

THE QUARTERLY ONLINE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

## President's Message

Happy summer to all. I hope this finds everyone safe and happy. As you will see in the following pages, there is a lot of work being done by various committees and new members.

Some quick highlights:

- We have the National Specialty coming at the end of this year. You will continue to hear more and more about it in the coming weeks and months.
- New members are out at events helping the Public Education Committee while there is a newly formed committee managing the Purebred Preservation Bank.
- There are also some awesome achievements in the show ring, Fast CAT, and more. I will let you read on for all the details.

As always, I am grateful for the teamwork and collaboration of NLAA members, which keeps the Lundehund going in the U.S.

With this rarest of rare breed, we are looking to thrive again. So if you can get out and show your Lundehund in conformation or do one of the many other AKC-sanctioned events like agility, rally, or Fast CAT, I encourage you to do so. Just remember that the first question you will get is: "A Lunde-what?!" I have been answering this question for a long time. I give my speech and direct people to the club's website, [nlaainc.com](http://nlaainc.com). The site's History page comes straight from our judge's education seminar—and is a fascinating story.

All the best to all of you and Love a Lundie,

*Kristina Leach Knubel*

President, NLAA, Inc.

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## National Specialty

**Save the Date: December 9, 2026**

A Rare Find



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

Illustration of NLAA's 2026 National Specialty emblem, tagline.

The club's National Specialty is Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at the Orange City Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

Both the specialty and the day's National Owner-Handled Series Non-Sporting Group are judged by Wendy Corr. This year's specialty includes Brace (two dogs shown together) and the unique "Best Feet" award.

The Orlando show begins Tuesday, December 8, and continues through the weekend. Entries open October 14 and close at noon November 18 (Eastern Time). The convention center will again be filled with thousands of dogs competing in conformation, agility, dock diving, rally, and obedience.

In addition to NLAA's National Specialty, there will be

- a judge's education seminar (last year's was booked solid!) and ringside mentoring by NLAA Secretary and AKC Judge Cindy Stansell,
- the NLAA annual member meeting and banquet, and
- AKC Canine College photo and video shoots of Lundehunds present in Orlando.

Regarding the latter, Lundehund stills and footage will be incorporated into *Dog Breed Course* videos on the AKC Canine College website. There is prestige in having your Lundehund participate in the Canine College program, as the professionally edited videos—which subscribers purchase to watch—are permanent fixtures in the Canine College website and digital archive.

Details about the show premiums, judge assignments, club events schedules, trophies, and lodging options will be posted on NLAA's website, Facebook page, and the Fall 2026 LUNDIE LINK newsletter.



From the Editor

### Who’s the Rarest of Them All?

“A New Breed in the No. 1 Spot” was the headline of the American Kennel Club’s (AKC) April 15, 2026, [press release](#).

The Norwegian Lundehund officially ranked 202 out of 202 registered AKC dog breeds in 2025, making it America’s rarest dog.

*(See what we did there with the gold “202” and “Rare” in NLAA’s 2026 National Specialty illustration on the previous page?)*

Even as the number of AKC-recognized breeds grows—Norwegian Lundehunds were recognized in 2011 when there were 173 AKC breeds—, Lundies have ranked among the 10 rarest breeds for 14 consecutive years.

Other dogs ranking as rarest in 2025 include the Sloughi, the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (“GBGV” for short), and the Azawakh, the latter known for its unique proportions: a body length almost equal to its height at the withers. The full AKC list is pictured right.

A link in the AKC press release is a worthwhile read. [Going Rare: The Joys of Owning a Vulnerable Dog Breed](#), was written by Ian Lynch July 14, 2022. The author uses the word “endangered”—which is the same word many in Europe use when referring to the Norwegian Lundehund. “Endangered” brings a heightened expectation of responsibility for all of us owning and advocating for a rare breed.

Rare breed advocacy appears in many forms: attending public education events; participating in Judge’s Education seminars; entering dog shows (including national specialties—wink-wink, nudge-nudge) and sports; chairing and co-chairing club committees; clear communication with others in the AKC, the NLAA, and our European counterparts; and doing everything in one’s power to keep dogs healthy, active, happy, and deeply loved. Hearing about successful breedings with puppies on the way is always joyous news. As NLAA’s Breeder Education Committee Chair Karon Plasha once put it, “There is nothing like the first touch of a newborn Lundehund’s tiny little six-toed paws.”

