THE DEW CLAW

Volume XII, No. 1 
February 1968

Published by the 
Briard Club of America

Published: Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., Dec.
Copy deadline: 15th of month preceding month of publication.

Editor: Harold A. Marley, 3940 W. 96th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

OFFICERS

President 
Charles B. Cook
Box 171A, R.R. 1
Medford, N. J.

Vice-President 
Harold A. Marley

Treasurer 
Barbara Ruby
3132 Woodland Ridge
Orchard Lake, Mich.

Secretary 
Mrs. A. M. Tingley
Yardley Rd.
Mendham, N. J. 07945

AKC Delegate 
Charles B. Cook

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ernest Clark, Box 86, Molalla, Oregon
The response to my plea for donations to our trophy fund for the Specialty Show, to be held March 23rd in Indianapolis, was most gratifying. In fact it exceeded my expectations. I wish to thank each of you who contributed, you have made it possible for us to offer a very attractive list of premiums for the show. A list of premiums and committees for the show will be found elsewhere in this issue.

As you will see from the list of classes covered, we haven't left any of the classes out. In fact we will no doubt have more trophies than we will have Briards to claim them.

So those of you who are going to exhibit and know of another member who plans to exhibit, get together and don't enter the same class. Let's hope we can spread the entries around so that we can send all the trophies home with a winner.

Following is a breakdown of the regular classes: (all for dogs or bitches six months of age or over).

SEPERATE CLASSES FOR DOGS AND BITCHES.

PUPPY CLASS for puppies six months of age and under 12 months of age, except champions.

NOVICE CLASS for dogs which have not, prior to closing of entries won three 1st prizes in the NOVICE Class, a 1st prize in any of the other classes(except puppy), nor one or more points toward their championship.

BRED-BY-EXHIBITOR CLASS, dog must be owned wholly or in part by the person or by the spouse of the person who was the breeder or one of the breeders of record. Must be handled in the class by an owner or by a member of the immediate family of the owner. (Champion excepted)

AMERICAN-BRED CLASS for dogs, except champions, whelped in the United States of America by reason of a mating that took place in the United States.

OPEN CLASS for any dog over six months of age.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of December 31, 1967

Opening balance November 9, 1967 ..........\$500.00

Income:
Dues............\$77.50
Trophy Fund 5.00
Christmas Ads 76.00 158.50
\$658.50

Expenses:
AKC Gazette for Secy....... $ 6.00
Dew Claw, Oct.- Dec. .... 92.14
Trophies - Plaques ..... 35.14
Specialty Show advance ... 100.00

\$233.55
Balance December 31, 1967 ............ \$424.95
If you can not attend the Specialty Show, you may wish to
support the Show by placing your name and address on a page
in the catalog along with other well wishers. Especially so
if you were not among those who made it possible to offer
our fine list of trophies.

A two line listing, your name and address, in the catalog
only costs $3.50 and you will receive a marked catalog
showing the results of the Show. Won't you please WISH US
SUCCESS.

For those wishing to place an actual ad in the catalog the
cost is nominal, a quarter page $9.00, a half page $11.00,
a full page $16.00, cuts billed at cost. All advertisers
get a marked copy of the catalog.

DEADLINE FOR CATALOG ADVERTISING... MARCH 1st.....

Mail copy with check to Harold A. Marley, 3940 W. 96th St.,
Indianapolis, Ind. 46268

SOMEBODY ELSE
There's a clever young fellow named
SOMEBODY ELSE.
There is nothing this fellow can't do.
He's busy from morning till way late at night,
Just substituting for you.
You're asked to do this or asked to do that,
And what is your ready reply?
Get SOMEBODY ELSE, Mister Chairman,
He'll do it much better than I.
There's so much to do in our service
So much and the workers are few,
And SOMEBODY ELSE is getting weary
and worn,
Just substituting for you.
So, next time you're asked to do something
worthwhile,
Just give them the honest reply,
"IF SOMEBODY ELSE can give time and support,
You can bet your last dime,
So can I."

