Elsewhere in this issue you will find a copy of our present Constitution and By-laws, which I am sure you will all agree leaves much to be desired. A revised Constitution and By-laws are in the process of being approved by A.K.C. and when approval is received you will receive a copy along with a ballot for approving or disapproving its adoption.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS... as you will note, under our present Constitution it would appear that the membership has very little choice once the Nominating Committee has provided a slate of nominees for offices. This will be corrected in the new Constitution.

BUT YOU DO HAVE A CHOICE EVEN NOW..... in the past there has always been one or two write-in votes which have been tabulated. However this is most ineffectual as far as electing other than those official nominees. I had hoped that the Nominating Committee would have their selections completed for publication in this issue, however as of this writing the job has not been completed. So in order that the membership may have more of a voice in the selection of candidates for offices for the coming election, any member of the club who is in good standing who feels qualified and wishes to announce his or her candidacy as a write-in for office may do so by sending a short resume of his or her qualifications for the office, to be published in the December issue of the Dew Claw. Those candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee should also submit a resume if they so wish.

THE COLOR QUESTION.... you will find a wealth of material on the color question in this issue and it is hoped that you will read each and all of the opinions expressed, whether pro or con, and that each member will feel obligated to express his or her opinion by filling out the self addressed Post Card and mailing it as soon as possible so that the Standard Committee may have the benefit of your opinions to guide them in their work of making any necessary changes in the Standard.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION...........

The Executive Committee has approved the following:

B.C.A. Specialty Show, March 21, 1970 at Indianapolis, Ind. and $100. show expense.

Re-printing 3000 copies of brochure on the Briard at a cost of $50. Copies to be available to members at $1.00 per hundred to cover cost of postage.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, Charles B. Cook, Chairman, William Awodey and John McLeroth.

Due to the volume of material for this issue I have not included the copy of my letter to Dr. J. L. Fuller and his reply to my questions. Both would be a repetition of some of the material contained in the article by Diane McLeroth, with exception of the following paragraph which I shall quote from Dr. Fuller's letter.

"I think your decision of disqualifying or allowing the tawny points is a matter of esthetics. So far as I know there is no evidence that the tan points have any deleterious effects on temperament or health. An all-out effort to eliminate these genes might be slightly deleterious to other traits. The reason is that if you select very intensively on a particular gene without regard to other characteristics, it's inevitable that one may be selecting unwittingly against the best development of these other characters. It boils down to the importance which your club wishes to put on bicolor as a disqualification, and this is not a question that can be answered by a geneticist."

Enclosed in this issue of the Dew Claw (mailed to members only) is a copy of the brochure on the Briard, published by the Briard Club of America. This was prepared by our Publicity Chairman, Mr. James Zaccaro, and is available to members for the small cost of $1.00 per hundred, to cover cost of postage and mailing. Space has been provided on page four of the brochure for members to either imprint or hand stamp their name and address if they so desire. To order: send check payable to Briard Club of America, to Harold A. Marley, 3910 W. 96th Street, Indianapolis, Ind. 46268.

COMMITTEES

CONSTITUTION: To consider any necessary or desirable changes and additions to the constitution.

Arthur M. Tingley, chairman, John Davies and Jane Cook

HIP DYSPLASIA: To report any new findings for the control and elimination of Hip Dysplasia, and act as coordinator between the Orthopedic Foundation For Animals, Inc. and Hip Dysplasia Control Registry and The Briard Club of America.

Dr. Joseph E. Grodjesk, chairman.

PUBLICITY: To promote National Publicity for the Briard. James Zaccaro, chairman.
STANDARD COMMITTEE: To consider any necessary or desirable changes in the standard to amplify and explain it.
Harold A. Marley, Chairman, Mary Lou Tingley
Patricia Anufroch, Diane McLeroth, Bruce McQuillan.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Charles B. Cook, Chairman,
William Awodey, John McLeroth.

ADVERTISE PUPPIES STUD SERVICE GROWN DOGS MEMBERS ONLY IN YOUR DEW CLAW .......

THE RATES ARE VERY REASONABLE ...........
FULL PAGE $5.00
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1/4 PAGE $2.00
PHOTOS $1.00 each extra

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DEW CLAW TO INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP SPECIFICALLY OF WHAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER .................

Litter mentions will still appear in the news columns at no charge.

