



The Butler County Kennel Club "Howler"

The Butler County Kennel Club is dedicated to the promotion of excellence in all-breed conformation. Founded in 1939, we are an AKC member club.

The Butler County Kennel Club Board of Directors -

President - Susan Chapin, swimfinn@zoominternet.net

Vice President - Clint Graham

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Treasurer - Ross Chapin

Directors:

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2016 Meeting Schedule & Highlighted Events

(Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7pm, the first Tuesday of the month at the Butler YMCA - Trustees Room)

NOTE – There is no meeting scheduled during the month of January!

(Meeting refreshment responsibility schedule)

January - No Meeting Scheduled

February – Mick & Kathie McCormick

March – Reba & John Namachar

April – To be determined at the Feb Meeting

May – To be determined at the Feb Meeting

June – To be determined at the Feb Meeting

July – To be determined at the Feb Meeting



Newsletter Publication Information

The "Howler" is a quarterly newsletter. If you are aware of something that the club membership should be informed of please get that information to Reba Namachar at her email address rnamachar@outlook.com, or you may contact her at 724-482-2078 or send correspondence to 445 Whitestown Road, Butler PA 16001. We would like to add photos of your dogs to each edition. So please send those pics in .jpg format. **Please forward articles and photos to arrive no later than 30 March 2016 for the Winter 2015-2016 Edition.**

BCKC Website Access -<http://www.butlercountykennelclub.com/>

In order to get to the Members Only section of the website, the username and password for this site are the same for EVERYONE in the club.

1. Go to this URL: <http://www.butlercountykennelclub.com/membersonly.htm>
 2. The Username box, type in bckcmember (this is case sensitive -all lowercase!)
 3. In the Password box, type in bckc2006 (this is also case sensitive and those are zeroes, not the letter o)
- tammy@tjb-consulting.com (webmaster)

*Note - Once you open the clubs website hit the F5 key on the top of your keyboard to refresh the page. This will force the Refresh option on your browser to go out to the server to get the most recent changes.

Letter from the President -

Dear BCKC members,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for yet another year. (I know, no one else wants the job, but it is still an honor).

It has been a busy year for us all. BCKC has chosen to support two community projects. The first in the K-9 six organization that pairs trained rescue dogs with veterans who need support. Several of us attended the kickoff event this summer. This will be an ongoing financial commitment.

Second was the decision to help provide some of the fencing for the Jade's Dog Park to be opened in 2016. The park will be located at Alameda Park, Butler. The club will have a banner posted on the fence displaying our logo, web site and the phrase "Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership".

The show lead was passed this year from Jini-Ann Stora to Jean Kroll. We thank Jini for 10 years of excellent work and welcome Jean. She had the foresight to bring marvelous weather for the shows, and it was much appreciated.

The addition of 4-6 months puppy and NOH series were well received and will continue to be included.

Committees are being organized for both the show and other events. If you can help out with something, please let us know. Nothing is too small.

We suffered some losses to our family, both human and canine. We also welcomed new family members, human and canine.

IMPORTANT INFO:

Dues are payable now \$10/individual, \$15/family

BCKC c/o Ross Chapin, 641 Kiester Rd., Slippery rock, PA 16057

January meeting has been cancelled permanently. First meeting of the new year will be in February. Hope to see all of you there.

Cleveland is coming soon and many of you will be traveling west for that. Drive safely.

BDTA is hosting an open house Dec. 3 at their new building on 68. Be sure to stop and check it out. This will be the new site for conformation classes

To all, Happy Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years), thanks for all your hard work. You are “pawsitively” wonderful.

Susan Chapin, President BCKC

GARY and LUKE - A LOVE STORY

Gary and Luke first met when Luke was 3 months old. He stood out from the rest of the puppies. He had a manly, mature face even then. He was more expensive than Gary liked, so I slipped the rest of the price of him to the breeder. He was born from two conformation show dogs. We decided to take some classes in conformation and show him ourselves. He started out slowly but by two years of age, he was getting many points and ribbons. This just helped to cement the bond between Gary and Luke, and they were a perfect pair. But the love was so deep, that they went everywhere together and did everything together. Walks and rides and visits to friends and down time as well on the front stoop, saying “hi” to neighbors and anyone who came along. Luke had a natural ability to command attention and loved to be noticed. He thought that everywhere he went, the people had come just to see him.

