Jeffrey Ball, AKC Delegate for the Ramapo Kennel Club and president of the New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs (NJFDC), has been honored with the AKC Community Achievement Award for the second quarter of 2013.

Mr. Ball took action when his local Ridgewood town council proposed a fee hike for owners of “potentially dangerous” dogs. He organized experienced dog trainers, club members and dog owners to testify on the importance of providing public education and resources to pet owners before dog problems develop in the community. Town leaders agreed to establish the Ridgewood Responsible Pet Ownership Committee with the assistance of the NJFDC.

The Ridgewood Responsible Pet Ownership Committee serves the Ridgewood community.

Dogs can learn, retain and replay actions taught by humans after a short delay. According to a new study by Claudia Fugazza and Adám Miklósi from Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary, this deferred imitation provides the first evidence of dogs’ cognitive ability to both encode and recall actions.

The research is published in Springer’s journal Animal Cognition. Domestic dogs are particularly keen on relying on human communication cues. They learn by observing humans and are easily influenced by humans in learning situations. Living in human social groups may have favored their ability to learn from humans.

Fugazza and Miklósi looked at whether dogs possess the cognitive...
As the days grow shorter, the temperature gets lower and the leaves change color and start to fall, we can be sure of two things - the AKC Meet the Breeds event at New York City’s Javits Center is near and our two point shows are not far behind.

This year’s Meet the Breeds will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 28th & 29th. Set up will be done on Friday, September 27th. Kim Luikert, Ramapo’s resident MTB guru, will once again oversee all aspects of our participation. If you are available to help either day please contact Kim at 551-265-4245 or kim.luikert@gmail.com.

RKC’s point shows will be held Sunday and Monday, October 13th & 14th. This year our Sunday show will hold the AKC’s Owner-Handler Series special attraction in addition to our traditional Puppy Group judging. We will also continue our Sunday tradition of Meet the Breeds. It will take place at noon in the usual spot. If you can bring a dog or two and meet/greet the public for a spell please come out and show off your breed. That Sunday we will also host the AKC’s Junior Showmanship Judging Seminar run by Pattie Proctor. It is the first one offered in NJ. I encourage anyone interested in applying for his or her Juniors license to attend.

As competition for obedience handlers and instructors becomes more intense, the need to be competitive is greater than ever. The adage “Those that can’t do, teach.” does not apply to Ramapo!

Big congratulations to Jeffrey Ball on being honored with the AKC Community Achievement Award for the second quarter of 2013! As has been outlined in the Growl, Jeff has worked long and hard to create and lead the Ridgewood (NJ) Responsible Pet Ownership Committee. Thanks specifically to Jeff’s efforts Fair Lawn, NJ plans to do the same. These committees educate both pet owners and non-pet owners about how to properly care for and interact with animals. These are invaluable lessons that will hopefully lead to happier, healthier lives for both people and their pets. We should all make an effort to educate the public in our own communities about responsible pet ownership. It is important that members of the dog fancy show the public that we are not all about competition and breeding. We care about our animals’ well-being and happiness more than anything else.

Tilly Grassa, Arlene Stover and I attended the memorial service held for Patrick Dearborn in August. It was moving and enlightening. His life extended way beyond his involvement in RKC and his beloved Shih Tzus. Patrick was the founder and artistic director of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Montclair High School, where he produced a multitude of shows and directed 22 musicals. His memorial was comprised of readings and songs performed by former students and produced by his daughter Ann. It was poignantly clear how much they loved Patrick and how important he was to them as they matured and moved on to careers in the visual and performing arts. It made me realize how little most of us know about each other beyond the activities we share as part of RKC. Perhaps we can start a monthly piece in the Growl that will focus on a member and what they do beyond the sport of dogs. Anyone want to volunteer to get it started? If you do, please contact Tilly Grassa at 973-633-5254 or tgcreative@aol.com.

Sharon
by providing free public education seminars, information, and trainer referrals. The committee’s first project was to promote the town’s free rabies clinic and encourage pet licensing renewal by hosting a free microchip clinic held in conjunction with the NJFDC and the Ramapo Kennel Club.

