

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I hope the beginning of the Autumn weather is treating you all well. Here in Colorado we finally got some rain and we are grateful for some nearby fires getting doused.

As we are moving forward with club business we have a few new folks helping out in different areas of the club by chairing committees.

This is helping spread the workload on the Board and in the membership, giving some focus to the different areas and is very much appreciated. Some jobs are bigger than others but all are very helpful.

We thank everyone that has stepped up to help. The following five pages include chair names along with descriptions of each committee's focus and deliverables. If you would like to help anyone out on any of these committees, please let us know.

As always, please reach out to the Board if you have any ideas that you would like to float for the club. We want to continue to promote and protect as best and as logically as we can.

Love a Lundehund,

Kristina Leach Knubel
Interim President, NLAA, Inc.



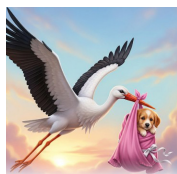
In This Issue

- 2–6 Committee Chairs**
Volunteers take on duties
- 7 International Meeting**
Recap of Germany's gathering
- 8 Feature**
Swedes host a sweet event
- 9 Book Look**
Author lucks out with a Lundie
- 10 Wags & Brags**
Much to celebrate



NLAA 2025–26 AKC Committee Chairs

Breeder Referral Contact

**Duties:**

Answer queries about the breed, reputable Lundehund breeders, and litters. Weekly check of in-box messages at specialized email address.

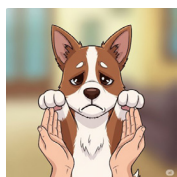
Deliverables:

Respond to queries within 4-5 business days via email or by phone. Maintain a Board-approved list of breeders on NLAA's website; track litters; prepare consistent messaging. Report quarterly to the Board.

Chair*: Marianne Klinkowski

Committee volunteers: TBD.

Breed Rescue Contact

**Duties:**

Verify dog is a purebred Lundehund in a legitimate rescue situation. Assist with reuniting dog with breeder, if applicable and appropriate.

Deliverables:

Coordinate transportation and foster home. Complete the transfer of AKC registration, if applicable, and collect available health records. Arrange for necessary veterinary care. Develop fundraising campaigns to cover rescue expenses such as transportation costs and veterinary care. Annual reporting to the Board; more frequent if activity.

Chair*: Karon Plasha

Committee volunteers: TBD. Maintain list of people who can help with the physical rescue/ fostering and those who can help with fundraising campaigns.

Breeder Education

**Duties:**

Text here

Deliverables:

Text here use the photo and/or artwork using AKC's release. Chair is proficient in writing clear, fact-based information. Chair will meet AKC-imposed deadlines. Report quarterly to the Board.

Chair*: Karon Plasha

Committee volunteers: TBD.

* Chair reported to the AKC.



NLAA 2025–26 AKC Committee Chairs

Judges Education Chair



Duties:

Lead judges' education seminars and work with NLAA-approved mentors and/or presenters. Periodically review and update educational materials. Develop guidelines for approving mentors and presenters; recommend the approval of members who meet these criteria.

Deliverables:

Conduct judges' education in-person or via virtual tutoring. Complete all required AKC paperwork. Maintain approved handouts and slideshow presentation. Arrange for ringside examination and mentoring at nationals and institutes. Arrange for a minimum of 4 dogs over 6 months old to use in workshops, as appropriate. Work with show chair to have appropriate physical space for judges' education at national. Publicize events and provide all appropriate paperwork. Develop Canine College. Develop annual budget for Board approval. Report quarterly to the Board.

Chair*: Cindy Stansell

Committee volunteers: Diane, Marianne & Colorado Kristina are approved mentors with 12 years documented AKC sports participation. Technical advisor and mentee TBD.

Breed Columnist



Duties:

Submit original article for [The AKC Gazette](#), AKC's online newsletter, by the deadline established by AKC for quarterly Non-Sporting features (March, June, September, and December issues).