The Mind is like a Parachute...it works only when open
The largest stumbling block to simplifying work does not lie in the technical field. Rather, it is in the minds of people doing the work who feel they are already using the best possible method. The minute you say a job cannot be improved, you are through... no matter how much you know and even if you are an expert.
Someone knowing nothing about it, but thinking it can be improved, is now a better man for the job than you...
CH. NANIE DE LA HAUTE TOUR, BEST OF BREED at Michigan Specialty. Owner Arthur Tingley and Judge Dr. Richard Greathouse.

CH. PYTHIAS CHEZ PHYDEAU, Finishes his Championship at the Michigan Specialty. Owner Ken Collins and Judge Dr. Richard Greathouse.

MARCH 1970 BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA SPECIALTY IN INDIANAPOLIS

TROPHY DONATIONS ACCEPTED......
TROPHY DONATIONS NEEDED........
TROPHY DONATIONS A MUST......
SEND YOURS BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS EXPENSES HIT YOU.....
DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS - - DECEMBER FIRST........

Make check or money order payable to Harold A. Marley
send to 3940 W. 96th Street, Indianapolis, Ind. 46268

MINUTES OF MEETING, B.C.A., August 16, 1969

The August 16, 1969 meeting of the Briard Club of America was called to order at 10:35 P.M. in Pontiac, Mich. Thirty members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report of 8/15/69 showed a balance of $809.70 in the Treasury; $1082.66 in the Memorial Fund, with $54.24 interest for the Memorial Trophy.

Charles Cook spoke briefly on the Philadelphia Specialty to be held in December. He advised that the deadline for trophy pledges had been set at Sept. 15 and urged anyone who was interested in donating a trophy or contributing to a general trophy fund to contact him as soon as possible. Non-regular classes were discussed and a motion passed to include classes for Veterans, Brood Bitch, and Stud Dog.

The Secretary read a letter from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (see Dew Claw, Oct.'69). A suggestion was made that the Club join with OPA, and that Dr. Grodjesk, Chairman of the Hip Dysplasia Committee, be our delegate.

The Secretary read a letter from the Westminster Kennel Club requesting trophies for its 1970 show. A motion was passed to offer $3. for Winners Dog and $3. for Winners Bitch.

Mrs. Collins reminded everyone about the Conewango Show in Jamestown, N.Y., and invited Briarders attending to a cocktail party and buffet supper at the Collins home.

A motion was passed to award two annual trophies to children of Briard Club members who participate in Jr. Showmanship. The awards will be given to the highest scoring boy, and the highest scoring girl, based on a point system whereby first place would earn 4 points, second place would earn 3 points, third place would earn 2 points, and fourth place would earn 1 point. A motion to allot $10. for each trophy was passed.

After some discussion a motion was passed forbidding the cover of the Dew Claw to be sold for any purpose or reason.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 A.M.

Mary Lou Tingley, Secy.
DECEMBER DEW CLAW

Yes, the December Dew Claw is just around the corner. Let's make it the biggest and best ever.

WE NEED YOUR HELP..........

Send your Christmas Greeting ad copy now..... the cost is very little.... and your greeting will reach each and every member of the Briard Club.

FULL PAGE $5.00
1/2 PAGE $3.00
1/4 PAGE $2.00

TREASURER'S REPORT
BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA SEPT. 8, 1969

Balance, March 4, 1969...............$1240.75

INCOME
Dues:.......................... $270.00
85.00
40.15
70.00
Return from Indpls.
Specialty Show............ 77.15
Return from Eastern
Specialty Show............. 17.03
Return from Michigan
Specialty Show............ 16.20
Interest..................... 7.63
Ads for Dew Claw.......... 18.00

EXPENSES
BRIARD PAMPHLETS....... $62.00
Plaques and trophies 57.25
Secretary expense 77.90
Cash Awards 6.00
Letterheads 8.65
Dew Claw 102.39
Eastern Specialty 100.00
Michigan Specialty 100.00
Meeting Notices 19.40
How To Raise and Train 18.00
Misc. 54

BALANCE ON HAND ...................... $ 889.78
BALANCE IN MEMORIAL FUND ............. $1082.66

NEWS AND VIEWS
from the Mid-West
by Joyce Awodey

The Briard Club of America had a beautiful day for its Summer Specialty Show on August 17, at Pontiac, Michigan. The private grooming tent was overflowing with the largest entry of Briards ever seen. Our fluffy friends arrived from the East and Mid-West with masters in tow. There were many fine class entries, and some great specials vying for prizes. Awarded Best of Breed was Mary Lou Tingley's Ch. Nanie de la Haute Tour. Nanie is always a favorite and truly a fine representative of our breed. After a day of prancing about and showing off just enough, shaggy paws and tired arms waved a fond goodbye to their Briard friends.