The Norwegian Lundehund is an extraordinary dog that brings together extraordinary people like you.

Keep sending your LUNDIE LINK stories, committee reports, brags, and photos. Continue doing the hard work. People take notice of the difference you make in the world of rare breeds.



Kristina Maze, LUNDIE LINK editor



## Feature

# Run With It

### Story and photos by Laura Greenwood

On April 25, we had the honor of representing one of the rarest American Kennel Club breeds, the Norwegian Lundehund, at the inaugural 3K Pup Run & Dog Festival in Sierra Vista, Arizona!

My Lundehund, Mr. Moss, was an absolute rockstar, showing off his puffin-snagging adaptations like his bonus toes and flexible body. I loved chatting with people about this amazing breed and Mr Moss thoroughly enjoyed the many scratches and snuggles from curious folks wanting to learn more about “puffin dogs.”

I was delighted when NLAA Public Education Committee Chair Kristina Maze sent a packet of really fun Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc., “Meet The Breeds” materials, including 1-page informational flyers, collector’s cards, and stickers I placed on my Norwegian flag-draped table. I’m so happy to say each giveaway was a hit! The Valhowla sticker in particular was very popular; I saw it on three different water bottles as I walked around the event. People loved coming over to our table and learning about the Lundies.



The “Meet the Breeds” portion of the festivities was hosted by my local club, the Greater Sierra Vista Kennel Club, who also provided festival goers with information about the American Kennel Club, dog events, and how to become involved.

The Sierra Vista Historical Society organized the charity run through Soldier’s Creek and Cyr Center Parks in Sierra Vista’s historic West End. The fun, dog-centric day also included vendors, raffle prizes, swag like bandanas and drawstring backpacks, and a mobile rabies vaccine and a microchip clinic.



Mr. Moss, Laura’s Lundehund, proved to be a great ambassador for the breed.



## Committee Updates

### Purebred Preservation Bank

#### *Committee Chair Allie Fudge*

The Norwegian Lundehund's small, North American population means every individual dog plays a vital role in genetic diversity and breed health. The American Kennel Club (AKC) created its Purebred Preservation Bank (PPB) in 2021 to better support vulnerable breeds like the Lundehund.

Essentially, the PPB acts as a nonprofit semen owner: It stores semen at AKC's expense and then dispenses it for use in eligible bitches when the breed is deemed "at risk."

Breed parent clubs provide the PPB with a detailed, breed-specific application form, setting eligibility criteria for AKC-registered dogs donating semen and for AKC-registered breeding bitches receiving it. Dog and bitch owners complete their breed club's form and submit it to PPB. PPB then determines if the animal meets the parent club's criteria. (PPB is also working on a database to include each animal's profile information.) The Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc. (NLAA) is in the process of drafting Lundehund criteria and will share details with its members.

#### **Legacy preservation**

The AKC PPB was also established to prevent already-stored semen of rare breeds from being lost or destroyed. This commonly happens when an owner

- dies and their estate beneficiaries—for example, children who may not share their parent's love of purebred dogs or don't understand the value of stored semen—would rather not continue paying the monthly semen storage fee.
- experiences a significant or an unforeseen life event (hospitalization, for example), impacting their ability to continue paying semen storage fees.



Without someone paying the fees, the bank destroys the semen. While this is an unfortunate loss in any breed, it is a particularly devastating loss for Lundehunds, AKC's rarest.

An important step Lundehund dog owners can take now is to bequest upon their death their dog's stored semen to AKC's PPB. Some canine sperm banks have such arrangements with PPB while others do not. If your bank does not have this arrangement with AKC's PPB, or if you are unsure they do, fill out this [form](#) to protect the future of your dog's stored semen.

PPB has initiated an arrangement with a few sperm banks to not destroy semen if payments are overdue but to instead transfer the semen to PPB. However, these relationships are still being forged, so the majority of banks do not yet have this arrangement so owners of the stored semen must initiate the PPB donation process—even if they have a separate, existing bequest form. The process to donate semen to PPB is simple and free: Fill out and submit an AKC PPB donor application form for each dog whose semen you have collected.

