December 1965

The Dew Claw

Published by The Briard Club of America
MRS. NORGÄRD has had quite a serious auto accident, sustaining a broken ankle and broken nose, as well as multiple bruises, and torn ligaments. We all wish Gay a complete and speedy recovery, and for personal words of cheer, write to:

Mrs. G. W. Norgaard
Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital
Room 601
Kerrville, Texas

Luc de la Brie, owned by LEONARD ROSNER, and two of Luc's pups, owned by BETH YARISH, Made their television debut on a New York Area children's program, "Paul Tripp's Birthday Party". It was a completely charming scene, with Luc nuzzling the puppies who romped all over him, while Beth gave all the viewers a brief background on the breed. The only fault was that it was over much too quickly.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

EXTRA COPIES OF THIS ISSUE AVAILABLE
25¢ ea. or 5 for $1.00

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from
Bella and her charges*

* Niobe Chez Phydeau, Dottie and Judy Davies

Mr. & Mrs. John W. Davies, Jr. R. 1 Box 35C
Whitehouse, Ohio 43571
a partridge in a pear tree is good but
a Briard in the pear leaves is the best.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from
Roberta Sableski and Baba Yaga

JAY ORDAN, 113-14 72nd Road, Forest Hills, N.Y.
and Briard, "D'Artagnan Coeur de Lion".

HELP!!!!

Jane Doe is a BCA member in central Montana. Her Briard is the only one in the state as far as we know. There are no Briard matches nearby; there are no Briards at the local shows. In fact, Jane's only contact with any other Briard is through the DEW CLAW. The only other Briards she ever sees are those pictured in the Dew Claw. The only members she knows are those she reads about in the Dew Claw. There is a Jane Doe in Missouri, too.....and one in Louisiana.....and John Doe in Arizona.....not to mention Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and North Dakota.

Poor Jane, you say. Don't spend your time in tears over Jane. Instead take a piece of paper and write about your Briard. Tell us when he's good.....or not so good.....send us his picture. We know you have one. It will cost you a few minutes, and some postage. cont. p.5

And if your name is Jane Doe, don't just sit there and wait for the next Dew Claw. There are 69 other members who would like to meet you and see a picture of your Briard. We'll even return the picture if you wish.

Seriously, to have an interesting and informative Dew Claw requires the participation of all the members. Won't you help? Please!

The weather at the BCA fun match last month made up for two previous matches. It was warm enough for members, judge, and Briards to take full advantage of the beautiful swimming pool. In fact two Briards got into the pool before they got into the ring. Matador Chez Phydeau fell in trying to get a drink. But it was a beautiful warm day, and everyone was thoroughly dry by show time.

The Judge for the match was Liz Hanrahan, breeder and exhibitor of Standard Schnauzers, and owner of Patundlis Kennels. Unfortunately one of the Briards must have gotten into a patch of poison ivy, and communicated it to Mrs. cont. p.6
Hanrahan as she went over the dog. All I can say is 'it's a great sport...and Mrs. Hanrahan is certainly a very GOOD SPORT.'

An interesting innovation was Mrs. Hanrahan's critique. As she placed each dog in his class, she turned ringside, and explained her choice. I found this very educational, and would like to see more of it, personally. You not only see your dog through someone else's eyes, but you get a glimpse of what must go on in every judge's mind as he views a ring full of dogs. It's so much more than going from dog to dog, looking for faults. But more about this later....now the results:

Puppy 3 - 6
1. Ourale de la Haute Tour - Tingley
2. Ole de la Haute Tour - Cook
Bred by Exh.
1. Nonchalent des Gasconnades - Grodjesk

Amer.-bred
1. Pommarde des Coteaux -
Open
1. Oceane - Morren
BIM
Ch. Matador Chez Phydeau - Cook
BOS
Ch. Pinot Noire des Coteaux-Tingley
BOW
Nonchalent des Gasconnades

Noting the tremendous upsurge in Briard activity in various parts of the country, BCA President, George Morren has been looking for ways to organize this activity to the benefit of all concerned. The best method seems to be in the establishment of local chapters within the Briard Club. At present four chapters are all that's needed, and these will be determined geographically.

As we have Mr. Morren himself on the East Coast; and Dr. Catalano on the West Coast; Mr. Morren has appointed Harold Marley and Gay Norgaard to the Executive Committee, to head the Northern and Southern Chapters respectively. Each chapter may hold one Specialty Show per year, and may hold matches and meetings as desired. Members seeking breed ring competition are urged to contact their chapter leaders. Likewise, chapter leaders are urged to advise the BCA Secretary of local events, for publication in the Dew Claw.