The Charles Cooks took home an extra dividend from their trip to Michigan. Safely tucked away for the long trip home was a male puppy from DeDe Benadaret's recent litter. The pup is from Ch. Spookie Chez Chien Velu and sired by Ralph Des Elfes de Malouse.

Nancie Wells must have the "magic touch" when it comes to training Briards. Her eight month old pup, "Max", (Le Roux Chez Chien Velu) has already won two BOB's at Sandusky and Marlon (Ohio), both major shows. He then went on to win at the Livonia K.C. show (Mich.) Max shows like a dream and is very well-behaved.

Another youngster arriving on the Briard scene is Pa'Chuck's Renoir, who recently took his first two points at the Macomb K.C. show (Mich.). Renoir's proud owners are Mr. and Mrs. George Sikes.

More babies! Barbara Ruby's "Stormy", (Ch. Arlette des Grand Pieds, C.D.) has a new family of six little shaggys. The sire is Ch. Alcides Chez Chien Velu, owned by the Awodeys. There are three boys and three girls (and two doting grandmothers, Barb and yours truly).

Dorothy and Chuck Vetrone have a splendid new addition to their Briard family. "Charley" is a former Detroit resident who was owned by the John Risks. He is a beautiful two year old tawny male. When Charley was growing up, here in Detroit, he and our Herk took their first obedience class together. I'll never forget it. I don't suppose the instructor will ever forget either.

I was very pleased to pick up the August issue of Pure-Bred Dogs and read the fine article by Mary Lou Tingley. If you haven't read it, do make it a must, you will be prouder than ever of our favorite breed.

MICHIGAN SPECIALTY

The Michigan Briarders wish to thank everyone for making our Pontiac Specialty so very successful. We had the largest entry of Briards at a Specialty to date.
This couldn't have been accomplished without the full co-operation of all members in the Mid-West and East. Our continuing goal is to make the entire weekend one of the most enjoyable events of the year.

Our special thanks go to Barbara Ruby for so graciously opening her lovely home to us on Saturday for our meeting and dinner and so capably coordinating the entire weekend.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we look forward to greeting you and your "Shaggies" next summer! And again to those who drove those many miles to make our show such a success, our special thanks!

See you in the ring!

The Michigan Briarders

NEWS AND VIEWS

JAN ZINGSHEIM writes that Rochelle de Marha (Angel) has completed her C.D. (Companion Dog) degree in obedience, in three consecutive shows with scores of 195, 193 and 190% out of a possible 200 points. She also says, "We are very proud of her and hope more Briard owners will go into obedience. Briards are not hard to train".

Yvonne Lacy writes: Did you know that Brigitte Bardot is starring in a movie called "L'Ours et la Fouasse". That in itself is of no great importance, but the fact that there is a beautiful Briard in it, is very good news...! Did you also see the Shop in TV Guide Special (September 13-19)? I wonder who that shaggy Briard friend is? I also noticed several scenes in "The Lion in Winter" where a black Briard keeps stealing the show. (At least for me it did!)

NELSON C. STEENLAND writes: "It is, of course, with great sadness that I must write you that our male Briard died quite suddenly after an operation. This happened on the 1st of July. The bitch was in season and enclosed in an outdoor pen. The dog dug a huge hole in an effort to get inside the pen. In doing so, he swallowed a very large amount of dirt and grass. This formed a large bale in his stomach which, in turn, caused it to flip over in what is commonly known as "torsion stomach". This was not noticed until the stomach inflated to an abnormal size and hardness. He was operated upon within fifteen minutes of the discovery of this occurrence, but he failed to survive the operation due to the damage to the stomach. The dog was just about eight years old. We are trying to find another large dog in France for import to Houston."

Janet Zingsheim reports that Rochelle de Marha C.D. finished her Championship at the Manitowac, Wisc. show. She was also first in Novice A at Traverse City with a score of 196, and first in Novice A at Flint with a score of 196%. The next time she is shown in obedience she will be working for her C.D.X. Janet also reports that there are now three more Briards in the Minn. area, two male and a female.

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Corson's Briard, Morris, who had a severe leg injury requiring several stitches has recovered 95% use of his leg.

AS IT SEEMS TO ME ............

On the question of color, any final determination should be made only after we take a long hard look at where we have been and where we intend to go.