With the assistance of AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR), the committee donated two AKC CAR microchip scanners to the town of Ridgewood. Previously, town officials had to call an outside contractor to provide scanning services. “We taught them how to use the scanners and how to go about contacting the owners. The town has been able to reunite lost pets with their owners on their own, without wasting resources calling out animal control,” Ball said.

The committee’s activities and its first educational seminar, the Canine Body Language Workshop, received favorable media coverage. Copies of news stories can be viewed on the committee’s Facebook page. Mr. Ball and area dog owners have proposed a similar committee to serve pet owners in the town of Fair Lawn.

The AKC Community Achievement Awards support and recognize outstanding public education and legislation efforts of AKC-affiliated clubs, AKC-recognized federations and their members. The AKC selects award recipients who promote responsible dog ownership within their communities or who have successfully introduced, monitored and responded to legislative issues affecting dog ownership.

The American Kennel Club® (AKC) and the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) have today issued statements to highlight their vehement disapproval of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)’s apparent policy of euthanizing animals frequently at its shelter in Norfolk, VA. Furthermore, the AKC has called for the PETA shelter to take steps towards balancing its adoption and euthanasia rates for dogs and cats in its shelter.

“While most shelters strive for a 90% re-homing rate, PETA is apparently proud of their 99% killing rate and callously boasts that the animals it rescues are ‘better off dead.’ That is an alarming ratio that should be fully investigated. PETA’s track record is absolutely unacceptable,” said AKC Chairman Alan Kalter. “Legitimate animal shelters in America re-home most of their sheltered animals. If some of Michael Vick’s fighting dogs can be rehabilitated and re-homed then PETA can – and should – do better. If they cannot – or will not – then they should leave sheltering to others.”

“Re-homing a dog is not always the easiest but it is AKC’s preferred route. PETA’s apparent lack of commitment to re-homing is hypocritical. Our experience, through AKC clubs’ rescue network, proves that a rescued dog can often thrive if given the much-needed love, medical care, rehabilitation and responsible placement into a new home. AKC is disgusted that euthanasia is seemingly so easily employed by PETA.” “While it is true that some animals at shelters are too physically injured or psychologically scarred to be adoptable, many of them can be successfully treated, rehabilitated and adopted, said VVMA President, Mark Finkler, D.V.M. “Veterinarians throughout Virginia work with numerous shelters and rescue groups to assist in the care of these dogs and cats. It is disappointing to hear that PETA has a different philosophy regarding the handling of these abandoned and unwanted pets.”

AKC affiliated clubs and dedicated volunteers comprise the largest dog rescue group network in the country. www.akc.org/breeds/rescue

The AKC Humane Fund also supports rescue group activities through its Rescue Grants. Learn more at: www.akchumanefund.org

The American Kennel Club believes euthanasia should be employed only as a last resort when all reasonable efforts to place adoptable dogs have failed. At the same time, AKC recognizes that not all dogs are adoptable due to temperament and health issues.
ability of deferred imitation. Eight adult pet dogs were trained by their owners with the “do as I do” method and then made to wait for short intervals (five to 30 seconds) before they were allowed to copy the observed human action, for example walk around a bucket or ring a bell. The researchers observed whether the dogs were able to imitate human actions after delays ranging from 40 seconds to 10 minutes, during which time the dogs were distracted by being encouraged to take part in other activities. The researchers were looking for evidence of the dogs’ ability to encode and recall the demonstrated action after an interval.

Fugazza described how one of the tests was carried out: “The owner, Valentina, made her dog, Adila, stay and pay attention to her, always in the same starting position. Three randomly chosen objects were set down, each at the same distance from Adila. When Adila was in position, Valentina demonstrated an object-related action, like ringing a bell with her hand. “Then Valentina and Adila took a break and went behind a screen that was used to hide the objects, so that Adila could not keep her mind on the demonstration by looking at the object. During the break, Valentina and Adila either played with a ball or practiced a different training activity, for example, Valentina asked Adila to lie down. Or they both relaxed on the lawn, and Adila was free to do whatever she wanted – sniff around, bark at people passing by, and so on.

“When the break was over, Valentina walked with her dog back to the original starting position and gave the command ‘Do it!’ In a control condition, the ‘Do it!’ command was given by someone other than the owner, who did not know what action had previously been demonstrated by the owner. After the ‘Do it!’ command, Adila typically performed the action that was previously demonstrated.”