Eventually, NLAA's breed-specific information form will accompany this AKC PPB form. Email the Committee Chair at [alliefudge@gmail.com](mailto:alliefudge@gmail.com) with questions on starting the donation process or transferring banked Lundehund semen to PPB.



## Committee Updates

### Public Education

#### **Committee Chair Kristina Maze**

In mid-June, the Chair submitted an NLAA entry for AKC's 2026 Public Education Award ("PEA" for short). Breed and training clubs are eligible to enter the PEA, an annual contest where one winning club is awarded a \$500 prize, a plaque, and AKC social media recognition. Clubs must demonstrate they positively contributed to publicly educating people about purebred dogs as well as dog sports, events, ownership, and safety. This year's PEA spanned public education events dating from June 2025 to June 2026.

The chair collaborated with Co-Chairs Cindy Stansell and Karon Plasha to fine-tune the PEA entry, which required a 500 word essay; event photos; and a list of public education events club members attended during the aforementioned time frame.

PEA will announce this year's winner in July.

NLAA members reported these public education updates:

- Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick was interviewed by National Public Radio (NPR) about Lundehunds in May. The NPR segment's air date is forthcoming.
- Karon Plasha posted an NLAA Facebook group announcement about a June 13 Lundehund meet and greet play date at a Virginia Sons of Norway.
- Laura Greenwood and her Lundehund, Mr. Moss, enthusiastically greeted dog lovers at a 3K Pup Run & Dog Festival in Sierra Vista, Arizona April 25. (*Read the story on page 4.*)
- *Lundehunden i Fokus*, the digital magazine published internationally in multiple languages, featured an article about an NLAA member's dogs in the Spring 2026 issue, released June 8.
- A half-page color NLAA ad published in the Sons of Norway 3rd District's Annual Convention program. The ad reached 4,000 members and was projected on large screens on a rotating basis at the June 4–7 convention.
- Karon's ISO Lundehund owners to attend [Viking Fest Minnesota](#) October 11–12, 17–18.

#### **Sit, Stay at Syttende Mai**

Two Norwegian Lundehunds, Troll and Baldur, participated in a 2026 celebration of Norway's Constitution Day (Syttende Mai) in Maryland.

This year's annual event was a collaborative effort with The Sons of Norway, The Norwegian Ladies Club, NorCham, and the Norwegian Society of Washington, DC. The Keynote speaker was Trygve Bendiksbj, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington DC's Deputy Chief of Mission.

The afternoon was a fun event for the dogs and around 300 human participants. It included a parade, children's games, live music, and a picnic of hot dogs, chips, ice cream, and popcorn.



Troll and Baldur walk the parade route with the Embassy's Tor Kinsarvik (far left) and Mirjam Ehl, dressed in traditional bunader.

—*Story and photos by Karon Plasha*



# Committee Updates

## Website

### NLAA Webmaster Kristina Leach-Knubel

Additions to the Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.'s website, [nlaainc.com](http://nlaainc.com) that are in the works or were posted by this newsletter's release include:

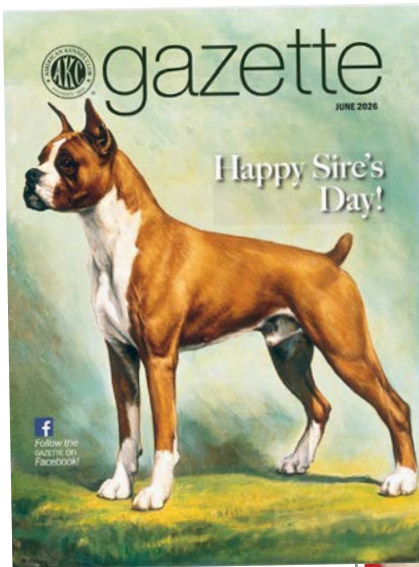
- public education events and televised shows NLAA members attend with their Lundehunds;
- breeders' kennel logos. All NLAA members in good standing, both domestic and foreign, have the opportunity to include their information on the website;
- publications featuring Norwegian Lundehunds, including a "Examining a Norwegian Lundehund" article and the June 2026 *AKC Gazette*;
- a link to the breed's American Kennel Club (AKC) standard; and
- a revised community outreach calendar.