On his seventh birthday, after five dog shows in a row in New Castle, he collapsed and we rushed him to our family vet. He had stage four lymphoma. We were in disbelief and made an appointment for a visit to PVSEC. He started his chemotherapy right away and he and Gary made their routine visits weekly. Luke went into remission. He celebrated his eight birthday at the New Castle show with his friends and litter mates. He had no fear of the hospital and doctor and quickly became a favorite face there with all of the workers. He of course thought they were all there to see him! Then the cancer started to come back, so different medications were tried. Nothing brought him back into remission but he stayed strong and active until October 8th, 2015. His lymph nodes were huge and he was dying. Gary had been with him through all this and continued to be with him while he was euthanized.

This is a story that needed to be told of a man and his dog (although they were so much more) and the great love, devotion and commitment that they shared together. It is my pleasure to write this love story, since I am Gary’s wife and Luke’s Mom and got to observe and participate in this wonderful relationship with them both. He will be with us always in our hearts and we love him so.



Membership: The Butler County Kennel Club wishes to welcome the following new member;

Deborah Pfeifer, 1621 Anderson Road, Pittsburgh PA 15209. Her breed is Basset Hounds.
As of November 16th, 2015, there are 39 members with no applications pending.



Education - 2016 Conformation Class Schedule - For status of classes (cancellation information etc.) Call: Mick 724-285-1466 or 724-494-5565, Email: Wcmenterprise@aol.com or musher1984@gmail.com, or Gary 724-352-9383

Articles: *I'm not sure how many club members receive these AKC Articles, so I am selecting the most interesting and sharing them through our newsletter. - Reba Namachar*

SUCCESSFUL DOG BREEDING

Linebreeding, Inbreeding, Outcrossing and Why

E. Katie Gammill, AKC Judge, TheDogPlace.org Exhibition Editor - August 2009

Do you count your litters or do your litters count? Are you a “dog breeder” or a “breeder of dogs”? What is your ratio of producing dogs that finish?

After buying a national winning bitch, a breeder wonders why the bitch fails to produce quality offspring. She doesn't understand her bitch is not the only ingredient in her recipe for success. Throwing time and money away, she blames the bitch. In all actuality; it is her lack of knowledge regarding her breeding program that is at fault. Breeding her bitch to currently winning dogs without giving a thought to health, pedigree, or cross faulting, she puzzles as to why others accomplish what she cannot.

An excellent breeding program isn't “happen-chance”. Cross faulting, health certifications, and pedigree research is imperative as is breeding with the future in mind. It is imperative one has a “breeding plan” in place. There are reasons why some people consistently breed top winners and others breed a “flash in the pan” with the inability to reproduce its qualities. One may go to the expense of buying a top winner, but to reproduce a winner without a “battle plan” is an effort in futility.

The goal of all breeders *should be* to breed to standard. Breeding something different to “catch” a judges eye may temporarily produce a winner, but it doesn't do the next breeder in line any favors toward trying to build a credible breeding program. This “quick fix” is a fad with little lasting value that pushes the standard to the side.

This in turn creates a continuously moving target and sadly, it is the reason many people in the sport drop out within the first five years. For everyone to SUCCEED, we must aim for a stationary target (the breed standard). Only then will we perfect our aim toward producing “breed excellence”. So let's start with the basics.

OUTCROSS: This is a breeding of pedigrees where the first (5-6) generations have NO common ancestry. To achieve a successful outcross, determine if the chosen male offers “locked in” genetic abilities to produce such virtues by observing his offspring. A “flash in the pan” winner offers instant gratification, but where does one go from there if he isn’t bred to reproduce himself?

When possible, visit his sire and dam as well as siblings. If the male of choice does not appear to produce what you need, WHAT IS THE POINT OF BREEDING YOUR BITCH to him? Using an inbred or closely line bred bitch when introducing new characteristics may assist you as this particular outcross invites a lack of uniformity.