The tests show that dogs are able to reproduce familiar actions and novel actions after different delays – familiar actions after intervals as long as 10 minutes; novel tasks after a delay of one minute. This ability was seen in different conditions, even if they were distracted by different activities during the interval.

The authors conclude: “The ability to encode and recall an action after a delay implies that the dogs have a mental representation of the human demonstration. In addition, the ability to imitate a novel action after a delay without previous practice suggests the presence of a specific type of long-term memory in dogs. This would be so-called ‘declarative memory,’ which refers to memories which can be consciously recalled, such as facts or knowledge.”


Reprinted from the journal Animal Cognition.
The American Kennel Club

Presents:

“Judging Junior Showmanship”

Held in conjunction with the Ramapo K.C. show

October 13, 2013
Augusta, New Jersey

$25.00

*Please meet at the Superintendent’s desk 30 minutes prior to the start of Junior Showmanship Judging

To Register: Mple and return to Kathy Carvano • American Kennel Club • Judging Operations Department
• PO Box 90062 • Raleigh, NC 27675-9062 • 919-816-3862 • Fax: 919-816-4225

Name: ___________________________________________ ________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________ Judges Number ________________________
Have you already submitted application for your first club? ________________
Email: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Check/credit card ___________________________ CVV ___________ Exp. Date ____________________

*If you are using a credit card - Please do not email this form - send by fax or mail only*

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NO REFUNDS ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE SEMINAR

*Time subject to change based upon final judging schedule.
Seminar to be conducted in conjunction with Junior Showmanship Judging
**SHOW HANDLING SCHEDULE 2013-2014**

**TUFTS BREEDING AND GENETICS CONFERENCE**

TUESDAY EVENINGS
6:45 - 7:30
DROP IN CLASSES ONLY
$10.00 per dog

Sept. 17
Oct. 1, 15, 29
Nov. 5, 19
Dec. 3, 17
Jan. 14, 28
Feb. 4, 18
Mar. 4, 18
Apr. 1, 15, 29
May 6, 20
June 3, 17

FMI: LINDA HACHTEL
973-697-4337
or rkc@ramapokennelclub.com

SESSION 2
Nov. 20
Dec. 4, 18
Jan. 15, 22, 29
Feb. 5
February 19 Canine Good Citizen Testing/snow day (there is a fee for the test)

SESSION 3
Feb. 26
Mar. 5, 19, 26
Apr. 2, 16, 23

SESSION 4
Apr. 30
May 7, 21, 28
June 4, 18, 25
June 24 (Tuesday)
Canine Good Citizen Testing/snow day (there is a fee for the test)

FOR CLASS INFORMATION AND TIMES CONTACT:
RUTH HENNINGSSEN
973-697-9456 or email

TUFTS BREEDING AND GENETICS CONFERENCE

The sixth Tufts Canine and Feline Breeding and Genetics Conference, sponsored by Nestlé Purina PetCare and Illumina, is scheduled for Friday evening, September 27, through Sunday, September 29, at the Omni Parker House in Boston.

Jerold Bell, DVM, a clinical associate professor in the department of Clinical Sciences at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, will be the course director. Open to veterinarians, technicians, researchers, dog and cat breeders, and enthusiasts, the course is 15 hours continuing medical-education credit for the veterinary community.

The registration fee is $295 for the full conference and $210 for one day. Registration before September 6 is $235 for the full conference and $175 for one day. Registration includes lectures, continental breakfast, lunch, and course notes on a CD.

Register at akchf.org.

**RKC TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE 2013-2014**

**SESSION 1**
Sept. 17, 24
Oct. 1, 15, 22, 29
Nov. 5

SESSION 2
Nov. 19
Dec. 3, 17
Jan. 14, 21, 28
Feb. 4

SESSION 3
Feb. 18, 25
Mar. 4, 18
Apr. 1, 15

SESSION 4
Apr. 22, 29
May 6, 20, 27
June 3, 17

Pet Training/Obedience Schedule
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
SESSION 1
Sept. 18, 25
Oct. 2, 16, 23, 30
Nov. 6

SESSION 2
Nov. 20
Dec. 4, 18
Jan. 15, 22, 29
Feb. 5
February 19 Canine Good Citizen Testing/snow day (there is a fee for the test)

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June 24 (Tuesday)
Canine Good Citizen Testing/snow day (there is a fee for the test)

FOR CLASS INFORMATION AND TIMES CONTACT:
RUTH HENNINGSSEN
973-697-9456 or email

Not to Be Missed!