MAKE TENTATIVE RESERVATIONS NOW
As mentioned in the December Dew Claw it is very important
that Motel Reservations be made early.

It is already too late to make reservations at the Motel
across from the show site.

However I have gone ahead and made tentative reservations
at a Motel just 5 miles due east of the show site.

There will be a dinner following the show and I hope all
those exhibiting will plan on attending the dinner. It
will be an excellent chance to really meet other Briard
owners and to exchange ideas.

Price of the dinner will be about $6.00 each depending on
the number of actual reservations. It could be a little
less. The dinner will be at the same motel where you will
be staying.

SO PLEASE .. SEND THE FORM BELOW .. NOW.. SO PLANS CAN
BE COMPLETED FOR YOUR COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE .......

I plan to attend the Specialty Show March 23rd
Holiday Inn
I would like reservations at the Motel for ____ people.

Check one: Single ___ Double Bed ____ 2 Double Beds ___

Date of arrival _______ Reservation for ___ Days

I would like DINNERS RESERVATIONS FOR ____ Persons.

Name ________________ Address __________________

City ________________ State ________________

Address to Harold Marley, 3940 W. 96th St,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268
Briard Club of America

(Licensed by the American Kennel Club — Unbenched)

SWEEPSTAKES JUDGING WILL START AT 3:00 P.M.
FOLLOWED BY THE REGULAR CLASSES

SHOW HOURS
1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. (Eastern Standard Time)

OFFICERS
Charles B. Cook ................ President
Harold A. Marley ................ Vice-President
Barbara Ruby .................... Treasurer
Mary Lou Tingley ................ Secretary

Yardley Road, Mendham, New Jersey
Phone (201) 543-7455

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Mrs. Ernest Clark

SHOW COMMITTEE
Charles B. Cook, Chairman
Harold Marley, Vice-Chairman
Marilee Clark, Barbara McQuillan, Barbara Ruby, Mary Lou Tingley

TROPHY COMMITTEE
Harold A. Marley, Chairman
Dr. Joseph Gurnick, Mrs. E. Z. Martin, Mrs. John McLeroth,
Emanuel F. Miller

HOSPITALITY
Sharon Boelter, Chairman
Eugenia Hunter, Donna Probyn, James Zaccaro

RING STEWARD
Helen Saleba

VETERINARIAN
Dr. E. E. Corbitt, 3701 N. Illinois Street, Indianapolis, Indiana

JUDGES
Mr. Albert E. Van Court, 728 S. Windsor Blvd., Los Angeles, California
REGULAR CLASSES

Mrs. Albert E. Van Court, 728 S. Windsor Blvd., Los Angeles, California
SWEEPSTAKES

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB CERTIFICATION
Permission has been granted by the American Kennel Club for the holding of this event under American Kennel Club rules and regulations.

ROY H. CARLBERG, Secretary

PRIZES — OPEN TO ALL

The following prizes are offered by the Briard Club of America through the generous contributions of the following members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize Description</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEST OF BREED: 14&quot; S. P. Cup on Ebony Base with Victory Figure.</td>
<td>Barbara Zimmerman, Charles and Patricia Long, Arthur and Mary Lou Tingley, Stuart and Elaine Perlman, Donna and Jeanie Probyn, Bill and Joyce Awodey, Bruce and Barbara McQuillan, Ken and Nancy Wells, John and Christine Risk, Jerry and Dade Benadaret, Janice T. McNelis, Josephine Steinberg, Emanuel and Katherine Miller, Harold and Ada Marley, Mr. &amp; Mrs. John D. Garvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX TO BEST OF BREED: 12&quot; S. P. Cup on Ebony Base with Victory Figure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST OF WINNERS: 12&quot; S. P. Cup on Ebony Base with Victory Figure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINNERS DOG: 12&quot; S. P. Cup on Ebony Base with Victory Figure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESERVE WINNERS DOG: 10&quot; S. P. Cup on Ebony Base with Victory Figure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINNERS BITCH: 12&quot; S. P. Cup on Ebony Base with Victory Figure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESERVE WINNERS BITCH: 10&quot; S. P. Cup on Ebony Base with Victory Figure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS PRIZES