Deliverables:

Write or solicit topical, original articles and photos about Norwegian Lundehunds submitted by editorial deadlines that meet AKC published criteria including word count. Obtain permission to use the photo and/or artwork using AKC's release. Chair is proficient in writing clear, fact-based information. Chair will meet AKC-imposed deadlines. Report quarterly to the Board.

Chair*: Kristina Maze

Committee volunteers: TBD.

Legislative Liaison



Duties:

Alert NLAA members via email about proposed, pending, or passed laws or legislation affecting dog breeds, breeding, and/or ownership in their state or nationwide.

Deliverables:

Receive AKC legislative bulletins and, using the NLAA member list, email all members who may be impacted. Report quarterly to the Board.

Chair* candidate: Marianne Klinkowski

Committee volunteers: TBD.

* Chair reported to the AKC.



NLAA 2025–26 AKC Committee Chairs

Public Education Chair



Duties:

Public-facing breed spokesperson. Provide NLAA's Board and members a master list spreadsheet of 2025-26 Norwegian-themed festivals in the U.S. as well as AKC Meet the Breeds dates, locations, and event organizers. Periodically review all publications for the public.

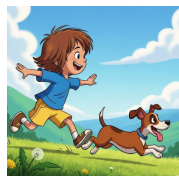
Deliverables:

Electronic sign up of members committed to attending the events with their dogs. Provide Board-approved educational handout materials and banners. Get Board approval for all new materials and/or changes. Develop annual budget for Board approval. Report quarterly to the Board regarding events and budget compliance.

Chair*: Kristina Maze

Committee volunteers: TBD.

Junior Coordinator



Duties:

Provide educational support to junior handlers in dog sports and companion events within the parameters of AKC rules and regulations.

Deliverables:

Mentor junior handlers. Work with national show chair to develop programs for juniors attending the national. Develop annual budget for Board approval. Report annually to the Board.

Chair*: Cindy Stansell

Committee volunteers: TBD.

AKC Marketplace Club Monitor



Duties:

Weekly review of AKC Marketplace for Norwegian Lundehund listings.

Deliverables:

Inform AKC of any inaccurate information on these listings (not an NLAA member, etc). Report quarterly to the Board.

Chair*: Jason Leach

Liaison with the Norsk Kennel Klub (Norwegian Lundehund Kennel Club, Norway)



Duties:

Strengthen bonds with NLAA's European club counterpart through professional dialogue.

Deliverables:

Frequent correspondences regarding Lundehund health, breeding, projects, legislative affairs, and events.

Chair*: Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick and Diane Andersen

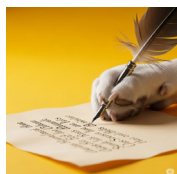
Committee volunteers: TBD.

* Chair reported to the AKC.



NLAA 2025–26 Committee Chairs

Bylaws Revision



Duties:

Modernize NLAA bylaws.

Deliverables:

Review NLAA bylaws and update based on contemporary technologies and within AKC parameters.

Chairs: Cindy Stansell, Kristina Maze

Oversight: Kristina Leach-Knubel

Artist



Duties:

Create eye-catching art and images of Norwegian Lundehunds for marketing, public outreach, social media, and club fundraisers.

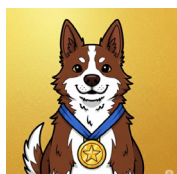
Deliverables:

New content as either requested by or presented to the NLAA Board.

Chair: Taylor Orme (*credit for the design, left.*)

Committee volunteers: TBD.

Awards



Duties:

Provide the Board with National Specialty award options NLT 8 months before the event date.

Deliverables:

Each award option includes a visual mock-up, manufacturer's web address, estimated cost per unit (include shipping and handling), and color palette(s).

Chair: TBD

Committee volunteers: TBD.

Webmaster



Duties:

Redesign www.nlaainc.com. Upload contemporary text, photos, newsletter, and forms. Create fillable form for viewer questions. Update monthly or quarterly. Resolve IT issues.

