

## President's Message

Dear Lundehund Family,

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I hope that everyone is able to enjoy some time celebrating this holiday season. The snow finally arrived in the high country of Colorado making for great Lundehund frolic sessions on the closed golf courses. Though we do need to do some more snow dances to keep it coming.

As we are wrapping up this year, the NLAA has a lot to be proud of. The resurgence of passionate Lundie loving people have done some amazing work in 2025. I am very grateful for everyone who has had boots on the ground and is out there spending hours on end traveling with their pups showing them, doing Fast CAT, agility, and educating the public in the snow or sunshine. As a visual aid for the folks out there, we ordered some new beautiful, large banners for "meet the breed" booths. They debuted at the Washington, DC-area's Sons of Norway Nordic Festival and they were very well received by the public. The banners were again displayed at the Viking YuleFest in Smithfield, Virginia, during another weekend of public education. Farther south in Orlando, Florida, Cindy Stansell, our Judges Education chairperson, conducted a Judged Education with 35 judges in attendance. This is just awesome and exciting.

In Florida, the NLAA also started the process of having an official listing in the AKC Canine College. The Canine College listing will be a great aid to judges who have little chance to see Lundehunds in person. The full process will take about two years but will be worth it.

A circular portrait of Cindy Stansell, a woman with short brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a necklace with a blue pendant. The background is a red gradient with white snowflake and star patterns.

There are several more events in the works and you can stay up to date with what is up and coming on the homepage of [nlaainc.com](http://nlaainc.com). The website was relaunched in early October and though it still needs some polishing, it is gaining traction and I have fielded several emails of folks inquiring about our breed.

*Continues, next page.*



## Public Education

### Teachable Moments

**By Jennifer Hankee**

The Norwegian Lundehunds were a hit at the Wisconsin Dog Fair in Madison, WI on November 9, 2025. The fair had approximately 70 vendors, 165 breeds present, and hundreds of visitors.

Bolsoey Lundehunds (Rebecca and Garrett Zoellick) and Heartland Kennel (myself) brought our combined six Norwegian Lundehunds to take turns throughout the day greeting interested guests.

They were entertained by Frigg's kisses and Volt's folded ears while learning they are polydactyls, super flexible, and that they can indeed swim!

Tovah, Giitu, and Ludi also took turns getting pets and wowing guests. Minnie demonstrated the variation in size within the breed.

Lots of visitors were surprised at their size, commenting they thought they were larger. They also received many comments of how fox-like they look.

Kids enjoyed paw prints and puffin stickers along with the NLAA fact sheets.

Three NLAA members and their six Norwegian Lundehunds greet people attending the Wisconsin Dog Fair.

*Photos courtesy Jennifer Hankee and Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick.*



### President's Message—Continued

This morning I was thinking about my friends from the original Cliffhanger Kennel crew, Frank Bays and Sharon Pederson, and how they probably would not have ever fathomed 35 judges attending a Judges Education. I know they would be overjoyed that the work continues because without them, Paul Ross, and Harvey and Judy Sanderson, we would not have these mischievous little souls in our lives here in the U.S. It has been a roller coaster in the years since 2002 when Jason and I first got our "Tuffy" Cliffhanger Cortie from Frank and Sharon.

What a ride it has been.

Happy New Year to everyone and love a Lundehund,

*Kristina Leach Knubel  
President, NLAA, Inc.*



## Committee Updates

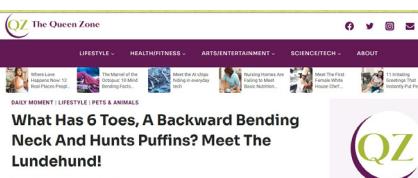
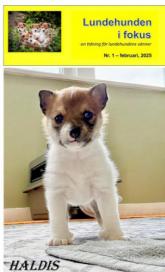
### A Banner Year

#### NLAA Public Education Committee Chair: Kristina Maze

Thanks to the efforts of NLAA members and the club's Board, Norwegian Lundehunds received an unprecedented amount of publicity in 2025. Radio interviews, network television segments, local news channel coverage, printed publications, online magazine articles, and blogs spotlighting the rare breed reached thousands of viewers, readers, and listeners.

