

THE DEW CLAW

APRIL 1979



The Dew Claw

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AIM: To keep our membership better informed and more closely related. While all articles and comments published do not necessarily represent the Club's views, we do not deny the author's right to present them.

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SUPPORT THE B.C.A. - Send your suggestions and comments to any Board Member and your news and anecdotes to the Editors.

ADVERTISING RATES: For Members only, to advertise puppies or stud service - CENTERFOLD (two pages) \$30; INSIDE BACK COVER \$15; FULL PAGE \$10; HALF-PAGE \$5; plus \$1 for each photo.

New Champions or show wins of Winners or better from major shows are printed, without charge, as space permits.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$7 per year (Special Breeder's Rate, \$5 per year to encourage giving a subscription to each puppy buyer). Back issues when available from the Secretary \$1 plus 50¢ postage per copy.

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE B.C.A. '79 SPECIALTY!
HIGHLIGHTS AND RESERVATION FORM PAGES 8 & 9

CONTENTS

	page
President's Column -----	4
Treasurer's Report -----	5
Directory of Committee Chairmen -----	5
Secretary's Page -----	6
Jennie - Number 1 Briard, 1978 -----	7
Spotlighting the '79 Specialty -----	8
Annual Banquet Announcement -----	9
Short, Short Stories -----	10
BCA News & Views -----	11
They Make Me Wash - They Comb Me All To Thunder -----	15
B.C.A. Survey -----Centerfold pullout section	
Update on Eye Disease in the Briard -----	20
Introducing the Beginner & his Puppy to Tracking -----	26
New Titleholders -----	31
Briard Health & Welfare -----	34
Stud Dog Column/Looking for Puppies -----	35

THE B.C.A. SURVEY IN THE CENTERFOLD OF THIS ISSUE GIVES YOU THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE YOUR SAY AND HELP YOUR BOARD DECIDE THE DIRECTION THE CLUB WILL TAKE IN THE FUTURE. FILL OUT YOUR FORM AND SEND IT IN TODAY!!



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

To the Membership:

In this month's centerfold, you will find a survey questionnaire which we ask you to fill out and return as promptly as possible. Do not set it aside, but fill it out and mail it. These answers will greatly help your elected officers to operate the Club the way you like. I cannot promise everyone's wish will come true, but your ideas and suggestions will be of great help to keep the Club running in the right direction. When filling these out, please think of the betterment of the Breed.

I feel the question on Rescue Aid is especially important, as there are dogs in need of homes at the present time.

Puppy sales are down. A number of people still have puppies left from Fall litters and the Club is receiving very few inquiries. During a period where the Club normally received over 100 inquiries, only 9 were received. Let this caution you again - if you plan to breed, be sure you either have half or more of your litter sold before you breed, or have proper facilities to keep a number of pups.

We would like to welcome June Shew as our new Delegate to the A.K.C. June's appointment to serve as our Delegate was approved at the A.K.C. Delegate's meeting on March 13, 1979. We look forward to reading June's reports and wish her well in this new capacity.

Phil Zingsheim

12 TO 18 MONTH CLASS APPROVED BY A.K.C.

Effective immediately, the Twelve to Eighteen Month Class may be offered as an additional, optional regular dog show class at specialty shows held apart from an all-breed event. The official description of the class is as follows:

"At specialty shows held apart from an all-breed event, the Twelve to Eighteen Month class shall be for dogs that are twelve months of age and over, but under eighteen months, that were whelped in the United States of America or Canada, and that are not champions. The age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show. For example, a dog whelped on January 1st is eligible to compete in the class at a show the first day of which is January 1st of the following year and may continue to compete in this class at shows up to and including a show the first day of which is the 30th day of June of that year, but is not eligible to compete in this class at a show the first day of which is July 1st of that year."

Specialty clubs, such as the B.C.A. may now offer this new class, if the club chooses to do so, at any specialty held apart from an all-breed event.

The April issue of the Gazette will carry AKC President William F. Stifel's Annual Report regarding progress on A.K.C. projects.

TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 1, 1979 through FEBRUARY 28, 1979

Patricia A. Long, Treasurer

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	\$910.00	Feb. Dew Claw	\$315.00
Misc.		D/C postage-Feb.	
Overpayment dues	1.00	(Incl. Spec. Fund	
Overpayment exchange	2.85	envelopes)	211.53
'79 Calendars	132.00	Other Printing	68.90
'79 Calendar postage	.50	Misc.	
Rescue fund	250.00	Overpayment dues	8.00
Bank interest	54.34	Overpayment D/C ad	3.00
'79 Specialty		AKC Dues	25.00
Donations	100.00	CERF Dues	25.00
50th Anniversary		'79 Calendar postage	22.45
Rass. entries	4.00	'79 Calendar envelopes &	
Marked catalog	4.00	labels	12.46
	<u>\$1,458.69</u>	Secretary's postage	30.00
Opening balance	\$5,786.01	Treasurer's postage	17.48
Income	<u>1,458.69</u>	'79 Spec. Fund Envelopes	10.00
	7,244.70	50th Anniversary	
Expenses	994.65	Photographer	<u>100.00</u>
Balance	<u>\$6,250.05</u>		\$994.65

DIRECTORY OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

BRIARD AID AND RESCUE: Heather Schrott, 587 Lucia Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15221 - 412/824-9318*.

EDUCATION: Cindy Gray, 224 Willow, Chicago, IL 60614 - 312/664-0586

HISTORIAN: John Alexander, 1 Powelton Circle, Newburgh, NY 12550 - 914/561-5753.

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP: Susan Karshmer, 3611 Forest Grove Ave., Baltimore, MD 21207 - 301/265-5836.

MEDICAL COMMITTEE: Evy Wegienka, 1009 Cottonwood, Woodland, CA 95695 - 916/666-0486.

'79 NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Gerrie Miner, 1630 Luella St., St. Paul, MN 55119 - 612/776-4558.

'79 SPECIALTY COMMITTEE: Marie Kokin, Chairman, 318-C Windsor Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 - 609/448-0472*.
Ruth Monast, Co-chairman, Box 125 Church Rd. Toms River, NJ 08753 - 201/244-9732.
Cece Collins, Trophies, 75 Inwood Rd., Darien, CT 06820 - 203/655-8886.

CENTRAL NEWS EDITOR: Susan McCormick, 25743 Culver, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 - 313/772-3897.

* unlisted phone number

SECRETARY'S PAGE

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Millis (Janice), 201 Wallace Ave., Crawfordsville, IN 47933.
Adele and Albert Powers, R.D. #4 Wood St., Mahopac, NY 10541.
Lynn Skinner, 1401 Benson Drive, Columbus, OH 43227.
Sandra Treleven, 4722 Canfield Road, Canfield, OH 44406.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS have been completed by the following:

Patricia D. Edwards, D.V.M., 2655 Green Valley Rd., Snellville, GA 30278 - owner of Ch. Chateaubriard Mint Julep.
Charles & Bettyann Janke, 1315 W. Union St., Midland, MI 48640 owners of Ch. Michelle Belle de Strathcona.
Doug & Donna Kahn, 3740 Orono Dr., Toledo, OH 43614 - owners of Manny's Ilote's O'Samantha.
Denise & Bob Kracht, 70 Welts, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 - owners of Merlen Mon Ami.
Frank Quinn/Judith MacGregor, 4225 England Beach, Highland, MI 48031 owners of Pa'Chick's Nutty Buddy.
Peggy Ravndal, P.O. Box 465 Anaconda, MT 59711 - owner of Beau Chevals Dr. Zhivago, Beau Chevals Mississippi, Southpoints Sun River Suki and Chateaubriard Odette.
Robert Russell/Kamelin Pelham, 1025 Cady Ct., Lansing, MI 48906 owners of Fleur de Orange du le Loup d'Or, Chien de Sel Optical Illusion and Nicholas Noir de Lindeau.
Ron & Judy Schramm, 5803 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks, PA 15136 owners of Manny's O'Bree.

BOARD ACTION

Cindy Gray has been appointed by the Board to serve as B.C.A. Education-Education Chairman.

A motion to support the entry at Gloucester K.C. the day before the '79 Specialty was approved. Approving the motion were Bob Boelter, Jayne Dubin, Ed Konrath, Pat Long, Ada Marley, Dallas Meggitt, Diane McLeroth, Pat Morale and Phil Zingsheim. Not voting were Carole Jobe and Mary Lou Tingley.

Specialty Allowance increased. A motion to increase the specialty allowance from \$250 to \$500 was approved. Approving were B. Boelter, C. Jobe, A. Marley, D. McLeroth, D. Meggitt, P. Morale, and P. Zingsheim. Disapproving: Mary Lou Tingley. Not voting: E. Konrath, P. Long. Voting for discussion: Jayne Dubin.