In other words, what was the Briard in the beginning, what is it today, and finally what is the intent of the breeders for the Briard of tomorrow?

I think we are all agreed that the Briard was originally bred and developed as a herding and a guard dog, by and for those persons in France who had a need for this type of dog. And in so doing, I rather doubt that very much, if any, importance was paid to color. This, generally speaking, was the beginning.

Today, the Briard is still regarded as a herding and guard dog. But... consider the following quote by R. Montenot, "Breeders have produced stock that is continually better and more attractive, but they have perhaps also created lines which in certain cases, are too fine for herding dogs. They have perhaps, by wanting to be successful, created weaknesses. Some have wanted to popularize the Briard; to turn him into an artist's model. These dogs have been primed for showing by persons of undoubted sincerity, but the dogs know absolutely nothing of the work of the shepherd's dog - I say carefully, shepherd's dog, for the term sheep dog doesn't guarantee that the animal so named possesses the conformation and characteristics of the dog working the herds. We have seen dogs that don't want to go out in the rain or go out of their way to avoid stepping in a bit of water. These animals, as fragile as lap-dogs, no longer have the characteristics of the dog that works the sheep." end quote.

So, as Janice and Phil McNells remarked in their letter published last month, quote "Do we really want to continue with one of the finest breeds in the world and keep them that way or shall we begin the breakdown, as has happened to so many breeds in the United States?" end quote.

But, considering the remarks by Monsieur Montenot it would seem that the "breakdown" has already started in France, and the real question is: shall we in the United States perpetuate this "breakdown", rather than begin it.

As it seems to me, it is an undeniable fact that the breakdown of any breed is in direct ratio with the number of persons of undoubted sincerity who breed and show that breed, solely for their own personal satisfaction, as their own ego escalator or their own monitory gain.

It might also be pointed out that there are breeds that have not originated in the United States, which have not shown a breakdown, but have become superior to those specimens of the breed that are being bred in the country of their origin.

And though the Briard be of French origin, this does not of
necessity mean that the French have at all times or are at present 100 percent correct in their opinions or their destiny for the Briard.

It would seem to me that in truth they are doing what Mme. de Fontenilles in her letter said should not be done, "quote": "a commission or standard, which will concern itself with safeguarding the characteristics of the dog and not make a standard to one's own personal taste in relation to one's own product!" end quote.

The FACTS are clear. Our Standard has since 1932 permitted the black with tawny points. And I hardly think it was due to a misinterpretation of the French Standard. I think the color was permitted because it in fact did exist at the time the Standard was written, and because the breeders of the 1930's were concerned with safeguarding the characteristics and even the color of the dog.

The French, however, have since 1897 made it at least three changes in their Standard as to color, each time getting farther away from the original coloring and each time drawing the line finer and finer as to acceptable colors, not perhaps in relation to their own product, but surely to their own taste, trying to create a self-colored dog with no basis for their creation.

As it seems to me, we of the Briard Club of America have arrived at that point in the road where we and WE ALONE must decide what our true objectives shall be, and whether the elimination truly the disqualification of the tan points is a necessary step in arriving at our objectives. Elimination of the color in question, the black with tawny points, would seem to be an almost impossible undertaking.

Impossible, because as Mme. de Fontenilles pointed out in her letter, published last issue, "It is certainly that these accidents certainly happen in France," But to call them accidents, would seem to be entirely in error. The very basic facts of genetics seem to have been overlooked, for the history of the breed clearly shows that the early Briard carried as one of its basic colors, the black and tawny. So that the appearance of this color today is nothing more than hereditary influence. And the sacrificing at birth of a litter in which this color appears, or as I rather suspect, the sacrificing of the undesirable colors in the litter, will not in itself hasten the elimination of the color. For the parents who produced the color still carry the gene for the color and there will be pups in the litter who though not showing the color, will in turn produce the color, and the parents will continue to produce pups capable of producing the color.

To eliminate the color would require that any Briard having produced the color, would have to be eliminated from any future breeding program and absolutely all of the pups of a litter sacrificed, that or all of the pups would have to be kept by the breeder and progeny tested to determine whether or not any given one of the litter was free of the gene for reproducing the color. This latter alternative would be an impossibility for the breeders of today with their limited space and the high cost of maintaining such a large number of Briards.

Is the quality of the Briard in general so superior and in such quantities that we can afford not to use a black and tawny Briard in a breeding program if that Briard happens to possess the qualities needed for the improvement of the breed? Or can we afford not to use a Briard of another color but which produces the black and tawny, if that Briard happens to possess the qualities needed for the improvement of the breed?