The public education efforts weren't limited to screens, paper, and airwaves. An increased number of in-person events throughout the year attracted large crowds curious to learn more about the bendy puffin dogs. To enhance visibility at events on the East Coast, NLAA's Board approved printing three eye-catching, 5-foot by 6-foot banners. One banner features a photo of two Lundehunds in a rocky snowscape while the other two banners detail the dog's physical anomalies and brush with extinction.

As more NLAA members volunteer their expertise at Nordic festivals and dog events in other parts of the United States, additional banners will be printed.



Three Norwegian Lundehund banners were designed by an NLAA member. The banners provide vibrant visuals and easy-to-read breed information. The sturdy, vinyl banners also provide shade and a wind barrier when affixed to tents.

*Photos courtesy Kristina Maze and Karon.*

## Committee Updates

## Judges Education

**NLAA Judge's Education Committee Chair: Cindy Stansell**

It was a full house December 10 at Orlando, Florida's Orange County Convention Center, with 35 American Kennel Club judges—the maximum allowable—attending the Norwegian Lundehund Judge's Education seminar.

AKC Judge and NLAA Secretary Cindy Stansell led the seminar, with a morning lecture (top left photo) about the rare breed and an afternoon hands-on training session. The latter emphasized the nuances of the table examination, including counting all the toes, checking the dog's foot pads, and how to evaluate the rare breed's unique rotary gait.

The judges divided into small groups to examine six Norwegian Lundehunds (2 dogs and 4 bitches) on separate tables (center photos). The groups then stood at each corner of the large training room and watched every dog perform two down-and-backs and a walk around.



Photos by Kristina Maze.



Photo by Angela Bell Deems.



Photo by Kristina Maze.



Photo by Joseph Herber.

Cindy received special permission from AKC to demonstrate the Lundehund's extreme flexibility. Kim Dingman Bond volunteered her dog, Muggles, to show the 90 degree extension of the front legs (bottom left photo) and the head bent back to touch the spine. Cindy repeatedly told judges in attendance they are neither permitted to do this when examining a dog nor are they allowed to instruct a handler to bend the dog's neck or extend the front legs.

Cindy continued to teach more judges about Norwegian Lundehunds with in-person tutor sessions and ringside mentoring. After watching the Lundehunds compete in the Best of Breed ring December 13, Cindy used an impromptu table (photo, bottom right) to give several judges the opportunity to see close-up the dogs' various toes, bites, and amber eye hues.



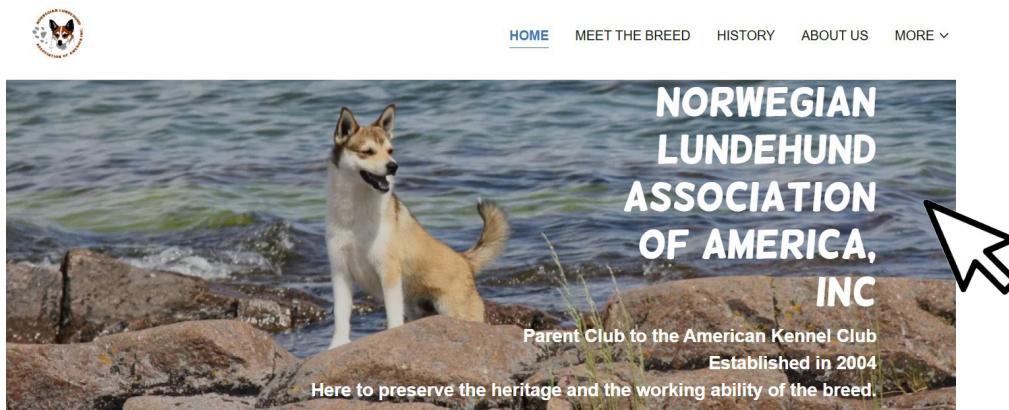
## Committee Updates

### Setting Sites High

#### **NLAA Webmaster: Kristina Leach-Knubel**

So long and adjø, old info and outdated directories! The Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.'s website, [nlaainc.com](http://nlaainc.com), was completely overhauled and reorganized in 2025.

Among the updated site features is information about the rare breed that's easy to read and scroll through, names and photos of the club's Board of Directors, a functioning contact form, and a list of recommended breeders.



### Permanent Ink

#### **NLAA Breed Columnist: Kristina Maze**

For the first time since receiving AKC recognition 14 years ago, Norwegian Lundehunds are consistently included in the *AKC Gazette*'s Breed Column. NLAA's new leadership appointed a breed columnist to write quarterly articles for the prestigious magazine, which is the official journal of the American Kennel Club. Original content and photos about Lundehunds are featured in the monthly magazine's Non-Sporting Group Breed Columns, scheduled for release every September, December, March, and June.

