

Papers Capers

Paper Cities Kennel Club March 2012

<http://www.papercitieskc.org/>

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Papers Capers is a monthly newsletter of Paper Cities Kennel Club, Inc., Wausau, WI. Opinions expressed in articles do not necessarily imply approval or endorsement of Paper Cities Kennel Club, Inc. The editor reserves the right to discretionary editing.

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Meeting Notices

The Paper Cities Kennel Club will meet Wednesday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Willow Springs Gardens off of Hwy. K in Wausau.

The Board of Directors meeting will be held Wednesday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. at Biggby's in Rib Mountain.

In case of questionable weather or road conditions, contact any officer or board member after 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting to verify whether the meeting will be held.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	WHO(contact)
March. 7	PCKC Board Meeting	Biggby's	Wausau, WI
March 10-11	Logansport Kennel Club	Auburn, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
March. 10	Correction Match	Camp Bandy	Amhurst Junction
March. 21	PCKC Meeting	Willow Springs	Wausau, WI
March 24-25	Dubuque Kennel Club	Dubuque, IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
March 31-April 1	Clinton Iowa Kennel Club	De Witt	Onofrio Dog Shows
March 31-April 1	Packerland Kennel Club, Inc.	Manitowoc	Roy Jones Dog Shows
April. 4	PCKC Board Meeting	Biggby's	Wausau, WI
April. 7-8	Saginaw Valley Kennel Club	Birch Run, MI	MB-F
April. 7-8	Kennel Club of Yorkville Illinois	DeKalb, IL	Roy Jones Dog Shows
April. 14-15	Steele City Kennel Club, Inc.	Crown Point, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
April. 18	PCKC Meeting	Willow Springs	Wausau, WI
April. 21-22	Fond Du Lac County KC	Fond Du Lac, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
April. 21-22	Waterloo Kennel Club	Waterloo, IA	Onofrio Dog Shows
April. 19	Terre Haute Kennel Club, Inc.	Terre Haute, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
April. 20	Bloomington Indiana KC, Inc.	Terre Haute, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
April. 21	Terre Haute Kennel Club, Inc.	Terre Haute, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
April. 22	Bloomington Indiana KC, Inc.	Terre Haute, IN	Roy Jones Dog Shows
May. 4	Badger Kennel Club	Jefferson, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
May. 5	Janesville Beloit Kennel Club	Jefferson, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
May. 6	Badger Kennel Club	Jefferson, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows
May 5th	Canine Amb. at Bike Rodeo	Weston Police Dept.	Weston, WI
May 12-13	Indianhead Kennel Club	Eau Claire, WI	Roy Jones Dog Shows

Interesting Web Sites

Dog Show Scores Database: <http://dogshowscores.herokuapp.com/?mid=562>

New AAHA Vaccine Guidelines: <https://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/CanineVaccineGuidelines.pdf>

New Test for Lymes: http://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/docs/Lyme_Disease_Multiplex_Testing_for_Dogs.pdf

Info Dog Site: <http://www.infodog.com/default.htm>

American Kennel Club: <http://www.akc.org/index.cfm>

Merck Veterinary Manual: <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp>

Natural Holistic Health Care: <http://www.naturalholistic.com/nhpc/index.html>

EARS - Emergency Animal Rescue Service: <http://www.uan.org/ears/>

Therapy Dogs of Central Wisconsin: <http://www.wi-tdi-dogs.org/>

Amber Alert site for missing dogs: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/K9AmberAlert/>

Lost Dogs in Wisconsin: <http://lostdogswisconsin.webs.com///>

or facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lost-Dogs-of-Wisconsin/395490441240>

Family Sanctuary at Peaceful Pines: <http://www.pppmemorials.com/FamilySanctuary/index.html>

Article on Bloat: <http://www.briard.com/about/liebesbloat.html>

Site about responsible breeders: http://www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/resources.cfm

