

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

President's Message

Hello Lundehund family,

This is just a quick note to express a big thanks to the show committee. They pulled off a wonderful show in Bloomington, Illinois. The entire club is grateful for the work that was put in.

The show had a great turnout for the judges education with seven new judges working toward being able to judge the Lundehund. We had two fly in just for the judges education.

Speaking of the national specialty... we need a show committee for next year. We are looking for volunteers, so raise your hand if you would like to contribute in a very meaningful way to this club. All the best to you all this summer.

Love a Lundehund,

Kristina Leach Knubel
Interim President, NLAA, Inc.

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NLAA Interim President Kristina Leach Knubel, seated left next to club Secretary and AKC Judge Cindy Stansell.

Back row, L–R: Donna Rogosky, Kim Dingman-Bond, Wendy Corr, Karon Plasha, Kristina Maze, Jennifer Hankee, Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick, and Garrett Zoellick.

Photo by Melia Photography





NLAA National Specialty 2025

Show Recap

“A wonderful, chaotic four days.”

That’s how NLAA Member Jennifer Hankee summarized the Norwegian Lundehund specialty’s whirl of activity May 23–26 at the AKC Heart of Illinois Cluster Dog Show in Bloomington.

By the numbers, the specialty gathered 15 Lundehunds (360 toes!) and 10 NLAA members; awarded 16 trophies; celebrated 2 new champion titles (pending AKC approval); welcomed 7 judges for the education seminar taught by NLAA Secretary and AKC Judge Cindy Stansell; and served up one of each: a Puffin Collins signature cocktail, a new FastCAT title, the mind-bending “Who Knows the Toes!?” game, and a superfan (*Feature, page 7*).

NLAA members had fun in and out of the ring. An ice breaker, club meeting, dinners, and time spent together in a reserved crating space made the days go by quickly for people and dogs.

“One of the most memorable parts of the show for me was spending time with fellow Lundehund enthusiasts,” said NLAA member Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick, adding, “It’s such a rare opportunity here in the U.S.” She and Garrett Zoellick (her husband and a NLAA member) “made the most of it, soaking in every moment. Even though we were all technically competing, it felt more like a gathering of friends than a competition. The camaraderie, support, and shared passion for the breed created a truly special atmosphere. We helped one another show dogs and cheered each other on—it was all about lifting the breed up together,” Rebecca said. Jennifer concurred, saying, “We had fun meeting new people and [receiving] lots of beautiful swag at a nice, clean, spacious venue.”

A serendipitous surprise was each person showing their dogs had a Best of Breed: Team Muggles on Friday, Team Frigg on Saturday, Team Anja on Sunday, and Team Tovah on Monday. “Each of us had our moment to shine,” Rebecca said. (*Lundehund Specialty full results, next page.*)



Fifteen Norwegian Lundehunds gathered for the NLAA Specialty in May 2025—double the number of Lundies as last year’s Supported Entry. Pictured from left to right: Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick, Garrett Zoellick,

AKC Judge Wendy Corr, Jennifer Hankee, Kim Dingman Bond, Karon Plasha, Donna Rogosky, and Kristina Maze.



NLAA National Specialty 2025

Winners Circle



Saturday Judge Brian Meyer, Queen Frigg, Jennifer Hankee, Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick, and Garrett Zoellick.

Photo by Melia Photography



Monday Judge Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine, Tovah, and Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick.

Photo by Melia Photography



Friday Best of Breed CH Muggles and Kim Bond celebrate their NOHS NSG Group 4.

Photo by Kristina Maze



Sunday Judge Debra Thornton, CH Anja, and Kristina Maze, NSG Group 4.

Photo by Melia Photography

Friday, May 23

Best of Breed, NOHS NSG Group 4: **Muggles**

Best of Opposite Sex: Anja

Select Bitch: Dagny

Saturday, May 24

Best of Breed: Frigg

Best of Opposite Sex: Giitu

Reserve Bitch: Tovah

Select Bitch: Dagny

Select Dog; NOHS NSG Group 3: Volt

Reserve Dog: Diego

Puppy 4–6 Month Group 3: Haldis

Sunday, May 25

Best of Breed & NSG Group 4: **Anja**

Best of Opposite Sex: Giitu

Select Dog: Volt

Select Bitch: Dagny

Winners Dog: Diego

Winners Bitch: Tovah

Puppy 4–6 Month Group 3: Haldis

Monday, May 26 Specialty

Best of Breed, "Best in Toe": **Tovah**

Best of Opposite Sex: Muggles

Best of Winners, **Winners Dog**: Diego

Winners Bitch: Anneli

Winners Dog: Diego

Select Bitch: Anja

Select Dog: Giitu

Reserve Bitch: Frigg

Puppy: Haldis

Veteran: Volt



The Trophy Table!