The inaugural article, featuring Paul Ross, the man who imported the first Norwegian Lundehund to the United States, published in the *AKC Gazette*'s **September 2025** issue. The article was followed by a **December 2025** "how to" piece about participating in public education events, based on the experience of Lundehund owners.

Read these and other issues—135 years' worth!—for free by visiting *AKC Gazette*'s [webpage](#) or the magazine's [Facebook page](#).





## Committee Updates

### The Right Puff

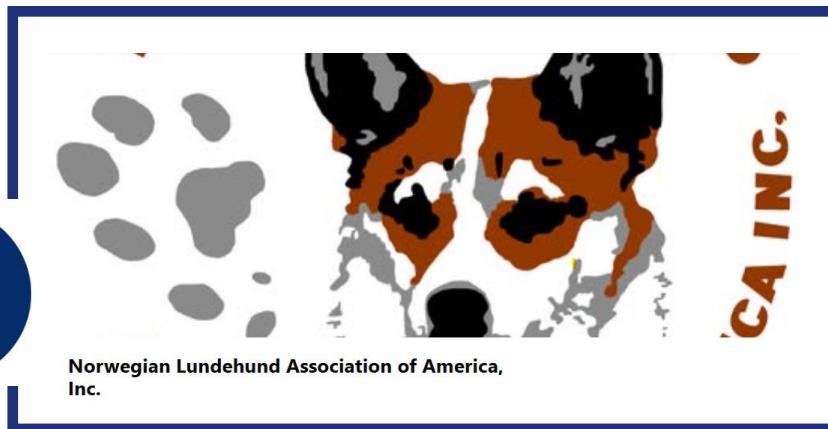
#### **NLAA Facebook Moderator: Kim Dingman Bond**

The official Norwegian Lundehund Association of America's Facebook page is

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/norwegianlundehundassociation>.

The page displays the club's circular logo and an About section detailing NLAA's mission and Board of Directors listing.

Follow, or request to be a part of, the club's private Facebook group for NLAA news and information such as upcoming festivals and events members and their dogs are attending as well as purebred Lundehund litters from recommended breeders.



#### About

This group is run and moderated by the current board of the NLAA, Inc.

The Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc. is the parent club of the Norwegian Lundehund in the United States. The club celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2024. To start, we will be a private NLAA member group for easier access to club business. As a next step we will add direct invites from members to others in the community. This is a place to share successes, challenges, cuteness and club business. Group entrance will evolve as is pertinent and needed.

The Facebook page shown below has the appearance of an NLAA page but is not affiliated with the official AKC parent club or its members.

If the URL is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/103040732956>, it is not NLAA.





## Committee Updates

### Welcome to NLAA

#### **NLAA Membership Committee Chair: David Rachford**

In 2025, NLAA's Board of Directors approved six new Norwegian Lundehund enthusiasts who applied for club membership.

The individuals join a dynamic group of members actively supporting NLAA's efforts to promote the health, safety, and future of purebred Norwegian Lundehunds in North America.

Members' dues, in turn, pay the club's business expenditures and for promotional materials like banners to enhance visibility at public education events. Due to rising economic costs, NLAA's annual membership fee increases slightly in 2026 but remains comparable to other AKC dog breed clubs.



*Editor's note.* In 2025, the Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.'s Board of Directors established over one dozen committees and positions chaired by its club members. This and future LUNDIE LINK newsletters will highlight quarterly updates as reported by NLAA committee leads.

### Save the Date

#### **NLAA Health and Genetics Chair: Kim Dingman Bond**

NLAA is hosting a Zoom Q&A webinar with Ingvild Ssvorkmo Espelien Saturday, January 24, 2026, starting at 12 noon Eastern Time.



Ingvild is a biologist and geneticist in Norway and the owner of Kennel Vinterskkogen. She leads the Norwegian Lundehund Club's Breeding Council and has served on the Norwegian Kennel Klubb's Board and also its Health and Breeding Committee. Ingvid's work experience includes the clubs' officially sanctioned cross-breeding project—called the “genetic rescue”—of Norwegian Lundehunds, which began in 2014.