Lakeshore Pembroke Welsh Corgi Rescue: <http://www.lakeshorecorgirescue.org/>

Dog Federation of Wisconsin: <http://www.dfow.net/>

Dr. Patricia McConnell has a blog for training dogs: <http://www.theotherendoftheleash.com/>
Canine Vision: <http://www.uwsp.edu/PSYCH/dog/LA/DrP4.htm>
Canine Health Foundation: <http://www.caninehealthfoundation.org/>
Ask vet about medicines for pets from FDA: <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm205666.htm>
Information on Dogs: <http://www.doggedhealth.com/>
Breeder's Handbook: Weaning More Puppies: http://www.akc.org/enewsletter/akc_breeder/2010/spring/handbook.cfm
Hormone Replacement Products affect Pets: <http://news.vin.com/vinnews.aspx?articleId=15950>
LYME VACCINE & LYME DISEASE: <http://www.thedogplace.org/Vaccines/Lyme-Disease1-10062-Jordan.asp>
DNR Wolf Alerts: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/mammals/wolf/dogdepred.htm>
Foods: <http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-reviews/brand/>
Michigan State University-College of Law-Animal Legal & Historical Center: <http://www.animallaw.info/>
Dr. Schultz online vaccination seminar –free: <http://www.showdogvideopros.com/PCAF2010SchultzA.html>
K9 First Aid: <http://www.vet.upenn.edu/RyanHospital/K9FirstAid/tabid/1370/Default.aspx>
Study on causes of Death in dogs by breed: <http://www.lifewithdogs.tv/2011/04/landmark-study-reveals-breed-specific-causes-of-death-in-dogs/>
Ever need a more complete description blow by blow of those lab reports you get back on your pets : http://www.broadwayvh.com/site/view/83223_AssessmentDescriptions.pml;jsessionid=g92sm55i901
Vestibular Disease in Older dogs: <http://www.petconnection.com/blog/2011/08/04/a-poorly-named-but-common-condition-old-dog-vestibular-disease/>
TOP DOG-News about one of our PCKC member's dogs: <http://www.dfs-pet-blog.com/2012/01/vinnie-the-collie/>
Kennel Blindness: http://www.akc.org/enewsletter/akc_breeder/2006/march/kennel.cfm

New this month:

Pet Food and China - More Cause for Concern? :
<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2012/02/01/pet-food-and-china-more-cause-for-concern.aspx>

Veterinarian Speaks Out on PETA and Westminster:
http://www.americanshihtzuclub.org/vet_speaks_on_peta_westminister

This Plant Will Kill Your Dog (and maybe your kids): <http://www.tonyspencer.com/2007/10/03/this-plant-will-kill-your-dog-and-maybe-your-kids/>

Pet Poisons From A to Z — What You Absolutely Must Know
http://www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/pet-poisons-from-a-to-z-what-you-absolutely-must-know?WT.mc_id=Email;Newsletter;Petwire;Mar-29;Article1

Helpful Tips

AKC Canine Partners Offers Tips On Keeping Your Dog Flea And Tick Free

The thought of little critters making their home on your pet is bad enough, but imagine how your dog feels when fleas and ticks attack! They're not just annoying to Fido; they can cause serious problems for him. Fleas can cause severe itching and skin damage, and ticks can lead to Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever – both debilitating conditions.

Since prevention is key, American Kennel Club (AKC®) Canine Partners offers tips to help keep your dog flea and tick free. Among them:

Use preventive treatments. There are many oral and topical flea and tick prevention treatments available for your dog. Talk with your veterinarian to find the best option for your four-legged friend.

Check your dog regularly. While fleas and itching seem to go hand-in-hand, you shouldn't wait until you see your dog scratching to check him for fleas. Regularly run a flea comb through his fur – if it yields fleas, or specks of black, then you know you have a problem to treat. If your dog is outside in woody areas, make sure to check him regularly for ticks and remove any you find right away. See your veterinarian immediately if you suspect your dog may have a tick-borne illness.

Treat the environment, too. Don't just check and care for your dog's fleas, treat his environment as well. Wash your pet's bedding and vacuum on a regular basis to reduce the number of fleas in your home. Ticks lurk in grass or low-hanging bushes. Keep the grass and bushes in your yard mowed and trimmed to help keep ticks at bay.

Consider prevention methods year round. Waiting too long to use preventive treatments before flea and tick season comes around can be bad news for your dog. Since flea season can run into November or even December, and ticks can become active again as early as February, there is no clear time to start treating your dog. Consider prevention methods year round so your dog doesn't have to suffer at all.

For more information on responsible dog ownership and having fun with your dog, visit the AKC Canine Partners website at www.moredogfun.com.

