

No 7

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# Briard



# Briefs

**THE BRIARD FELLOWSHIP**

INCORPORATED

MONTVILLE, NEW JERSEY

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION: Newspapers are carrying items to the effect that a research laboratory has had success with artificial insemination where the male semen was shipped from England and was 140 hours old at the time it was used on an American bitch. The resulting litter, so it is reported, was excellent in every way.

We believe that the AKC is still opposed to this method of breeding, although it has been successful for many years with other types of domestic animals. All breeders of dogs of a type that are not found on every street would welcome artificial insemination as a boon of immeasurable benefit. A breed such as Briards presents a major problem when it comes to seeking outside bloodlines. Not only is shipment of a big bitch for a thousand or more miles a hazard and an inconvenience in itself but, as those who have bred Briards will testify, "catching" the bitch at exactly the proper time is often so much of a problem that we often cannot manage it when both male and female are regularly on the same property. There may be breeds with less sex urge but, if so, the writer has never run across them. Of course this is not always the case but, as a general rule, breeding Briards in the natural manner is a serious problem.

If artificial insemination was given the AKC green light we believe that, in Briards alone, there would be twice as many puppies in a year and that the quality of the litters would be vastly improved. Obviously the artificial insemination method would have to be supervised by veterinarians at both ends. The expense might be greater but the results so far better that

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considering the matter from a penny-saving outlook is ridiculous.

We do not know what the grounds are for the AKC's reluctance to recommend the practice. If we are to consider that veterinarians are ethical -- and there seems no doubt of that -- it would appear that artificial breeding supervised at both ends by trained professionals, would do more to insure accurate records than the presently approved method. Now we assume that a kennel owner is ethical. If he applies for recognition of a litter by Ch. Hairy Paws out of Lady Be Good, the AKC takes his word for it unless opposite proof is presented. It is therefore difficult to believe that the AKC objections are based on a belief that two professionals would falsely certify as to the source of the semen and the injection of it into the specified bitch.

Let us look at but one example. At the moment the writer's Ch. Chef is riding high on the basis of his show wins, his progeny and his nation-wide publicity on TV and in posing for advertising. We have members in Chicago who would be interested in using Chef at stud but who, quite naturally, do not care to ship their house pet to New Jersey and have her away from home for what might well be two weeks. Yet airplanes shuttle between the two cities every few hours. Something does not seem to make good sense. We wonder if this small voice crying in the wilderness will bring out some satisfactory explanation ?

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FELLOWSHIP MATCH SHOW RECORDS: Following are the Annual Match records for every year this organization has been in existence. You will find four columns of dog names after the notation of the year, location of the Match, name of the judge and number of

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entries. The first column names the winner of Best Adult in Match. The second is Best Adult of Opposite Sex. The third is Best Puppy and the fourth Best Puppy of Opposite Sex. There was no Match in 1952 as the Far Hills point show was used as an experiment that did not work out as far as entries were concerned. The eight Match Shows averaged just under 48 entries per show. The top winners have repeated only twice. The Walker-bred Rowlie won in 1949 and 1952 when shown by Miss Wielich. Chef won in 1954 and 1955. He was bred by the Warners and shown by Westlawn. Several of the dogs that won Best Puppy went on to win Best Adult a year or so later. It will be noted that we have had a different judge each year for the matches, (Chris Knudsen also had us at Far Hills.) and that each arbiter has been a well-known dog judge.

<i>Best Adult</i>	<i>Best Adult</i>	<i>Best Pupp</i>	<i>Best of Opp</i>
1948: Montville, Mrs. Ehmling, 56 entries			
Pierre II	Westlawn	Meadowtops	None
	Gleaming	Golliker	
		Pearson	
1949: Montville, Miss Colgate, 55 entries			
Meadowtops	Westlawn	None	None
Rowlie	Gossamer		
Helliker			
1950: Montville, Mr. Knudsen, 60 entries			
Westlawn	Irhamonts	Benmore	Westlawn
Excalibur	Genie	Leonide	Josephine
	Grandet		
1951: Montville, Miss Denys, 60 entries			
Benmore	Westlawn	Westlawn	None
Leonide	Glory Be !	Ivy	
1952: Far Hills Point Show, Mr. Knudsen, 9 entries			
Meadowtops	Westlawn	Timothy J	None
Rowlie	Gossamer		
Helliker			

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1953: Montville, Mrs. Bonney, 28 entries  
Westlawn Aimer du None None  
Ivy Gai Chenil

1954: Montville, Mr. Smith, 58 entries  
Chef D'Oeuvre Westlawn Waltons Waltons  
of Begun House Ivy Etienne Peggy

1955: Montville, Mrs. Dunn, 22 entries  
Chef D'Oeuvre Dowitcher Amant de Amour de  
of Begun House of Saltmarsh Baubigny Baubigny

1956: Montville, Miss Knudsen, 41 entries  
Amour de Amant de Bell of Black Magic  
Baubigny Baubigny Alpen of Alpen

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OBEDIENCE FOR YOUR BRIARD

by Wm. P. Kent

Last month we left off with the hope that your dog would open his mouth automatically when commanded to "take" an article. The next step is, while walking with him, to hold the dumbbell or article about 6 inches in front of his nose. Give the order "Take it" and he should grab with less compunction than ever before as dogs instinctively grab for moving objects. Keep increasing the distance and lowering the dumbbell until you can roll it on the ground. The next step is to throw it 3 or 4 feet and then so on out until your maximum throw is reached. Keep giving plenty of praise.

The retrieve for obedience trial is quite exacting. The dog must "stay" after the throw has been made (30 ft.); then on command to "take it" make a brisk retrieve. He must not play with the dumbbell and should remember his geometry -- a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. On return-

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ing, he should sit in front facing his handler and hold the dumbbell until taken from his mouth. On command he should go to "heel" position.

Something that should be appreciated when selecting a dog is the necessity of good legs. This is a must for both obedience and show. In obedience, a Briard has to jump 36 inches, and in show the judge will place great emphasis on the relative structure of the dog's underpinning. In the last issue of The French Briard Club's magazine, the legs were referred to as the foundation on which to build the dog.

When training your dog to jump, be sure he is in good condition. By that I mean -- see that he gets ample opportunity to run and perhaps play with another dog. This will strengthen those muscles necessary to absorb the shock of landing after going over the high jump.

Several people in my training club have had to "lay up" their dogs for several months because they strained front shoulders while practising the high jump work. In all cases, the dogs involved were never able to get a good hard run.

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