NLAA members interested in attending the Zoom meeting may reach out to the committee chair, Kim Dingman Bond, via Facebook Messenger, before January 24. Kim plans to send attendees a Zoom link prior to the scheduled meeting.

Unable to attend but have a question for Ingvild? Message your question to Kim, who will ask it on your behalf during the Zoom call.

Norwegian Biologist and Geneticist Ingvild Ssvorkmo Espelien, pictured with a Norwegian Lundehund puppy.

*Photo courtesy Ingvild Ssvorkmo Espelien.*

## Feature

## Morris &amp; Essex

Four Norwegian Lundehunds were among the 4,455 dogs entered in the Morris & Essex Kennel Club dog show October 1, 2025, in Somerset, NJ. Held at Colonial Park, the outdoor show's prestigious pedigrees and exhibitor pageantry pay homage to the first dog show Ethel Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge helped organize in 1927.

Mrs. Dodge loved dogs but disliked how dog shows were managed, so she used her wits and wealth to develop a more practical, less time-consuming approach to the sport. Working with local clubs Morris and Essex, Mrs. Dodge's vision became a reality: Her New Jersey estate's 4,000-acre polo field was transformed into multiple rings, with enough judges for nearly every breed. Boxed lunches were served during a scheduled midday break and Best in Show concluded as the sun set. The show's format was a hit and continued in this fashion for decades.



Now held every five years, the much-anticipated event attracts dogs, handlers, and spectators by the thousands.

Wearing costumes from the 1920s through the 1940s for the Morris & Essex show was encouraged—and exhibitors, judges, vendors, and spectators didn't disappoint. The glad rags, vintage cars, and perfect weather put people in a festive mood. The tensest moment wasn't ringside but rather waiting in a long line to park.

AKC Judge and NLAA Secretary Cindy Stansell presided over the Best of Breed ring. Kim Dingman Bond showed Muggles, Kristina Maze showed Anja, Barb Cohl showed Haldis, and Andrew Giangreco showed Dagny. Dagny was selected Best of Breed, Muggles Best of Opposite Sex, and Anja Select Bitch.

After lunch and a bit of shopping, the Lundie owners arranged their chairs directly in front of the Group ring's fencing. By the time Non-Sporting showed (it was the second group), the rows of spectators were five deep.

Andrew handled Dagny, who showed alongside many of AKC's top-ranked Non-Sporting dogs. Andrew is experienced with handling Lundehunds and has also assisted with Norwegian Lundehund Judge's Education seminars. Dagny appears at minute 17:24 on [AKC.TV's Non-Sporting Group](#) coverage. (NLAA is working with AKC to correct the Lundie weight range!)

—Kristina Maze



*Top left*, Handler Andrew Giangreco showed Dagny in the Breed and the Non-Sporting Group rings.

*Top right*, The start of each Group is formally announced by a trumpeter. *Left*, Kim Dingman Bond and her Lundehund, Muggles, prepare to go around the outdoor ring.

*Right*, Kristina Maze (in red, with her Lundehund, Dagny), AKC Judge and NLAA Secretary Cindy Stansell, and Kim and Muggles pose at the Trophy Tent.



Photos by Ingrid McKinley



Tovah gets a kiss under the mistletoe from her kitty companion.

*Photo courtesy Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick.*



## Wags & Brags



Move over, gingerbread men! This year's holiday cookies are Vikings and Lundehunds.

*Photo by baker/ decorator Kristina Maze.*



Above, Diego's Best of Breed (major) win December 13 under AKC Judge Grace Fritz earns him a his Champion title. Later that evening, Diego and owner-handler Kim Dingman Bond, *pictured below*, shine at AKC's National Championship Dog Show in Orlando, Florida.

*Photos courtesy Kim Dingman Bond.*



Dagny gets a pooch smooch from her mom after earning her final 2 points to achieve a Grand Champion title in Orlando, Florida.

*Photo courtesy Kristina Maze.*



Jennifer Hanke's first time showing Brace. Her Lundehund duo, Frigg and Volt, won the Brace Best of Breed December 14 under UKC Judge Katherine Short.

*Photo courtesy Jennifer Hanke.*



Can you spot the puffin pretending to be a sneaky Elf on the Shelf? .

*Photo courtesy Jennifer Hanke.*



Hei Hei Haldis and Ho Ho Ho Santa.

*Photo courtesy Kristina Maze.*