You have choices. If the puppy reflecting the “trait” you went after is not sound, but *is* showy, consider growing out a second puppy as well. The first puppy may well carry the genes to produce that which the second choice sounder puppy is not capable of reproducing. Only by growing the two puppies to maturity and breeding a litter from each, will you know.

My ten girl cousins were the “spitting image” of my father’s family look. My sister and I took after my mother. As “half-baked” youngsters, one would never guess our heritage but with maturity, our body type and size, even our voices and actions confirmed we were of the same “ilk”.

So every litter offers “different types”. Watching my two puppies and breeding them resulted in “What you see is not always what you get. The lesser of the two adults actually produced more desirable puppies.

How did I learn this? *By growing the two puppies to maturity.* When evaluating the offspring of their litters, I gave those virtues most important to me additional consideration. Without losing what my own line offered, while evaluating the virtues, I was able to incorporate them through the outcross. The goal was “the best of both worlds. My male produces a certain “look” and through serious consideration I will incorporate this into my initial soundness. This explains the difference in phenotype (What you see) and genotype. (Hidden value).

Eventually, offspring from the bitch will be bred to offspring of the male, anchoring outstanding virtues into the pedigree by careful selection. At this point, it evolves as “line breeding”.

LINEBREEDING: Line breeding is the concentration of valuable characteristics. It allows some control over “families”. This method requires one of the selected parents having one or more common ancestors in the pedigree in the last several (5-6) generations. These ancestors themselves may be a successful line-breeding of outstanding individuals. Use only healthy individuals or the program will meet with disaster.

Health, fertility, temperament, type, is imperative because *compromises* negatively affect your future breeding program and will require further elimination.

INBREEDING: Once reaching the pinnacle of desired virtues, INBREED. This “sets” breed type and defines a certain “look”. You will “reap what you sow. Inbreeding results in “the best of the best” and “the worst of the worst”. *This is what makes a breeder!* This risk is not for the faint of heart. If things go “south”, take responsibility for the results and act accordingly.

TO PUT IT IN A NUTSHELL:

OUTCROSSING introduces new traits for definite improvement. Our biggest failing is “throwing the baby out with the bathwater”. LINEBREEDING creates and establishes a pedigree which in degrees, incorporates and produces specific traits on a continuous basis. If a good female results from a breeding, she can be bred back to her grandsire for consistency of type reflecting the sire’s side. INBREEDING sets type and simplifies goals. Inbreeding consists of mother to son, father to daughter, brother to sister, etc. Strengthening desirable

dominants as well as hidden recessive, the breeder must recognize and correct once again throughout crossing...

Breeders must always be aware of hidden genetic positive and negative effects. A breeding made from paper study alone is like an arranged marriage-it may be consummated, but there is small chance for success". (EHH 1968)

Successful breeders "arrive" through heartbreak, tears, and hard work. They achieve desired results by eliminating animals that do not reflect their goals. These animals are called "pets". The standard IS our blueprint, although too often, personal opinion takes precedence.

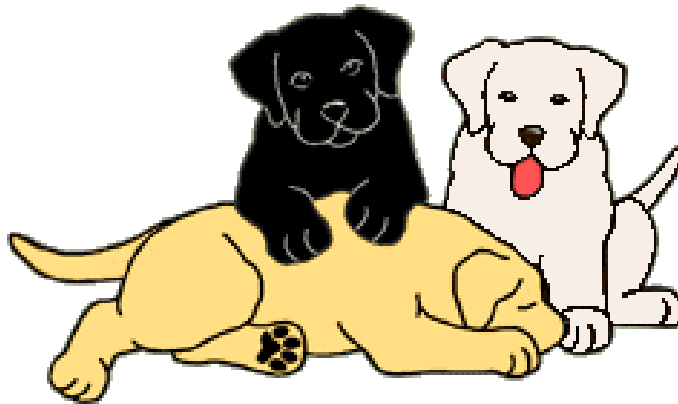
For a more in depth study of how to correct faults, read Lloyd C. Brackett's "*Planned Breeding*" article on the website www.nylana.org. This breeder, following Brackett's methods, is known for Best in Show Schipperkes. Although there are over 53 pages, for a serious breeder the consumption of ink and paper is certainly worth the printing.