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American Kennel Club Offers Tips on Dealing With a Dog Who is a Compulsive Kisser

Does your dog try to give your feet a bath every time you take off your shoes? While licking is a natural behavior in a puppy's litter, it sometimes continues into adulthood as a greeting, show of affection, or a means of communication. If your dog is a compulsive kisser, the American Kennel Club's (AKC®) Canine Good Citizen® Director and Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist Mary Burch, Ph.D., offers the following tips on how to help stop this behavior. Among them:

- **Don't reinforce any licking.** Until you solve the problem, don't happily fuss over the dog as it "gives kisses" to greet you. In many cases, the licking problem began with the dog giving you kisses.
- **Teach a new skill.** Train your dog to do a new command that does not involve licking, but does involve getting affection and attention from you. You can teach your dog to "get your brush" and then spend time brushing your dog when she completes the command. Brushing is also a great way for you to bond with your dog.
- **Try redirecting the behavior.** If your dog is a serious licker, try directing the behavior somewhere else, like going outside, throwing the ball around, or practicing some obedience skills. It's important to remember timing. You don't want to start a fun game with your dog while she's in the middle of licking—that will simply reinforce the behavior you don't want.
- **Take a time out.** In serious cases, consider giving your dog a brief, two-minute time out. If she licks you and won't stop, say "no lick" and take her to the other side of the room. Put her in a down-stay and do not give her

attention for the two minutes—having contact with you will reinforce the licking. After the time out, release your dog. If she starts to lick you again, repeat the process. Make sure that you still do plenty of positive activities and provide play and exercise with her.

For more information on all 174 AKC-registered dog breeds and how to care for them, visit www.MeetTheBreeds.com.
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Ask AKC with Lisa Peterson Q & A Advice Column for Dog Owners

Dear Lisa: *I have two Siberian Huskies. We got our female at 14-weeks-old about a year ago and recently we added a 3-year-old male. We would like to have her in the house more but she absolutely will not settle down even with toys and our undivided attention. Outside, she digs, chews, and even strips the shingles off of our house. If she gets loose, she absolutely will not come back until she is ready. The problem with that is that we live on a busy highway and have already lost two dogs.*

She is not crazy about food so it is difficult to find just the right treats to use for training purposes. We got the second Siberian thinking if she had some company, she would not get into as much mischief. He is a very good boy but he follows her out if she manages to find an escape route. They are now both wearing "stubborn dog" collars, and we have an electric wire around the bottom of our fence to keep the dogs from digging out. I have run out of ideas on what to do with her. Please, if you could help with this, I would really appreciate your advice. – Runaway Siberians

Dear Runaway: Based on your fact-filled question I think your solution lies not in your training treats but lack of training challenges as well as adequate exercise. According to the [Siberian Husky Club of America \(SHCA\) Website](http://www.siberianhuskyclub.com), “Siberian Huskies have a natural proclivity for digging holes in backyards” and it further states, “Of all the shortcomings to be found in Siberians, the most dangerous to the pet owner is their tremendous desire to **RUN**.” Now, Siberians make great pets if you can properly manage and fulfill their need to dig and run. Let’s devise a plan for you and your dogs.

First off, it’s good to know you have a fenced-in yard and that you have reinforced it. But I would remove those “stubborn dog” collars. I’m not sure exactly sure what yours is, but if they are the type that delivers an electric shock by a remote control from the owner, they can do more harm than good if not used by a highly trained professional dog trainer so please discontinue using them.

Your dogs definitely need more activities to quell their natural instincts to run and dig. You can’t stop dogs from digging, but you can give them their own place to dig with wild abandon. Make them a dig pit in your back yard and check out my suggestions for how to do this in [a previous column](#). Also, find a local trainer and enroll both of them in obedience classes, this will give them some mental challenges as well and reduce boredom to some degree.

Born to Run

Finally, let’s put those dogs and you to work on some long-distance fun. There are several ways to engage Siberians so they can run. You can start with taking them on longer walks several times a day. But ideally you may want to try some more challenging and fun activities like teaching them to be sled dogs, [skijoring](#), or joining hiking parties. You’re in luck because the SHCA offers wonderful programs like the Working Pack Dog and even Sled Dog Degrees. Since you already have two dogs you are off to a good start for Sled Dog training. And according to SHCA, the Working Pack Dog program recognizes the achievements of Siberian Huskies participating in verifiable hiking trips as an active member of the hiking party. Siberian Huskies in this program may compete for two titles: Working Pack Dog (W.P.D.) and Working Pack Dog Excellent (W.P.D.X.). This program would be a great place to start and there is even a [coordinator](#) in your home state of Washington! Network with fellow “Sib” owners through this contact and you will no doubt learn about more ways to keep your dogs happy and well-adjusted.