INTERNATIONAL BRIARD SOCIETY A number of members have contacted the B.C.A. about a group called the "International Briard Society". The introductory letter from this organization has the name of the group typed onto a form letter. The Director from whom the letter has originated has changed since we first learned of the group. None of the people named can be found in any of the BCA files, nor do we have any indication that they have been involved with Briards. In addition, the letter which appears to originate from Long Beach, California was postmarked in Wisconsin, and the recipients appear to have come from old show catalogs. We have no further information.

Jennie



KENNEL REVIEW 1978

#1 BRIARD
#6 WORKING DOG
#26 ALL BREEDS

RETIRED IN DECEMBER 1978

WITH A RECORD OF
246 BESTS OF BREED
103 GROUP PLACEMENTS
INCLUDING
27 GROUP FIRSTS
AND
4 BESTS IN SHOW

ART & MARY LOU TINGLEY

APRIL 1979

Spotlighting
the '79 Specialty

SPECIALTY

Sun. Aug. 12, '79
SAND & SEA K.C.
Lakewood, NJ
Judges:
Charles Cook, Sweeps
Arnold Wolf, Breed &
Group*

**SPECIALTY
HEADQUARTERS**

The Beautiful
SHERATON GARDENS
Rt. 537 & Gibson Pl.
Freehold, NJ 07728
(Deadline: June 1st)

**ANNUAL
BANQUET**

Sat. Aug. 11
at the
Sheraton Gardens
Deadline:
July 10th

**COMPANION
SHOW**

Sat. Aug. 11, '79
GLOUCESTER K.C.
Judges:
Anna Mae Forsberg, Breed
Eleanore Evers, Group*

For Premium Lists &
Reservation Forms write:

Marie Kokin, Chairman
318C Windsor Road
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
(609) 448-0472

Ruth Monast, Co-Chairman
Box 125 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
(201) 244-9732

Your donation to the Specialty Fund
will be sincerely appreciated. Make
checks payable to the Briard Club and
mail to Pat Long, 5890 Shea Road,
Marine City, MI 48039. Thank you!

*Pending AKC approval

BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA Annual Banquet

Please reserve (number of meals)

_____ Rock Cornish Game Hen @ \$11.80 ea.

_____ Roast Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus @ \$14.00

The above dinners include: ● Fresh Fruit Cup
● Onion Soup ● Salad with choice of dressing
● Baked Potato ● String Beans Almondine
● Home-Baked Rolls ● Ice Cream with Choc. or
Strawberry Sauce ● Coffee or Tea

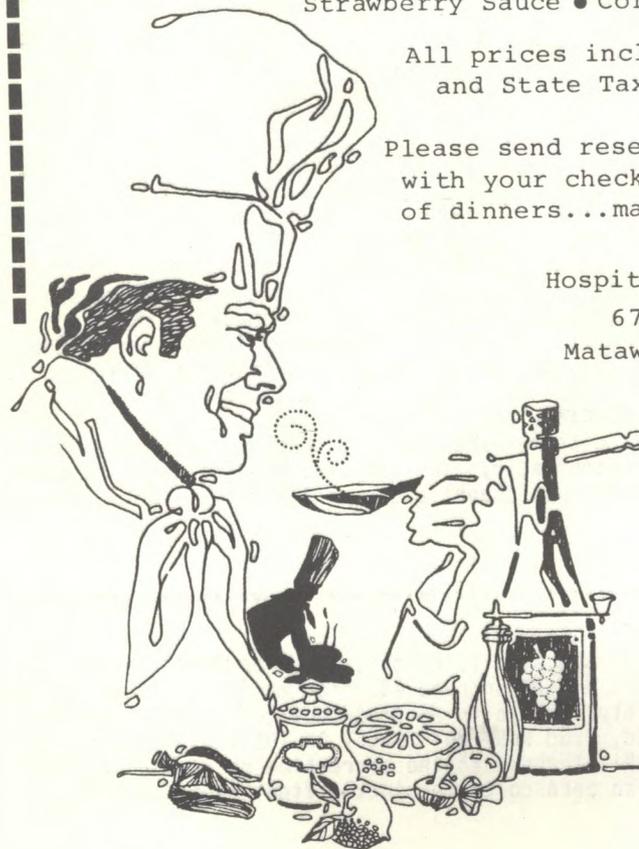
All prices include gratuity
and State Tax.

Please send reservations along
with your check to cover cost
of dinners...made payable to:

David Tooker
Hospitality Chairman
67 Irongate Lane
Matawan, N.J. 07747

Deadline:
July 10th

B.C.A. BANQUET
Saturday
AUGUST 11, 1979



SHORT, SHORT STORIES

IS SHE SMART OR NOT? About this baby Briard Sue Erickson has---- O'Molly O'Malley Chien de Sel is one of Salty's puppies. She is co-owned by the Erickson's business partner, Bobby McGee, who named her and claims that she is Irish, not French. Molly went to live at the McGee's at age 8 weeks; Bobby was really looking forward to having such a smart breed.

He began housebreaking Molly right away; no hard job he figured, because he had raised puppies before, and of course Molly would be exceptionally intelligent. But somehow Molly didn't seem to catch on. They would stand out in the snow for fifteen minutes or more with no results, and shortly after returning inside, Molly would wetly decorate the floor. Bobby would scold, show Molly the outside, and clean up. A scrub bucket with a rag drying over the top became a permanent fixture in the corner of the McGee kitchen.

Last Sunday, after a week and a half of questionable progress, Molly and Bobby had another one of those non-productive trips outside. Soon after returning inside, Molly left a puddle on the floor. She immediately ran to the corner of the kitchen, grabbed the scrub rag with her teeth and dragged the rag over to Bobby and dropped it at his feet. Then she went back to the puddle and sat beside it, head down, waiting to be scolded.

Guess that's what you get when you tell a Briard it is Irish...

I WANT THIS ONE! Since it was Noah, and not Cindy Gray, who outgrew her Datsun B-210, Cindy thought it only fair that he should go with her to pick out a new car. Cindy was in California for the holidays, and her dad, Noah and Cindy went out car shopping. They had already been to about 5 or 6 different dealers to see what each had to offer. At every stop, Noah jumped into the back of the car, or the back seat, or whatever, to see how he liked it. So far -- no problems. He jumped right out on command, which Cindy didn't discover until later meant he obviously did not care for that particular car.

Finally, their last stop -- a Datsun dealer, who had a new B-210 station wagon Cindy wanted to check out. The model was in the showroom, and when Cindy asked Noah to jump into the back of the wagon -- no hesitation, in he went. However -- instead of lying down in the back like he usually did, he pranced right up to the driver's seat and plunked his fanny down. Obviously, this was the care for him, because no matter WHAT Cindy did, or said, he would NOT come out of that car! By this time there were about 7 other people in the showroom, all laughing hysterically. The salesman had one thing to say, "Lady, I think you have just bought a car -- I'M NOT going to move him!"

***** CORRECTION

The "Evaluation by Monsieur Liguine", which appeared in the December 1978 Dew Claw stated on page 43, "You must not select on the basis of character only." This in an incorrect translation and the statement should read, "YOU MUST NOT SELECT ON THE BASIS OF ONE CHARACTERISTIC ONLY." Please note the correction on your copy, and the statement has also been corrected in the final report catalog.

B.C.A. NEWS & VIEWS

Julie Treinis sends this news about her puppy, Brie-Zee Little Whooki, Am. & Can. T.D. Whooki was certified at 4 months of age, the youngest dog of any breed ever certified by tracking judge, Ruth Ridings. Four days after he became 8 months old, Whooki earned his Canadian T.D. title, and was introduced as the first of his breed to do so. Two weeks later he earned his American T. I believe he is the first and only Briard to hold a tracking title in both countries. Whooki then passed both of the next two tests he was entered in, thereby winning a local trophy awarded to any dog that passed his first three tracking tests. He is now ready to try for his advanced tracking degree and will be shooting for that T.D.X. this fall in Canada.

Whooki graduated first from his advanced novice obedience class before he was a year old, and will compete for his C.D. this spring. Whooki also has a repertoire of about 15 "parlor" tricks, such as crawl, beg, speak, dead dog, say your prayers, make a bow, etc. This last February, he demonstrated these tricks as part of the Sportsmen's and Campers' Show held in Boston. He also participated in an obedience exhibition. His uniqueness and animated obedience made him a favorite with the crowd and helped make lots of new friends for the Briard.

In a soon to be published issue of the national obedience magazine, OFF-LEAD, there will be an article on some of Whooki's tricks and the methods used to teach them.

Pat Long is proud to announce that Kennel Review has awarded a Silver Certificate to Ch. Ralph des Elfes de Malouse, C.D. for producing 25 champions since 1973 the first year he appeared as Top Producer. Ralph turned 11 years old in February.