Photo by Kristina Maze



NLAA National Specialty 2025

Show Recap—Continued

“I’m still in shock that all 3 of my dogs were in the ring for Best of Breed at our National! The boys both won something!” NLAA member Kim Dingman Bond gleefully posted on Facebook.

Along with NLAA member Kristina Maze, Kim worked for months behind the scenes to ensure the specialty show was well organized and memorable.

Kristina was grateful for everyone’s help at the show, including her mom, Donna, and AKC Judge Wendy Corr. Wendy flew in from California to attend the judge’s education seminar and spent her five days in Bloomington, Illinois observing and learning everything she could about Lundehunds. “What a wonderful breed,” she wrote to Kristina after the show.

Best of Breed, Best Toes...and Best Dressed

For the May 26 Norwegian Lundehund Specialty, I wore a bunad from the [Ofoten region](#) where my family hails. A bunad is traditional Norwegian folk clothing with embroidered designs unique to the region where it is made. My bunad, called the Ofotbunad, was my grandmother’s. She gave it to me before she passed and had me promise I would wear it whenever I could. Made of pure wool, this bunad was hand-embroidered by a local craftswoman in 1995 and the blouse’s delicate cuffs crocheted by my grandmother.

The Ofotbunad is a relatively new addition to Norway’s bunad tradition. It was designed by Petra Øien Moen, with production starting in 1989. Though not based on a specific historical costume, its floral embroidery was inspired by garments from the Ofoten region, a traditional district in Nordland County consisting of Evenes, Narvik, and Lødingen. The design features three native plants—two-row barley, skogstjerne (chickweed wintergreen), and marikåpe (lady’s mantle)—along with a wavy border reminiscent of an old church apron.

Each Ofotbunad is lovingly hand sewn in the local workshop at Norsk Husflid, Lofoten, reflecting both artistry and tradition. I also have a Nordlandsbunad (as does my sister), both of which my grandmother proudly spent years embroidering for our confirmations.

Voted Norway’s most beautiful bunad several years running, the Nordlandsbunad is either blue or green with floral motifs.

A touch of Norway for the whole family

My husband, Garrett Zoellick, showed our Lundehund, Giitu, while wearing a “17. mai-sløyfe,” a traditional ribbon in the red, white, and blue colors of the Norwegian flag. Typically worn on May 17, Norway’s Constitution Day, the sløyfe is usually pinned to the left side of the chest, near the heart, as a symbol of national pride and celebration.

Even our Lundehunds wore their own sløyfer! In recent years, sløyfer have been designed especially for dogs, complete with clips so they can be easily attached to collars or harnesses. The dogs looked adorable and festive—true little Norwegians at heart!



Photo of Rebecca and Tonah by Wendy Corr.

— By Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick



NLAA National Specialty 2025 Photos



Top: Rebecca, Tovah, and Judge Brian Meyer.

Right: Karon's swag bag reveals a Viking cookie.

Bottom: DC Kristina (l), CO Kristina (r), Puffin Collins cocktails, cake, & bling.



Double take! Kim Bond's Anneli (left) and Diego (right) pose with Judge Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine.

Below, center: the hands-on portion of Sunday's Judge's Education Seminar.

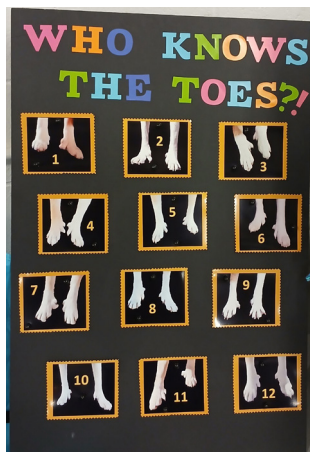


Top: Jennifer and Cindy share a laugh with attendees during the Judge's Education lecture.

Bottom: Muggles and Kim strut their stuff in the ring.