Deliverables:

Relaunch the website by an agreed-upon Board deadline.

Chair: Kristina Leach-Knubel

Committee volunteers: TBD. Provide content, art, and social media cross-references.



NLAA 2025–26 Committee Chairs

Health and Genetic Chair



Duties:

Become familiar with the health issues associated with the Norwegian Lundehund.

Deliverables:

Develop the NLAA health statement approved by the Board and submit it to AKC. Update as needed. Write or solicit quarterly original articles pertaining to health/genetics for publication in the club newsletter. With Board approval, develop a list of required and/or recommended health screenings for Lundehunds. Develop a program to reward members whose dogs are screened. Work with AKC's DNA department to develop appropriate profiling. Annually analyze Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) breed statistics. Report annually to the Board.

Chair: Kim Dingman-Bond

Committee volunteers: TBD.

Membership



Duties:

Process membership applications and submit to the Board for approval.

Deliverables:

Review applications for completeness and compliance with the NLAA bylaws before submitting to the Board. Obtain timely Board action on the applicants.

Chair: David Rachford

Facebook (FB) Moderator



Duties:

Daily moderation of NLAA FB posts to ensure appropriate public discourse and content.

Deliverables:

As administrator, review and approve posts. Flag nefarious “puppy sellers” using stolen photos and report to FB.

Chair: Kim Dingman-Bond

Committee volunteers: TBD. Determine how FB dismantles old NLAA group.

LUNDIE LINK welcomes your Lundehund stories, photos, and art! Make this quarterly newsletter something to read about by submitting content to lundielinek@gmail.com.



Editor's note. Olle Mårtensson is a Lundehund owner living in Sweden, and the editor of Lundehunden i Fokus, a quarterly online newsletter translated into 7 languages. He and the newsletter staff traveled to Germany to attend the International Puffin Dog Meeting May 14–18. Held every 3 years, the event is organized by Stefani (Steffi) and Jobst Fredrik Wallenburg. Olle shared this meeting recap with LUNDIE LINK.

The International Puffin Dog Meeting

Finally it was time for a new meeting! We hoped for the same success as last time in 2022 and of course it was. Here is a little bit of a story about these nice days outside Hamburg, Germany.

The newsletter staff, Mimmi and Claes, and friends Carina, Lasse, and Lena, met at my and my wife, Susanne's, home in Gottåsa, Sweden May 13. We had a cozy evening with BBQ and a lot of puffin dog talk. Early the next morning, we (and the dogs) set out in our motorhomes, passing Copenhagen and taking the Rødby–Puttgarden ferry between Denmark and Germany. Arriving at the campsite, we headed to the meeting's evening reception by the camp fire. It was so nice to reconnect with all the acquaintances we hadn't seen in 3 years. We asked each other, "Have you got another puppy?" and "Is yours in heat?" before calling it a night.

The program was organized with morning activities—and more dog talk over breakfast—and special programs in the afternoon. There were two points I think stood out.

Norway's Cross-Breeding Project



Ingvild Svorkmo Espelien's Thursday afternoon lecture, "The Lundehund Project: Crossing the Norwegian Lundehund," explained why the project was started—the genetic pool is too small and breeders want to eliminate the dogs' stomach problems—and the results achieved so far. Ingvild (pictured left) highlighted how strategic crossbreeding of Lundehunds with Norwegian Buhunds and Icelandic Sheepdogs can help ensure the Lundie's future health and survival. Ingvild is a biologist, Lundehund breeder, and author of the new Lundehund book, *Lundehundboka*. Unfortunately, the book is only available in Norwegian. We talked to her about translating it into English. She smiled a little shyly. It is likely to be so!