No doubt there will be many questions and a few problems until things get rolling smoothly, so there will be more information in the Dew Claw from time to time, as we hear from various parts of the country.

** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **

COMING SHOWS

There will be Briard entries at the following

Nov. 20 Sussex Hills K.C. Morristown, N. J.
21 San Mateo K. C. San Mateo, Cal.
12 Camden Co. A. C. Camden, N. J.

Those of you who are planning to enter the Westminster Show.....remember your Premium List comes out in December, and entries MUST be sent in immediately, as this is a limited show.
Thinking about breeding that bitch of yours? Why? Just to have a litter of pups? To take advantage of the fact that Briard pups are few and far between and there is a fairly good market for them? Because you hope to breed a better show specimen than you now have? The reasons are many and varied. However, I feel that the best reason for breeding is that we just like Briards and our ambition is to improve the Breed through breeding better Briards.

So, assuming that we all have the same objective in mind - the breeding of better Briards - let's try and explore some of the means of arriving at our goal. First, we should read and re-read the Standard for the breed - have a mental picture of the perfect Briard and set this as our goal. A goal that will be near to impossible because in any breed, perfection does not seem to exist. Near perfection, yes. In order to more fully comprehend the Standard and to better form this mental picture, we should visit as many shows as possible, see what the winners look like - look at as many Briards as possible. Try to imagine what you would improve.

Now, let's take a look at the bitch a moment. I think we are all pretty much in agreement that the female should be the very best that we can afford. Does this mean that if we can afford a champion that we should go out and buy one? No, not necessarily; she might be a champion and never produce like quality in her pups regardless of the stud to which she is bred. So what do we mean by the best bitch possible? Well, actually we mean the best that meets the eye and the best as to genetic make-up, and the latter can not be determined until she has been bred, and produced a litter. So, if we are buying a bitch, unless she is a proven producer of quality, we have no assurance that she will produce quality, other than that her particular line, if she is line-bred, is known for producing certain wanted qualities. So here we have an element of risk involved.

I don't know how many times I have read (nor by how many experts) that the only way to breed the best is to breed the best to the best - that mediocrity can not be improved upon. At least, this is the impression they were trying to convey. Which brings to mind the words of John Madden, one of the greatest of American horse breeders, who once said, "Breed the best to the best and hope for the best. In this way you will have your good years and your bad years, and when you produce your champion, the theorists will then tell you how it happened".

Now, I agree that we should breed the best to the best when at all possible, but I do not agree that mediocrity cannot be improved upon. I recall some years back that a successful Cocker breeder made the statement that she could take any average Cocker bitch and in three generations produce a champion. If it were true that mediocrity could not be improved upon, then in heaven's name did any of our breeds become what they are today, when we consider what they looked like in the beginning.

I think herein lies one means of success - the ability to recognize the possibilities resulting from the correct mating of a bitch that is less than top quality. The ability to realize that quality can be improved through correct breeding - not always in the first generation, but perhaps in subsequent generations. Sometimes, if we don't succeed in our first breeding, we figure we used the wrong stud, or that our bitch had nothing to offer to begin with. Then, out go all the pups and we try another combination.

Now if we are going to breed Briards, regardless of our reason for doing so, then why not try to show some improvement as we go along? This requires that we have the intestinal fortitude to accept some defeats along the way, but to never give up the try. And rest assured, many are going to fail miserably and will eventually say they've had it; that is, unless they breed today toward eventual improvement tomorrow. We must not expect "a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow" or hope for a lucky accident (you can breed many good dogs by accident).
dent - providing of course - you breed enough of them). We must plan for eventual success.

Now, assuming that we have read and re-read the Standard and know how to apply it when looking over a Briard, assuming we have that mental picture of what the ideal Briard should look like, then the next step is to start planning to achieve our goal of producing as nearly as possible that mental picture. Now, if we've got to catch a train to Timbuktu, we'd better forget about it, because any plan or program for producing top quality is going to take time - (lots of time) and patience (lots of patience).

Now how do we go about breeding top quality Briards? Well, there have been many theories advanced for breeding quality, many of which would take pages and pages to explain thoroughly in order to derive any benefit therefrom. But to keep things brief, some breeders try to reproduce great dogs of the past by trying to duplicate as nearly as possible the combination that produced a great dog or bitch. One such mating could be accomplished by mating a son of a great stud to a daughter or grand-daughter of a bitch that produced a champion by the great stud. Many breeders believe that good combinations sometimes strike again.