And if we are to adhere to the French Standard as to color, as some would have us do, can we afford not to use some of the other colors which we have and which the French find undesirable. For I say to those who advocate this, that we can not go half-way and disqualify bi-colorism as the French do and disqualify a black with tawny points in the show ring and at the same time allow other bi-colorism saying that it is only undesirable. For bi-colorism does exist in the Briard in forms other than the black with tawny points.

We must remember that what progress has been made in the U.S. has been due to the influence of those Briards that have been imported from France, and we must at the same time realize that some of these imports were either not of a desired color in France or that they were responsible for the several colors that have been produced here but which are undesirable in France. So, you see, the controversy is a direct product of that influence. And it is my opinion that the French are at fault in disqualifying a color that seems to have been one of the basis for today's Briards. Especially so since as Dr. Fuller points out that as far as he knows there is no evidence that the tan points have any deleterious effect on temperament or health.

There are many aspects of the Briard which we can and should concentrate our efforts on improving, without disqualifying many of the colors that are being produced. There are also some aspects of the Briard which we could do well to re-capture and or to retain. Much progress has been made and more will be made, but not if we blind ourselves to the fact that there is more - much more to a Briard than his color.

Give me a Briard as described by Gaby Morly in Mme. de Fontenilles' letter... "a heart wrapped in fur", and I won't ask "what is the color of the fur".

Give me the opportunity to breed for QUALITY FIRST and color second, without the fear of having to put to sleep some of those endearing young "hearts wrapped in fur", especially when one of them might turn out to be that long hoped for, nearly perfect Briard, heart and all.

Harold A. Marley
OH BOY PUPPIES!


Barbara Ruby reports a litter of 6 sired by Ch. Alcides Chez Chien Velu and out of Ch. Arlette Des Grand Pieds, C.D.

DOGGIE HOROSCOPESTranslated from French by Yvonne C. Lacy

LIBRA September 23-October 22
HE THINKS HE IS YOUR EQUAL

If you own a dog born under Libra you know by now that he thinks that he is your equal. He is most certainly devoted, faithful, and being part of society is his main reason in life, but he only likes life in a refined atmosphere, to the point of luxury. He is an aristocratic dog (even if his ancestry is somewhat dubious) and favors silk cushions. This way of thinking sometimes leads him to show some grumpiness toward people who are not too well dressed.

HEALTH His kidneys are sometimes a source of trouble.

HIS IDEAL MASTER : is born under the sign of Aquarius, Gemini or Aries.

SCORPIO October 23-November 22
BRave BUT RESENTFUL

The dog of Scorpio is daring and foolhardy. Nervous and intelligent, he is stoic, taking the worst treatments without protesting. This does not prevent him from keeping in mind the suffering endured. His grudge is so great that at the first opportunity he will bite the author of the kick he received six months earlier.

HEALTH The Scorpio dog has a tremendous physical resistance. But one should worry about poisoning.

HIS IDEAL MASTER : is Gemini or Cancer.

SAGITTARIUS November 23-December 21
FAITHFUL, CONSCIENTIOUS AND SCATTERBRAIN

The dog of Sagittarius is the most calm, poised and the least impulsive. Give him a task and he will accomplish it conscientiously. Faithful, devoted, he is also very social. He has a childish paradoxical way about him; when he is not "working"

he behaves like a "scatterbrain", upsetting lamps, tearing out the bottom of the postman's britches.

HEALTH Nothing to worry about in particular. But do give him a varied menu as he tends to favour meat. You must also get him used to vegetables.

HIS IDEAL MASTER : is Leo, Aquarius or Scorpio.

CAPRICORNUS December 22-January 19
THE MOST FAITHFUL OF DOGS

The dog of Capricornus is cautious, quiet and silent. He knows when to keep silent as well as when to wait. If he barks it is for a serious reason. He is very much attached to everything he owns: his toys, his bowl, his "house" and to everything he loves. He is faithful until death, one has seen dogs from that sign letting themselves die on their master's grave!

HEALTH He has a long life, but in his old age he suffers from rheumatism. One must be careful that his diet is varied and rich in vitamins.

HIS IDEAL MASTER : is born under the sign of Capricornus, Taurus or Gemini.

AQUARIUS January 20-February 18
NEARLY TOO NICE

The dog of Aquarius is the opposite of the dog of Capricornus. He is fanciful, nervous, does not stay in the same place for one minute, needs space, loves to be a "clown". Good and faithful he is everybody's friend. If you are looking for a watchdog, do not choose an Aquarius, because he will greet every visitor, including the burglar!

