



## The Lancaster Kennel Club - Newsletter -

**President's Message:** Welcome 2016! I hope this will be a wonderful year for the Lancaster Kennel Club and for each and every one of you in our family! You should have received your new LKC Roster by now. Please read your entry carefully to be sure that it is correct and let Dave Martin know if you have any changes or up-dates not previously given to us. Dave did a great job of pulling this together.

We start off the New Year with our first Membership Meeting on February 10, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room above Kohl's at Park City Center. I am pleased that Dr. Judith Shoemaker will join us to talk about Nutrition Part 1 - What is it. And then she will join us again for Nutrition Part 2 – "What to look for" at our Membership Meeting on April 13, 2016. For those of you who attended her presentation on toenails and the importance of keeping them trimmed, you can tell everyone else what a delightful interactive speaker she is, as well as being a holistic veterinarian. Hope you will join us for this learning opportunity.

At the Board of Director's meeting, your BOD voted to make a \$1,000 contribution to the Lancaster County Sheriff's K-9 Unit to help them replace funds spent in training and vetting their new dog, Edik, who is handled by Deputy David Cole. Sgt. Dave Bolton will be on hand to receive the check at our meeting.

We, of course, have our first major show coming up – the Celtic Classic Dog Shows on March 16 to 20 at the York Expo Center. We are looking for volunteers to help all five days – even if you can just give us an hour or two – please let Cindy Erb-Starkey ([cjestarkey@msn.com](mailto:cjestarkey@msn.com) or 717.938.9912) know if you will volunteer. We need people in the big arena for the conformation shows all five days and in Obedience and Rally on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is very important that we support this event by showing our colors all five days. You can also volunteer to help set up on Tuesday afternoon and breakdown on Sunday afternoon.

We have printed the up-coming events schedule in this issue so you will see what is coming up. Other close events are the Shop for a Cause and Sheriff's K9 Motorcycle Ride. Both are a lot of fun and give us a chance to show off our dogs. We are also reinstituting the SWAP SHOP where you can let everyone know whether you have an item to sell or if you are looking for an item. Please let Barry Brunner know your wants and needs. And also let Barry know your Wags 'N' Brags. There are some exciting new things coming up this year so stay tuned to future newsletters and join us at the meetings.

Ann B.

Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc  
General Membership Meeting

**December 12, 2015  
Lancaster Country Club**

1. Call to Order by President Ann Byrne @ 8:00 PM
  - a. Present: Candace Boyd, Jim Bullitt, Sue Bullitt, Ann Byrne, Pete Byrne, Danna Deimler, Amy Dieter, Deb Eckert, Joy Ellwanger, Bernie Ferry, Diane Hawthorne, Bill Hawthorne, Hank Hillard, Billee Herdwig, Tom Herr, Dave Martin, Rachel Martin, Sandi Maxwell, Al Means, Patti Means, Richard Powell, Sue Powell, Dan Quinn, Marsha Quinn, April Senseney, Susan Shirk, Karen Simpson, Penny Sleeth, Marc Sleeth, Lexi Schlott, Mary Lou Strayer, Deb Wolf, Al Wolfe
  - b. Guests: Linda Bellile, Mary Blakinger, Mike Clare, Jim Mosca
2. Secretary's Report - Dave Martin
  - a. October Minutes posted to web site. Motion to approve by Bernie Ferry, second by Pete Byrne. Unanimously approved.
  - b. Correspondence – Thank You note received from Jessica Mitchell, one of our scholarship recipients.
3. Treasurer's Report - Sue Bullitt – No issues to date with transfer of Susquehanna to BB&T.
4. AKC Delegate's Report – No Report – Meeting was December 11.
5. Committee and Event Reports
  - a. Celtic Classic – Richard and Susan Powell – Timeline on track. There is an increase in specialties this year. All items have been submitted to Rau including the first draft of the premium. Plea from Richard for LKC to pull our weight in this cluster and increase the trophies and volunteers we provide. Jim Bullitt commented about volunteering on our day, which is Thursday or any of the 5 days. Comment from Anne Byrne that LKC needs a bigger presence in the Conformation area. Contact Cindy Erb-Starkey to help. She will be sending out all calls for volunteers. Joy Ellwanger asked if there will be a Best Junior Handler of the cluster on the last day. Richard will take this back to the committee.
6. Old Business – Nothing at this time
7. New Business –
  - a. Membership Proposals. Second reading for both Linda Bellile and Mary Blakinger. Motion to accept both by Bernie Ferry, second by Candace Boyd. Both voted in unanimously.
  - b. Agility Trial – Mike Logan from Lanco Fieldhouse made an unsolicited contact to Ann about hosting upcoming shows. An ad hoc committee chaired by Dave Martin made a site visit on 11/22. Mary Lou Strayer could not make that date but made a separate visit. Discussion of Committee's and Mary Lou's findings will take place at January 4 Board of Director's meeting @ Lancaster Liederkrantz @ 7 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Adjournment @ 8:23. Motion by Richard Powell and second by Marsha Quinn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Martin

**Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 4, 2016  
Lancaster Liederkrantz**

8. Call to Order by President Ann Byrne @ 7:07 PM

- a. Present: Ann Byrne, Pete Byrne, Barry Brunner, Sue Bullitt, Bernie Frey, Mary Hartman, Harold Hartman, Diane Hawthorne, Tom Herr, Kim Hess, Dave Martin, Sandi Maxwell, Deb Radanovic, Mary Lou Strayer, Lori Wright
  - b. Guests: Karen Sage
- 9. Secretary's Report - Dave Martin
  - a. November BOD Minutes. Motion to approve by Mary Hartman, second by Sue Bullitt. Unanimously approved.
  - b. Correspondence - Bank related materials, bill for PO Box for year and materials relating to insurance.
  - c. 2016 Rosters finished and at UPS for printing. Will be picked up on 1/5 and in mail by end of week.
  - d. New updated electronic roster uploaded to AKC for their use in email blasts.
  - e. Received letter from AKC re judges for Red Rose Classic. Mary Hartman is handling. Deadline to submit is January 22.
  - f. In the process of contacting AKC to find out how to submit publicity for their use.
- 10. Treasurer's Report - Sue Bullitt
  - a. Current Balance – Expenses in last month ~ \$7000. Includes December Meeting Dinner Bill, equipment purchased from Shetland Club and annual financial review. Approximately \$ 200 in income from dues and interest.
  - b. Insurance – Sue is still investigating renewal of insurance. Looking to investigate how much it will cost to cover level of what AKC recommends.
  - c. Discussion arose about the excess stuff in the storage barn. Suggestion made to offer to club members first and then perhaps put on Craig's list. Additional suggestion made to reinstitute the "Swap Box" in the newsletter.
  - d. Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Mary Hartman. Second by Harold Hartman. Unanimously approved.
- 11. Committee and Event Reports
  - a. Celtic Classic – Premium List approved on Lancaster Side. First rough draft returned and since amended. Second payment is due January 15. The final payment is due end of January. Purina is sponsoring the show. Runs from Wednesday, March 16 – Sunday, March 20. The 17<sup>th</sup> is LKC's Day. Volunteers will be needed for all days. Dave Martin will post information on websites that offer free local publicity.
  - b. Red Rose Classic – Mary Hartman stated judges are contacted. Awaiting final replies. Also waiting for letter from Lebanon KC for AKC Approval. A question arose on whether a contract has been signed with Rau. Mary will confirm or put contract in place. Volunteers will be needed. Dave Martin will work on publicity. Decision made to stick with free publicity to reduce costs. ~ \$1200 spent to run ads in Lancaster and Lebanon papers last year and they are probably not pulling in the traffic to cover the costs. Deb Radonovic and Penny Sleeth are working on trophies. Decision made to raise cost of entry \$1.00.
- 12. Old Business
  - a. Newsletter – Barry will get out before February meeting.
  - b. Listserv for club communication and newsletter - Ann has several contacts to pursue about getting this set up.
  - c. Meeting Programs - Dr. Judith Shoemaker is scheduled for February and April 2016 speaking on the topic of nutrition.
  - d. Red Rose – Multi Day Event – Update on search for partners. Bernie Frey has continued to be in touch with Lebanon KC. They are still stuck on seeing the financials. Little headway made with them since this process started in September. Suggestion made to contact Berks. Barry Brunner suggested contacting Valley Forge KC. Karen Sage, in attendance stated that the

King's Cavalier Club would like to do a supported entry this year. Would also like to pursue doing a match on Saturday with the potential to do a Specialty Show next year.