Another theory: In the early 1890's an Australian named Bruce Lowe wrote a book setting forth a theory for breeding good specimens of the breed. He was a student of pedigrees and a mathematician. Bruce Lowe was one of the earliest exponents of the cult of female dominance. He believed that all great sires were the result of breeding to strong female families. His theory was that certain strong influences existed in female families more so than the strength of male lines. He believed all good sires resulted from in-breeding to female families that produced exceptional sires. Lowe reasoned that great champions that failed to reproduce themselves were from families that lacked the right breeding formula to reproduce good males. However, many of these sires produced wonderful daughters. How many times have we heard of sires that produce good bitches but cannot sire an outstanding male. This is due to a weakness in his female family. To obtain the best results a sire of this type should only be bred to strong female families. One particular feature of this system enables a breeder to line-breed in female families although he outcrosses his male lines. To prove the fact that breeders hold to the theory that a good producing bitch is essential to a successful kennel, just realize that most breeders, if given a choice of two bitches of equal quality, will pick the one with the best production background. If Bruce Lowe's theory is not basically right, then why not just pick any bitch and breed her to any dog? (Which is what some so-called breeders do.)

In the year 1870 a man named Korthals, a son of a wealthy Flemish banker and gentleman farmer, decided to breed a superior hunting dog of the wire-haired variety. He selected 12 dogs and bitches, none of them pure bred in the sense we know them today. However, all were excellent hunting dogs, and each had a quality Korthals admired. He bred litters from these dogs and selected the best offspring of each. The next step was to in-breed the best dog and bitch he had. After in-breeding for several generations he found it necessary to out-cross to other pure in-bred strains he had developed. He then selected and in-bred the resulting best from each mating.

Korthal's breeding system was as follows: 1) Select your best specimens; 2) Out-cross; 3) Select best offspring of out-crossing; 4) In-breed the best specimens.

This system can be carried on almost indefinitely without fear of poor results. Of course, this man was quite ruthless in culling his breeding stock as only about 10% of all the stock he produced was bred. By this system, the Wire-haired Pointing Griffon was first developed.

Then there is the old Kentucky formula for breeding good horses, which is to breed a daughter of a son of X to X, - X, of course, being a top speci-
This may or may not be a good formula for breeding good Briards, since in applying it to horses we find that the progeny are not so numerous as they are in dogs and the result of mating two horses together gives you all your good and bad points wrapped up in one individual, whereas in dogs we have the good points and the bad points so scattered through several pups in a litter that it is small wonder at times that we have the progress we do have in the breeding of dogs of any breed.

One of the more popular and most frequently applied formulas for breeding in most any breed is to attend as many shows as possible, or just sit home and read the show reports, and breed to the dog that is doing the most winning, regardless of whether your bitch is suited to the male or not. The results of this formula I cannot guarantee nor recommend.

Now that I have briefly outlined a few theories, you may wonder what my own personal views may be. Basically I think every breeder should, as earlier mentioned, have a goal in mind in breeding Briards. Then with his goal set he should first decide what line he is going to work with and once he has made a choice he should stick with it, work with it, be prepared for disappointments along the way - but don't give up the ship. (That is unless after giving it a good try you find you have made a bad start). You may find that there are one or more qualities which you are not getting or can not easily be gotten from the line you are working with, and if such be the case, don't hesitate to outcross to get that wanted quality.

Better yet, if you can get a dog or bitch that is already the product of an outcross of the line you are working with and a line carrying the quality you desire, this will put you one generation closer to getting the desired quality in your own breedings. Each breeding should result in quality equal to or better than the previous breeding, and progress cannot be made by continually breeding the same animals year after year. I think also that we sometimes fail to recognize some of the excellent qualities in a dog or bitch because of some fault he or she might have. How many times have you heard it said of some dog, that you should not breed to him because of some particular fault he might have - nothing being said about some of the really superior qualities he might possess. I think that in evaluating any dog or bitch for breeding we should look for the good points and breed to retain these qualities and to improve on the faults.

I think too, that we sometimes make the mistake of trying to select our pups at too early an age; the pup that you wouldn't give a second glance at five or six weeks of age may well hold your eye indefinitely at nine or ten weeks of age. In selecting a puppy from a litter there are a few basic things we should look for; high on the list should be temperament or good disposition with no trace of shyness. Overall, the pup should be substantially built and well proportioned, hind quarters should be well angulated with no tendency to be cow hocked. (A pup without angulation will remain so.) Nose and muzzle should not be pointed (they will only grow more so), the pup should be alert and active, and if I were selecting a bitch for breeding I would select one a bit on the doggy side rather than one that was entirely feminine.

A final word of caution - don't think success will come overnight.