HEALTH More than any other dog he is sensitive to distemper. Have him immunized very early.

HIS IDEAL MASTER : is Gemini, Pisces or Libra.

PISCES February 19-March 20
HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING

Of exceptional intelligence, very intuitive he is the most developed of his species. He guesses your thoughts, understands your words, can make himself understood, although he sometimes suffers from the fact that he cannot answer back. He is sensitive to compliments, he delights in soft music. Between him and his master it is a love affair.

His vice he is sometimes capricious, demanding his food and then walking away because he is not hungry anymore.

HEALTH He does not like the cold, therefore cover him up in winter when you take him for a walk.

HIS IDEAL MASTER : is born under the sign of Gemini, or Sagittarius.
WHAT IS A BRIARD?

"It is a HEART wrapped in fur"
(Gaby Morlay)

Preface

The best interests of the Briard will only be served if the Briard Club of America is well informed and united by common goals. We must evaluate any problem from all aspects, keeping in mind these goals so we can come to a sound decision, that will serve the best interests of our breed.

If each of us will share any information we are able to find, our knowledge will grow and we will be better equipped to bring the natural qualities of our historic breed to true perfection.

The following materials were compiled with the generous help of many cooperative people. It is submitted here in the hope that, with knowledge, our club, like our Briards can be "STRONG AND SUBSTANTIAL, ALERT AND ACTIVE, INTELLIGENT AND GENTLE IN EXPRESSION".

Diane McLeroth

Sources of Information
1. French Standard du Chien de berger de Brie
2. A.K.C. Standard for the Briard
3. The French Bulletin of Club des Amis du brieard
5. The Briard, A thesis for the Doctor of Veterinary, by Noel Wanlon, National Veterinary School of Alfort, France
6. Le Chien de Brie Chien de France by Sedir
7. Dog World magazine
8. Madame Marie de beaucouer, a French breeder
9. Madame de Fontenilles, Secretary General, Club des Amis du briard
10. Monsieur R. Contenot, Vice-President, Club des Amis du Briard and highly respected French judge
11. Dr. John L. Fuller, Associate Director, Jackson Laboratory... noted geneticist and close associate of Dr. C.C. Little in the writing of Inheritance of Coat Color in Dogs.
12. Mrs. Yvonne C. Lacy who has kindly translated all the French letters and materials.

May I please extend the formal thank you of the B.C.A. to the many people, who gave so generously of their time, skill and knowledge to make this report possible.
Faults: White spot on the breast. (Large white spot is very bad.)
White nails.
Disqualifications: Nose light in color or spotted.
Eyes spotted.
White hair on the feet.
Spotted colors of coat.

WHAT IS A BRIARD.......?

The following excerpts were adapted from the Thesis by Noel Wanlen, a French Veterinarian, who expressed his writing, his deep love of the Briard. These thoughts were written for the French reader but warn us of the pitfalls we also face.

A good, handsome dog with elegant form, perfect instinct, moral qualities capable of being brought to perfection...this constitutes...one of the most perfect spectacles which nature has ever put before our eyes. All these attractions are joined...in our Dog of Brindle with his abundant, picturesque coat and with his penetrating gaze and expression almost human...

However, if the beauty of his coat and features has made (him) elegant, capable of rivaling many breeds of "shepherd" dogs, it must not be forgotten that he is above all one of the best representatives of the shepherd breeds, that is of work dogs. This FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH WHICH HAS TOO OFTEN BEEN FORGOTTEN, IS WHAT I (Noel Wanlen) have striven to emphasize...to put into perspective.

After the war, many breeders...oriented their efforts toward obtaining, in briards, a coat that was more and more attractive. The result...the rules of standard, pertaining to structure were neglected for the benefit of coat, which led to general disparagement...

The Briard, conforming to the official standard, is not a luxury dog with refined silhouette...He is, on the contrary a "rustic" dog, with a large deep chest, with members having well-developed muscles and strong bone structure...Everything in his history, his conformation, his moral qualities and in his physical aptitudes, designate the briard a work dog, a shepherd dog. The lesser details of his conformation are oriented along these lines and IN WANTING TO SEPARATE THEM, SOME BREEDERS HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN MORE PHYSICAL BEAUTY...

The CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ALL THE QUALITIES of our noble French breed...It is in this direction that we should orient...all efforts of the breeders and of specialized clubs...No dog is more worthy of this attention than the briard!