PUPPY DOG CLASS, 6 months and under 12 months: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
PUPPY DOG CLASS, 6 months and under 12 months: 2nd, 6" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
PUPPY DOG CLASS, 6 months and under 12 months: 3rd, 5" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.

NOVICE DOG CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
NOVICE DOG CLASS: 2nd, 6" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
NOVICE DOG CLASS: 3rd, 5" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOG CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
AMERICAN-BRED DOG CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
AMERICAN-BRED DOG CLASS: 2nd, 6" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.

OPEN DOG CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
OPEN DOG CLASS: 2nd, 6" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
OPEN DOG CLASS: 3rd, 5" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.

PUPPY BITCH CLASS, 6 months and under 12 months: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
PUPPY BITCH CLASS, 6 months and under 12 months: 2nd, 6" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
The Briard Club of America, Inc.

PUPPY BITCH CLASS, 6 months and under 12 months: 3rd, 5" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.

NOVICE BITCH CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
AMERICAN-BRED BITCH CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
AMERICAN-BRED BITCH CLASS: 2nd, 6" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
OPEN BITCH CLASS: 1st, 7" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
OPEN BITCH CLASS: 2nd, 6" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.
OPEN BITCH CLASS: 3rd, 5" S. P. Cup on Onyx Base.

Sweepstakes

The Sweepstakes are divided by age and not by sex. Class divisions according to age as follows:

- 6 months and under 9 months
- 9 months and under 12 months
- 12 months and under 15 months

Entry Fee of $7.00 in the Regular Classes, Sweepstakes $3.00, but Puppies must also be entered in the Regular Classes.

All entry fees in each class division will be divided as follows:

| First | 40% |
| Second | 30% |
| Third | 20% |
| Fourth | 10% |

Best Puppy in Sweepstakes: $10.00 Cash, offered by the Briard Club of America.

Classification

Puppy, dogs, 6 mos. & under 12 mos. Puppy, bitches, 6 mos. & under 12 mos.
Novice, dogs Novice, bitches
Bred by Exhibitor, dogs Bred by Exhibitor, bitches
American-bred, dogs American-bred, bitches
Open, dogs Open, bitches
Winners, dog Winners, bitch
Best of Breed Competition

The Ribbon Prizes Will Be as Follows:

- First Prize Blue Ribbon Reserve Winners Purple & White Rosette
- Second Prize Red Ribbon Best of Winners Blue & White Rosette
- Third Prize Yellow Ribbon Best of Breed Purple & Gold Rosette
- Fourth Prize White Ribbon Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed Red & White Rosette

Owner's Address: Yardley Rd., Mendham, N. J.

City: Mendham, State: N. J. Zip Code: 07945
OUR GOAL

BRIARDS... 25

Yes, we are shooting for 25 entries for the Specialty Show, March 23rd. Your entry can be the difference between success and failure. Even if you have never shown your Briard before, don’t you think you would like to join the ranks of those who find great enjoyment in exhibiting their pride and joy. You will find that it is fun to show, and wonderful to meet other Briard owners.

Your entry could be number 25... Your absence could mean we won’t meet our goal. So please give it a lot of consideration, then get YOUR ENTRY IN.

THE MATTED DOG
by Mary Lou Tingley

Occasionally it comes to each of us, that busy season; a long vacation; illness; or a pure lazy streak; something that keeps us from the daily task of Briard brushing. The dog gets matted and if the respite is too long, the coat becomes felted. I have heard too many people say the dog had to be clipped or mats cut out because they had become uncombable. No such thing!... Any dog, any mat, any felted coat can be rehabilitated without resorting to scissors. It takes work, proper equipment, and Patience, patience, and more patience.