### 13. New Business

- a. Membership
  - i. Second Reading - Brigitte Goodwin. Lori Wright made a motion to move on to General Membership. Kim Hess seconded.
- b. Ann Byrne discussed her contact with Sgt. David Bolton re the need for a bullet proof vest for the new K-9 dog, Edik. Ann proposed that \$1000 be donated to support their cause. Lori Wright made a motion. Deb Radanovic seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Consideration of using Lanco Fieldhouse for Agility Trial. Note – currently signed contract for 2016. If this would happen, it would not be until 2017. Mary Lou Strayer received a price from Mike Logan that would make it \$ 1900 more than “In The Net”. Ann Byrne had a price of \$3750 from Mike Logan. Comparison of parking spaces, In The net has 237 and Lanco has 265. Ad hoc committee chaired by Mike Logan visited the site on 11/22. Mary Lou could not make that date and visited separately and prepared an extensive report on her findings. Hard copy of that report is attached. Extensive discussion on pros and cons of moving the venue and the venue itself. Discussion tabled for now and will continue as more details and investigation occurs.

Adjournment @ 8:37. Motion by Harold Hartman and Barry Brunner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Martin

## 2015 LKC Scholarship Recipients

**Jessica Mitchell:** Jessica is from Lititz and is the recipient of the \$4,000.00 veterinary scholarship. She is a Penn State graduate and the PVMA (PA Veterinary Medical Association) student representative for the Class of 2017. Jessica volunteers at the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) where she assists in surgeries, conducts physical exams, and administers vaccines and medications.. For the past five summers, she has worked at the Manheim Pike Veterinary Hospital. Jessica owns a greyhound and is looking forward to doing lure coursing.

**Evan Brinkman:** Evan is from Etters and attending YTI (York Technical Institute). He received a \$1,500.00 scholarship. Evan has worked at the Columbia Animal Hospital as a kennel and vet assistant. He also shadowed at Zoo America and the Philadelphia Zoo. Evan has a keen eye for animal behavior and has volunteered at The Harrisburg Humane Society training simple commands to dogs so that they would have a better chance of being adopted.

**Chelsea Gieringer:** Chelsea is from Oley and attends Lehigh Carbon Community College. She received a \$1,500.00 scholarship toward earning a degree in Veterinary Technology. She has worked at the Humane Society of Berks County as a vet assistant and kennel tech. She enjoys rehabilitating dogs so that they could get adopted and someday wants to open a shelter of

her own. Her ultimate goal is to specialize in either oncology or neurology and work in a large specialty practice.

Congratulations to ALL three recipients and we wish you well in your endeavors!

Submitted by: Joy Ellwanger, Chair of the LKC Scholarship Committee

**Kudos to our LKC Member Joy Ellwanger for her interview in a recent e-newsletter from the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical**

**Member Spotlight: Joy Ellwanger, CVT**

**Where do you work and what do you do?**

I am employed by Penn State University in the College of Medicine at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA. I am the Animal OR Coordinator which entails maintaining three surgical suits and a radiology unit. I assist veterinarians, doctors, professional investigators (PIs), and other technicians in lab animal research with their surgeries and other procedures. I also maintain our drug inventories from purchasing to disposal.

**Tell us about your involvement with PVMA.**

I have been supportive and involved with the PVMA for many years. I value professional organizations such as VTAAP and PVTA when they existed. My favorite events are the PA Farm Show Booth and when we used to do Ag Progress Days. I enjoy talking to people about our profession and answering their questions. The past two years, I have taken my junior handler, Lexi, and one or two of the dogs for her to demonstrate handling and training techniques as this becomes a crowd pleaser. I always attend the Keystone Veterinary Conference and am ready to help as a moderator for a session. I served on the Scientific Program Committee a few years back, and currently, I am the Technician At-Large on the PVMA Board of Directors.

**Where did you go to school and when did you become a CVT?**

I attended Biscayne Paramedical Institute in Miami, FL from 1973 to 1975 graduating with an Associate Degree in Applied Science for Veterinary Technology. At that time, Harcum College was the only veterinary technology program in Pennsylvania and Delhi at SUNY was over-crowded with students. When I was in high school, my guidance counselors told me that there was no such profession as veterinary technology until I shared my information that I received from the AVMA.