**DOG BLESS YOU: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF MARY BLOOM**

Opening Wednesday, September 18, 6-8 pm.
At the Cathedral of St. John the Devine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC.

Dogs are welcome! On view through winter, this exhibition focuses on Mary Bloom’s sensitive and dignified portraits of dogs—of all manner and breeds. The Cathedral’s Photographer- in-Residence for two decades (from the early 1980s to 2002), Bloom is currently the official photographer of the Westminster Kennel Club. Her photographs have appeared in numerous publications. A slideshow accompanies the exhibition, cycling through decades of her loving photographs of this living Cathedral and the menagerie of animals that have passed before her lens.

at: RUTHH_SNO-DOG@JUNO.COM
OR JOANNE SILVER 201-891-5090
JOANNE SILVER1937@YAHOO.COM
WIDENING THE WINNERS CIRCLE

By Pat Hastings

What happened to Best of Breed?

Anyone who knows me will tell you that I have an opinion on just about every aspect of the dog world. If you and I have not met yet, allow me to introduce myself. I began in dogs as an owner — simply one among millions with a love of dogs. I became an owner-handler, breeder, 4-H dog club leader and went into professional handling when I married E.R. Bob Hastings. Upon our retirement in 1990, we both went into judging. I was show chairman for the 1995 Doberman national specialty and for more than twenty years have presented numerous seminars across the country, which hopefully are helping to create better dog people. From this lifetime in dogs, I continue to learn, observe, and formulate some potentially valid conclusions and solutions that always seem to emanate from idle questions.

For example, what happened to the value of winning Best of Breed? When did the emphasis shift to Group and Best-In-Show wins? How did the records get so totally out of this world? Who would have ever dreamed that the day would come when 100 bests in show would be an attainable goal for a top dog — yet the record is now well over 200! 275 to be exact!

Old-time dog people who grew up with a thorough knowledge and understanding of animal husbandry and gave priority to the welfare of their dogs would turn over in their graves if they knew what modern exhibitors put their dogs through. For example, it is hard enough on people to board commercial airliners and fly around the country every weekend (just ask any judge). Imagine the wear and tear on dogs being boarded in those dark, smelly, crowded baggage compartments to fly from one show to the next every weekend. Once in awhile, a trip to the National Specialty or Madison Square Garden or some of the more prominent specialty shows is one thing; week-in, week-out each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday is ridiculous to me. Today it is even running the other four days of the week also.

There was a time when everyone showing dogs had an equal chance to put together a winning package. More and more, however, it appears that if you want your quality dog recognized with top wins, you’d better have money — lots of money.

I feel the most negative part of a dog show is when the catalogs come out in the morning and people start talking about who is going Best In Show.

I read somewhere that 20 percent of the AKC judges judge 80 percent of the shows. If this assertion is accurate, how did this happen? Are the judges within that 20 percent the only quality judges? Or even the best?

Although that assessment may sound a bit like David and Goliath, I think I may have a solution that could give David the edge. The sport of purebred dogs is maintained, for the most part, not by the Goliaths but by the average, local dog people. It’s all of the “little” people who make up the majority of entries at dog shows. They are the people who do most of the work putting on dog shows from one end of this country to the other.

AKC rule changes begin with the delegate body, and that, folks, is us. Our kennel clubs should be member clubs with a delegate to AKC and our delegates should vote according to the will of the club’s membership. In other words, we the people have the power to make the rule changes that would help put the importance and emphasis back on the breed level and rejuvenate equal opportunity in the ring.

What I propose is a rule change to allow a club to change the way they hire judges for groups and best-in-show. Let’s give them the opportunity to hire at the breed level only: we would print the premium list as usual except that it would not list judges for group and best-in-show. As the time for group judging nears, the names of all judges on the slate who are eligible to judge each group would be thrown in a hat (box, bowl, whatever) for a drawing to determine that group’s judge. Each drawing would take place only after the dogs entered the group ring.

