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Briard



Briefs

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 Gerald T. White, Editor, Montville, N. J.



TO ALL
 BRIARDS' AND
 BRIARD
 OWNERS

LEASH AND COLLAR COMMENTS: A recent issue of this California dog paper carried an item stating that dog club organizations should follow lines that, according to the writer of the article, were new and unusual. Your secretary immediately wrote a letter pointing out that most of the suggestions had been part of The Briard Fellowship by-laws since the inception of this organization. In the current Leash & Collar there is a letter from the author of the article pointing out that, at the time it was written, he was not familiar with our rules. The magazine went on to agree that we had anticipated their suggestions by about seven years. Actually The Fellowship management has always incorporated virtually all of the suggestions made but has, in addition, numerous other regulations that work for the betterment of breed club activities.

A CHAMPION PASSES: Ch. Ferdinando El Toro, owned and shown by Gay Norgaard, recently passed away. Ferdinando was the foundation sire of Mrs. Norgaard's kennels in California and was well-known in the show rings on the West Coast. Unfortunately he was never sent East but several of his progeny have been shown along the Atlantic seaboard. We extend sympathy to Mrs. Norgaard and hope that she has a male that will carry on the Ferdinando bloodlines.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES ? Due bills have been sent out to the entire membership. A large proportion have now paid but there are still many who, for one reason or another, have not forwarded a check. Let it again be pointed out that your officers serve without pay. Every cent of income is plowed back into service to the breed. Writing collection letters and sending out duplicate bills take a toll of both time and money. Please help us to serve Briards better by avoiding extra office work.

BRIARD PUPPIES NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE: This office is constantly receiving requests for Briard puppies. Usually there is an insufficient supply. Interested people are advised to make a reservation even before a litter is born. Any reputable breeder will accept such a deposit with the agreement that it will be returned if the puppy does not pass the required inspection before shipment is made. This is often the only way you will get a young Briard. In this connection a litter is expected in California within a few weeks. Let this office know whenever you are in need of a puppy.

ANOTHER GOOD DOG PASSES AWAY: George Zabriskie has just written in the sad news that his Meadowtop's Mr. Watcliffe -- brother of the recently deceased Rowlie Helliker -- is dead. To the Zabriskies our deepest sympathy in the loss of one of the finest blacks we have ever seen. Mr. Watcliffe was as good a black as Rowlie was a tawny -- which is all that anyone need say. It is a great pity that he was never shown nor bred. His

sorrowing owner has donated a trophy to be known as the "Mr. Watcliffe Memorial" for competition at our next annual show.

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PLEASE REPORT YOUR LITTERS: For very obvious reasons, The Fellowship by-laws require that a breeder must report all details of a litter within thirty days after whelping. Those that fail to do so will have charges filed against them which can lead to their expulsion from the organization.

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THE APPRENTICE JUDGE HASSLE: Dog people constantly criticize the present system of having judges serve an apprenticeship before getting a license. For what it is worth we would like to offer a suggestion. At present the apprentice has no authority in the ring and stands around like a lost soul. What would happen if the apprentice did the judging with the regular judge going over the dogs immediately behind the neophyte ? At the end of every class let the apprentice make the selections. But before he hands out the ribbons he must show his selections to the judge who will immediately approve, or overrule, any placing. A report would be filed at the AKC and a novice judge who had been overruled enough times by several judges would be automatically out of the picture. On the other hand approval of the apprentice's placings by a certain number of judges would result in a license being issued. Come on, tear that idea apart.

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GAZETTE COVER FEATURES BRIARD: The special Christmas issue of the American Kennel Gazette shows the Briard puppy, Westlawn Izaak Walton, as the subject of the cover picture. The painting is by Charles G. Bauer and was taken from a photo of Izaak snapped before he was shipped to his owner, and our fellow member, Mrs. Warren Kaine of Vinnetka, Ill. Izaak is by Ch. Westlawn Genius out of Westlawn Fascinator.

LOOK WHAT WE STARTED: To the best of our knowledge the first printed complaints about holding dogs after their ring appearance appeared in this little paper of ours. Others, more powerful, took it up and there has been a general reduction in the number of hours the exhibitor stays in pokey after he has shown the dogs for which he paid an entry fee. Now comes an interesting point. A show chairman reports that people in several other breeds have offered trophies with the proviso that the offer will not hold unless the dogs are released when judged. Perhaps that is the best way yet to force show giving clubs to stop sending us to Siberia until they open their hearts and grant us the privilege of going home. Actually there is a still better way; the way that has become almost an unwritten law in The Fellowship. Don't enter any show that has a release hour later than 3 PM. Those who are easily shocked or go for stuffed shirts in a big way have been known to fall flat on their faces at the above suggestion. With shaking voice they tell us that we are striking at two-day "prestige" shows. So what? There is no such thing as a prestige show for breed wins and anyone with a grain of thinking apparatus knows it. The importance of a breed win is based wholly on the number of dogs of that breed you have defeated. A purple and gold from some of the events where you are jailed for 48 hours has no more value than a similar ribbon from the Hen Scratch Kennel and Social Club show unless the stuffed shirt affairs have more entries in the breed. And they seldom have more, or as many entries, for the simple reason that they tell you when you can go home even if you have given your best by kicking in with the entry fee and showing your dog on schedule. It is any man's privilege to hold out his ankles for the ball and chain but it still sounds like Russia and not like the U.S.A.

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