Eye Lens Luxation

On Friday afternoon, Dr. Christine Rachow talked about eye lens luxation in dogs. She herself has a puffin dog, Goofy (pictured right), who had left eye lens problems which ended up with the lens's surgical removal and Goofy becoming completely blind in that eye. However, the brain is so smart that it compensates for this and Goofy does well with only his right eye. At her presentation, Dr. Rachow showed pictures so everyone understood what lens luxation was and how the symptoms manifest themselves.



On Sunday, it was time to say goodbye! We arrived safely home, albeit later than we anticipated due to a lot of roadwork in the southern part of Sweden. Traffic delays are the same the world over!

We appreciate Steffi and Jobst arranging an absolutely superb Lundehund meeting and look forward to the next meeting in 2028!

— Article and photos by Olle Mårtensson



Feature

Fun & Games Down on the Farm

Dog people who actively build community inspire us all. Olle Mårtensson and his wife, Susanne Gunnarsson, do just that, turning their farm in Gottåsa, Sweden, into a Lundehund lover's amusement park.

Except during the pandemic, the couple have hosted their annual Lundehund Activity Days since 2012. This year's event, held June 26–29, attracted 43 people—mostly Swedes, others from the Netherlands—as well as 34 Lundehunds (!) and 11 other dogs of different breeds.

Rain or shine, guests enjoyed time together and with their dogs as they dipped their toes into dog sports and activities.



Dog Passage and Meetings (a.k.a. Manners Class)

Susanne Gunnarsson taught everyone how to safely guide their dogs through meeting other dogs and their owners. While “many dogs have difficulty with this,” Olle says, most “had an *Ah-a!* experience. Everyone was happy and then it was just a matter of taking the knowledge home and training further,” he adds.

Adventure Course (a.k.a. Agility)

Olle and friend Claes Eklund crafted a mini obstacle course. “Some dogs were a little hesitant to crawl into a 90 degree-angled dark wooden tunnel but after a while, most of them ‘slipped’ through,” Olle says, adding, “the same applied to the wooden bridge (a.k.a. dog walk) [which] we lowered significantly from last year. The ‘rocker board’ wasn’t a big problem either.”

Forest Walks & Blood Trails

Each afternoon, participants had the opportunity to walk in the forest adjacent to the farm. It was the only time the event's mandatory leash rule was relaxed.

Tina Gustavsson and Olle left several blood trails in the forest and the puffin dogs quickly caught the scents. “I don’t think anyone failed to find the deer hooves at the end of the tracks. For some dogs, it was the first time they tried!” Olle says.

Special Search (a.k.a. Scent Work)

Anette Vikingsson and her Labrador, Bella, demonstrated a special search. “The imagination has no limits to how much you can vary the search. She used tea strainers, books, jars, and many other items to hide things in. There were several of us who became very interested in this and will in the future have special training for those who live nearby,” Olle promises.

Conformation

While Maria Ringdahl led a show training seminar, friends took turns babysitting her 1-year-old child. Olle says Maria's training helped “those who wanted to get better at showing their puffin dog. Among other things, they got tips on how to walk in the ring and how the dog should behave on the table when the judge assesses.”

“In summary, I can say that it was a very nice and educational weekend and we will of course



Top right: Activity Area Entrance—the fun starts here!

Photo by Olle Mårtensson.

Above: “Weave” are the champions, my agility friends!

Photo by Olle Mårtensson.

Below right: Team Lundie gives their two “scents” in the forest.

Photo by Mimmi Eriksson.





Book Look

Children's Author Features Lundie

During May's Norwegian Lundehund Specialty icebreaker, NLAA Member Jennifer Hankee passed around a 2001 children's book, *Loki & Alex*, which features photographs of a Norwegian Lundehund and a young boy. Our curiosity piqued, LUNDIE LINK reached out to the book's author, Charles R. Smith, Jr.



Charles is a children's book author, poet, photographer, and speaker. His forty-seventh book, *28 More Days*, is slated to publish in 2027. A follow up on *28 Days*, the books feature people and events from Black History. A dog lover, Charles has a 14-year-old beagle-mix rescue named Jake who, he says, "is still quite spry for his age."

