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Briard



Briefs

THE BRIARD FELLOWSHIP

INCORPORATED

MONTVILLE, NEW JERSEY

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: By virtue of approval by the Board of Governors, the routine activities of The Briard Fellowship will experience considerable change beginning January 1st, 1957. For eleven years this organization has taken the lead in every support of our breed. For the same length of time this little publication has been the means of spreading Briard information to the membership and the dog world in general. All of this has been a labor of love on the part of your officers and would so continue if it were not for the very obvious fact that the amount of work involved is not balanced by the activities of those few of us who show and breed. To quote the old saying: "The mountain labored and brought forth a mouse".

This situation has been evident for a long time but all of us on the Board took an optimistic stand and felt sure that more breeding and showing lay just around the corner. Now and then there would be indications that the optimism was justified but they proved to be the proverbial flashes in the pan. To put it bluntly, your officers can no longer carry on all the activities in the face of the evident disinterest on the part of the majority of our membership.

We know why Briards are now shown more often. It is because most of us are one-dog owners instead of semi-professional breeders and exhibitors. Our Briards are members of our families rather than means by which our trophy rooms can be decorated. We do not foster our daughters entering Miss Sausage Meat of 1956 contests nor do we consider exhibiting our Briards in return for ribbons and knick-knacks. Not that the writer considers that reasoning sound. It may be false logic but it persists none the less.

Briard Briefs - 2

Ways and means of changing the schedule of activities were discussed and the following plan was eventually approved by the majority of the Board. Please read in detail as it applies to you and every other member and Briard lover.

1. The Briard Fellowship is going to continue to foster breeding and showing.
2. It will, from time to time, issue Briard publicity.
3. It will continue to distribute, to all applicants, copies of The Briard Book.
4. It will continue to maintain show and breeding records.
5. It will continue to answer all inquiries about the dogs and refer the writers to sources where Briards may be obtained.
6. The distribution of spoons to every best of breed winner at AKC point shows will be continued.
7. The Roush Memorial Trophy will be in competition at the Twin Brooks show.
8. The Taylor Memorial Trophy will be held in escrow by the donors unless our membership decides otherwise.
9. Briard Briefs will be issued from time to time when there is special material of interest.
10. Our incorporation under New Jersey laws will be kept up to date by payment of the annual tax.
11. In early Spring the entire membership will be contacted in regard to the Annual Match Show. If there is definite proof that the Show will be supported by sufficient entries, it will be staged.

Briard Briefs - 3

Many breed clubs charge dues but offer members virtually no services. In our case the membership of The Fellowship will be "frozen" as of January 1st, 1957. Every member now on our roster will continue in good standing WITHOUT PAYING ANY FURTHER DUES.

Financially we are in excellent condition. Our greatest expense was for Briard Briefs. The cash on hand will cover routine expenses under the new plan for a year or more. Thus expenses for the activities listed on the first page will be paid for from cash on hand. When the time comes that the funds are running low it will be necessary to again charge dues.

Another expense was the annual election. This will be saved by a similar "freezing" of the members of the Board of Governors. They will continue to serve unless, by vote of the majority of the membership, an election is demanded.

The entire change in program can be summed up in three items: (A) Briefs will no longer be published monthly. (B) There will be no further bills for dues until the cash on hand has been greatly reduced to the point where replenishment is necessary. (C) The membership roster and the list of officers will be retained as it is. Again, in tabular form:

Briefs not published monthly
Officers and members retained as of this date
No further collection of dues for a year or so.

Perhaps some of you will feel that all of this explanation was not necessary. The Fellowship was never run that way. The officers felt a deep sense of obligation and took their duties with great seriousness.

Briard Briefs - 4

One thing should be very clear: The Fellowship is NOT going out of business. It is simply curtailing a few of the activities that took the most time and were the most costly.

Your editor will be glad to hear from the membership either for or against this new arrangement. If you do not approve of it, we ask only that you give it a chance to show its merits. Surely the fact that no dues will be charged for the year to come -- and quite likely for an even longer period -- is sufficient indication that this is not a money-making scheme. You are being offered many of the former advantages of membership at no cost.

I believe I can speak for the majority of the officers when I say that they will remain at your service and the service for the breed. Write in at any time should there be need for any help headquarters can give you. In particular send in information about new litters, puppies or stud dogs wanted, show reports; anything that will be of interest or help.

There will be a December issue of Briefs. It will pass along the best wishes of the season to all of you and your dogs. It was felt better to detail the new arrangement in this November issue rather than to depart from the holiday mood in the last regular issue of Briefs for the time being.

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GOOD PUBLICITY: Thanks to the several members who sent in copies of the October 7th issue of Parade magazine with its full page illustration of Angela Sutton and her Westlawn Piper. Many members will recall Mrs. Sutton, one of our most enthusiastic members, and her Piper. He will be recalled as the especially perky puppy in the ribbons at the 1954 Fellowship Match.

THE BRIARD FELLOWSHIP, Inc.
MONTVILLE, NEW JERSEY
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