**What is your top challenge in being a CVT?**

The terminology of a veterinary technician. Many years ago in the early 1980s, I represented veterinary technicians in the state of PA by giving testimony to our legislatures as to the importance of veterinary technicians (we were called Animal Health Technicians at the time) and to recognize us as trained, knowledgeable individuals which brought about the certification process in PA. For three years, veterinary technicians were grandfathered and allowed to sit for the NVTE, after that, only those veterinary technicians who had graduated from an AVMA approved/accredited program could sit for the national exam and become certified in the state of PA. These individuals should be identified as CVTs or veterinary technicians. Many veterinarians or veterinary hospitals identify their staff having veterinary technicians who are not educated in the field. These non-certified individuals are veterinary assistants. Someday, I would like to see it mandatory that all veterinary hospitals/facilities will have at least one certified veterinary technician (CVT) on staff in the state of PA.

**How has your veterinary knowledge from being a CVT helped you in breeding and showing dogs?**

Being a CVT has immensely helped me in the show ring from detecting lameness in a dog's movement, examining bites in both young and adult dogs, knowing that a yeast infection may be brewing in a dog's ear, and just doing basic nail trimming so that a dog may stand erect. From the breeding aspect, I learned to read vaginal cytology slides and have artificially inseminated my own bitches with the help of Repro veterinarians. I considered myself very fortunate to have Dr. Meryl Littman work personally with me on Buster, one of my favorite Wheaten Terriers, when he became

very sick at the age of 12.5 years from protein-losing disease. One of the greatest assets is understanding animal behavior and knowing how to interpret puppy behaviors. I like to challenge my puppies with various games and experiences so that their new owners have a well-balanced and socialized dog.

## SOS: Save Our Shows

# Why AKC all-breed shows are not flourishing as they ought to and what needs to be done about it.

By [Bo Bengtson](#) | Posted: January 16, 2015 11 a.m. PST

The first time I heard someone suggest that perhaps the days of purebred dogs and dog shows are over, I didn't take it seriously. It was just a few years ago, and although there were signs of discontent among many dog people even then, I took this simply for an urge to complain, which is one of the most common denominators among dog people. Not just dog people, of course, but I sometimes wonder if we are not a little too easily inclined to find fault with what we are doing, much as we love it. (You may say that as the writer of this article I fall into that category, too. You have a point, but what I'm trying to do is offer some positive suggestions to a very real problem.)

The past year has shown that there were, in fact, reasons for concern. Entries are falling, the dog fancy is graying, clubs have trouble finding people to help organize their shows, future events are in danger of being canceled, purebred dogs and breeding in general are under constant attack from many sides, and otherwise upbeat and cheerful people are expressing grave concerns about the future.

The fact is that most AKC all-breed dog shows as they exist today do not have much to offer people who are looking for a pleasant way to spend a weekend with their dogs. If you are a newcomer, why would you spend money to be rudely treated and have almost no chance of winning anything of substance, having your dog cursorily examined by a stressed-out judge who will have neither the time nor the wish to tell you what's wrong with your dog — so you leave as befuddled as you were before? For those of us who have been around a few years, what pleasure is there in seeing the same small, uninspiring entry compete week after week, especially when we know that our breed is most likely judged by someone who really neither cares nor knows much about it beyond showmanship and, of course, who the much-advertised top specials are?

And if you're looking at things from most judges' perspectives, the scene isn't exactly rosy either: Why would you want to advance in your judging career when AKC makes you feel like "a child, an idiot or a criminal, or all three at the same time," as one judge put it? The end result is that a small number of overworked all-rounders judge far too often, while those who are approved for just a few breeds get almost no opportunities at all.

Finally, if you are also a breeder, why would you continue to devote all that never-ending, thankless work on something that is targeted by the general public as an unethical, morally compromised activity? I have a friend who bred her first two litters out of well-bred champion bitches but got such a hard time from her mostly non-doggy friends that she is never going to breed another puppy ever again. That happens far more often than it should.

### A Life Without Dog Shows

Is the above too harsh? Perhaps now's the time to tell you how much I love dog shows and almost everything about the sport of purebred dogs. After more than 50 years of involvement, I find it all as fascinating as I did as a kid — perhaps even more so because I have learned to appreciate so many different aspects of an activity I frankly can't quite imagine life without. At the base of it all is the love of dogs, of course: They certainly don't have to be purebred for us to love them, but there's no question that the variety of breeds, and the predictability that comes with that, is a huge and very rational reason for the existence of purebreds. Tell that to the people who feel that dog shows are simply a "snob sport."