Loki & Alex shows different perspectives between a dog, Loki, and a boy, Alex, playing together at a park. Charles says choosing a Norwegian Lundehund for his book "was actually by pure luck. I initially started looking for boys with dogs or owners with kids and a dog, and the pairings didn't always work. So I had to 'cast' it like a movie. I had to choose a boy and separately choose a dog. A friend of the family at the time had a dog and he was the right size and had an interesting look. She said he was a rare breed so I got lucky," he says.

Unlike most Lundehunds, Loki—the dog's real name was Gandolph—didn't shy away from being photographed. Gandolph "really couldn't care less about the camera, for better or for worse," Charles remembers. "It didn't scare him and he didn't gravitate to it. He just ignored it so we had to use lots of treats to get him engaged. Not feeding him direct all the time, but placing the treat in something or on something so he'd seek it out."

When asked which scenarios Loki/Gandolph enjoyed best in the playground, Charles says the dog was game for everything. "He loved belly rubs but didn't like going down the slide. It's good the photo is blurred because if he was human he would have looked scared. His owner was at the bottom waiting so he was in no danger. The other photos he just gave a great performance by seeking out the treats we hid. There was a great school playground right near the boy's home [in Hyde Park, NY] so we shot there on a Sunday. I wrote it when I lived in Poughkeepsie, New York."

While the book is now out of print, copies can be found through online used book sellers. "It's great to see *Loki & Alex* continue to get love long after its release," Charles says.

Visit Charles's website, <https://charlessmithjr.com>, to learn more about his career, books, poetry, and photography as well as school visits and workshops.



Clockwise, from top: Author Charles R. Smith, Jr. (Photo: Charles R. Smith, Jr./Simon & Schuster); a real-life Loki being read *Alex & Loki* by breeder Karon Plasha as his dad, Matthew Barton, looks on (Kristina Maze), and Gandolph ("nom de Lunde" Loki) and a young friend on the pages of Smith's book. (Photo: Dutton Children's Books).



Wags & Brags



Pup, Pup, Hooray

AKC bestows another title on Bolsoey's Queen Frigg of Asgaard Fits: Puppy of Achievement, August 9.

Photo courtesy Jennifer Hankee.



A Grand Accomplishment

On July 28, Solkanata's Teal The Show (Tovah), pictured left with Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick, was the first Norwegian Lundehund in years to earn a Grand Champion title.

Tovah's winning streak continued September 6, when she was awarded a NOHS NSG Place 4. Tovah ranks as #2 NOHS Lundehund as of July 31.

Photos courtesy Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick.



Online Presence

The September 2025 *AKC Gazette* edition published one of the first (and perhaps only) articles about Norwegian Lundehunds (pg. 73).

On NLAA's Facebook page, Julia Kuivenhoven's Lundie, Talyn, conquered a Viking photo contest and won a colorful NLAA keychain.

Photo of AKC Gazette courtesy AKC.org; Talyn's winning picture by Julia Kuivenhoven.



Class Act Reunion

Preservation Breeder Ann Robertson cuddles with CH Seacliff's Dagny Deep at a NC show.

Photo courtesy Kristina Maze.



Our Daily Bred

AKC Judge Richard Todd Jackson presents a Bred by Exhibitor Group 1 to Hiddenite Skye Haldis of Threshing Oar and Kristina Maze July 10.

Photo courtesy Kristina Maze.



Run With It

Huffin' Anja Puffin took a seminar with world agility champion Cynthia Hornor August 25. Anja's August 29 Best of Breed award by Judge Penny DiSiena also earned her a Grand Champion title.

Photos courtesy Kristina Maze.



Guten Tag, Dog!

Held every 3 years, the International Puffin Dog Meeting in Germany attracted Lundehunds and owners across Europe. Related article, page 7.

Photo courtesy Olle Mårtensson.