On February 4th the Great Lakes Briard Boosters held a handling clinic in Toledo with Barb Zimmerman as speaker. Also discussed was the structure of the dogs and the visualized standard of the breed as it applies to our dogs. Linda Wells and Rob Ferber brought along some of their video tapes from the rassemblement and specialty weekend and Stephanie Katz gave a grooming demonstration on how to properly groom a puppy. All in all it was a fun filled day and very instructive with approximately 26 people and assorted Briards attending. A fun match is being planned for June 17th. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jean Heft or Manny Littin whose home in Toledo the match will be located.

Gveret Kahlbah de Strathcona, Am. & Can. U.D., owned and trained by Jerry Katz, qualified at the following shows: Pontiac Kennel Club - Open B 196 & 4th Place; Utility 193 & 2nd Place; High Combined Scores. Flint Obedience Training Club - Open B 196. Sportsmen's Obedience Training Club - Open B 197.

Puppy Corner

Sue Erickson of Mankato, Minn. has one black female available

from her litter sired by Ch. Uffin Berger du Nord out of Ch. Les Blues du Chien de Sel, C.D.

Yvonne Wright of Sunnyvale, California has two black males available from her litter sired by Ch. Uri Berger Du Nord out of Pa'Chick's Mint Julep.

Dick & MiMi Long have one black male out of Ch. Jolie de la Rivette, C.D.X. sired by Ch. Montargis de Lindeau. He is show potential and both parents are OFA certified and CERF certified.

Dallas & Judy Meggitt of Camarillo, Calif. have a litter of tawny puppies born February 13th sired by Ch. Ugolin des Joyeux Lutins de Seauve out of Am. & Mex. Ch. Miel Melosa de Strathcona. There are 4 males and 4 females.

Fun Match News

Kam Pelham sends the following report on matches:

1-27-79 - Ingham County Kennel Club Match - Entered was an 8 month old puppy bitch and an eight month old puppy dog and a 4 month old puppy bitch. Best of Breed went to my four month old puppy bitch Chien de Sel Optical Illusion better known as "Sage".

2-25-79 - Detroit Fairgrounds - Entered was one puppy dog and two puppy bitches. Best of Breed was Fleur de Oranger du le Loup D'or owned by Bob Russell & Kam Pelham.

3-4-79 - Gazehound Association Match - There was an entry of five Briards. Best of Breed Puppy was Chien de Sel Optical Illusion. Best of Breed Adult was Merlen Mon Ami owned by Bob & Denise Kracht and Rob Ferber.

Show Reports

1-21-79 - Pontiac Kennel Club - j Mr. Booxbaum - e 6-5-4
BOB - Ch. Pa'Chick's Impresario, CDX (Susan C. McCormick)
BOS - Ch. Silvermoon's La Tara (Judith Ziozios)
WD 4 pts. Pa'Chick's Nifty Nugget (Janet Couture)
WB, BW 4 pts. Manny's Ilotie O'Jill (Jean Heft)

2-11-79 - Macomb County Kennel Club - j Mr. Hamilton - e 4-3-2
BOB - Ch. Pa'Chick's Livin' Legend (Patricia A. Long)
WD 3 pts., BW Pa'Chick's Nifty Nugget
WB 2 pts., BOS Magie Mon Ami de Lindeau (Rob Ferber & Linda Wells)

2-12/13-79 - Westminster Kennel Club - j Mrs. Pimlott - e 2-4-11
BOB - Ch. Phydeaux What's Happening (Mary Lou Tingley & Ira Ackerson)
BOS - Ch. Chateaubriard Nellie (Cece Collins)
WD, BW 2 pts. Manny's O'Yellor (Ruth Monast)
WB 2 pts. Phydeaux O'Susannah, T.D. (Karen Farkas)

3-11-79 - Detroit Kennel Club - j Mr. Booxbaum - e 5-4-8
BOB - Ch. Pa'Chick's Impresario, CDX
BOS - Ch. Uziz Akshanit de Strathcona (Jerry & Stephanie Katz)
WD 4 pts., BW Silvermoon La Joie de Vivre, CDX (Christine & Roland Duval)
WB 3 pts. Pa'Chick's Nutty Buddy (Frank Quinn & Judy MacGregor)

I would just like to remind everyone that this is your news column and without your help it is very difficult to write up what's happening with our breed. So please do not hesitate to drop me a note with any news or information you feel is helpful to the breed.

Susan McCormick,
News Editor



Family portrait, taken at Lewiston Auburn K.C. on 11/5/79. Shown with j. Mrs. Francis Crane (left to right) are 6 month old puppies: OMBRE DU COTEAU D'AVRANCHES, R.W. Bitch; ONDINE DU COTEAU D'AVRANCHES, Winners Bitch for 3 points; the puppy's dam, CH. MOUSSE DU COTEAU D'ANTIGO, Best of Breed; and their sire, LUKE CHIEN DE FAMILLE, B.W. & Best of Opposite Sex. The Briards belong to Marguerite Provencher who bred the pups.

PA'CHICK'S NIFTY NUGGET owned & handled by Janet Couture took a 4 Point Major at Pontiac (1/21/79) under j. Mr. Booxbaum; and a 3 Point Major at Macomb (2/11/79) under Mr. Hamilton. He is pictured right taking Best of Breed under j. Mrs. Velma Hiser.





UNIQUE NOÉ DE VIEILLE VILLE, CD was Winners Dog for a 4 Point Major at Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club on Nov. 5, 1978. "Noah" is owned and handled by Cindy Gray and the judge is Lt. Col. Wallace Pede.
←

MONTARGIS DE LINDEAU was Winners Dog, Best of Winners and Best of Breed at Livonia (9/10/78) for a 5 Point Major under j. Mr. Gerhardt Plaga. He is owner, breeder handled by Linda Wells. →



AM/CAN. CH. PA'CHICK'S IMPRESARIO, AM. CDX, CAN. C.D. is pictured at the left after being awarded Best of Breed over an entry of 15 at Pontiac Kennel Club on 1/21/79. He is owner, handled by Susan McCormick and the judge is Mr. Booxbaum.



THEY MAKE ME WASH -- THEY COMB ME ALL TO THUNDER

BY MERCER FIELD

Mark Twain knew well how boys feel about being parted from the dust of the day's adventures. Boys and dogs are often alike in that respect, and admittedly girls aren't so different. It's up to the rest of us to keep these ragamuffins tidy, but how?

My approach to sprucing Duffel (Dh. Phydeaux Tabac Blond) isn't necessarily that of most Briard owners, but whatever our adventures in the ring, people frequently comment on how he is groomed. Because his coat is long, full and clear golden tawny, Duffel is striking. He's a pretty boy, and at first sight gets ahs even from Briarders. His first impressions don't qualify me to write about grooming a Briard, but what follows will, I hope, be a moderately balanced discussion of the question of your Briard's coat and how she or he wears it to best advantage. All the prejudices of a novice to the breed and to the ring will be evident; still, having coped with three and a quarter Briards in four years, I should have come across something of value to others just learning.

A quarter of a Briard, by the way, is a three-month old puppy. His coat will have developed a few tangles, and at this stage the major problem is yours: you must groom the puppy once a week, even if only for five minutes, so that he'll come to accept and expect this ritual. Brush him with a natural-bristle hair brush, being careful to use a light touch and not to scratch his sensitive skin. While he is young he'll learn to look forward to this time when you devote your complete attention to him. If you are always affectionate and gentle with your Briard, he'll respond identically.

The puppy should be groomed on a table and taught to lie on one side and then on the other during the ordeal. It's much easier to develop this habit early than to tackle a full-grown animal. Duffel, by the way, will not lie on his side on the grooming table. He hates to be put in that position and fights for his feet. Consequently, he is groomed in a standing or sitting position with me sometimes in contortions to get at his stomach. Another disadvantage; getting him to lie on his side for a recent X-ray took the combined ingenuity and muscle of my 6'5" vet and me and didn't add to the courage and composure of Duffel or me.

Equally disconcerting to some dogs is nail clipping. It's just as well to frequently trim your puppy's nails so that he'll not be skittish, but get your vet to show you exactly how much can be cut without damaging the quick. A few bloody nails will do more to arouse fear in your pup than will less frequent trimming. If you don't feel confident about clipping nails, at least handle the pup's feet when you groom him.

GROOMING EQUIPMENT

I recommend the soft bristle brush for a pup. In addition, you should purchase nail scissors, not the guillotine-type clippers, sometimes called nail nippers, which will crush the large nails of your adult dogs. The nail scissors are more expensive but worth it.

THEY MAKE ME WASH - continued

A coarse (wide-tooth) comb with a handle for convenience is essential, and a pin brush and/or slicker. The pin brush tends to take out less hair than the slicker and is best on light mats. For heavier mats, use a slicker, but take care that the sharp corners of a slicker don't scratch your pet's skin. Beyond this, a very sharp pair of grooming shears, straight-bladed without teeth, should suffice. A non-oily coat spray, such as Pro Groom, can be used as can tangle-removing sprays if mats are heavy.