For the average dog, proper equipment consists of a slicker, comb, and a bottle of Johnson and Johnson baby oil. The show dog can substitute St. Aubrey’s Royal Coastalin, a rather expensive product, but worth every penny. Both are greaseless and stainless.

Begin with the dog lying on his side on a table. Rub a small amount of oil between the hands and massage into the belly hair. Brush out GENTLY any mats along the belly, starting at the highest point of the breast bone and working back to the groin.

Attack each mat individually, and holding your slicker parallel to the lie of the hair, brush across the mat several times. Next brush in the direction of the hair growth, using your fingers to help break the mat into smaller units.

Continue brushing until the mat is completely out and finish by brushing with the lie of the hair. When the belly area is cleaned out begin working up the side of the dog, between elbow and stifles. Work in layers as indicated in diagram “B” from belly to center of the back, always finishing up each layer in the direction of the hair growth.

Diagram “B”

As each layer of hair is brushed out, add a small amount of oil to smooth hair and eliminate static electricity and frizziness.

If the dog is truly felted that is, a solid mass of felt like hair matted together over a large portion of the body, use your slicker in one small section, lifting the live hair out of the mass, until you break thru the felt to the skin. Work from the skin out, gradually breaking the felted area into individual mats, and proceed as above.

IN ALL CASES brush the hair, not the skin. The slicker is very rough and dragging it repeatedly across the skin can cause abrasions. With a little practice you can learn to lift both hair and slicker on each stroke, so you are not touching the skin.

If your dog’s coat is in very bad condition, or you’re inexperienced, it may take as much as 3 hours to complete the section shown in diagram “B”. At this point STOP for at least an hour giving the dog a chance to exercise.
At the next grooming session, with the dog in the same position, begin with the hind foot, and work upwards in layers, brushing out every mat that can be reached from this position; part of the tail, underside of lower leg, rump, pants, etc.

As most dogs are extremely sensitive on their feet, use the comb or slicker, depending on the dog's reaction. Sometimes it pays to switch back and forth, using the slicker to begin with and then the comb to finish up. When using only the comb, do not go down the leg at a time, using the broad, end tooth of the comb only.

An angry hand on the brush is not gentle.

To do the head, massage the whiskers generously with oil....the greasier the better. Starting at the natural part along the top of the muzzle, back brush over the top of the muzzle in layers, using the thumb of your left hand to hold the upper lip against the teeth. When the section is completed, start with the front feet and work upwards over the shoulders, along the neck and as far into the chest as possible. Then turn the dog on the other side and proceed in the same manner.

Brush out remainder of chest and brisket with dog sitting on the table, facing you.

To get at the armpits and groin I've had the best results with the dog lying on his back on the floor. Have another person talk to the dog and scratch his belly while you brush. GENTLY, GENTLY is the keyword in these areas. The less time you have to spend wrestling to keep the dog quiet, the more quickly you'll get done. If you get exasperated or angry STOP, and go back later.

The idea is to bring the live hairs out of the mat, not the mat out of the hair.

Use the oil more liberally on feet, legs, pants, and tail feathers to avoid breaking the hair.

When this section is completed, start with the front feet and work upwards over the shoulders, along the neck and as far into the chest as possible. Then turn the dog on the other side and proceed in the same manner.

Brush out remainder of chest and brisket with dog sitting on the table, facing you.

To get at the armpits and groin I've had the best results with the dog lying on his back on the floor. Have another person talk to the dog and scratch his belly while you brush. GENTLY, GENTLY is the keyword in these areas. The less time you have to spend wrestling to keep the dog quiet, the more quickly you'll get done. If you get exasperated or angry STOP, and go back later.