AVAILABLE FROM BCA
"How to Raise and Train a Briard"........@1.00
Briard stationery - notepaper.............1.00
French fold..............2.00
Please specify drop ear or cropped ear
Briard ear cropping pattern............Free

SEASONS
GREETINGS
AND
BEST WISHES
FOR THE NEW YEAR

the Milton Herchenriders

13
We were most gratified to find the article "The Briard in the Breed Ring" reprinted on page 1 of the Nov. 1 Issue of the American Dog Reporter.

Plans are under way for Briard Specialty Shows in 1966 at Greenwich, Conn. on June 11th; and at the Beverly Hills K. C. on June 25 & 26. A BCA dinner meeting will be held the evening of June 11th, with Dr. Grodjesk handling reservations and details.

The BCA will also support the entry at the Toledo K. C. Show in May.

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Some of our members have written to say they have never received a copy of the BCA Constitution and By-Laws. For others who may have misplaced their copies over the years, we are including it here.

CONSTITUTION - BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA
Adopted September 15, 1944

ARTICLE I

The name of the club shall be the Briard Club of America.

ARTICLE II

The club is established to promote the breeding and showing of pure-bred Briards and to define and publish a Standard of the Breed. The Club shall hold and support shows, offer prizes, urge the improvement of the breed as outlined in the Standard, and in every appropriate way, advance the interests of the breed.

ARTICLE III

The Standard of the Breed has been translated from that of the French Club, Les Amis du Briard, and shall be published with this Constitution.
SHOW STARS

Hermes de la Gaillarde (the dog) doesn't have star billing in the Little Theatre's production of "Camelot" which opens tonight at 8, but he does get the lion's share of attention from members of the cast. He's pictured here with Jim Moody and Susannah Rockwell. Hermes is of the Briard breed, the pre-eminent sheep dog of France. He is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Kelly.

following is an excerpt from a letter, received by Mrs. Norgaard, which accompanied the newspaper clipping reproduced.

"Hermes de la Gaillarde made his stage debut tonight in our Little Theatre production of Camelot. He has drawn applause from every one. We have not trained him except to be a nice dog, so I didn't know what he would do on a stage. He took to it like a duck to water and of course, every one is in love with him. I'm sure you would be proud of him if you could see how he behaves himself. All types of people came to pet him. At the curtain calls he just about danced."

Mrs. Anthony Kelly
2406 E. 40th
Savannah, Ga.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of the club shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may both be held by one person concurrently. The officers shall be elected annually by mail vote of the membership in good standing. The election shall take place in January of each year, or as near to that date as is practical. Officers shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE V

The President shall appoint an Executive Committee consisting of the officers and a sufficient number from the membership so the Committee shall be composed of five persons. These appointments shall be for one year or until their successors are appointed.

ARTICLE VI

This Constitution may be amended providing such amendment or amendments, are approved by mail balloting of the membership in good standing. Approval shall be signified by a two-thirds majority of those returning ballots.
"But Santa, I Was A Good Boy!"

Merry Christmas from Jane and Charles Cook,
the Briards, the Bedlingtons, and little Gee Gee

THE BY-LAWS, BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA

SECTION I

Meetings may be held by order of the President, or of the Executive Committee providing notice of such meeting is mailed to each member not less than ten days before the date of such a meeting. The President will call a meeting when requested to do so over the signature of not less than ten members in good standing. At any general meeting, seven members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION II

The President: The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Club. He shall preside at all meetings of the Club, or of the Executive Committee.

SECTION III

The Vice-President: In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall act as President.

SECTION IV

The Secretary: The Secretary shall keep full minutes of all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee. He shall keep a full record of all transactions of the Club. He shall prepare and keep a full record of members and officers. He shall conduct voting by mail, tabulate returns, and preserve for not less than one year, the returned ballots, which shall be open for inspection by any member in good standing. He shall arrange the voting so that a period of not less than 15 days, nor more than 30 days, elapses between the mailing of the ballots and the closing of the polls.

SECTION V

The Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge of all of the funds of the Club, and may disburse the same. He shall keep account of all monies received and dispensed.

cont. p. 21
SECTION VI

The Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall have the general management and direction of all the affairs, interest, business and property of the Club. The Executive Committee shall appoint a committee on nominations for office. The Executive Committee shall act as a committee for the election of new members.

SECTION VII

Membership: The number of members of this Club shall be unlimited. Every candidate for membership shall be proposed by one member of the Club and the name, profession, and residence of the candidate shall be sent by the proposer to the Secretary. The Executive Committee shall have the power by a majority vote of the entire committee; which may be taken by mail; to forfeit the membership of any member of the club for conduct on his part, likely in the opinion of the Executive Committee, to endanger the welfare or character of the club.