I actually wonder how much the word "purebred" has hurt both us and the dogs. No dogs are of really "pure" breeding to begin with — they all started as mutts and developed into breeds, usually decades or centuries ago, after a selection process that had to do more with usefulness than anything else. The word "purebred" is pretty offensive when you think about it, today even more than in the past, and I wish we could come up with a better term.

**Like most real dog people, I am interested in almost every breed there is. Give me a big entry, a judge whose procedure I can follow, a catalog and someone sitting next to me who is willing to answer questions, and I'll be happy watching for hours, regardless of the breed. You see people like that at every big specialty and at Westminster, so intent on what's going on in the ring that we nearly forget where we are, and heaven help any outsider who interrupts with some irrelevant comment..."The first**

**thing we — especially AKC — must do is make sure that the image of purebred dogs is overhauled."**

Not that I'm unaware of the charms of the social scene at dog shows, either. It seems to be the main attraction for many dog people, and I guess there's nothing wrong with that. Dog shows can be a fascinating mixture of people who have something in common regardless of age, race, gender or social background. Watching the maneuvering among the different cliques is something you don't have to be a dog person to find fascinating. It helps a lot if you know who the players are, though.

Showing a beautiful dog in the ring, judging a big class of good dogs, whelping a litter of puppies and raising them from day one until you can begin to believe that your early hopes might be fulfilled — it's all endlessly rewarding. And let's face it, you get a rush from taking a big win, and getting a call that a dog you bred did spectacularly well on some distant shore gives tremendous satisfaction. Even the losses spur you on to do better the next time. Sooner or later you realize that most of your friends are, in fact, dog people. You have, in other words, become a show dog lifer.

So what's the problem? Why is this wonderful activity not flourishing as it ought to? Why are so many people pessimistic about the current state of the sport, and even more so about the future? Why have AKC's registration figures taken such a nosedive that we are not even allowed to know how many — or few — there are anymore? (In 1992 AKC registered more than 1.5 million puppies, more than twice the total for 2008, which is the last year I have an official figure for. It is rumored that in the past five years, registrations have once again dropped to about a quarter of what they used to be, but nobody really knows — or, rather, those who know aren't telling.)

Dog show entries are holding up a little better than registrations, at least partly because we have so many more shows today than there used to be, especially specialty shows. Even the all-breed shows are on occasion so small, however, that the average breed entry can be counted on the fingers of one hand, with something to spare. How can there be any meaningful breed judging under such circumstances?

Here's what I think needs to be done to turn things around.

### 1. The Image Problem

The first thing we — especially AKC — must do is make sure that the image of purebred dogs is overhauled. You do not buy a purebred dog because you're a snob or it's a status symbol. You get a purebred dog because it's the sensible thing to do. You want to know as far as possible in advance what a family member who's going to live with you for at least 10 to 15 years is going to be like when it grows up: size, type of coat, whether it barks a lot, what kind of temperament and activity level you can expect, and so on.

Needless to say, AKC must send out a consistent message that good purebred dogs are bred by conscientious hobby breeders (especially Breeders of Merit, I suppose) — not by commercial mass producers of puppies. The fact that AKC on the one hand frequently makes it clear that pet shops and commercial breeders are not desirable, and then with the other hand supports these very same operations is a weakness that could ultimately destroy the entire dog sport.

### 2. The Shows

When dog shows first started to become really popular as a hobby in the 1970s, AKC ought to have stopped the indiscriminate proliferation of dog shows. We had too many shows even in the past when the economy was better and the average dog show had well over 1,000 dogs; with shrinking entries, there is just no way that exhibitors can support as many shows as we now have. Many of them are, as mentioned earlier, so small that breed judging is basically irrelevant, and judges at these shows must be able to judge at least a couple of Groups, preferably three or four, for the club to afford them.

Many would, of course, say that it's simply a matter of survival of the fittest, but the small shows fill a niche and are needed in many areas. So what to do? Here's my suggestion: AKC should simply allow one or a couple of shows in each region (we already have the AKC points regions, remember?) to organize what could be called Regional or State Championships or something similar. Five-point majors would be guaranteed in each breed, the title of State Champion and Junior State Champion (or something similar) would be offered to the winners, and I could foresee a future when a dog needs to have

won at one of these shows to become a champion. State Championships would also of course be ideal places for purebred dog promotion, for judges' and breeders' seminars, etc.