An angry hand on the brush is not gentle.

To do the head, massage the whiskers generously with oil....the greasier the better. Starting at the natural part along the top of the muzzle, back brush over the top of the muzzle in layers, using the thumb of your left hand to hold the upper lip against the teeth. When the section is completed, start with the front feet and work upwards over the shoulders, along the neck and as far into the chest as possible. Then turn the dog on the other side and proceed in the same manner.

Brush out remainder of chest and brisket with dog sitting on the table, facing you.

Obviously your dog has more dimension than this drawing and it will take more than one pass with the shears. Remember to comb after every clip of the shears, being very careful not to remove too much hair or to get a clipped look.

This same procedure can be used to advantage on a straggly tail. Shorter, fuller plumage is much more attractive than the tail that has hair generally 2" long with a few 12" strands here and there. Again use ONLY thinning shears, and remove a little at a time until you get the desired effect. You can always cut away more, but once cut you can't add it back....and no matter how popular wigs and falls have become, the AKC frowns on their use.

Now that the dog is brushed out and trimmed for the ring, bathe him IF NECESSARY. To avoid tangling the coat again, place the dog in a dry bathtub, place large wads of cotton in his ears, and wet him thoroughly with quite warm water. Have your shampoo in a spray bottle and spray lightly from neck to tail. Work up a lather by massaging the dog in the direction of hair growth. DO NOT rub back and forth. Rinse thoroughly. Four a small amount of shampoo into your hand and work into beard and whiskers. Wash ears in same manner. Wash around eyes with wet washcloth, no soap. Rinse, trying not to have water pouring down over dog's head.

Throw a large beach or bath towel over the dog and PAT, do not rub. It make take several towels to absorb the water, and the dog, by the way, is still in the tub. Now lightly spray the entire coat with "Hair so New" or any good creme rinse. Stroke the rinse into the coat, allow the dog to shake, and get him out of the tub. Remove cotton from ears. While dog is still damp use a wide-toothed comb or pin brush to place coat in proper position and remove any tangles caused by the bath.

If your dog has a short coat you may get better results by brushing him dry. Here I'm not speaking of puppies or young dogs, but the adult dog who has a rather short, fluffy coat, as opposed to a long, flowing coat.

To brush dry, GENTLY, with pin brush or natural bristle brush, back brush hair along spine from neck to tail, layer by layer. Back brush all four legs, chest, and belly. Next brush with lie of the hair. Repeat until
dog is completely dry. Do not back brush head or tail. The dog whose coat is extremely profuse, to the point where the outline of the dog is lost, should have a towel pinned over the damp coat until dry, to flatten the coat.

The day after the bath, gently brush dog. If the hair flies or is full of electricity use a LITTLE oil to smooth it down. Use only enough oil to get the desired effect. If you can see the oil in the coat you're using too much.

If the dog does not need a bath brush daily with a clean nylon stocking over your brush. It will pick up excess oil and dirt.

* * * * * * * * * *

GENERAL GROOMING TIPS

1. Don't bathe your dog unless absolutely necessary.
2. Don't bathe the entire dog if only the feet are dirty.
3. Keep eyes clean by swabbing with cotton and warm water.
4. Don't overbrush! If the dog is mat-free, just brush enough to place the hair in proper position.
5. Never use a slicker, except to remove mats.
6. Brushes should always be held loosely, and each stroke should be light.
7. Never put a comb or brush into a mat or tangle and pull. The dog will hate grooming and you'll pull out too much hair.
8. Watch other breeds being groomed at dog shows. Not only professional handlers, but many knowledgeable amateurs can teach you some of the little tricks that can make your dog's coat fabulous.
9. Be gentle. I can't stress this enough! You can pull out in one stroke, you can brush out in five, and you'll save ten times as much hair.