## NLAA Breed Columnist

### Committee Chair Kristina Maze

An NLAA Breeds Columns article on Norwegian Lundehund ears published in the June 2026 *AKC Gazette* (pages 70–72). An added bonus was the magazine presenting a full-page portrait of an NLAA member's Lundehund on page 35.

September's text and photos were submitted on the June 1 editorial deadline. Prior to submissions, NLAA executive board members review and approve all content. Individuals providing photographs or art first sign NLAA waivers and approve the captions written by the breed columnist as well as any necessary touch ups to digital images to best showcase their Lundie.



The *AKC Gazette* has published since 1889 and serves as the club's official journal of purebred dogs. Every Lundehund column is significantly important because they are preserved in perpetuity in the *Gazette's* online archives. Make you and your dog(s) a part of this rich history by reaching out to the **Breed Columnist Committee Chair** with your Lundehund story ideas and photos.

The latest issue and the archives are free to read on *AKC Gazette's* [webpage](#) or the magazine's [Facebook page](#). Non-Sporting breeds are featured quarterly in the March, June, September, and December issues.



## Committee Updates

### Breeder Education

#### *Committee Chair Karon Plasha*

A reminder that the Breeder Education Committee is interested in hearing from experienced breeders of Lundehunds and other dog breeds,

The Committee is gathering information on the breeders' experiences, perspectives, and useful tips to share with people starting the journey of breeding, whelping, and raising litters.

The Committee is also collecting information from breeders on

- what details they deem critical to include in documentation such as puppy applications, puppy assessments, and purchase (or adoption) contracts.
- book titles, websites, and other helpful reading materials.
- items—necessary or nice to have on hand—during the birthing and rearing of these precious babies.

The Committee also wants to learn from new breeders: What knowledge did they wish they'd had ahead of the litter's delivery, but didn't know how to ask for or research it ahead of time?

Email information to [nlaa.information@gmail.com](mailto:nlaa.information@gmail.com), Subject line: "Breeder Education/Plasha."

#### **Be a Leader**

The Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.'s Board of Directors is seeking members interested in chairing the club's **Health & Genetics Committee** and its **Junior Coordinator Committee**. The AKC links provide general information, best practices, and volunteer goals for each. Those interested are encouraged to email [nlaa.information@gmail.com](mailto:nlaa.information@gmail.com) by July 14.

### Judge's Education

#### *Committee Chair Cindy Stansell*

- The Chair did a virtual tutor session on Zoom June 30. Five AKC judges attended for credit and one judge, already approved for the breed, audited the session.
- NLAA is confirming time, date, and location of its Judge's Education seminar and ringside mentoring at the Orlando Nationals show. Last year in Orlando, 35 AKC judges attended the Lundehund seminar.
- Diane led a private Judge's Education seminar earlier this summer.
- Material presented in NLAA's Judge's Education slide deck is being updated and additional "You Be the Judge" slides are being incorporated based on photos Kristina Maze shot in Sweden. The latter will generate more discussion by seminar attendees.
- An "At a Glance" sheet is being developed. Judges keep these easy-to-read one-pagers with their breed standard binder.



## How Swede It Is

Norwegian Lundehund owners Olle Mårtensson and Susanne Kitt Gunnarsson hosted the annual Lundehund Activity Days at their Gottåsa, Sweden farm June 25–28.

Twenty-seven Swedes (plus one American, me) and 17 Lundehunds (plus seven other dog friends) attended the 2026 event.

I learned about the Activity Days from Olle, an editor of *Lundehunden i fokus*, a quarterly

international Lundehund newsletter translated into nine languages. (Email [lundehundsfokus@gmail.com](mailto:lundehundsfokus@gmail.com) for your free subscription!)

I went to the event to meet Olle and others in person while immersing myself in all-things Lundie. A caravan of campers set up around a field while other guests and I lodged in renovated buildings dating back to 1640 when the farm served as a horse carriage and inn for travelers.

Like the name suggests, there were Lundehund activities each day. Friday morning's event had two Lundies at a time race each other in a back field set with cones. Listening to the trills and cheers of people encouraging their dogs to run faster was incredibly entertaining. Saturday morning brought blodspår ("blood tracking") in the adjacent forest. One dog at a time wore a long, orange lead and followed a trail of dried blood to the prize: a deer leg. Blodspår is a Scandinavian dog sport I'd not seen before and thoroughly enjoyed photographing.