BATHING

Whether or not to bathe a Briard is a matter of dispute. It's my opinion that Briards shouldn't be bathed unless medical reasons, such as skin irritations, require it or unless the dog runs amuck with a skunk or something comparable (use tomatoe juice for skunk smell). I believe that frequent bathing damages the coat by removing the natural oils which make it shed both water and dirt. The same, by the way, is true of wool rugs: the first cleaning removes oils which repel dirt, and rugs are more easily soiled thereafter.

It is my experience that bathing also softens the Briard coat, making it mat more easily and thus increasing your work. When Duffel was a puppy, I bathed him because I didn't know better. He hasn't been bathed since he was six months old, and our bitch has only been bathed twice. Both dogs are now three years old. Their coats are continually coarsening and produce the desired crackle when rubbed between two fingers. Most important, they need to be groomed only an hour once every two or three weeks on the average (they are penned so rarely swim or run through brush), and I can get away with even less without dire consequences.

Since the Briard's natural coat sheds dirt, when my dogs are groomed, dirt comes off onto my hands. Between groomings it does not. Without bathing, their coats do not smell, nor are they sticky or dull. In fact, the coats shine and are appropriately wavy. This all may be coincidence or due to normal maturing, but it is my feeling that success with full healthy coats is linked to not bathing. Only one of my dogs ever developed a skin irritation, and that happened just once when I was away from home and they weren't groomed for a month.

If you must bathe your Briard, groom all mats out first and keep the dog indoors until dry.

GROOMING TECHNIQUES

Begin behind your Briard's ears and work toward the tail, doing one side and then the other if your dog will lie on the table for you. If he is restless and uncooperative, such a methodical pattern is unimportant. Better to groom the dog here and there, moving from leg to back or from tail to head to paw when he is disturbed, talking gently all the while, than to force him to submit to too much pulling in one spot which might be remembered with a decidedly bad attitude. The point is, you don't want to miss a spot; keeping track of where you have been is essential.

Work in the direction of the lie of the hair with your brush until the coat is free of mats right to the skin. If the skin appears unduly flaky, gently rub the flakes to bring them up off the skin.

THEY MAKE ME WASH - continued

Consult your vet if the condition persists. It can be a sign of internal parasites or fleas. Be particularly sure your dog is free of mats and clean under his tail, behind his ears, at the elbows and dewclaws. Be especially gentle on the stomach and inside the rear legs, using only a comb or soft brush in both places. It is advisable to very, very cautiously clip the hair around a male Briard's penis, not right to the skin but short enough so that it will not become matted with urine. Use only a comb on the tail since tail plumage falls out quite easily. If you use a grooming spray, don't spray near your Briard's head.

Once you've finished brushing, go over the entire coat with a coarse comb to be sure that no mats remain. Use the comb to get at mats in difficult spots, such as between the toes or behind the elbows, and use only a comb on your dog's head.

When grooming a Briard's head, please be extremely gentle. It hurts if you pull the beard or stretch tissue around the eye, and most dogs won't hesitate to tell you! Comb the forelock back into place. Be sure to get all food and mats out of the beard each time you groom, and check the ears for infection. Ears should be pink and free of wax, dirt and other obstructions. Cleaning with a damp ball of cotton is generally sufficient. Your vet can occasionally thin excess hair from inside the ears or teach you to do this. Such hair sometimes makes the dog scratch which can damage his coat quickly.

When you finish, your Briard's beard should be dry and sweet smelling. If the beard is sour, bathe it with a solution of baking soda and water (roughly one tableppon baking soda per cup of water or enough to make a cloudy solution), rinse it well and dry. Some parsley in your Briard's food is an excellent cure for bad breath, but if the dog has continually foul breath, check with a vet. It could indicate worms or a digestive problem. If the dog develops heavy tartar on his teeth, ask your vet to clean them. A rawhide bone serves the same function as a toothbrush so there's no need to deprive your pet of this toy. No real bones please.

To work out mats anywhere on the coat, hold the hair near the skin so that you will pull against your own hand, not against your dog. Insert one tooth of the comb near the edge of the mat and separate a small amount of hair from the mass. Continue separating and combing until the coat is free of the slightest tangle. If the situation is very bad, spray each mat with something like Tangle Remover and wait at least ten minutes before inserting your comb. Try never to let the mats get to the size where scissors seem the only solution. The coat won't grow back in a week or even in a month.

In addition to not bathing my dogs, I groom almost exclusively with a wide-toothed comb, rarely with a brush. I find the comb takes out less hair, works more efficiently and gently on mats and never misses a tangle. When I groom with a brush, the job just doesn't get done thoroughly. I highly recommend combing, although it's not established practice.

GROOMING FOR SHOW

The dog that enters a ring requires special attention. Every

hair should be in place and the judge should easily feel the dog's skin where ever he touches. Naturally, the coat should be clean and shining, the dog's breath fresh. If he is troubled with red eyes, which can be due to a mild allergy, your vet might provide medication to clear them. You won't want to show the dog with skin irritations (such as hot spots) or if he has a contagious condition (such as worms) or a serious or disfiguring injury.

Many people feel that a Briard should be groomed one way in the breed class and another in the working group. Essentially, the argument is that a group judge will not be interested in a shaggy and, therefore, unkempt animal. To make the Briard appealing, then, his coat is to be meticulously parted down the middle of his back and on his head. A similar argument is given in favor of bathing the Briard by people who feel that a silkier coat is more flashy. Some might even encourage cosmetic thinning or clipping of the coat to improve the dog's silhouette. Then too, there are people who hold that this type of grooming is preferable in the classes as well and for the same reasons.

I feel that as Briard exhibitors we should encourage judges to recognize a Briard's unique characteristics and value those we ourselves promote. I don't think a Briard is an afghan or poodle; it is a shaggy shepherd without a pronounced part. It's coat should, of course, be well-groomed and neat, but I feel that the natural rough silhouette is charming and characteristic of the Breed. While I do not part Duffel, I generally comb his beard forward to enhance the head silhouette. I don't combe his forelock straight over his eyes, but rather smooth it both forward and to the sides to reveal the shape of the head and a glimpse of the large dark eyes. I take care to be certain the coat on Duffel's legs is full and groomed to best emphasize angulation and gait rather than to disguise these aspects. I also clip the hair on the feet, and I think opinion is unanimous that this neatens the appearance of the dog and helps the judge to evaluate stance and gait without altering the dog's natural image.

When clipping the coat at the paws, be careful not to create a shape that will make your dog look cowhocked or as though his front feet are pointed in or out. Fluff the hair, which is free of all mats, over the feet and cut it back just to the tip of the nails. Cut with short strokes to obtain a uniform blunt appearance without angles. This takes practice. The paws should appear rounded, not pointed. Depending on the thickness of your Briard's coat, you may have a layer of clipped hair rising nearly an inch above the nail; in other words, the longer top hairs will be cut back parallel to the shorter hairs nearer the nail and will not hang over them. The lower the dewclaws, the easier it is to make a nice even silhouette when clipping the hind feet. Once you've finished, pick up each paw and carefully trim the hair growing over the pads so that the foot will look tidy as the dog gaits away from the judge.

A Briard's hair dies just as ours does. Imagine how you'd feel if all that hair in your brush every morning was left to mat upon your head UGH. However you feel about showing or styling your Briard, as long as you keep the dog free of mats and watch the condition of his skin, eyes, ears, teeth and claws, he should be happy and so should you.

What do YOU think?

As a national club with only one meeting each year, communication between the BCA Board and the Membership is cumbersome and usually inadequate. Yet, your Board wants to know your opinions on many subjects - both those of you in the minority and the usually silent majority.

Please help by answering this survey. It can easily be pulled out of your Dew Claw without damage to the magazine. If you do not have an opinion on some questions, it is not necessary to answer them, but please respond to those you can.

Husband and wife may respond on the same form by including both names at the end. However, if they differ strongly on some points, it may be better to run copies for a separate reply. Plain paper attached to the survey form will also do, but please let us hear from you!

I - BRIARD AID AND RESCUE

- a) Could you help if a Briard is in trouble in your area? This could involve going to see the dog, reporting back to the Club, or even finding temporary quarters for the dog.

_____yes _____no

- b) Could you provide temporary housing, bearing in mind that the dog should be kept apart from your own dog and exercised in a different area until its health can be checked?

_____yes _____no

- c) If the answer to b) is no, is there a kennel near you where such a dog could be placed?

_____yes _____no

Would this kennel offer BCA a reduced fee for care of such a dog?

_____yes _____no

- d) Do you know of anyone who would offer a GOOD home to a Briard in need of aid & rescue?

_____yes _____no

- e) Other: please specify-

II - RASSEMBLEMENTS FOR BRIARDS

- a) Do you think BCA should plan to hold rassemblements on a regular basis?