Dear Lisa: *I have a two-year-old Golden Retriever who loves treats. I go to a meat market weekly for meats and wondered if real meat bones from a meat market are good for dogs to eat. – Meats or Treats*

Dear Meats: There are two schools of thought about whether or not dogs should be allowed to eat bones. One school says they always ate them in the wild and that there is no harm in eating them, provided they are raw. Another school says you should never give dogs any bones cooked, raw or otherwise as they cause more potential harm than good.

Raw Meaty Bones

Many people who feed their dogs a raw diet, sometimes called BARF (Bones and Raw Food) claim bones with meat and some fat left on them are safe for dogs because they are easily digestible and will not splinter like cooked bones. Some of the popular types of bones fed on the raw diet are beef tails or necks from poultry and are usually available from your local butcher. One disadvantage about raw bones is that they can carry bacteria like salmonella or e-coli and can spoil in a few days if not eaten.

Avoid any bones that are already cut into smaller pieces as they pose a more immediate choking hazard. Be aware that any bone may cause a digestive upset in a dog.

Cooked Bones

Cooked, brittle bones are more likely to splinter which may cause fractured teeth and possible perforation of the intestine or throat either on the way down or on the way back up if the dog vomits. Veterinarians also report dogs eating bones run the risk of needing surgery to remove obstructions in the intestines.

Any bone should only be given under supervision so you can monitor if the bone is breaking into dangerously small pieces and the take it away from your dog before any harm is done.

BARK BACK ~

I had a tremendous reader response to my column last month about what type of bones they gives their dogs as well as a great idea for the Siberian Husky owner who wrote in. Here are a few of their suggestions:

Dear Lisa: *I have had Siberians for 39 years. The lady with the problem Siberians is not unusual. Buy a bicycle with an attachment for the dog or check out sled makers who sell scooters that can handle two dogs at once – both are great exercise. A tired Siberian is a good one, however, showing them love and bonding with them is also extremely important. At 74 I still have a bunch of them!* – **Shirly Loves Sibes**

Dear Lisa: *I read your column on a regular basis and like your approach to the questions that are asked. With regard to the bones question, may I suggest that there is another possibility that could be explored - RBBB = Raw Beef Brisket Bones. We are lucky here, because we still have a local butcher shop, and we have a standing order of a Brisket Bone cut up into 14 pieces for our Basenji. With this configuration, she is able to have a bone each day. Because the RBBB leaves no residue and the bone is totally consumed, she has good clean teeth (no bad breath), and her gums and teeth have very little tartar buildup. The only trouble is getting these bones. Most butchers think that they should sell you the thigh bone of a bullock, and that assists in breaking teeth and leaving behind the residue. This is no good for dogs or their owners. You have to work out a relationship with your meat purveyor, and collect the RBBB and put them in your freezer. A couple of minutes in the microwave to defrost the bones, and they are good to serve the dog. The sound of a happy dog gnawing on her bone in the morning is a sure way to happiness for all.*

– **Basenji Believer in Bones**

Dear Lisa: *We also feed raw bones. There are several bones you can feed. The large raw marrow bones do not splinter and the dogs spend hours trying to get the marrow out. Large Beef Rib bones are great. We have two large working German Shepherd Dogs and a Bernese Mountain Dog and they love them!*

– **Big Bones are Best**

Dear Lisa: *I wouldn't give bones to small dogs as there are treats that they can chew on forever. But we found that chews didn't work without Collies. What we use and have found works best on these larger breed dogs is raw marrow bones. There is very little meat or fat on these bones. The bones are generally cut two or more inches in length, so too big to swallow. We have used these for years. My vet has never recommended any dental work because all five Collies have excellent tooth and gum health.*

– **Collie Chewing Fan**

Dear Lisa: *Read your article on real bones. I don't know what to say but I recently had a bad experience with the real bones. I usually get my 6 yr old female Lab a smoked leg or shank bone as a treat at my meat market. She would chew on them and try to get at the marrow. The vet always commented on her teeth being so clean. However, on New Year's weekend a friend brought her a knuckle bone. She chewed on it Saturday and by Sunday morning she didn't eat. When I got home from work Mon afternoon, she wouldn't even get out of bed to see me. I took her to the Vet. She finally came around and is back to her lively self! Anyway the diagnosis was Pancreatitis. All we could come up with was the greasier knuckle bone. The vet thinks it was the bone. X-rays were taken and there was no blockage. Your advice about watch them with the bone is right on. But also limit the bones! – **Beware of Greasy Bones***

Dear Beware: I'm glad to hear your dog is okay! You bring up an excellent point to remember that excessive grease and high amounts of fat can cause pancreatitis, so make sure there is only a small amount of fat on any raw bone and always give bones in moderation and under supervision.