Not for the "squeamish", there is another type of breeding:

BACKBREEDING. If one has a superior male and lovely bitch excelling in health, type, temperament, and conformation. MATE THEM. Keep a female from this litter and mate this puppy to her sire. Keep a female puppy from the resulting litter and take her to the original sire, (her father). Breed until you reach the desired results or until weaknesses become apparent. Few will take up this challenge, but it's something to consider. "Back breeding" produced many of the "GREATS" in a variety of breeds. This is WHY many greats of the past were dominant for producing their qualities generation after generation. This confirms becoming a respected breeder is a slow and painful process.

Backbreeding "sets type". The offspring will mirror the excellence of the line. When line- breeding and in-breeding is done properly, strengths, NOT weaknesses, will be the end result.

True breeders are "tough cookies". Through their dedication to the standards, the goal of "breed excellence" will remain firm, moving our great sport of dogs into the future.



The following is a wonderful article regarding the Pekingese, but could also apply to many other breeds – I hope you enjoy my sharing this article. – Reba Namachar, Cimarron Pekingese

The reasons breeds change by Andrew Brace



I WONDER how often we – as breeders, exhibitors or judges – stop to consider how easily we become accustomed to changes within a breed.

In some cases these changes can actually become so engrained in a breed that they are elevated to the level of desired characteristics, even though they might be quite alien to typical and necessary. It is generally the case that such changes begin with dogs shown by well-known exhibitors or handlers, as these so often set the benchmark that others gladly follow.

How do changes come about? They begin with the breeder who produces a litter that gets to an age where the puppies need to be evaluated. The breeder who fully understands his breed is looking at every puppy in terms of the breed Standard and what is correct for the breed. In most breeds 'moderation' is a requirement that is desirable in many aspects, and it is the consistency of moderation throughout any animal that will contribute significantly to its balance, and the impression that everything fits. However,

occasionally there will be a puppy who has something about it that always catches the eye, and invariably that 'something' tends to be an exaggeration of some kind or another – too long a neck, too refined or overtyped a head, excessive rear angulation – and here is where the danger lies. The totally steeped-in-the-breed breeder will see exaggeration for what it is and will discard the guilty puppy as being alien to correct type. Many others, however, will be realistic enough to acknowledge that the exaggeration, which is constantly catching their eye, will also catch the eye of the judge when the dog hits the show ring. And so the puppy is kept, nurtured, schooled and groomed.

As soon as a dog whose type deviates from correct starts winning, the ball is set rolling. That dog appears in the big ring and other judge's comment on its great bone, long neck, fabulous angulation, ultra-short back, high tailset, great open side-gait or whatever, even when these may not be breed-specific attributes.

They reward it when they get it, and others follow suit. In due course breeders see this dog and all the winning it is doing, and they think that they had better start breeding something like it. They rush off to use said dog, and within a matter of years the rather deviant type has got a foothold in the breed. It takes a little time, but soon judges arrive at a situation where they get a class of six dogs – five of them are of the 'new' rather off-beat type, one is completely correct. The knowledgeable and constructive judge will know enough about the breed to be able to say with conviction "This one is right – the others are wrong" and judge accordingly. Many other judges, however, perhaps lacking depth of knowledge of that breed, will take the easy option, assume that the five must be right as they form the majority, and the sixth dog in the class gets left out of the awards.

This particularly applies to size in a breed. So many of our breeds have, over the years, got bigger, maybe because of improved nutrition and very gradually size has crept up. As we only routinely measure or weigh a handful of breeds that have more than one variety determined by size this increase is barely noticed.

However, when some dedicated breeder puts in the ring a dog that is of absolutely correct size in terms of its breed Standard it is criticized by other exhibitors as being small. In truth, this is the correct sized dog; it's just that the others are over size.

Going with the flow

At this juncture the dedicated breeder who has been intent on maintaining type and simply intensifying quality begins to get, understandably, frustrated. He knows what he is breeding is correct, but the numbers of those who are drifting away from type are such that other breeders, exhibitors and judges seem to be going with the flow, and he is left swimming upstream.

