, NLAA, Inc.





National Specialty



Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.
National Specialty • Orlando • December 9

Orange County Convention Center, North/South Building, 9899 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

Brevard Kennel Club Entries close Nov. 11 @ 12 p.m. **MB-F Inc.**, Superintendent

Norwegian Lundehund Specialty BOB, Brace, Best Feet: Judge Wendy Corr

NSG: Judge Azalea A. Alvarez

NOHS: Judge Juan Miranda

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc. / Entries close Nov. 11 @ 12 p.m. **MB-F Inc.**, Superintendent

BOB: Judge Dr. Azalea A. Alvarez

NSG: Judge David Fitzpatrick

NOHS: Judge Wendy Corr

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

Free day to explore the Orlando area! Check out...

Lake Nona Sculpture Garden—dog friendly, photo-op worthy

Winter Park—Stroll among an abundance of holiday displays, shop, & dine.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

AKC, Inc. / Entries close Nov. 4 @ 12 p.m. **Onofrio Dog Shows, L.L.C.**, Superintendent

26th Annual All-Breed Dog Show National Championship Dog Show presented by Royal Canin

BOB: Judge Angela Pickett

NSG: Judge Grace M. Fritz

BBE NSG: Judge Harold "Red" Tatro III

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

AKC, Inc. / Entries close Nov. 4 @ 12 p.m. **Onofrio Dog Shows, L.L.C.**, Superintendent

Orange Blossom Non-Sporting Club (event details to come)

26th Annual All-Breed Dog Show National Championship Dog Show presented by Royal Canin

NOHS: **AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals** (separate entry)

BOB and NSG: Judge Todd Clyde

Lundehunds Leap Into Agility

By Jennifer Hankee

Dog agility was first introduced at England's Crufts Dog Show in 1978 and has since spread across the world. Agility is an exciting sport in which a handler (also called an exhibitor) directs their canine companion through an obstacle course the dog has never seen before. The team strives for the dog to successfully complete sequentially numbered equipment, like jumps, contacts (A-frame, dog walk, and teeter), weave poles, and tunnels, as fast as possible within a posted standard course time (SCT).

Watching the best agility teams is like watching poetry in motion. No dog or handler movement is wasted. Every handler command is planned and executed to communicate clearly and immediately which path the dog should take. In turn, the dog immediately interprets the handler's cues and complies with confidence, turning in a fast, exuberant, and flawless performance.

Agility newcomers enjoy training in the sport and many have a goal to compete with their canine companions. Five Norwegian Lundehund owners with agility athletes-in-training—Tanja Minder (Canada), Julie Kuivenhoven Imdt (England), and in the United States, Kaitlyn Callahan (California), Kristina Maze (Washington, DC), and me, Jennifer Hankee (Wisconsin)—share their experiences.

Agility is “a fun sport and a great way to bond along with being both mentally and physically stimulating,” Tanja says. The sport proves endurance and brainpower are truly a team effort. “It’s a very technical sport with a lot of bits and pieces you have to pull together. I never thought I was coordinated enough but had a blast,” says Kaitlyn. Julie says she was initially “worried as I can’t run...being disabled. But it didn’t stop us.”

Kaitlyn, Tanja, and Kristina previously played agility with other dog breeds. All agreed the sometimes stubborn and aloof Norwegian Lundehund may be “harder” to train but are just as capable as any other dog breed to learn the sport.

“I started with a Belgian Malinois, who was much easier to train,” Kaitlyn says. “For a Norwegian Lundehund, you must make it worth their time,” Kaitlyn continues, advising other Lundehund owners to “build value in the game.” Tanja agrees, saying she had “a shepherd/collie mix that was better at distance and more biddable. The Norwegian Lundehund is in it more for praise and treats.” Kristina says her first agility dog was a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel—a breed “bred to be your best friend, which makes them a fantastic agility teammate. In my experience, Norwegian Lundehunds run slower in agility because of their physique. Handling tight lines and angles helps to make SCT.”

—Continues, next page.



Author Jennifer Hankee at agility practice with her Norwegian Lundehund, Queen Frigg, clearing a wing jump.

Photo courtesy Jennifer Hankee.



Feature

“ Train daily. Build a bond. Have fun. ”

— Julie Kuivenhoven Imdt

The key is to “find what motivates your individual dog,” Julie says. This can include focusing on a favorite piece of agility equipment to get their motors humming. Kaitlyn says her Lundehund, Fry, loves taking jumps at different angles and when he is sent to a tunnel, “he flies through, rolls in it, then is recharged.” Tunnels are also a favorite of Julie’s Lundehund, Tallyn, my dog, Frigg (plus the A-Frame), and Tanja’s Lundehund, Poppy—who is also a big fan of agility’s two tallest contacts: the A-frame and dog walk.) Kristina’s Lundehunds each favor different equipment: For Anja, it’s weave poles; for Dagny, it’s jumps; and for Haldis, who starts formal agility training this fall, it’s the dog walk.