Dear Lisa: *I would like to know if there is anything that I can add to my Lab's diet that would slow down his terrible shedding. I keep him in my home most of the time and I am constantly vacuuming and sweeping up white dog hair! I heard a Lab sheds over 70 pounds of hair per year? I think that is a low figure. I have tried castor oil (gives him the runs) and he loves it when I use the upholstery attachment on him and vacuum him. He wags his tail while he is searching for the treats in my pocket that he gets afterwards. Hope you have some advice. He is 8-month-old and in great health. – **Shedding Some Light***

Dear Shedding: Seasonal shedding is always a problem for those of us owners with double-coated breeds and now that the days are getting longer, the added sunshine has triggered the "big winter coat blow." Just as there are certain times of year that are worse than others there are also certain times in a dog's lifecycle that can be equally problematic. Your question has given me an important clue – your puppy's age. It sounds like he may be shedding his puppy coat for that adult coat which may also cause copious amounts of hair temporarily.

Vacuuming your dog

There are a variety of products on the market aimed at reducing shedding in pill form, sort of like anti-shedding supplements. These products appear to be a mix of healthy oils, vitamins and minerals. You may want to try some of these. Also, I would recommend that perhaps you switch your dog to a palatable oil, such as a fish oil like salmon, and in smaller dosages which might prevent the issue with the castor oil. Before adding a new supplement or drastically changing your dog's diet, please consult with your veterinarian. A healthy shiny coat will be less likely to shed year round. Daily brushing will also help keep the coat healthier, improve skin circulation and reduce shedding.

As for vacuuming, unfortunately, you will have to vacuum either the dog or the floor. But there are dog specific vacuums that are easier to use with better attachments than your household model. My favorite is the Metro Air Force Blaster BC-3 Canister Vacuum Cleaner. You can get models that are not only a vacuum but also can be used as a blower for drying your dog after bathing, which also helps reduce shedding if done with very warm water to help remove dead coat.

Lisa Peterson, a long-time owner/breeder/handler of Norwegian Elkhounds, is the AKC Director of Club Communications. If you have a question, send it to Lisa at lxp@akc.org and she may select it for a future column. Due to the high volume of questions we cannot offer individual responses. Read previous columns [here](#).

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Crufts

Cross posted with permission, from veterinarian Dr. Marty Greer

<http://www.naiaonline.org/articles/article/crufts-lost-opportunities>

Last year, the Kennel Club announced it was ushering in big changes for 2012, the most noted being new judging criteria, where a veterinarian can overrule a dog show judge, taking away the breed win and eliminating that dog from representing his or her breed in the group ring. As a veterinarian who works with dedicated purebred breeders

<<http://www.naiaonline.org/articles/article/do-nine-out-of-ten-breeders-really-suck>>, I cautioned against such an approach

<<http://naia.typepad.com/naia/2011/01/crufts-follow-up.html>>, and consider the recent decisions at Crufts both disappointing and harmful.

The Kennel Club says that the objective for this new policy is to improve canine health and protect the sport of dog showing, and no one disagrees that it should be promoting good health in dogs. But whether implemented in an honest attempt to improve breed health, or as a misguided public relations ploy, these policy changes have failed on both levels. As predicted, they have done little to placate the critics of purebred dogs and conformation shows; the only major success has been in alienating its own exhibitors and breeders.

Carts Before Horses

For exhibitors who think veterinary screenings at dog shows are appropriate, much of the outrage over the veterinary inspections could have been avoided if the veterinarians simply performed their inspections prior to the breed judging. The public display of yanking away a breed win with no specific statement of the alleged defect not only fosters uncertainty, it is embarrassing and frustrating to the owner, judge, breeders, and the sport.

Of course, such an approach would have required many more dogs to undergo veterinary inspection. But if the true goal is to "improve canine health", why not inspect them all? This could have been an educational opportunity for owners to learn what constitutes a disqualifying fault at least under that particular veterinarian on that particular day and an opportunity to screen the health of all dogs within the breed. As is, the policy is inflammatory, and sets everyone up for failure. Instead of 'protecting the sport of dog showing,' it gave the sport and those involved a black eye.