_____yes _____no

- b) If yes, how often? _____

III - EYE CLINICS

- a) Do you think BCA should sponsor an eye clinic in conjunction with each annual specialty until more is known about the incidence of eye disease in Briards?

_____ yes _____ no

- b) If an eye clinic were to be held on specialty weekend this August, how many dogs would you bring to be checked? What would you consider to be a fair fee for each dog checked?

_____ no. of dogs Fee: \$ _____

- c) Should BCA sponsor eye clinics in different areas of the country, apart from the specialty?

_____ yes _____ no _____ check here if you could help with a clinic.

IV - INDEPENDENT SPECIALTIES

Taking into consideration the cost/profit and the additional work required by such an event, would you like to see more independent specialties (only Briards) scheduled by BCA?

_____ yes _____ no

V - SPECIALTY WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

- a) Generally there are two different opinions on specialty weekend programs: 1) those who prefer more workshops and seminars; and 2) those who prefer more free time for contact and discussion with other Briarders. Please check your preference.

_____ Workshops/seminars planned throughout the spec. weekend.

_____ More free time allowed for discussion and contact with other Briarders.

_____ Other: please specify-

- b) If you prefer workshops/seminars, what would you most want to have scheduled?

VI - RECOGNITION AWARDS/BRIARD HALL OF FAME

- a) Occasionally someone suggests either giving awards or setting up a 'Hall of Fame' for top winning dogs, top producing stud dogs, brood bitches, obedience title holders, etc. Those favoring this idea say it would give recognition for achievements and provide good records for the Club. Those opposing the idea say it would create too much sense of competition, beyond that which is healthy for the Breed, and would primarily promote the dogs which are the most heavily campaigned and bred. Do you think BCA should:

_____ give recognition awards to top winners/producers, etc.

_____ have a 'Hall of Fame' for top winners/producers, etc.

_____ do neither.

VI - Recognition/Hall of Fame, continued

- b) Your comments or ideas on this suggestion are welcome. Please include them here-

VII - RECOGNITION OF CANADIAN TITLES

- a) It has been suggested that the BCA present award plaques to members who have achieved titles in Canada with their dogs. Some have suggested doing this only for obedience titles, which have similar requirements as AKC titles.

_____ present awards for all Canadian titles.

_____ present awards only for obedience titles from Canada.

_____ do not present awards for other than AKC titles.

_____ other - please specify:

VIII - SPECIALTY JUDGES

To update our judges list, please suggest up to three names of judges you wish to recommend to judge a BCA specialty. These will be compiled into a list for review at the Annual Meeting in August.

IX - VOLUNTEERS?

BCA functions only because of volunteers. Is there some committee or project which is of particular interest to you?

I would like to help with: _____

X - OTHER IDEAS

What other ideas or suggestions would you like the Board to consider, or include on a future survey?

please turn the page

XI - JUST FOR FUN (Everyone can answer this one!)

- a) When did you first become involved with Briards? _____
b) How many Briards do you own? _____
c) How many Briards have you owned altogether? _____
d) HOW/WHY DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH BRIARDS? (Your response can be short or long, but please take a moment to answer this one.)

(Please send completed survey to: Diane McLeroth, Secretary, 3030 Rockwood Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN 46815.)

Signature(s) _____

BRIARDS DE MONET

PUPPIES EXPECTED IN APRIL

(CH. CHATEAUBRIARD VERMOUTH)

SIRE: MANNY'S O'YELLOR - TAWNY
(Rocky)

(CH. ILOTE DU LAC DE BETHMALE, CD)

(CH. CHATEAUBRIARD VOTRE SANTE)
(BARNEY)

DAM: LUIRE ROUGE DE MONET - TAWNY

(CALANDRA DE BEAUXJOLIE)

BRED FOR EXCELLENCE AND TEMPERAMENT

1280 CHURCH ROAD

RUTH W. MONAST

TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753

201/244-9732

UPDATE ON EYE DISEASE IN THE BRIARD

Work continues in England to determine the nature of the eye problems which have been experienced in the Briards in that country. Regular eye examinations of Briards in this country, especially those used in breeding programs, is a service to the Breed and the data obtained from those examinations can further help to determine how much of a problem C.P.R.A. may be in our Breed. To date, C.E.R.F., the Canine Eye Registry Foundation, has reported that 146 Briards had been examined in the U.S. (as of October 1, 1978). Three were not certifiable as clear of eye disease and only one Briard was diagnosed as having retinal atrophy. A new report is due out from C.E.R.F. in April and we can hope that many additional Briards will have been examined.

Mrs. Dolly Trauner of C.E.R.F. has forwarded a letter to the B.C.A. which refers to Briards. It was written by a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, who has done much research on canine eye disease. The statement, which follows, speaks for itself.

"I have just returned from a short visit to England, where I spent some time with Dr. Peter Bedford, an ophthalmologist at the Royal Veterinary College in London. He showed me many interesting pictures of Briards with central progressive retinal atrophy (CPRA). Dr. Bedford is very interested in this disease in that breed, and after examining nearly 500 dogs he feels that the incidence is somewhere around 10%. I think it may be worthwhile to indicate the presence of CPRA in this breed when you send out your next C.E.R.F. 'early warning' newsletter."

RETINAL ATROPHY IN BRIARDS - THE LATEST POSITION

(Reprinted from the Spring 1979 edition of the "Double Dew Claw" bulletin of the British Briard Club.)

The end of January 1979 and the first major phase of a survey of Briards in the United Kingdom has been completed. Dr. Peter Bedford has made an ophthalmoscopic examination of some four to five hundred dogs and the results have been passed to Dr. Malcolm Willis for genetic analysis. It had been hoped that Dr. Bedford would have some further two hundred dogs presented to him, but this has not been possible for one reason or another. Examination of a certain few of these missed dogs would have been especially relevant.

Dr. Bedford may now request that a certain number of dogs nominated by him be brought for ophthalmoscopic re-examination using an electro-retinogram. This latter examination, while being perfectly harmless and painless, will take approximately one hour per dog and will require that the dog be anesthetized to ensure that it remains perfectly still during the examination. The purpose of these examinations will be to define further the nature of the disease and its variations, to obtain additional information on the development of the disease, and to determine the feasibility of early detection (i.e. less than 12 months of age).

In the further stages of the P.R.A. Project we can expect:

a) To be called to cooperate further with Dr. Bedford by presenting dogs at his request for detailed examination.

UPDATE - Eye Disease, continued

b) To receive a report from Dr. Bedford enumerating the nature and incidence for the eye diseases and abnormalities found in Briards;
c) To receive a report from Dr. Willis informing us of the genetic and hereditary findings of the study.

After all this, the Club in collaboration with the Briard Assoc. will have to decide breeding policy for Briards if (C)PRA is to be eliminated or at least minimized. Decision to eliminate or minimize is a first major question.

At this moment several of the dogs examined by Dr. Peter Bedford have been noted to have ocular abnormalities and the owners have been informed directly accordingly. Where this abnormality has been PRA then it is possible that the genetic cause will be passed to the progeny at breeding. The nature of the hereditary mechanism is being studied but if the genetic cause is recessive instead of dominant as first assumed, then this will be a serious setback to our thoughts concerning eradication. The recessive effect is much more difficult to identify and eliminate.

In cases where dogs have been examined by Dr. Bedford, and have been found to be "clear" from eye abnormalities, Dr. Bedford may have expressed his opinion to the respective owners of the likelihood that the dog would, or perhaps would not, remain free from defect. In general, the younger the dog, then the less assertive has been this opinion. For dogs less than 12 months of age, and based on ophthalmoscopic observation alone, Dr. Bedford cannot assert that the dog found "clear" will remain "clear" in the future.

The electro-retinogram apparatus may or may not allow detection of the incidence of PRA in a Briard less than 12 months of age - this is still to be proven. Irrespective, however, it must not be assumed by Briard owners that this apparatus will be freely available for the testing of very young puppies for the purpose of deciding which puppies in a new litter must be culled. The electro-retinogram apparatus is the tool by which Dr. Bedford will further his study and help us to arrive at a policy for the possible elimination of PRA in Briards. It must not be considered as a means to permit non-selective breeding.

Briard owners have good reason to be grateful to Dr. Bedford and Dr. Willis and also that cooperation amongst us has made a project of this nature possible. We now await the findings which will be circulated without delay and without any attempt at editing to all who participated. The action to be taken depends on what is made known to us and cannot be predicted for the moment. In the meantime, if breeding from PRA affected dog or bitch is pursued, then there can only be escalation of PRA and not the reverse.

(N.B.: This statement, seen and approved by Dr. Bedford.)

D.D. Macfarlane

Ed. Note: *The British Briarders are doing a fantastic job in the battle against CPRA in Briards. Their mutual cooperation and worthy efforts are to be commended as is the great service they are doing for the Breed.* D.Mc.

PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY SURVEY - PRELIMINARY REPORT

By Dr. P.C.C. Bedford
February 1979

To date 508 Briards have been examined in the survey, a number somewhat short of the expected 600. However, the figure is a useful one, and I would like to thank all those concerned in the efficient organization which has taken place. A pint here, chilli there, black pudding and haggis - thank you one and all.

The survey has not yet been completed - there are one or two important stragglers to pick up and several dogs to re-examine around June time. However, the hard work now begins for Malcolm Willis and his team(!) of pedigree checkers.

I had firm feelings about the disease being a Labrador mimic* when I started in work, but now I know this not to be true. It is apparent that throughout dogdom the disease we know and love as P.R.A. is in fact several retinopathies. There is a limit to the number of changes a diseased retina can undergo when it atrophies, and so the ophthalmoscope has its limitations when it comes to making a differential diagnosis. However, age of onset, speed of progression, together with the limited variations in the fundus picture, all indicate that P.R.A. is not a single disease. Recent work with the E.R.G. even suggests that "atrophy" is the wrong term, and that "dysplasia" is a more fitting term, in some instances at least. Thus, comparing the Briard disease with that of the Labrador, we see several points of similarity and several points of difference. The age of incidence in the Briard is earlier than that of the Labrador, Ophthalmoscopic changes being visible between 20 months and 2 years in the former. However, in the Briard we also have an indication of the disease occurring later on in life, but specific details on this aspect will become available when my full report is published. The earliest change is the appearance of faint pigment spots in the area centralis, and these gradually proliferate to involve the whole of the tapetal fundus. Subsequently the retina begins to thin, but not uniformly and in areas the amount of tapetal "glare" is suggestive of "holes" in the retina. Blood vessel attenuation is a constant finding, and mimics changes seen in P.R.A. in other breeds. In the majority of affected dogs vision impairment becomes noticeable between 3 and 4 years of age, but very few dogs were seen in which the blindness was total. There is very little involvement of the optic nerve, and secondary cataract and synchysis scintillans do not occur.

The question of the mode of inheritance is one that will have to remain unanswered for the moment - until Malcolm Willis has finished his task. Initially we believed the disease to be due to the dominant mode of inheritance, with reduced penetration of the gene, but this may be shown to be erroneous. It is also possible that even

* A Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists has told us that the eye disease in Labradors bred in England also differs from the eye disease found in the same breed, bred in this country. As yet, no one can explain why.

though genetic predisposition exists, other factors, and here I am thinking particularly about nutrition, may be involved in producing the clinical disease.

I mentioned the E.R.G. earlier on - well you will be pleased to know that in my "spare time" the machine is being constructed and is near completion. Phase two of the project can then get under way - but for the moment I would ask you to be patient.

3,618 BRIARDS IN THE U.S. MORE OR LESS?

Figuring the average life span of a Briard at 10 years (we all wish it were longer) we can add the number of Briards registered by AKC in that time span, multiply it by 2 and we have the approximate number of Briards living in this country today. AKC estimates that only about half the dogs born are individually registered. This is borne out by the fact there is an average of 5 Briards registered from each litter and we can estimate that the average litter is about 10 puppies.

1,809 Briards were registered from 1969 to 1979-
X 2
3,618 Briards living in this country today-

About 150 Briards have had their eyes checked by an ophthalmologist, only 4.2% of the number in the U.S. Although this percent is somewhat higher if we consider the number of breeding dogs checked, but it still is not an adequate percent of the breed population to draw any conclusions as to the presence or lack of C.P.R.A. in our Briards.

Why not ask your veterinarian where you can take your Briard to have the eyes checked? Watch for eye clinics, frequently held by all-breed or specialty clubs, which usually offer the eye exam at lower cost.... It is important to have our Briards checked and the results forwarded to the Club. Let's try to raise that percent to a meaningful level!

If your Briard has been checked by an ophthalmologist, and you don't plan to send to C.E.R.F. for certification, please notify Medical Committee Chairman, Evy Wegienka, 1009 Cottonwood, Woodland, CA 95695.

C.E.R.F. NEWS FLASH

At press time, we have received the latest report from the Canine Eye Registration Foundation which indicates ANOTHER BRIARD WITH RETINAL EYE DISEASE HAS BEEN FOUND. During the period from 10/1/78 through 3/31/79, eight more Briards were examined with seven normal and one non-certifiable due to retinal atrophy.

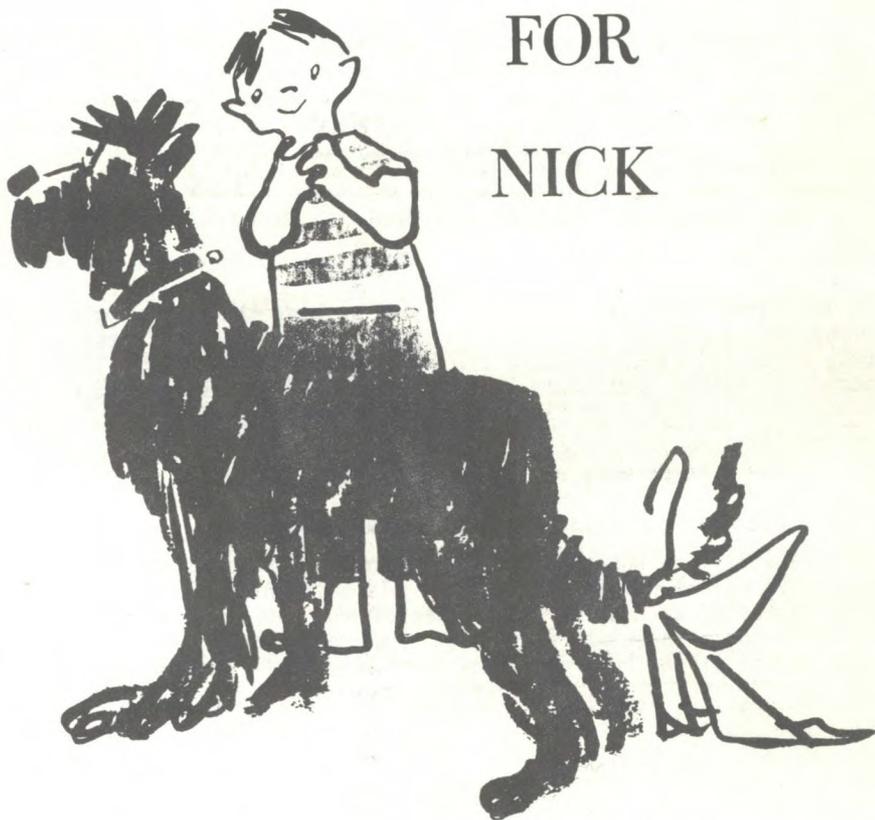
This makes it even more important to have all dogs used for breeding checked for eye disease.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF CERTIFIED DOGS:

BR-143/78-28 Ambiance Madrigal (Treleven)
BR-144/78-105 Sablon d'Esprit (Treleven)
BR-145/78-53 Ch. Jolie de la Rivette, CDX (R. & M. Long)

A PART-TIME DOG

FOR NICK



Story by CAROL DENISON

Pictures by JANE MILLER

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY • NEW YORK • 1959

Above is the title page from a library book Susan Erickson chose at random for her son, Sören. The book did not say what kind of a dog it was and Sören just said, "Doggy, doggy". With great prompting he said, "No" to Salty, "No" to Tory, but admitted it might be Rounder.

MANNY'S ILOTIE O'JILL (right) took Winners Bitch on 11/19/78 under j. Theodore Gunderson at Central Ohio K.C.; a 4 Point Major and B.O.S. on 12/17/79 at Western Reserve under j. Edward Bracy and a 4 Point Major and B.O.W. on 1/21/79 at Pontiac K.C. under j. Donald Booxbaum. Jill is owned and handled by Jean Heft.



TIGRESSE DE PATRICHE is shown (left) with her young handler, Jennifer Millis, age 10, after capturing a 4 Point Major and Best of Winners at the North-Eastern Indiana K.C. show on November 5, 1978. The judge is Lt. Col. Wallace Pedde and Tigresse is owned by Janice Millis.

MANNY'S LIL MISS NIBBLES, right, took her third 4 Point Major at Butler County on September 23, 1978. Nibbles is owned by Manny Littin and D. Greene and is handled by Manny. The judge is Theodore Gunderson.



INTRODUCING THE BEGINNER AND HIS PUPPY TO TRACKING

BY JULIE TREINIS

Julie Treinis' Briard, Wooki, was certified in tracking at the tender age of 4 months, and earned both the American and Canadian T by the age of 9 months. We sincerely appreciate Julie sharing her experience in this article and we hope it may inspire others to try this interesting activity with their Briards.