Don't tell me that dog people wouldn't support something like this or be willing to travel a couple of hours extra to get there. Why do national specialties in many breeds attract entries in the hundreds? (As reported in just one single issue of this magazine, August 2014, there were 229 Vizslas, 509 Whippets, 93 Leonbergers, 384 Newfoundlands, 386 Bernese Mountain Dogs, 367 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, 151 Schipperkes, 497 Poodles, 286 Tervurens, 348 Cardigan Welsh Corgis, 676 [Shetland Sheepdogs](#) and 570 Collies at each of these breeds' respective national specialty.) Certainly all these exhibitors don't expect to win; they come because a national specialty is an event, in the true sense of the word. If AKC succeeded in making some kind of all-breed State Championships as popular as the best national specialties are, everything else that could help improve the dog sport would follow. With big entries, it's possible to have specialist judges, and with more confident judges, there's better and less "predictable" judging. The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship was a brilliant idea that has become a little tarnished with time. Let existing clubs who want to add a State Championship title to their shows deal with the organization on their own, and watch the show scene come alive again.

### 3. The Point Rankings

Someone, and by someone I really mean AKC, has to take a stand and offer a prestigious alternative to the current insanity that makes it necessary for a dog to be shown 100 to 150 times or more, and for a small (or not-so-small) fortune to be spent on year-long campaigns, in order to reach the top of the rankings chart.

"Because of the large number and generally small size of the shows, we are in  
dire need of individuals who are authorized to judge many more  
breeds and Groups than they currently do."

Nobody's saying that the top dogs aren't deserving of their wins. In fact, in 2014 it seemed most people agreed that we were blessed to have a couple of truly outstanding specimens in the lead. That does not alter the fact that it ought to be possible to reach the top without quite as much expenditure in time and money as is currently the case. It's not good for the dogs or the handlers, and I don't think a top dog award was ever really meant to be a reward for the dog being able to hit as many dog shows as possible.

If it's too much to expect any of the dog publications to start a trend, it ought to be possible for AKC to do so. Almost any form of limitation would be great. Let's say only a dog's top 25 or 50 show results each season count. Or only wins at shows with more than 1,000 dogs or 2,000 dogs count. Or, following the suggestion above, State Championship show wins count extra. No matter what you do, there will be criticism — but I'm also pretty sure that almost every dog person who cares about the sport would welcome some form of limits.

### 4. The Exhibitors

Those of us who appreciate the finer things in dog shows would no doubt enjoy the bigger entries and more authoritative judging that State Championships would be able to offer. There would also be a lot more for a casual spectator to watch. However, the novice exhibitor might get lost in the crowd. We need special events, perhaps held in conjunction with regular shows but separate from the regular judging, where those who wish can take their dog, pay an entry fee that's slightly higher for a judge who will not be rushed and may also offer a verbal and/or written critique of their dog. It would be hugely educational, even entertaining, not just for the exhibitor but also for spectators — even the judge. It's surprising to me that such "critique shows" don't already exist in the US in view of how popular the written critiques are at FCI shows in Europe.

Trust me, it would not just be new exhibitors who want to have their dogs critiqued. The opposite end of the spectrum, the serious breeders, would also support these shows as a way to introduce youngsters to a dog show environment without stress, and to learn something — although in their cases it would probably be more about learning how knowledgeable a judge is from listening to the critiques than anything else.

### 5. The Judges

I don't think AKC has any idea of how upset a large majority of the judges are by the way they are treated by the organization that decides just what they can and cannot judge. Naturally you don't want to bite the hand that feeds you, so most judges keep quiet about how they feel. Since I no longer judge AKC shows, I do not have any such qualms, but I had no idea I would hit a nerve when I wrote about my own experiences in this area last year (see [DogsInReview.com/JudgesApproval](#) to read the articles). Among the more than 100 judges who wrote to me after the articles were published were many of the best-known names in the sport, including at least four former BIS judges at Westminster. In other words, we're not talking about a small group of whiny failures. The stories were both sad and upsetting. You would think that so many judges of such stature would not be treated as rudely as they have been, but the facts are clear. The result has been that very few of them wish to expand their repertoire to include more breeds.

