

# The Wet Nose News



a monthly publication  
of the  
St. Clairsville Ohio Kennel  
Club

February, 2008

LuAnn Kennedy, Editor



The next club meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Ohio Valley Mall Community Room in St. Clairsville.** The meeting will focus on the dog show, particularly breed and group trophies. Please help us brainstorm by coming up with some new ideas for trophies. We also need specific information on your trophy idea such as cost and where to buy, etc. Hope to see you there! P.S. The meeting won't last too long, so you should be home in plenty of time to watch the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show!!

## Longer Registered Names

Effective 2/1/08, a pilot program was been put in place by the AKC to enable an owner to register a dog with a name of 37 to 50 spaces, rather than being held to the usual 36 space limit. The fee for names exceeding 36 spaces will be \$10.00.

### Mark your Calendar!

March 11, 2008 - Rescue/Transport Program  
April - Annual awards dinner. Time, date and place to be announced.

## From President Eloise Wolfson

You are probably all aware that we have changed our show dates from May to August 16 and 17, 2008. (We just had to escape all of those rainy and muddy venues.) The judging panel for the shows will be Jon Cole, Robert Moore, Robert Stein, Barbara Alderman, George Heitzman, Kent Delaney, Barbara Beebe and Robin Shea. We will work on the breed assignments in the next couple of weeks. If there are favorites for your breed, let us know ASAP.

Changing the show dates also changed the deadlines. The premium list is due on Wednesday, June 18, so the trophy committee will be calling you in March or April. Please start thinking about trophies. Catalog advertising deadline is Wednesday, July 5th, so get busy and find a good picture or two for a catalog ad. Entries will close on Wednesday, July 30th.

We will be using the big Carnes Center building atop the hill at our site. It is air conditioned and is spacious enough for four rings. In addition, there is a long area separated from the main hall, with tables and chairs where we will be able to serve the lunches for judges and provide space for the superintendents. A few rings will be outside as in the past, but will be atop the hill near the building. If the gods are with us, there just could be a new building erected by the fair board. Having the Carnes building will reduce our cost for tent, table and chair rental.

We are open to suggestions or any ideas you may offer to make our big event a success.

This could apply to any breed.

## WHAT'S YOUR DOG'S LIFE LIKE?

By Barbara J. Galasso

*(Reprinted with permission)*

Most of us own more than one dog. Many own several dogs. I'm assuming that people who own many dogs have kennels to house those dogs. We all agree that the German Shepherd Dog is one of the most intelligent breeds. They are born with the ability to be trained to do many things like herding sheep, police work, search and rescue, etc. In order for them to accomplish this, they must be trained. Trained German Shepherds are one of the most beautiful animals when they are realizing their full potential. The pride in ownership of one of these magnificent animals seeing what they were bred to do reflects not only on the breeder, but the owner who took the time and dedication needed to see their dog's legacy realized.

In today's society, most households are a two income family. So time spent with the family as well as the dog is limited. Many a breeder will say that this dog is my house dog and the others are my kennel dogs. What is the life like for the house dog compared to the kennel dog? Most of the time the house dog is warmer in the winter, and cooler in the summer. His bedding can consist of a dog bed on the floor or a favorite old blanket. And if he's really spoiled, one might find him lazying the day away on a overstuffed sofa or even his master's bed. Many times the house dog will have a chest full of toys to choose from and many bones scattered about the house. He's usually afforded more treats than the kennel dog because you can be assured that he's sitting right next to you while you're making dinner. He is given more affection because he's around his owners more often. He probably goes for more rides in the car than those who call the kennel their home. Most of the time he is taught more obedience commands like sit, down, stay, come, etc. to make him easier to live with. His intelligence is being utilized on a daily basis. He's more attuned to his master's will because he is taught how to live with him. He's better socialized as well as he's there to greet company that comes to his house.

Let's take a look then at the kennel dogs life. Most good, conscientious breeders do try to work with ALL their dogs. They try to play with them, socialize them and train them. But would you say that most kennel dogs get this kind of attention? Would you say that most kennel dogs realize their full potential and get the kind of attention and care that they need to be called well adjusted, social, happy dogs? Do these dogs have toys and bones in their runs to keep them entertained? Are they brought out of the run to be taught basic obedience work? Are they groomed on a weekly basis? Do they even know their names? I have heard of some breeders who don't even have a call name for their kennel dogs! I have heard breeders say, "Oh he doesn't like coming in the house. He can't wait to get back in the kennel." Yeah, probably because he rarely comes in the house in the first place and it's unfamiliar to him. All he knows is the kennel. A disservice is done to a dog who is left in the kennel, day in and day out with the only human contact being when he is fed or when a bitch is expecting a litter. For a German Shepherd to have no stimulation at all except to look

up at the sky when a plane flies over head is a shame and an insult to this dogs great mind. Just think of what it must be like to lay in a kennel all day long for most of his 10 - 13 years on this earth! Think this doesn't matter to him?

There is just so many hours in a day and not all of us have the luxury of spending every waking moment with our dogs. So then one would think we should strive to make the QUALITY of time with our dogs most important. If we can't give them the QUANTITY of time that they crave, then we should strive to give them QUALITY in the time that we do spend with them. Every dog deserves QUALITY time with his owner. Every dog should be made to feel special and that they matter. This dog thrives on attention and affection from his owner. He is a breed who loves to please. And is there anything

more pleasing then a well trained dog? If a kennel dog is wild and uncontrollable, it's because the owner hasn't put the time in to this dog to make him a good "citizen" and one someone would want to be around. Some dogs require more work and attention because of their high spirited nature. If this dog is not given that attention and training, they can be hell to live with.