Agility takes a lot of practice by both humans and dogs. Kaitlyn says initially, “staying connected with my dog while running a course” was challenging so she worked to “build a strong foundation in my movements as well as the dog’s.” She says she’s proud of her ability to now “run a full course while staying engaged” with Fry. Tanja loves agility training’s versatility and says Poppy “enjoys whatever new thing we tackle.” I have agility equipment in my backyard. My outdoor practice is weather dependant but we usually run a “full” course a couple times a month with weekly short courses.

During class and when practicing agility drills in her basement, “there are always celebrations” when her Lundehunds successfully problem solve, Kristina says. “I love the sport. You’ll never have as much fun with your dog as when you play agility,” she adds. Kaitlyn recommends Lundehund owners “train a little every day” to keep things fun. For example, she practices blind crosses with Fry, which “motivates him to chase” her.

Whether for fun or for competition, agility is a great bonding experience and a lot of fun for both of you!

SIX STARTER TIPS

1. Find an instructor with a great reputation who has earned the highest level in an agility program with their dog or dogs. For example, MACH, PACH/AKC, C-ATE/CPE, IAC/UKI.
2. If there’s a wait list, put yourself on it. If their facility is over an hour’s drive away, gas up the car and go.
3. Commit to attending weekly classes.
4. Practice a few, short drills each day.
5. Learn the difference between AKC, CPE, UKI, NADAC, and USDAA. Go to local trials. See which ones are the right fit for you and your teammate’s skill sets and goals.
6. As you refine your skills, sign up to take an AKC Agility Course Test (ACT) for Jumpers and/or Standard. Two qualifying scores in each game earns your dog a title.

— Kristina Maze

Watch Lundehunds in action on [Jennifer’s](#) and [Kristina’s](#) YouTube channels and Kaitlyn Callahan’s agility videos shared on [NLAA’s Facebook page](#).



11.23.2018

9.14.2026

In memory of Volt (Int/VetCH UKC CH High Voltage of Vorkosmia FCAT2 ACT1J FITG), whose favorite part of agility was Jennifer’s “full attention.”

Photo of Volt courtesy Jennifer Hanke.



Committee Reports

Norsk Kennel Club Liaison

Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick, Chair

These updates are translated from the Norsk Lundehund Klubb's *Lundehund-nytt* (*Lundehund News*) magazine.

- The Lundehund crossbreeding project held a breed-approval evaluation during the annual dog show in Morokulien, on the border of Norway and Sweden.
- In August, second-generation project dogs Hulda B2, from the Norwegian Buhund line, and Syrinborgs Åsa Gulløye N2, from the Norrbottenspets line, satisfied the required health, temperament and conformation criteria for general breeding approval by the Norwegian Kennel Club.
- Hulda's three, third-generation offspring—Aslan B3, Teo B3, and Joris B3 fra Baadstø—also received general breeding approval and may now be used in breeding on the same basis as traditional Lundehunds. These approvals represent meaningful progress toward introducing carefully evaluated genetic diversity into the breed's general population.
- The project also welcomed three new first-generation puppies in June—one female and two males—from Norwegian Buhund Frøya and Norwegian Lundehund Riiber Jarl av Northern Bones. Together, these developments show that the long-term project is moving steadily forward while continuing to prioritize health, temperament, and the unique characteristics of the Norwegian Lundehund.

Preservation Bank

Allie Fudge, Chair

For members with an intact, health-tested male Lundehund, NLAA's Preservation Bank Committee encourages you to collect and donate your dog's semen to the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank (PPB). The AKC PPB has working relationships with Infinity Canine, Red Hills Animal Reproductive Services, Sirius Canine Fertility, and ICSB NE, Wisconsin, and Oregon. Additionally, semen collected by any clinic and/or stored at any sperm bank can be donated to the AKC PPB. Mobile semen collection services are common at conformation shows and can be a convenient way to contribute to this mission if you are already at the event. ([ICSB's website](#) lists show locations its mobile banks will be present.) Once your dog is collected, the AKC PPB pays for the transfer and subsequent semen storage.