WHAT IS A BRIARD.......in a Black Coat?
Mme. de Fontenelles: "...in the blacks, only the shiny pure blacks are appointed."

M. Montenot: "In the black colors we find:
1. Straight, full black;
2. Haven black with shiny reflections;
3. Black with reddish reflections;
4. Jet black;
5. Slate black, with metallic reflections, the black that the briard should have. "Noir ardoisé" (slate black) is a black dog which carries fleece, sprinkled with grey hair, more or less dark, but never in tufts.
6. A black subject which has on its chest a little white line is admissible."

Mme. de Beaucour: "If he is black he may have some white hair but never a white spot."

Dr. John Fuller: Black is the most dominant of the four Briard colors. In the A pigment series of genes, (the principal color influence in the briard) this is the most dominant gene form. This color, if not bred, could easily be lost to your breed!

WHAT IS A BRIARD.......in a Gray Coat?
Mme de Fontenelles: "L'ardoisage is a lighter black, gray blue or tawny gray, more or less."

M. Montenot: "The grays comprise:
1. Mouse gray, sometimes light, sometimes dark;
2. A color that is very close to steel blue, reminding one of the fresh break in steel."

Dr. Fuller: I doubt that you have a "true" gray in Briards. What you call gray is probably what geneticists call "wild-color" or "agouti". Wild color is a form of the A pigment series of genes. The two pigments of the A series are combined in the coat giving the illusion of gray. This color is recessive to black and tawny but dominant to the tan point color.

WHAT IS A BRIARD.......in a Tawny Coat?
M. Montenot: "The tawnies comprise a whole range, going from light to dark.

In the darks we find: 1. "Pain brulé" = Burnt or dark French bread crust.
2. "Alezan brunâ" = burnt or dark chestnut (as the horse of the same name.)

The washed out tawny is to be rejected.

"Fauve charbonné" (charcoal tawny) is comprised of one hair, tawny at its base and going on to black towards the tip. It is more or less "charbonné" depending if the black is accentuated. Therefore, a dog can be...charbonné on his back, but he must have tawny at the root of the hair, otherwise it is not "fauve charbonné", but a tawny with a black mantle, therefore with two colors. (bicolor)

(Note: "black mantle" is the translation of the words "manteau noir". From this description, it would seem K. Contenot is referring to what we call "black overlay" or "saddle").

Mme. de Beaucour: "If he is tawny, the best coat is the darkest one, with the end of the hair nearly black. A dog with a light coat is disqualified."

Mme. de Fontenilles: "The best color for a tawny is a sustained reddish 'fauve chaud' (compared with the glow of copper) neither on the beige or the sandy side. One finds darker hair mixed side by side with lighter hair, but always in the same range of color. There should be practically no difference between the root of the hair and the tip (but these differences may occur at the time of the change of hairs; the seasonal moulting)."

"Any white spot or white hairs in the tawny is absolutely rejected, the dog is no good."

"The very light tawny Briards are not disqualified, they are only 'little appreciated'."

"A tawny whose hairs go from tawny to black is not bicolor, he is 'fauve charbonné'."

Dr. Fuller: Tawny is the second of the four basic briard colors. It can vary from one dog to another and modifiers of other gene series can lighten or darken it. Tawny is recessive to black out dominant to gray and the tan point. Black Briard puppies in a litter from a tawny to tawny mating, indicate the briard has a second type of tawny. This type carries the gene for black, but a modifying gene 'restricts' the formation of the black pigment, leaving the dog's coat tawny. This type of tawny, when mated to the first type, can produce black puppies. (The pup would have the gene for black but lack the restricting gene and the pup's coat would be black.)

What is a "mâlard" in a coat with "a combination of two of these colors"?

M. Contenot: "The plainest coats are the products of selectiv and it is not rare to see nature reverting back by diminishing of the color at the extremities in the darker coats and increasing the color in the lighter coats by centrifugal pigmentation..."

"A dog of light tawny who would have the extremities of his members (lips, legs) darker would be 'bicolor' and therefore rejected."

"The tawny...must have tawny at the root of the (each) hair, otherwise it is not 'fauve charbonné' but a tawny with a black mantle, therefore with two colors (bicolor)."