Because of extreme heat, the agility and conformation activities were postponed. Rally and scent work went on as-scheduled Saturday in the shade.

Guest Monika Ölen, a longtime Lundehund breeder and judge, asked me what my favorite memories of Sweden were. My answer was how welcoming and friendly everyone was. I enjoyed hearing each person's unique story of how they learned about—and fell in love with—this unforgettable breed. Monika's amazing, alder-smoked salmon was tops on my list, too!

Many of my photos are on [Flickr](#). Special thanks to Gottåsa's guests and hosts for permitting NLAA to use images of their Lundehunds for club materials and future *AKC Gazette* magazine articles. The building of trust, communication, and lasting friendships across continents holds the promise of supporting a rare breed that brings all of us closer together.

—Story and photos by Kristina Maze

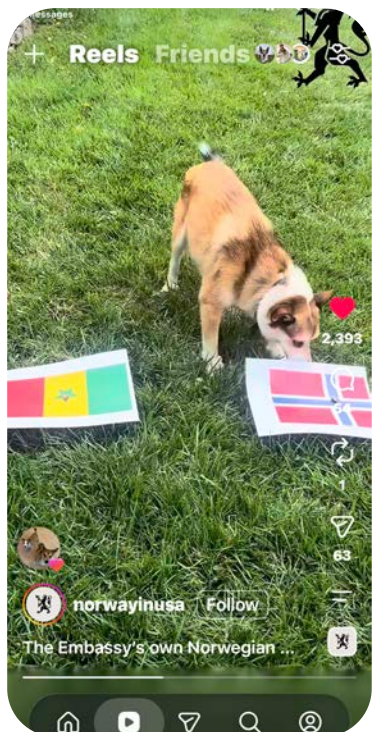


*Clockwise, from top left:* Olle and Susanne's lab Dobby and Lundie Hugo; Saturday's group photo after the rally and nosework demos; the daily activities schedule; and Owner/Breeder Åsa Häggström relaxes with one of her Lundehunds while Monika Ölen looks on.





## Wags & Brags



### World Cup Pup

Troll's 2026 FIFA World Cup predictions were a hit on the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, DC's Facebook page and its @norwayinusa Instagram account.

Troll's mom and dad work at the embassy and shared their puffin dog's social media posts.

*Courtesy Tor Kinsarvik.*

*Photos by Kristina Maeg.*



### Quite An Experience

Karon Plasha (*left*) and several other NLAA members and their LundeHunds attended March's The Viking Experience event in Oxford, NC.

*Photos courtesy Jennifer Hankee.*



### Twice as Nice

Above, Jennifer Hankee and her LundeHunds Volt and Frigg earned two Brace Best in Shows June 7 at a United Kennel Club show. Pictured are Judges Jennie Macaluso (*left*) and Jennifer Anderson (*right*).

On May 31, Frigg (CH Bolsoey's Queen Frigg of Asgaard) earned an AKC NOHS Group 2 under Judge Gloria Kerr and on June 28, a NOHS Group 4 under Judge David B. Swartwood.



*Courtesy Kristina Maeg.*



### D-Lightful

Haldis earned her lure coursing DCAT title May 30 in Walkersville, MD. To date, Haldis was AKC's #1-ranked fastest LundeHund in the sport.



### The Bronze Age

Congratulations to Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick on her LundeHund, Tovah's (GCH Solkanata's Teal The Show), *pictured left*, AKC NOHS Bronze title and NOHS group placements this year:

Group 3 under Judge Judith Brown, Crown Point, IN April 12.

Group 4 under Judge Debbie Melgreen, Oshkosh, WI April 19

Group 4 under Judge Christine E. Calcinari, Oshkosh, WI April 20.

*Right*, Rebecca's LundeHund Gütu (GCH Sakari's Naughty or Nice), was also awarded NOHS group placements:

Group 3 under Judge Dr. M. Patricia Joyce, Bloomington, IL, May 25.

Group 2 under Judge Jason Hoke, Grayslake, IL June 14.

*Photos courtesy Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick.*