This same process would be applied to best-in-show.

If judges are hired for a weekend, circuit, or cluster with numerous shows involved, the names of previous group and best-in-show judges would be excluded from the drawing each day to eliminate duplications. The rule regarding judging conflicts, time, and mileage would have to be modified for group and best-in-show; however, since judging at those levels would always be the luck of the draw, this should not be a problem.

continued on page 9
THE 17TH ANNUAL GATHERING AT SUNNYBANK.

Another successful Collie “Gathering” was held on August 17-18. The event was organized by RKC and CHF member, Gerrie Oliver and the Collie Health Foundation in honor of Albert Payson Terhune, and to benefit the Collie Health Foundation. This year, more than 200 dogs and their humans gathered in Wayne, New Jersey at Terhune Memorial Park for two days of celebration. During the event a memorial tribute was held for former member Candy Wisnieski.

THE HARVEST CLUSTER

DOG SHOWS AND OBEEDIENCE, RALLY TRIALS

HARVEST CLUSTER

ARAMPO & PALISADES Kennel Clubs

Will be held OCTOBER 11, 12, 13, and 14.
FRIDAY – MONDAY
SUSSEX COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
AUGUSTA, NEW JERSEY

Rain or Shine
Indoors and Outdoors
WIDENING THE WINNERS CIRCLE,
from page 7

The benefits
What this minor change could accomplish is exciting to ponder. The emphasis would be returned to the breed level and people would be submitting entries for that purpose. The big winning and records would be a bonus— the icing on the cake— instead of the primary purpose of showing. The airlines would have fewer handlers (and dogs) on their passenger manifests; after all, who is going to go to the trouble of flying across the country when there is only one chance in two, four, six, or more that the handler will get the group judge of his choice? The odds are even worse when it comes to best-in-show. Certainly some of the mad dashers will continue, but most of them should fall away.

As a result, the records would return to earth. If handlers stop flying around to show to their judges of choice and everyone has an equal chance to win, the records would have greater meaning.

Insofar as judges are concerned, more judges would have an opportunity to judge groups and best-in-show, thus increasing their exposure and experience. If group and best-in-show judges are drawn in lottery fashion instead of being hired for their name recognition, maybe a larger percentage of judges would be hired. This rule might even create better judges because the only way to improve your judging skills is to judge. It is decidedly a learn-by-doing position.

Moreover, many judges resent it when exhibitors and handlers trail along after their every group and best-in-show assignment. When a handler or exhibitor shows a dog you really like, your credibility is at risk if you don’t put that dog up. On the other hand, you are seen as playing favorites if you do put that dog up. Also the presence of these dogs may prevent a judge from giving a local dog a nice win.

Money would once again be a secondary element in having top winning dogs. Everyone would walk into the group and best-in-show rings on an even footing. How many of us have lost a Group I or maybe even the elusive best-in-show to someone who flew in to take the win? Even those who continue to fly in will have the same odds as local owner-handlers because they won’t necessarily be showing to their judges of choice.

One more beneficiary of this change — believe it or not — could be the dog magazines. Top-winning dogs are still going to be advertised, but a more level playing field could create greater numbers of winning dogs. And let’s face it — when we win, we want to tell the world we won.

This single rule change could make all of us in the sport of purebred dogs feel like winners.

Reprinted from The Canine Chronicle

GOT STUFF?
Send your news, brags, suggestions, comments and photos to Tilly Grassa, tgcreative@aol.com. Remember the Growl comes out about a week before each monthly meeting. Check the calendar on the last page for submission deadlines. The Growl is by and for the members so I need your help to make it interesting.
Dates to remember:

All membership meetings are held at

**VFW HALL**
45 PLYMOUTH STREET
FAIRFIELD, NJ AT 8:00 PM
(unless otherwise noted)

**WEDNESDAY, September 11**  
Membership meeting

**FRIDAY, September 27**  
Deadline for September *Growl*

**SATURDAY and SUNDAY, September 28 and 29**  
Meet the Breeds, Javits Center, NYC

**WEDNESDAY, October 9**  
Membership meeting

**Sunday & Monday, October 13 & 14**  
RKC Point Show, Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta, NJ

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**GROWL**

11 Pershing Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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