This has happened in several breeds in Britain and beyond, and I have seen many 'old time' breeders reduce their exhibiting activities dramatically, simply because they feel it is pointless showing dogs under judges who just don't understand breed priorities. These are the very breeders who SHOULD have stock in the ring, so that those who do have independent minds can see and appreciate it.

When dogs with major faults – usually of the 'attractive' kind – continue to win and be bred from, newer breeders will see no reason to correct and improve. Why should they? These dogs are winning. Those who own the 'modern' dogs can usually talk the talk, and provide convincing arguments as to natural evolution and obvious improvement. In some cases strong-minded individuals can actually be instrumental in persuading breed clubs to change the breed Standard to fit these new dogs, a heinous crime in anyone's book. And then of course there is the power of advertising and social networking!

Sadly many of the breed changes we have witnessed are pleasing to the average eye – so what if a dog is too "necky", too hairy, too upright, too short, too long? It looks pretty and the judges like the look!

Although showing dogs is today, in truth, more about chasing challenge certificates, ribbons and points than it is about preserving breeds, the show ring should remain the breeders' shop window. It would be sad to think that genuine breeders who are keen to maintain true breed type could not find the dogs necessary to perpetuate correctness in the next generation.

If we look at the Pekingese, for example, through the years this country has produced many outstanding specimens that have taken on the best of other breeds and flown the flag for their breed. But it is a long time since the breed's vintage years when there were numerous large, strong kennels owned by knowledgeable and strong-minded breeders who produced their own distinctive kennel types.

I believe it would be fair to say that as these kennels began to become less and less the breed went through a period of exaggeration, not just in terms of the physical aspect of the dogs seen in the ring but in the manner in which they were presented. A Pekingese should possess a coat that enhances its body shape, not mask it and turn it into a walking footstool, yet some exhibitors seemed to be of the opinion that the more hair, regardless of texture, the better.

Historical context

In recent years the conscientious Pekingese breeders have addressed health issues with conviction and the results can be seen in the ring. The fact that, despite being deemed a 'high profile' breed, we saw a Pekingese as the top winning toy dog of last year is testament to the fact. Furthermore let's not forget that a British-bred Pekingese won best in show at Westminster, America's most famous dog show, last year.

However it is always interesting to stand back and look at a breed in an historical context and for that reason I am including in this article a famous photograph of the legendary Ch Caversham Ku Ku of Yam who was for many years the top winning Pekingese of all time in this country.

Although the study by Thomas Fall, who photographed so many of the great Pekingese of the past, is of Ku Ku sitting down it is clear to see that he did not carry an unduly profuse body coat (other full body photographs of him confirm this fact). His coat is obviously clean and well-groomed but is presented in a very moderate fashion, rather than having the hair on his ears brushed up in an exaggerated way to emphasize width.

However it is the dog's face that I feel is worthy of the most careful study, and bear in mind that this dog was born in 1952. Here we see a Pekingese head which complies perfectly with the requirements of the breed Standard yet in no way could be considered extreme. A seminar could be given on this head alone. Look at the width yet shallowness of the face, the naturally flat topskull, the position of the correctly fringed ears and then examine the facial features. Here are eyes that are set well apart, large and expressive, with no suggestion of being bolting. The position of the eyes relative to the nose is exemplary, the nose and nostrils being sufficiently large. The over-nose wrinkle is in no way exaggerated and sits perfectly on the nose while the muzzle is well padded, wide and in no way 'lippy'. Most importantly the underjaw is wide, deep and strong, proving perfect lip-to-lip placement. I feel that so many of the Oriental breeds these days are lacking in chin and this is a vital ingredient when it comes to creating the essential arrogance of expression. All these individual features help to demonstrate the 'openness' of the face.

I believe it is vitally important that breeders and exhibitors should occasionally browse through the old breed books and actually study the dogs of yesteryear. Doing so might give them a slightly different perspective on the dogs of today and pose some interesting questions.



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**Happy
Christmas!**