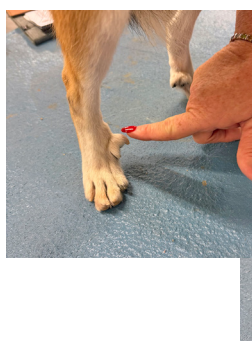


Below (left-to-right): Jennifer, Rebecca, and Garrett show they do, in fact, Know the Toes, winning game prizes for the most correct answers.



Top: NLAA Member Taylor Orme (left) is immersed in Lundies.

Right: Haldis's first show.



Left: A judge practices counting Lundie toes on the table.



Above: Volt places 3rd and scores a treat from Jennifer.



In Memoriam

Harvey Sanderson

Long time dog enthusiast Harvey Sanderson passed away earlier this year at age 88. Among the breeds Harvey and his wife, Judy, bred, trained, judged, and showed were Norwegian Lundehunds.

Harvey and Judy welcomed home their first three Lundehunds in 1988. Around that time, Ann Robertson said she, the Sandersons, and several other rare breed enthusiasts each chipped in \$1,500 to form the Norwegian Lundehund Club of America. "He was club President for a few years, Judy was Vice President, and I was Treasurer and the East Coast Director," Ann said. Ann went on to breed Norwegian Lundehunds in North Carolina, Harvey and Judy in New Jersey. The friends met up at the American Rare Breed Association show circuit back in the 1990s.

Connie Butherus lived near the Sandersons for decades and said "there were three dog show families in our neighborhood and we did everything as a team. It was wonderful in every way and Harvey was a major player." Connie lamented it is "so very sad that he is gone."

Harvey was born in Syracuse, NY. Before Lundies captured his heart, he graduated Syracuse University, served in the U.S. Army, worked in marketing and advertising on Madison Avenue, and acted on stage, television, and the radio as well as in films. Harvey is survived by his wife, four children, and six grandchildren.



Photos courtesy of Sanderson family and friends.

Harvey, pictured top and left, bred and showed champion Caballero Labrador Retrievers as well as Norwegian Lundehunds, like this Best of Breed winner at the 1993 Rare Breed Association's Cherry Blossom Classic in Washington, DC. Right, Harvey with (left to right) Shirley Bisigmona, wife Judy, and Ann Robertson aboard the Spirit of Washington dinner cruise during the May 1992 Norwegian Lundehund Club of America, Inc.'s Specialty.

Superfans

No matter where I go with my dogs, the vast majority of people who stop and ask about them have never heard of, let alone seen, a Lundehund. The conversation inevitably goes like this:

Nice person: “They look like little foxes. What are they?”

Me: “Norwegian Lundehunds.”

Nice person: “A...what?”

Me: “Lundehund.”

Nice (now tongue-tied) person: “A loon-ah...”

Me: “Puffin dog. That’s easier to remember.”

Whether or not they remember I may never know. But what I do know for certain is that, for every 1,000+ people my dogs and I meet, there is that 1 person who knows *exactly* what they are—and sometimes makes an extraordinary effort to meet this rare breed face-to-face. I call them Lundehund Superfans.



The first Superfan I met was at the 2024 AKC Meet the Breeds in NYC. Over 20,000 people attended that event and I am not exaggerating when I say many of them came en masse to the Lundehund table. One fan, however, stuck out from the crowds because she was weeping. My Aunt Ingrid and I asked if she was okay.

Overwhelmed, she nodded yes and when she could finally speak, told us how she loved Lundehunds and that after so many years of longing to see one, it was finally happening. “Would you like to hold her?” I asked, offering Dagny. The young woman shed more happy tears than beamed as we took this photo (left).

The second Superfan I met was at the 2025 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, also in NYC. The young girl’s Lundehund T-shirt caught my eye as she gingerly walked to our crating space, mesmerized at the sight of Anja. The girl (right) knew everything about Lundehunds—their unique anatomical features, their brush with extinction—so when she and her mom learned there would be Lundies at Westminster, they flew from their home in California to New York to meet one in the flesh, a highlight of their dog show-themed mother-daughter weekend trip.



I spotted the latest Lundehund Superfan right away—a man with a grin on his face and hearts in his eyes—at the Illinois Specialty. He stood near our reserved crating area, mesmerized by the sight of so many Lundies. I introduced myself and learned his name was Mike. Mike (left) and his wife, Julie, discovered the breed when he met longtime Lundehund owner and breeder Karon Plasha at the Fairfax, VA Sons of Norway holiday party back in 2013.