Tracking can, and should be, one of the most rewarding and pleasurable experiences for the dog and trainer to share. Unlike obedience work, where the handler is in charge - where he must first show the dog what is required and then force compliance, through repetition, correction, and reward, until a proper response is learned - in tracking, it is the dog who knows all about tracking. Even the new-born pup is capable of scent work, which we humans can scarcely comprehend. It is natural and essential for him to scent his way to his first and many subsequent meals. We, as trainers, merely capitalize on this instinctive behavior, by motivating the puppy to use his innate ability when we request it. Obviously, this means something that the pup really wants to find must be left at the end of the track. Since most youngsters are real chow-hounds, I suggest an extra-special food treat - something that is not routinely fed, but very much enjoyed. Cooked liver and beef scraps are my pup's favorites; cheese or hot dogs might be yours.

Before starting toward that T.D., the trainer should be aware of the pluses and minuses that are part of the sport. First, it is time consuming and often requires travelling some distance to locate suitable fields. The owners must be found and permission obtained for usage of their fields. Tracking does not take place indoors or only in nice weather. The trainer must not only be willing to track in high winds, rain, heat, and freezing temperatures, but must also intentionally seek out these conditions, in order to expose his dog to various situations. And, although some of the most pleasurable tracking is on beautiful, isolated fields, it is necessary to track near busy roads, in areas where people and dogs may cause distractions, and where there is a variance in terrain and ground covering. All these can, and often do, exist in tracking trials. Also, although it is possible to train a tracking dog without the use of an assistant(s), it is far preferable to enlist the aid of another person(s) as soon as possible.

Now that some of the negatives have been covered, it's time to list some of the benefits, which so outweigh those negatives. Driving to the various tracking sites will acclimate your Briard to traveling in the car and provide a pleasant association with it. Tracking is a great confidence builder for the youngster. He's out there doing his thing, pleasing his owner, and getting lots of extra handling and attention. Also, he will always be successful in achieving his goal. Even at this young age of 3, 4, or 5 months, he is learning to work with his handler. Without any of the force and rigidity of later obedience work, we are laying the foundations of communication. Not only does the pup learn how to deal with his handler, the assistants and their dogs, and various tracking commands and situations, but also the trainer, by working with the pup and

TRACKING - continued

observing him closely, as he must, learns so much more about his dog. The world of scent is his and, once the dog is positively motivated, the handler is only along for the ride (and because the A.K.C. requires that someone hold the lead). It's fascinating and humbling to watch these youngsters get out there and do something so far beyond our capabilities. We can only provide the circumstances and marvel at their highly developed sense.

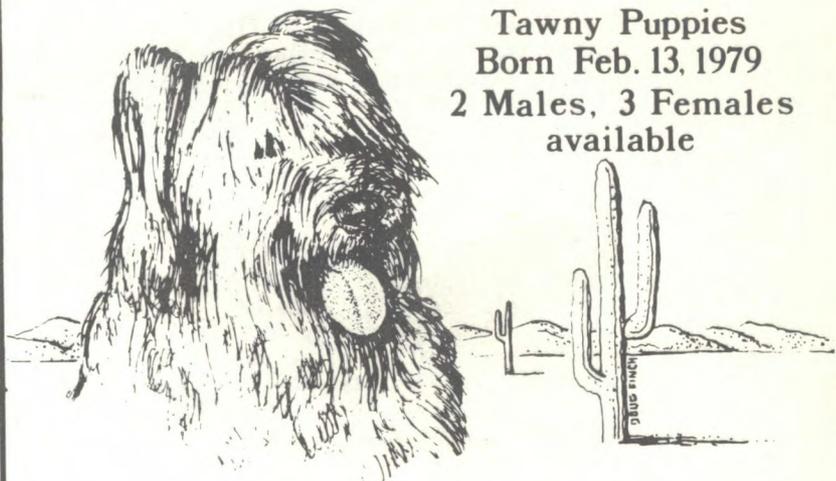
The essential equipment for tracking is first, the harness. Although the pup can be started on the collar, the harness is preferable because there is no discomforting pressure against the throat. A good tracking dog will pull strongly on the lead and keep a constant tension while he's on the trail. Since the harness is a special piece of apparatus that is worn only on a particular occasion, the pup soon associates it with tracking. Start with an inexpensive harness as the pup will obviously outgrow it, perhaps several times. Its strength, weight, and construction should be appropriate to the size and breed of dog. Second, you will need a lead. It's best to start with your regular six footer, as it will help to keep the pup close to the track when he's learning. Once he's eagerly pulling out ahead, it'll be time to switch to a twenty foot lead. The third requirement is for two flags. Make them by securing a square of cloth to either a metal or wooden shaft. Next obtain an article to be located by the pup, and assure that it is carried by the track layer long enough to absorb some of his scent. The T.D. requires either a leather wallet or glove, so it's best to start with one of these. Also, try to enlist the aid of a second person to assist in various capacities.

The first tracking session should be held under the most ideal conditions possible. Do not start on a windy afternoon when the scent will be blown around the field. Do not choose either a very hot, or very cold, or very rainy day, when the pup will be more concerned with his discomfort than the track. Wait for a cool, calm morning when the scent will cling to the track. Ideally, the grass should be green and at least a couple of inches high. Also, try to find a quiet field, free of other tracks and distractions, like other dogs and people. Eventually your dog will track in rain or snow, in the heat, cold, or wind, and distractions won't bother him. However, the better the conditions to start, the faster he will learn and the easier it will be for him.

Now we're ready to start the first track. Put on his harness and leave the pup with your assistant (or stake him). At this time the leash should be snapped to the collar. Walk about 10 paces, straight away from the puppy. Plant the first flag in the ground and walk in tight circles around it, trapping down the grass and depositing your scent. Next, face the pup, holding up the article he is to find (e.g. the glove). Shake it and call the pup's name, attracting his attention to the glove. Turn and walk 30 paces in a straight line and plant the second flag. Continue walking another 10 paces. Turn toward the puppy and again call him and shake the glove. Drop it and place several pieces of treat directly on top of it. Retrace your steps, staying right on the track. (See diagram)

Briards de Tierra de Oro

Tawny Puppies
Born Feb. 13, 1979
2 Males, 3 Females
available



Sire: CH Ugolin des Joyeux Lutins de Seauve
Tawny, French Import, OFA FB-21

Dam: Am & Mex CH Miel Melosa de Strathcona
Tawny, OFA FB-88

- Sound type and conformation
- Outstanding temperament

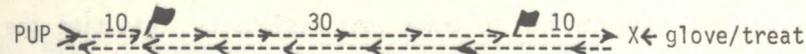
DALLAS & JUDY MEGGITT

1348 N. Lucero St., Camarillo, CA 93010

805-482-0207

advertisement

TRACKING - continued

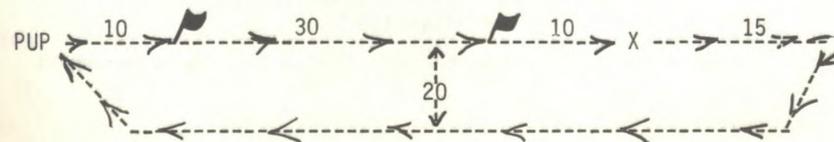


When you reach the puppy, ask, "Want to go tracking?". Lead him to the starting flag and stop. Switch the lead from the collar to the harness, point to the ground around the flag, and give the command to track. This may be "Find it", "Track", "Search", whatever is comfortable for you. Naturally, we hope the pup will proceed forward, following the track to the glove/food. Some will automatically do this, and a quiet, "Good dog, Track", may be used as he progresses. (If your pup is easily distracted by praise, it's best to remain quiet until he finds the article.) Some pups, remembering that you left the glove out there, will dash directly to the glove, with no indication that they are tracking at all. This is no problem. Soon the article will be placed when he's not watching, and the only way he'll be able to locate the treat, which he knows is out there, will be by using his nose. The third possibility is that the pup will do nothing. In this case, keep the lead short, and move your hand in front of the pup and along the track. Repeat your command, "Track", and encourage him to move forward. Keep your voice happy and proceed toward the article. When he begins to catch scent of the treat, he will dash toward it, where lots of praise and that special snack will convince the pup he has just done a wonderful thing.

Now retrieve your flags and return the pup to your assistant. The three of you should move about 20 paces from the first track and repeat the entire procedure. Do it all again on the third track, and then call it a day. Let the pup play in the field for a while. This really makes the whole outing enjoyable. He's the center of attention, with the person he cares most about, eating his favorite treats and even getting time to romp. He'll think he's in doggy heaven, and associate tracking with all the best things.

Three seems to be the perfect number of tracks for the young puppy. Four may be a bit tiring for some; two are seldom enough for him to really get the idea. With the youngster, the first track, for a while, will be a throw-away. The pup will have forgotten why he's out there, until he has the first track to remind him. Remember, we're dealing with babies who don't yet have well-developed memories or enough experiences to trigger a recall.

Once the pup indicates that he knows what he's doing, stop re-walking the track. Call the pup, place the glove and treats, and then continue forward about 15 paces away from the article. Swing around and back to the puppy - stay at least 20 paces away from the track. This is to keep you scent, when returning, from fouling the original track and confusing the pup.