At the same time, of course, because of the large number and generally small size of the shows, we are in dire need of individuals who are authorized to judge many more breeds and Groups than they currently do. As I have pointed out before, the US has a much lower ratio of all-rounders than any other country in the world with a similar show system. In the long run, this just won't work; that it functions at all now must be largely due to the fact that AKC allows judges with just one



Group's approval to award BIS, and also lets foreign visitors judge here with qualifications that would be unacceptable for an American. (One foreign judge has stated that he got his first dog in 1983 and was licensed to judge all breeds by 1992. If he lived in the US, he would be lucky to be approved for any breed at that stage.)

What is needed is, first, an attitude change. On occasion AKC has stated in print that our judges are the "best in the world." If that is the case, it's time for AKC to show it. Even more importantly, the requirements for approval to judge need to be consistent and objective. Once a prospective judge has passed a standardized test on AKC rules and the applicable breed standards, he or she should be approved to judge, with the sole proviso that he or she also needs to demonstrate sufficiently clear ring procedure. (I'm not sure how that can be set up to avoid any suspicion of favoritism or subjectivity, but I suppose that's unavoidable.)

#### The True Fans

All in all, it would be a good idea for the driving forces within the AKC to focus on trying to make the sport of purebred dogs as attractive as possible for those of us who love it and are willing to devote more time, money and enthusiasm on it if we are encouraged to do so. If in fact it is correct, as the AKC Chairman has said, that AKC has a much bigger "true fan base" than the New York Yankees, the Mets or a corporation like Google, does that really matter unless those figures translate into increased registrations and show entries? I'm not so sure.

#### An Update

This article was written prior to a surprise email sent out to many dog fanciers by AKC Chairman Alan Kalter, seeking feedback on what was called a "New Proposed Judges Approval Process." I have no idea how many fanciers were contacted, but despite the fact that the email contained four documents (24 pages in all) demanding serious study and consideration, Mr. Kalter in a follow-up thank-you email in late November reported that AKC received more than 800 "constructive, insightful and thought-provoking" responses.

Personally I found both the positive tone of the proposal and most of the practical suggestions extremely encouraging. (In fact, several readers of my previous articles called or wrote to ask if I am in some way involved in the new proposal, which of course is not at all the case.) Acknowledging that there is a serious shortage of multi-Group judges is a big step: that 27 percent of the judges adjudicate 80 percent of the entries is a clear sign that change is necessary. To quote the proposal further: "Clubs are finding it harder ... to staff all-breed shows with the requisite Group judges due to limited number of Groups approved ... Exhibitors are ... tired of seeing the same faces judging month after month at their local shows ... Many highly qualified [judges] are choosing ... not to seek ... additional breeds due to the uncertainty and subjective nature of the current policy."

It's too early to say what changes will be implemented. Most people I have heard from greeted the AKC proposal with enthusiasm, but I know there is also strong opposition in some quarters. I'm not quite sure why, but it almost makes one feel sorry for those in the AKC responsible for dealing with this. Whatever they do, there's always one group or another that seems to oppose change.

*From the January 2015 issue of Dogs in Review magazine. [Subscribe](#) to receive 12 months of [Dogs in Review](#) magazine, or call 1-888-738-2665 to purchase a single copy.*

## \*\*\*\*\* CLUB INFORMATION \*\*\*\*\*

**SHOP FOR A CAUSE – APRIL 16, 2016 – PARK CITY CENTER**

**SHERIFF'S K9 MOTORCYCLE RIDE FUNDRAISER – JUNE 12, 2016 – LANCASTER COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING FACILITY**

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**Treasurer's Report:** - The Treasurer reports will continue to be in the Members Only area.

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**A full listing of show events can be found at:**

1. AKC <http://www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm>
  2. Rau Dog Shows <http://www.raudogshows.com>
  3. MBF <http://www.infodog.com>
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Editor's Message

As always ... thanks to each of you for your submissions and thoughts for our LKC's Newsletter in 2015. We will have exciting events as always coming up through the end of 2016 ... please remember to send me interesting articles you feel your fellow club members might enjoy, show brags, or any suggestions for our upcoming LKC Newsletter Issues (BBrun98819@aol.com).

Barry Brunner

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**Look for upcoming Items which will be listed here for our \*\*\* SWAP SHOP \*\*\*.** Many of us have items we no longer use which are just collecting dust in our attic or other storage areas. Should members have "Dog Items" they would like to sell or swap they can be listed here by sending a description of the item with your contact information.

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