On top of putting the cart before the horse, the inaccessibility of comments explaining why individual dogs were disqualified further fanned the flames of rumor and outrage. In many livestock and dog judging events, judges are required to provide verbal or written comments to support their decision. Why not at Crufts? If the policy allowed for objective and fair criteria, there would have been no reason not to share the reasons for disqualification with the world. Again, an opportunity for education lost.

Arbitrary Guidelines

The clinical signs selected by the Kennel Club were described as those that required only a "veterinary visual observation and opinion at the time and for the purpose of establishing whether the dog is fit for function in continuing on to the group competition on the day." The general guidelines list four areas the veterinarians should look for clinical signs:

- * externally visible eye disease
- * lameness
- * dermatological disorders
- * respiratory distress

These guidelines sound fine on the surface. But problems are easily noted on closer inspection. First, the guidelines don't have uniform application. The Chow Chow, Clumber Spaniel, Mastiff, Neapolitan Mastiff, Shar-Pei and Saint Bernard are not allowed to

have had "clear evidence of eyelid surgery;" is that an implication that other breeds are allowed to have had eyelid surgery and still be allowed to show without disqualification? And why is the Chow Chow's clear evidence of eyelid surgery including tacking a "MAJOR" disqualifying conformational defect, while it is not major in other breeds?

Is it possible to determine on visual inspection that the scar or ulcer on the cornea is caused by face folds, distichiasis, ectopic cilia or poor eyelid anatomy and not from trauma in the garden, or that visible hair loss or scar is from dermatitis and not from some other cause such as trauma unrelated to dermatitis?

The Basset Hound, one of the 15 "high profile" breeds required to undergo veterinary exams at Crufts

And what to make of 'free of signs of discomfort or suffering associated with exaggerated conformation'? These are very subjective criteria, with no easy way to measure what 'discomfort' or 'suffering' means. If these are the specific conditions the Kennel Club is choosing to eliminate, wouldn't it make more sense to have the dogs pre-screened by a veterinary expert with appropriate equipment and objective guidelines prior to the day of the show?

Requiring exhibitors to file appropriate supporting health screening paperwork prior to exhibiting would go a lot farther toward enhancing health in the selected breeds of dogs.

It is clear that the Kennel Club chose disorders that were 'hot button' issues and not health concerns that had true science behind the screening tests or health priorities. The guidelines targeted characteristics that set these high profile breeds apart from others for now. They targeted the extreme appearances that make these breeds what they are unique in their appearance.

Who Watches the Watchers?

The published policy does not indicate how the veterinarians are selected and what their qualifications are.

If I were a competitor, I would want to know who the veterinarians selected are and how they were determined to be qualified to ensure the dogs allowed to go forward were 'free of signs of discomfort or suffering associated with exaggerated conformation.' Having a veterinary degree does not mean the veterinarian is qualified to make these far-reaching decisions. The published provisions for training veterinarians to provide this service to the fancy seem to have the potential to be loosely applied.

As a competitor, I know who my conformation judge is. Shouldn't we also know who has been deemed qualified to overrule conformation judges, the judges who have had to meet guidelines that determine they have the experience and knowledge to make breed win decisions?

The application and institution of this policy at Crufts has been a wake up call to dog fanciers in other countries, as shown by the emergence of groups like The Canine Alliance <<https://www.facebook.com/CanineAlliance>> and Exhibitor's Choice & Voice <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/346236658750734/>>. Rather than complacently watch the harsh application of this process of having our breed standards hijacked by the pressure of public opinion, this should be our opportunity as breeders, exhibitors and buyers to take back our dogs. If this is the best idea The Kennel Club can come up with to 'improve canine health and protect the sport of dog showing,' then we are all in serious trouble, and it is now up to us, as dedicated breed enthusiasts, to step up and save our sport before it is too late.

Permission to Cross post

Warmly

Marty Greer DVM, JD

NAIA President

Veterinary Village

www.veterinaryvillage.com <<http://www.veterinaryvillage.com/>>

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Find me on facebook at <http://www.Facebook.com/home.php?#!/martygreer1>

The best doctor in the world is the veterinarian. He can't ask his patients

what is the matter-he's got to just know.

Will Rogers US humorist & showman (1879 1935)

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