



AKC PARENT CLUB BREEDER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Questionnaire

BREED HISTORY

- 1** Could you give us a brief history of the Briard? For what was the breed developed and how has it progressed over the years?
- 2** How would you describe Briard temperament?
- 3** In your opinion, how would you describe the ideal home for a Briard? How are they with children?
- 4** Which breeders of the past/present do you admire?
- 5** Did you read books to learn more about Briards? If so, please name a few of your favorite ones.
- 6** Other than a dog you were associated with, would you name three of the best Briards you've ever seen and what their greatest assets are/were?
- 7** Are Briards a breed of preservation or a breed of evolving, (developmental) phenotype?
(For example, the earlier big winners in breeds such as Poodles, Dobermans, Cocker Spaniels etc. compared to the ones we now commonly see.)

PERSONAL HISTORY

- 1** How many years have you been breeding Briards? How many litters have you had? Are you still breeding? When was your last litter?
- 2** Would you like to share some of the achievements of your breeding program and those that *<insert kennel name>* have sired?
- 3** What would you consider your biggest success to date in your breeding/showing career?
- 4** Do you feel you have achieved all your aims for breeding and showing or is there something else that you feel is still left to achieve?
- 5** What made you choose Briards? Was there a particular dog who inspired you? Please tell your story if there is one as it will be relatable to many.
- 6** What inspired you to breed? When and how did you feel that you were ready to become a breeder? Do you remember what happened that encouraged you to take that next step?
- 7** What does your kennel prefix *<insert kennel name>* signify?
- 8** Once you fell in love with your first Briard, what brought you to showing? What helped keep you coming back to shows?
- 9** Which breeders of the past/present do you admire?
- 10** Who inspired you to become a great breeder?
- 11** Did you have a specific mentor who would hold your hand through your trials and tribulations? Did you have more than one?
- 12** What were the biggest surprises about having your first litter? (Good surprises and not-so-good surprises.)
- 13** What do you think makes your dogs distinct from those of other lines?
- 14** Canine health testing has made leaps and bounds since you started breeding, but what were you able to do when you got started? How did health considerations impact your choices of breeding pairs? How has this changed your breed's gene pool today?
- 15** What is the current strength of your kennel?
- 16** Are your dogs generally owner handled, or do you utilize professional handlers?
- 17** Do you have a retirement plan for slowing down or ceasing breeding?
- 18** Looking back on your many years in the Sport, what experiences would you point to as reasons why new breeders should get into our Sport?
- 19** Do you take performance/companion considerations into your breeding decisions? Other than conformation, in what other events do you (and/or those with your bloodline) typically engage with your dogs?

BREEDING & TRAINING THEORY: PART I

- 1** Where did you procure your foundation stock? How did you choose those particular bloodlines and breeders to procure your foundation dogs?
- 2** How long after you acquired your first Briard did you have your first litter?
- 3** How did the puppies turn out in your first litter? Did that litter serve as the actual foundation for *<insert kennel name>*? Or was it more of a “lessons learned” litter?
- 4** How would you describe a day at *<insert kennel name>*?
- 5** What were the biggest surprises to you about having your first litter? (Good surprises and not-so-good surprises.)
- 6** What is the maximum number of Briards that you’ve lived with at once time?
- 7** At what age do you wean your puppies? What do you feed them?
- 8** Do you use any supplements or add any home cooked food?
- 9** Do you feel the Briard is difficult to breed successfully? What do you think are the qualities of a successful breeder?
- 10** We talk about some people having an “eye” for a dog.” How can you suggest that a less-experienced breeder cultivate such “an eye”?
- 11** At what age do you like to pick your puppies? What qualities would you look for in a puppy of that age? Have they ever turned out differently from what you had envisioned them to be?
- 12** Have you co-owned with others before? How has that worked out for you? Would you recommend co-ownership to others getting started? (Or others slowing down on breeding?)
- 13** If you could give new breeders one or two words of advice, what would they be?
- 14** At what age/ages do you evaluate a litter?
- 15** What specific things do you look for in making puppy selections from your litters?
- 16** Describe your puppy socialization program and at what age you begin.

BREEDING & TRAINING THEORY: PART II

- 1** Do you use a particular breeding method? How do you feel about inbreeding, outcrossing and linebreeding? What do you feel the risks are of each?
- 2** Can you speak to your value of phenotype and/versus genotype? (How do you calculate a comfortable balance?)
- 3** Are any/most of your litters bred using frozen/chilled semen? What do you feel is the advantage/disadvantage of using AI for breeding over a natural breeding?
- 4** At what age do you start show training your puppies?
- 5** How do you get your Briards show ready?
- 6** What do you think of the adage- “If you like the son breed to the father”? Or a full litter brother?
- 7** What are your thoughts regarding an “open kennel“ and a “closed kennel“ in regard to breeding and the future of the breed?
- 8** How do you feel about multi-sired litters? Have you used this provision?
- 9** Have you incorporated foreign blood lines into you breeding program? Were you pleased with the results?

BREEDING & TRAINING THEORY: PART III

- 1** What has been your greatest challenge while breeding/showing?
- 2** What do you think is the main conformation problem in the breed today? Anything non conformation/standard related?
- 3** How would you describe the ideology behind your breeding?
- 4** Have you ever used frozen semen? How old was it when you used it? (Was the stud dog still alive at the time? How long since he had passed - or contributed to the gene pool?) Did you learn about AI from trial and error? Did you have a specific reproduction mentor/s?
- 6** Do you have any suggestions for working with co-owners/co-breeders?

MENTORING

- 1** Attending dog shows (and trials) 30+ years ago (pre-internet) were essentially the only social gathering opportunities for dog enthusiasts. Now we have the internet and various social media options to unite The Fancy. So much has happened in communications and that has radically changed the soulfulness of AKC events. What do you think we could do to engage today's social-media generation of dog enthusiasts (and potential future breeders) that we're not already doing?
- 2** In your opinion, how important is it to have a mentor?
- 3** What tips could you offer other mentors to effectively pass our values on to the next generation of breeders?
- 4** If you could give new breeders one or two words of advice, what would they be?
- 5** Looking back on your many years in the Sport, what experiences would you point to as reasons why new breeders should get into our Sport?
- 6** Have you mentored newcomers to the breed and/or to breeding? Do you want someone to continue your line? Do you have a protege?
- 7** Do you participate in judges education programs?
- 8** Are you a member of your Parent Club? Does your PC support breeders? Does it have a breeders education program? Your thoughts?

DISCUSSION ON THE STANDARD

- 1** What would you say are the major differences in the AKC, FCI and other standards? How do you feel about global genetic integration in respect to the differences in the respective Standards?
- 2** Do you see a distinct difference in style in the Briard between the US and those in other countries/continents which follow different standards?
- 3** What do you think is the main conformation problem in the breed today?
- 4** At the moment, where do you think the breed stands in the U.S.? Do you think the breed has changed over the years? If so, do you think the change has been for the better or worse?
- 5** What do you feel is the difference between a good Briard and a great Briard?

HEALTH

- 1** If you knew then, what you know now, what would you have done differently while laying the foundation of your breeding program?
- 2** Is the Briard a healthy breed with good longevity? What are the health problems in Briards? (Is testing available for that/those?)
- 3** What kind of health testing do you do for your dogs? Do you participate in the AKC CHIC Program?
- 4** What do you think are the qualities of a successful breeder?
- 5** Does your breed have health screenings/ testing recommended by your PC?