SECTION VIII

Vacancies in Office: Whenever a vacancy shall occur in any office the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy, the appointee to hold office until the club shall elect.

SECTION IX

Amendments of BY-Laws: The Executive Committee, or the club may amend the By-Laws at any meeting called for that purpose, but only by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at such a meeting.

SECTION X

Annual Dues: The annual dues shall be $5.00 payable to the Treasurer during January of each year. New members joining after July 1st shall pay $2.50 for the remainder of the year. This shall also apply for members who have been dropped during the calendar year and who apply for re-
SEASONS

GREETINGS

TO ALL

THE CLARKS

ERNIE AND ILA

MOLALLA, OREGON

SEASONS GREETINGS

the Rosners and
"Luc"
instatement. It will not apply to those delinquent for current dues. No member shall remain in good standing whose dues for the current year remain unpaid on June 1st.

SECTION XI

Breeding and Showing: Members of the club shall not exhibit dogs having the disqualifying points mentioned in the Standard of the Breed.

BRIARD

STANDARD OF THE BREED

Adopted, January 19, 1932

GENERAL APPEARANCE - A strong and substantially built dog, fitted for field work, lithe, muscular, and well proportioned, alert and active. SIZE - Height at shoulders: Dogs, 23 to 27 inches; bitches, 22 to 25½ inches. Young dogs may be below the minimum.

HEAD - Large and rather long. Stop well marked and placed at equal distance from top of head and tip of nose. Forehead very slightly rounded. Line from stop to tip of nose straight. Teeth strong, white, and meeting exactly even. Muzzle neither narrow nor pointed. Nose rather square than rounded, always black. Hair heavy and long on top of head, the ears, and around the muzzle forming eyebrows standing out and not veiling the eyes too much. Eyes horizontal, well opened, dark in color and rather large; intelligent and gentle in expression. EARS - Placed high, alert, may be cropped or left natural. If cropped the ears are carried erect; if uncut they should not be too large or carried too flat. There shall be no preference shown to either cropped or uncropped ears.

CONFORMATION - Neck muscular and distinct from the shoulders. Chest broad and deep. Back straight. Rump slightly sloped. Legs muscular with heavy bones. Hock not too near the ground, making a well-marked angle, the leg below the hock being not quite vertical. TAIL - Uncut, well feathered, forming a crook at the end, carried low and twisted neither to right nor left. The length of the tail should equal the distance from the root of the tail to the point of the hock. FEET - Strong, round, with toes close together and hard pads; nails black.

COAT - Long, slightly wavy, stiff and strong. COLOR - All solid colors are allowed except white. Dark colors are preferable. Usual colors: black, and black with some white hairs, dark and light gray, tawny, and combinations of two of these colors, provided there are no marked spots and the transition from one to the other takes place gradually and symmetrically.

DEWCLAWS - Two dewclaws on each hind leg are required. A dog with only one cannot be given a prize.

FAULTS - Muzzle pointed. Eyes small, almond-shaped or light in color. Rump straight or too sloped. White spot on the breast (a large white spot is very bad). Tail too short or carried over back. White nails.

DISQUALIFICATIONS - Size below the limit. Absence of dewclaws. Short hair on the head, face or feet. Tail lacking or cut. Nose light in color or spotted. Eyes spotted. Hair curled. White hair on feet. Spotted colors of the coat.

Approved March 12, 1963

PERCENTAGE SYSTEM OF JUDGING

In this system the various virtues are assigned points in proportion to their importance.

| Shape of head | 15 |
| Length and shape of body | 15 |
| Bone | 15 |
| Bite | 10 |
| Eyes | 10 |
| Head carriage | 10 |
| Coat | 10 |
| Gait | 10 |
| Tail | 5 |

100 points
the Girouards: Ray, Myra, Inga, Roy, Alva, Eric & Leslie
and the Briards:
Gai and O'Tresor

Fleurette de la Gaillarde, bred by Grace W. Norgaard, was Best of Breed from first in Open at the Redwood Kennel Club Show held October 23, 1965. Judge was Mr. J. P. Hackett. Fleur is owned by Barbara and Margaret Conroy of 30 Hickory Rd., Fairfax, California. Barbara Conroy handling.
SEASONS GREETINGS
and
BEST WISHES FOR THE
NEW YEAR

from the
Morrens and "Cricket"
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from
the GRODJESKS
BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

HAROLD AND ADA MARLEY

AND

BRIARDS DE MARHA

Greetings

of the Season

with Best Wishes

for the New Year

THE BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA

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