For those who do not have a male Lundehund but would like to support the AKC PPB's mission, monetary donations can be made via a personal check. (As the PPB continues to grow, there will hopefully be more options to donate.) Make the check out to AKC Purebred Preservation Bank, Inc. and mailed it and a printed copy of [this monetary donation acceptance form](#) to:

AKC Purebred Preservation Bank, Inc.
c/o AKC PPB Program Manager
8051 Arco Corporate Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617



Committee Reports

Breed Columnist

Kristina Maze, Chair

The **September 2026 AKC Gazette** breed column on pages 68–70 focuses on the Norwegian Lundehund's unique eyes.

The next Lundehund breed column's text and photographs were submitted in mid-August and will publish in the online magazine's December issue.



Public Education

Kristina Maze, Chair and Karon Plasha, Co-Chair

Not for a lack of effort, NLAA's submission was not selected for AKC's 2026 Public Education Award. Club members continue making strides attending public-facing events and educating curious crowds about the rare Norwegian Lundehunds. These include:

- Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick, Garrett Zoellick, Jennifer Hankee, and her son, TJ (pictured left) at "Greet the Breeds," the Great American Dog Show Sept. 4–6 in Wheaton, Ill. They'll attend and the Wisconsin Dog Fair November 8 in Madison, Wisc.
- Karon Plasha, Kristina Maze, and Kristine Mun at the Hampton Roads Sons of Norway Picnic September 19 in Virginia Beach, Va. (right, with crowd).
- The National Dog Show November 14 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Pa. (benched).
- Karon Plasha and Matthew Barton at the Sons of Norway/Norway House Christmas Festival and Bazaar December 4–6 in Fairfax, VA.

Planning ahead for 2027:

- Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, February 1 and Meet the Breeds, February 7–8, New York, NY.
- The Viking Experience, March 13–14 and March 20–21, Oxford, NC.



Photo courtesy Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick.



Photo by Kristine Mun.



Committee Reports

Club Historian

Kristina Maze

In July, the children of longtime Norwegian Lundehund breeders and advocates Harvey and Judy Sanderson donated three boxes of breed materials, documents, and photos dating back to 1980s to the club.

The content is a treasure trove of information, providing details about the dogs the couple bred, showed, and pioneered decades before the breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 2011.

Ann Robertson, also among the first Norwegian Lundehund breeders in North America, also graciously donated boxes of her own documents and memorabilia in March and September. Ann kept meticulous pedigree records of her Lundehunds, American Rare Breed Association show catalogs, and publications from NLAA's predecessor, Norwegian Lundehund Club of America. All the documents are being carefully logged into an Excel spreadsheet, along with key word metadata. Once completed, the club historian will solicit bids from digitization contractors and report back to the Board the estimated cost. In the interim, LUNDIE LINK will publish historical tidbits gleaned from the files.

NLAA sincerely thanks Nancie Sanderson and Ann Robertson for generously donating these invaluable records to the club.

Breeder Education Mentoring

Karon Plasha, Chair

Without continuous breeding, the rare Norwegian Lundehund can't be sustained into the future.

This is a second request for past and current breeders willing to mentor Norwegian Lundehund owners interested in starting their own breeding program. Share your knowledge and experience with the next generation by contacting nlaa.information@gmail.com, subject line: Breed Mentor, to start the conversation.

New breeders also have an opportunity to attend a first-of-its-kind AKC Breeder Seminar. Held December 9–10 during the AKC National Championships (ANC) in Orlando, Florida, the event includes expert-led lunchtime presentations with a breeder-to-breeder focus plus evening roundtables with Q&As with past AKC Breeders of the Year and ANC Best Bred-by-Exhibitor recipients and nominees. Proceeds from the \$50 registration benefits AKC's Canine Health Foundation Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Grant, which educates future veterinary reproductive specialists. Registration opens soon. Contact breederdev@akc.org with questions.

Membership

David Rachford, Chair

NLAA received four new membership applications between July and September. The club's Board will review and vote on the applicants at their October 5 meeting.



New Feature

Rules

By Board Secretary Cindy Stansell

Test your knowledge of AKC show rules in this new LUNDIE LINK feature.

1. Who has the right to request a veterinary examination of any dog which is considered to endanger the health of the other dogs in a show?