* * * * * * * * * *

NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

For the Companion Dog:
- comb
- slicker
- pin brush
- shampoo
- baby oil
- nail clippers

For the Show Dog:
- comb
- slicker
- pin brush
- shampoo
- creme rinse
- bristle brush (natural not nylon)
- coat oil
- tals, cornstarch, or French chalk

Helpful:
- wide-toothed comb
- fine-toothed comb
- grooming table
- French chalk-colored to match dog
- 3 or 4 bath towels
- washcloth
- rubber hose with shower head
- tooth scraper
- first-aid powder

COME TO INDIANAPOLIS
MARCH 23rd

HD Statistics

To date the Secretary has records of 18 Briards who have been X-rayed and found to have hip dysplasia. We have 35 Briards who have been X-rayed and found to have sound, normal hips. Out of a rough estimate of 170 dogs belonging to club members, this gives us about 30% of our dogs X-rayed with an incidence rate also about 30%. This compares quite favorably with results reported at the June 1966 BCA meeting, where 16 out of 38 X-rayed were dysplastic. Of course the first few Briards X-rayed were those that were suspect, and a few related dogs, so the incidence would appear higher at first. We would like to urge all Briard owners to have their dogs X-rayed and report the results to the Committee.

* * * * * * * * * *

DUES ARE DUE ....

Dues for 1968 are now due ... if you have not paid yours.. won't you do so soon.
LOOKING FOR A MALE BRIARD ???????????

Write one of the following:

Gilbert Sorensen, 29129 Rock Creek, Southfield, Mich.
has tawny male 2 years old.

Elizabeth Keeler, 1 Meadowbrook Dr., Pueblo, Colo.,
has black male 2 years old.
While pure-bred German Shepherd dogs in herding lines has given rise to much concern every way, this late development is unusual, to say the least, when compared to conventional stock. Many veterinarians seeing these dogs for the first time advise the owners to accelerate the feeding, introduce vitamins, etc.

Actually, best results toward minimizing dysplasia have been obtained by avoiding the rich or accelerating diets. Again attention is drawn to the work of Riser (Reference 6) for further emphasis on the importance of this slow growth rate.

Another point of interest concerns the relationship of environment and activity during the critical growth period, to the inherited muscle mass. Movement and activity influence muscle tone but have a relatively small effect on basic mass. Likewise, excessive activity leading to muscle fatigue can easily influence the degree of joint distress. Many corollaries follow, for example: inactive, dull or sick dogs during growth are less susceptible, likewise highly active prancing puppies are more likely to increase the degree of joint distress.

It is very difficult to gauge muscle mass by feel or manipulation of the physical area to a degree that can render a truly reliable index. Consequently Fidelco has sacrificed a number of animals which have been dissected and classified by Dr. Riser for muscle mass to skeletal weight. Trend information on ratios is in consonance with Riser's findings reported in the reference material.

However, weakness in the rear where insufficient strength is evident is observed to a degree. In this instance, a weak rear is intended to apply not only to those puppies showing real lack of strength in getting about with their rear quarters, but also to an element of poor co-ordination in navigating quickly around corners, rough terrain, obstacles, slippery floors or ice, etc. The well co-ordinated pup exhibits a virtual instant response to such a problem without a time lag to get set for such navigation. In the vernacular of farm folk, a sound puppy is "handy" with itself.

As a generalization it may be said that a puppy exhibiting sound perfect movement going away, and having sustained such perfect movement for several months, has an excellent chance of exhibiting a good radiograph. Puppies exhibiting weak rears, particularly at and beyond the 12 week period, are not likely to improve.


Possibly another significant factor observed in the Fidelco animals, as with many of the shepherding lines, is the correlation of steep croup and non-exaggerated rear angulation with soundness of hip joints. The steepness of croup, believed to be very important, has also been found consistently prevalent in the Fidelco program regardless of pedigree, where good hip joints have been established. Analysis of the structural mechanics of the hip joints perhaps renders some understanding of why this should be so. The steeper croup represents an actual increase in the pelvic inclination, and at the same time more closely approaches the mechanics of a bipedal animal such as man. This in turn from animal skeletal observations would appear to project the ambulatory forces of weight carriage and propulsion via the femoral head into a region of the acetabulum where there is more depth and strength.