“Julie and I have been rescue dog people for 31 years. Karon...introduced us to the wonderful world of Lundehunds. She told us their story, and we decided to support these beautiful dogs. These wonderful dogs had almost become extinct, so we want to do our part to help,” Mike said. Doing an Internet search on Lundehunds in the spring, Mike read about the 4-day Bloomington, Illinois AKC event, which was a short drive from his home. He came to the show daily “to meet the breeders so we could get on a list to adopt.” Mike said he and Julie made plans to have dinner with Karon and her husband to discuss adoption. He has since applied for an NLAA membership.

Superfans are super special.

—Story and photos by Kristina Maze



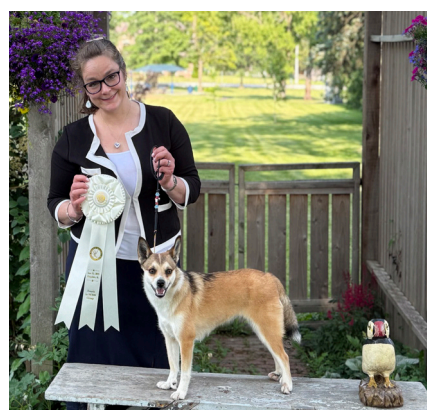
Wags & Brags



Donning a puffin print bowtie, Minnie is all dressed up and ready to show!



Jennifer Hankee gives Frigg a kiss for good luck in NSG, May 24. Volt (right) participated in UKC's Top 10 Premier show and on June 12 won Best of Breed.



Above, Rebecca Lyngmo-Zoellick and Tovah display their NSG NOHS Group 4 rosette, presented by AKC Judge Dr. Valeria Rickard on June 15.



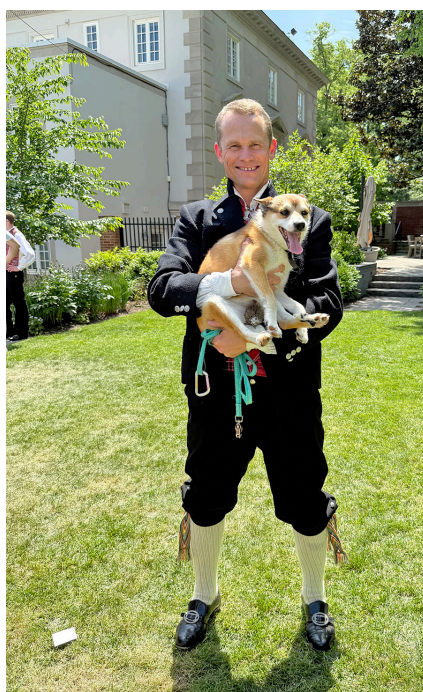
By seven months of age, Queen Frigg was selected Best of Breed and Reserve (twice) and earned her first major, her first AKC title (Fit Dog Bronze), and a Barn Hunt Instinct title.



As dog dad Matthew Barton looks on, friend Karon Plasha reads Loki the children's book, *Loki & Alex*, a story about a playful Lundehund and his boy.



Left to right, Wendy Corr, owner Kristina Maze, Kim Dingman Bond, and Jennifer Hankee celebrate Anja earning an F-CAT4.



Embassy Row Toe

Passport DC is an annual event that invites the public to tour embassies across Washington, DC. Over 60 embassies, including the Kingdom of Norway's, participated in the May 3, 2025, "open house."

The Norwegian Embassy welcomed a total of 3,000 visitors that day, according to a Facebook post by Anniken Huitfeldt, Norway's Ambassador to the United States. The embassy showcased Norwegian dancers, musicians, artists...and a half dozen local-area Norwegian Lundehunds.

People lined up to chat with the Lundies' owners and pet the dogs. Some inquired if the Lundies lived on the embassy grounds. (*Answer: No, but wow would they have a blast running around and digging up the gardens!*) The quirkiest question asked was, "Is that a dog or a meerkat?" (*Sir, it is a dog.*)

Minutes before the Norwegian King's Guard Band assembled for their hourly performance, the Lundies were whisked away to an air-conditioned room inside the embassy to prevent them from barking over the music.

Tor Kinsarvik, the embassy's Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs, and his Norwegian Lundehund, Troll, welcomed thousands of visitors.

– Kristina Maze