- a. Any person at the event
- b. The Show Committee and/or the judge
- c. Any exhibitor and handler
- d. Any exhibitor, handler, judge or member of the show committee

2. May a club allow another club to use their name or application to put on a show?

- a. Yes, without limitation
- b. Yes, licensed specialty clubs may use the parent club
- c. Yes, sanctioned specialty clubs may use the parent club
- d. No

3. What classes are required to offer Winners?

- a. American-Bred and Open
- b. Puppy, Bred-by-Exhibitor and Open
- c. Bred-by-Exhibitor and Open
- d. All but the Novice class

4. A dog may only be measured:

- a. No limit
- b. Once per weekend
- c. Once per day excluding special attractions
- d. Once per day including sweepstakes

5. May a dog be entered for Exhibition Only?

- a. Yes, if the premium list doesn't exclude it, and the dog is 6 months or older, of a breed offered in the premium list, and won a first place prize in a regular class at a previous show
- b. Yes, in a regular class, if allowed in the premium list
- c. Only at specialty shows
- d. Yes, but limited to non-champions

6. May a club hold a show for a charity?

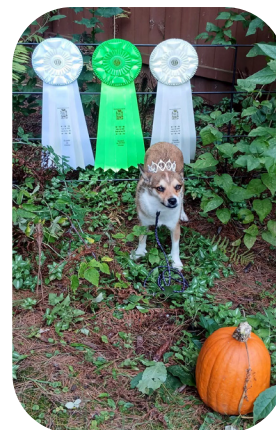
- a. No, it may not.
- b. Yes, if this information is included in the premium list
- c. Yes, if this information is included in the premium list and the inside cover of the catalog
- d. Yes, if the club, upon request, provides AKC with a complete financial statement and receipt from the charity of the sum paid

1. c—Chapter 15, Section 1; 2. b—Chapter 2, Section 5; 3. a—Chapter 3, Section 11; 4. c—Chapter 14, Section 3; 5. a—Chapter 3, Section 23; 6. d—Chapter 2, Section 15 (Check the show manual for additional requirements.)



Wags & Brags

Photos courtesy Jennifer Hankee.



Jennifer Hankee's succession of summer and early fall successes, pictured from left to right: CH Bolsoey's Queen Frigg of Asgaard is awarded NOHS Group 4 by Judge Ms. JoAnne M. Buehler July 18; Frigg earns her BCAT Fast CAT title July 25, and two days later in the conformation ring, is awarded BOB by Judge Mr. Steve Hayden—earning her final point to become (or shall we say, crowned) a grand champion: GCH CH Bolsoey's Queen Frigg of Asgaard BCAT ACT1J FITG; High Voltage of Vorkosmia FCAT2 ACT1J FITG is awarded NOHS Group 4 by Judge Mrs. Janet L. Fink August 8th. (Both of Jennifer's Lundehunds became International Champions Aug 1, with Volt also becoming a Veteran Champion, during their first entries in International All Breed Canine Association shows.); Frigg is awarded a NOHS Group 2 by Judge Ms. Shelley S. Hennessy and a NSG Group 4 by Judge Mrs Honey Anne Glendinning Sept. 19, and a NOHS Group 4 by Judge Nikki Riggsbee Sept. 20.



GCH CH Huffin' Anja Puffin OHB FCAT5 with owner-handler Kristina Maze were thrilled to receive group placements, clockwise from top left: NOHS NSG 2nd Prize by AKC Judge Mrs. Honey Anne Glendinning Aug. 22; NSG NOHS Group 3rd by AKC Judge Beth Downey Sept. 26; and NSG Group 3rd by AKC Judge George E. Marquis Sept. 27 (during a nor'easter storm).

Photos courtesy Kristina Maze.



Welcome Bolsoey's Rolled and Baked to Perfection! Born July 12, Mandel (pictured above and right with Preservation Breeder and Bolsoey co-founder Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick), moved to Wisconsin to be with his new, loving family: Jennifer Hankee, her son, TJ, and Queen Frigg.

Photos courtesy Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick.





Wrapping Up the Year



Lundie Holiday Pictures

Email your favorite Lundehund holiday or winter photo to nlaa.information@gmail.com by December 17 for inclusion in the Winter 2026 LUNDIE LINK newsletter.

Photos

- 100 to 300 dpi color originals (jpg, png, or tiff).
- 2-sentence description (include applicable names—people and dogs).
- Photographer's name (for photo attribution).

Share Your Stories, Photos, and Brags

LUNDIE LINK is a quarterly newsletter of the Norwegian Lundehund Association of America (NLAA). Its content focuses on lundehunds, featuring association members' dogs, educational articles, and information about the breed.

The newsletter is posted on nlaa-inc.com and available to members and the general public. Its success relies on members contributing content, so show us your lundies and share your stories—especially your brags!

Articles

- Pitch your idea or send original text up to 325 words.
- Attach as a Microsoft Word document or in the body of the email. No PDFs, please.
- Author's name and a 2-sentence bio.