If we as breeders bring these dogs in to the world, then we owe them at least a certain amount of QUALITY in their lives. If we are not going to give them the attention and love that they so rightfully deserve then we should never call ourselves breeders if we do little more than put two dogs together to produce a litter. To be a breeder carries with it a certain amount of responsibility to the animals that we bring in to the world. If we can't guarantee the "good stuff", (love, attention, training and sanitary conditions in which our dogs are raised) to ALL of our dogs, then what separates us from the puppy mills that we all detest?

Every German Shepherd is born with the potential for greatness. How many ever realize that potential? He will never realize it unless his owner has a hand in helping him to achieve all he was meant to be. He is a proud and noble breed and therefore, we as breeders should never interfere with this dogs ability to attain what is rightfully his from birth. If we get in the way of all that this dog was meant to do, then we are interrupting the master plan for this breed. The breed suffers for it. We are in control of our own lives. A dog doesn't have that control over his. His life is shaped by what man plans for him. Man is rewarded immensely when he has helped this breed live up to his potential. This is one of the smartest, most loyal of breeds. He can never hope to achieve this by spending each and every day in a kennel. Man cheats the dog and himself. So although his genetic blue print is engineered for greatness, it's up to his breeder or owner to make sure he achieves it. What control then man has in shaping the destiny of this breed to either continue to utilize this dogs wonderful mind and powerful body or to reduce him to a life of boredom and depression (and yeah, they do get depressed). It's quite simply really.....ordinary dog or extraordinary dog. And in my opinion, no German Shepherd should ever be ordinary.



## AKC Launches Purebred Alternative Listing Program

— New Features Offer Additional Benefits and Incentives —

The American Kennel Club launched the Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program - formerly known as the Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP) program.

The new name more accurately describes the purpose of the program: allowing dogs that are ineligible for registration but are distinguishable as a member of an AKC-registrable breed, to participate in AKC Companion Events, AKC Performance Events and AKC Juniors competition.

The PAL program is designed to address the various reasons a purebred dog might not be eligible for registration: the dog may be from an unregistered litter or have unregistered parents; papers may have been withheld or lost by its owner; or the dog may have been surrendered, lost or abandoned, then adopted by a new owner.

PAL enrollees will receive a copy of *Family Dog Magazine*, a subscription to AKC's e-newsletter "Your AKC," a flier from the breed's Parent Club and an attractive certificate denoting their dog's place in the PAL program. Also included will be information on AKC Pet Healthcare and AKC Companion Animal Recovery enrollment.

"We currently enroll over 3,000 dogs per year in the program. It is our hope that we can expand this number and the overall appeal of the program by offering added benefits and renaming the program with this more creative and friendly acronym," said Assistant Vice President of Customer Service, Mari Beth O'Neill. "Welcoming more PAL dogs to the world of AKC events and privileges can only benefit both dogs and owners by providing educational resources and also exposing them to the joys of competing with your dog."

Dogs which currently have ILP numbers will retain their original numbers and continue to enter events under that number. PAL numbers issued began this month.



### Sad News

Donna Simpson's 12 year old long-haired Chihuahua Snickers had to be put to sleep on December 26th. Snickers was diagnosed with terminal cancer (gastronoma) early in 2004. Snickers battled the disease, living long past her time with this type of cancer. Our hearts are with Donna and her mother in the loss of their sweet girl.

## Eye Clinic Scheduled

The Collie Club of Western Pennsylvania will sponsor an all-breed eye clinic on Sunday, June 8 at Meadowlands Veterinary Hospital with Dr. Seth Koch, Veterinary Ophthalmologist. Cost is \$30 per dog. Eloise Wolfson did some research and found that the eye clinic has a long history (she had her collie puppies eyes checked in 1982. The eye clinic began in 1968! There was no ophthalmologist anywhere in the area when Barb Linder had a litter of collie pups. There were many eye problems in collies at that time, and Barb felt she needed to have eyes checked before she would consider letting pups leave. She made a call to the University of Pennsylvania where Dr. Lon Rubin was the specialist who did much of the research on eye problems. She talked him into making the trip to Pittsburgh, a practical experience for him and a much needed service for her and a few members of the Collie Club. A six month return visit was planned, and collie people jumped at the chance to have a great specialist check puppy eyes. In a very short time, the Irish Setter club joined the pilgrimage for eye checks, and the poodle fancy followed. The word spread rapidly, and the eye clinic became an all-breed event. People have come from all over, and the results have been that thousands of purebreds have traveled to western PA to see the great doctor. Now that Dr. Rubin has retired from the traveling clinic opportunities, one of his colleagues now performs the service.

## Obedience Advisory Committee

The AKC is pleased to present the 2007 Obedience Advisory Committee (2007 OAC), recommendations for the sport of Obedience. The OAC and AKC Staff have devoted 100's of hours of time toward the review and development of the ideas submitted by the fancy during the solicitation period in 2006. Their task is not over and now they need our assistance again. They ask that you take the time to review the recommendations and give them your input, thoughts and suggestions. You will have until March 15, 2008 to submit your comments.



To read the recommendations, go to: [http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/obedience\\_advisory\\_committee.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/obedience_advisory_committee.cfm). Comments need to be submitted electronically to: [OBEDadv@akc.org](mailto:OBEDadv@akc.org)

The committee will meet again after March 15, 2008 to review the comments, suggestions and ideas received. This will lead them toward the final development of the recommendations to go before the AKC Board of Directors.