As soon as the pup is doing this kind of track - i.e. out in front, pulling toward the glove/treat, and using the full 6 feet of

TRACKING - continued

Lead - it's time for him to track your assistant. This time the handler holds his dog, letting him watch as the track is laid. The assistant calls the dog's attention to the glove as he drops it (leaving food treats on top), proceeds 15 paces away from the article and circles back. He does not return to the puppy, but stays several yards away. The handler and his dog then proceed to run the track.

Taking your cues from the pup's performance, gradually increase the distance from the flag at which the glove is dropped. Once the pup is successfully tracking 100 - 150 paces, without having watched the track being laid, it is time to start aging the track. First, wait for 10 minutes before starting out. When he's doing this successfully, gradually increase the time until the pup will follow a track aged one hour or more. Also, at the same time, you will start increasing the length of the track and introducing right angle turns.

One word of advice. Never be reluctant to back up in your tracking if the pup seems to have a problem. Many dogs start out like gang-busters, only to level off or regress. Often, one or two shorter or fresher tracks, with an extra amount of treat on the article, will be all that's needed for him to regain his enthusiasm.

A more comprehensive treatise on how to plot a full-length track, the vagaries of scent, reading your dog, or handling specific problems which might arise, is beyond the scope of this introductory article. But, at this point you and your pup are well on your way to that T.D. Now you should make every effort to join a group of experienced trackers and track layers, and read any articles or books that you can find on the subject.

BULLETIN BOARD

I thought the Briard Club of America would be interested in seeing this classified ad that was in the Sunday edition of the Detroit News on April 1, 1979.

"BRIARD HUSKY - Shep. \$12.50 ea.
534-6133"

I never thought I'd see the day that a Briard owner would do this!

Dawn Laczkowski

NEW CHAMPION



CHAMPION UNIQUE NOÉ DE VIEILLE VILLE, C.D. (dog)

Owner: Cindy Gray

Breeders: Laurie Kay and Gerrie Miner

Championship: December 16, 1978

Whelped: April 20, 1977

Sire: Ch. Stonehill's I'm Henri Dam: Ch. Unique Magie du Nord, CD

(Ch. Uffin Berger du Nord X (Ch. Syre du Val de Reuil, CD
Ch. Flogan Variety Sho Stone- X Ch. Rochelle de Marha, U.D.)
hill)

Judge: Mr. Fred Young

"Noah" is handled by Cindy

COMPANION DOG EXCELLENT



CH. CHATEAUBRIARD JUSTINTIME, C.D.X. (bitch)

Owners: Pat & Matt Morale Breeders: Ken & Cece Collins

C.D.X. Title: September 23, 1978

Whelped: July 11, 1974

Sire: Ch. Pythias Chez Phydeau Dam: Ch. Chateaubriard Vichyssoise

(Ch. Matador Chez Phydeau, C.D. (Ch. Pythias Chez Phydeau X
X Ch. Nanie de la Haute Tour) Ch. Phydeaux Theda Bara)

Trained & handled by Pat

NEW MEXICAN CHAMPION



AM/MEX. CH. I, BARON D'YQUEM CHEZ CIEL, CD (dog)

Owner: Bill Shipman Breeder: Virginia Englehart

Mexican Title: March 11, 1979

Whelped: March 8, 1973

Sire: Ch. Prince Valiant de Marha Dam: Ch. Queen Elizabeth de Chien
Velu

(Ch. Nestor de Vasouy X (Ch. Matador Chez Phydeau, C.D.
Marha Magie de la Brie) X Ch. Arlette des Grand Pieds,
C.D.)

Handler: Barbara Waldkirch

BRIARD HEALTH AND WELFARE

FOOT AND NAIL CARE

In addition to grooming your Briard, you should be aware of the following:

A puppy should have his first nail trim at about 10 days of age. This should be repeated at about one-week intervals until the puppy is exercising on surfaces where the nails are worn down naturally. This should be done with nail clippers, not scissors. Care should be taken to avoid cutting into the quick as the pup will then resent having its feet handled. If it is necessary to trim an older dog's nails, an electric grinder is probably the safest and easiest tool to use. Veterinarian or kennel operator can also do this for you. Sometimes a dog can wear the nails away to the quick and this can be a cause of poor movement or lameness.

Briards should have their dewclaws trimmed periodically. It is best to check the dewclaw length every time your dog is groomed. Nail clippers should be used for trimming. The nail should never be allowed to curve or grow over so that it becomes embedded in the pad or skin.

It is not uncommon for dogs with hairy feet to have irritation and infection on the sole of the foot, just behind the underside of the base of the toes. It is usually caused by stepping in urine or other moisture. The secret here is to keep the area clean and dry. Clipping the hair behind the base of the toes (between the pads) helps.

TOOTH CARE

Dogs are not susceptible to cavities, but they are susceptible to tartar formation on their teeth. Dogs over two years of age should be checked periodically, for excessive accumulation of tartar can cause gum problems and tooth loss. Scaling the tartar off a dog's teeth is tricky and is best done by your veterinarian, or you should be instructed by him as to how to do it. Most dogs are not cooperative enough to have their owner do an adequate job. Most dogs require a good tooth scaling two or three times in their lifetime with in between scaling by their owners.

ANAL GLANDS

Anal glands (2) are located on either side of the rectum and lubricate feces. They are similar to the scent glands of a skunk and extrude a small amount of smelly substance when a dog is frightened or meets another dog. A well-exercised, well-fed dog usually has no difficulty with his anal glands. Sometimes an irritation or infection can cause a painful blockage of the anal glands, especially in older dogs. The dog may drag his buttocks on the floor or try but fail to defecate. If obstruction occurs, the owner or veterinarian should empty the glands. This is done by applying lateral pressure on the anus between the thumb and forefinger. If the glands become chronically infected, surgical removal may be advised.

Evy Wegienka
Medical Committee Chairman

STUD DOG COLUMN

CH. JABOT LE BONHEUR D'HTE COUTURE, CD, black, 5/10/74. CERF 132/78-51. Sire: Ch. Soleil d'Or de Marha. Dam: Vicki Chien de Grand Coeur. Owner: Frances Taylor, 2612 Starkweather Road, Rockford, IL 61107/ Telephone: 815/398-8938. Planes met Madison, Milwaukee or Chicago. (12/79)

CH. MONTARGIS DE LINDEAU, black, 3/14/76, OFA-FB 77, CERF 127/78-29. Rass. '78-Exc. Sire: Vin-Marque de Grand Coeur (X-rayed clear), Rass. '74 & '78-Exc. Dam: Ch. Iaime Widzette de Lindeau, OFA-FB 42, Rass. '74 & '78-Exc. Owner/breeder: Linda Wells, Chateau Lindeau Briards, 7380 Bishop Road, Brighton, MI 48116. Phone: 313/227-2414. (8/79)

CH. UNIQUE NOE DE VIEILLE VILLE, C.D., "Noah", black, 4/20/77. CERF BR-118/78-16. Rass. '78-Exc. Sire: Ch. Stonehil's I'm Henri, Dam: Ch. Unique Magie du Nord, C.D. Breeders: Laurie Kay & Gerrie Miner. Owners: Cindy Gray, Briards de Vieille Ville, 224 Willow, Chicago, IL 60614. At stud to approved bitches. Phone: 312/664-0586. (4/79)

Stud Dog Column listings are \$10 per year or \$2 per issue for up to five lines of information. Send listing to the Secretary and make checks payable to the Briard Club of America.

LOOKING FOR PUPPIES?

CALIFORNIA

Dallas & Judy Meggitt, 1348 N. Lucero St., Camarillo, CA 93010
(805/482-0207) 1 tawny pet female

MICHIGAN

Susan McCormick, 25743 Culver, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
(313/772-3897) Blacks/Tawnies planned for July
Linda Wells, 7380 Bishop Road, Brighton, MI 48116 (313/227-2414)
Blacks/Tawnies due late April

MINNESOTA

Susan Erickson, Rt. 5, Box 145, Mankato, MN 56001 (506/388-3282)
Black female, whelped September
Dick & Mimi Long, 63 1st Ave. North, Duluth, MN 55803
(218/724-7986) Black male, show quality, whelped October

NEW JERSEY

Ruth Monast, Box 125 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 08753
(201/244-9732) Tawnies expected in April

NEW YORK

John Santora, Box 142-B, R.D. #1, West Monroe, NY 13167
(315/668-3596) Tawnies, whelped October (females, pet & show)
Eugene & Carol Steiner, 1007 Cedar Dr. North, Manhasset Hills,
NY 11040 (516/248-9508) Tawnies whelped in October

DIANE McLEROth
3030 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
FORT WAYNE, IND. 46815

FIRST CLASS

Mr & Mrs John McLeroth
3030 Rockwood Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46805