An assembly of ilium and leg bone has been set up to illustrate this rather obvious influence. The photographs are deliberately exaggerated.

A slightly sloping croup is illustrated in Figures 11 and 12. An arbitrary range of leg motion angle of some 70° has been shown here. It will be noted in Figure 12 that the coxal forces from the leg bone actually can result in a component in the luxation direction, since the angle shown between the mean croup slope and coxal leg force is greater than 90°. This suggests a greater vulnerability to both lateral and cranial luxation.

In Figures 13 and 14 a steep croup is shown for comparative purposes with the same relative leg motions. It is at once apparent that the angle of mean coxal force is less relative to the slope of the croup, reducing thereby the forces of luxation, particularly in the extreme (Figure 14).

A steeper croup combined with a less rear angulated leg structure also gives the animal the least mechanical moment arm through which the load must be reacted in torsion by the muscle mass of the joint. This might also be of some influence in joint growth and development.

Dogs for Coursing or Racing

Delving into the history of dogs briefly, animals selected by either nature or man for coursing or speed reflect an overbuilt rear with very steep croups and not much rear angulation. Greyhounds are a typical example. The original wolf was overbuilt, steep in croup, and capable of great endurance to survive. The original German Shepherd dogs were likewise steep in croup and in many instances overbuilt. However, yielding to man's taste for harmonious lines, this basic natural design was destined to give way to the German Shepherd as it exists today, but not without penalties.

Influence of Factor

The influence of this factor is straightforward. In an animal possessing a steep croup and a small degree of rear angulation the
influence of muscle mass may be less critical. In any event it is concluded by Fideleo that maximums in both areas, that is, steep croup coupled with maximum muscle mass, are desirable along with all other factors known to exert beneficial influences, such as slow early growth rate, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

From this experiment involving some 56 litters and 350 German Shepherds of which 38 litters, or 236 animals are reported, the following general conclusions have been derived pertaining to this program. Reference is made to Diagram 1 and Tables I, II, III, and IV. (DOG WORLD, November issue).

1. Dysplasia is primarily congenital and is only moderately influenced by environmental factors.

2. Every line that Fideleo has used is carrying both the dysplasia gene and the normal genes to some degree, irrespective of whether the animal involved is normal or dysplastic.

3. It is believed that the most reliable trend for elimination of hip dysplasia will be achieved through "Pedigree Depth" for normal hips. The greater the number of ancestors that are proven sound, the higher the probability of normal hips in offspring.

Summary of the results of Tables I—IV:

Table I — Both parents dysplastic, 7% of the offspring are satisfactory.

Table II — With a "Normal" or "Near Normal" mother and dysplastic father the ratio of satisfactory is 50%.

Table III — With a "Normal" or "Near Normal" father and dysplastic mother the ratio of satisfactory offspring is 47%.

Table IV — With both parents "Normal" or "Near Normal" the ratio of satisfactory offspring is 76%.

To date insufficient numbers of litters have been recorded where grandparents are good to justify tabulation.

4. In developing "Pedigree Depth" for normal hips the most reliable means is through the use of outcross breeding involving sound parents, grandparents, etc. At the outset even when one parent is dysplastic some improvement can be anticipated through outcross breeding to clean lines.

5. Fideleo experience, though limited, correlates the results of Riser relative to the importance of muscle mass as a major contributing factor in the assurance of joint integrity or normal hips.

6. Slow growth rate, dry, lean, late maturing puppies have the best chance for normal hips.

7. A steep croup with less exaggerated hind quarter angulation renders a higher probability of soundness.

8. No correlation of hip dysplasia with sex could be established from these results.

References