"One calls bicolor a subject which has two distinctly separated colors. But one knows that the pigmentation of the coat always starts at the extremities, therefore a dog of 'fauve charbonné' who has the extremities of its members (lips, legs) of a color that is lighter is not bicolor if, the lower half and the Librian color are blended into each other. That is, if there is not a distinct demarcation from one color to the other and with the condition that the lighter color must only be a lighter SHADE of the other. This is also true of the grays or the black."

"I would like to mention that it sometimes happen that the fleece has tufts, that means the dog having the fur of the 'fauve charbonné', for example, would have one or more lighter patches; this is due to one or more tufts, but his color is never bicolor. It is then up to the judge to take the decisions that are necessary and never forget the Standard of the Berger de Brie, Chien de Berger Français."

Mme. de Fontenilles: "There is bicolorism if the tonalities are not in the same range, for example: the blacks with tawny paws."

"Do not confuse bicolor with a slightly lighter color of the extremities which is nothing else than a start of pigmentation. This slightly lighter color must remain in the same range of colors. (Dark tawny on light tawny, straight black on lighter black, dark gray on light gray, etc.)"

"One must therefore note that the change in color must be gradual, never marked in two distinct colors. One must REJECT any BICOLOR, The Dogs to BID TO DEPIGMENTATION. (WASHE OUT COLORS AT THE EXTREMITIES, THE LIPS, LEGS, ETC. MUST NOT BE BLACK OR BROWN."

"A tawny dog with black spots is bicolor, therefore disqualified."

"The black and tawny mixed dogs are disqualified."

"If you shave the fur of the dog to leave a length of 2 or 3 centimeters, one would not find spots as in the fox terrier, for example. Therefore in examining attentively the root of the fur it is relatively easy to see if they blend or are distinct."
Dr. Fuller: This is the tan point pattern, the most recessive form of the four basic briard colors. There is a lighter color (tan) in the pattern areas (feet, legs, muzzle, chest, etc). The color of the remaining coat can be black or tawny, depending on what modifiers are present. If the pattern is present, the dog is of pure recessive, tan point construction, regardless of the color of the remainder of the coat. This is a natural and basic color of the breed and is not related to the wall-eye or the spotted coats (series, piebald, etc) of other breeds. This is a FULLY PIGMENTED color, and not linked to white or a form of depigmentation. It is, however, closely linked to your black, tawny and gray because it is produced by the same gene series. The tan point pupp will appear whenever both parents carry the recessive form of this gene. It can come from mating dogs of any color and is not caused by mating black to tawny.

WHAT COLORS ARE SELECTED IN FRANCE?

1. "NOIR PUR" = pure black
2. "ARDOISE - CHARBONNE" = slate gray - charcoal
3. "FAUVE CHAUD" = warm copper tawny
4. "FAUVE CHARBONNE" = charcoal tawny

(according to Mme. de Fontenilles who has kindly sent us hair samples of each of these colors.)

In France, the Briard is exhibited in Color Varieties. "Black" dogs are judged together and there is another variety that includes the "Colored" varieties.

Dogs of rejected colors are not used for breeding in France. Many are culled from litters, others are used for work or pet stock.

OTHER FRENCH COMMENTS

"Whatever the color of the coat, one must always favor a rich pigmentation." (M. Montenot)

"Don't admit light colored eyes." (M. Montenot)

"If the black mask stands in sharp contrast to the rest of the tawny, it is bad. If it is a sustained deeper color at the muzzle, ears, and beard which gradually blends with the rest of the body, it is correct." (Mme. de Fontenilles)

"Reject from breeding, any animal insufficiently pigmented." (M. Montenot)

"The tawnies are too light." (Mme de Fontenilles)

"The blacks seem to have gray paws which is to be rejected." (Mme de Fontenilles)

"A Briard must be without spots, his coat of only one color." (Mme de Beauchot)

COMMENTS BY M. JEAN JANICOT

Since this report was completed, we have received the following letter from M. Janicot, a noted breeder-judge who is held in highest esteem. He has kindly sent his comments on photographs and hair samples sent to France for evaluation.

To fully understand the comments, Mme de Fontenilles recommends that it be fully understood that the French rate their dogs with the following: EXCELLENT: VERY GOOD: GOOD: MEDIOCRE.

Comments on individual dogs have been deleted for obvious reasons.

ACCORDING TO M. JANICOT, 8/22/69 (translated by Y. Lacy)

"The documentation that I received is not sufficient to judge in all certainty, it would be much better to see the subjects in person, to see if there is not really bicolor involved. There are also certain colors that are not to be encouraged, such as a very dark color on the "manteau" with very light ears. The very light colored coats are not to be encouraged either. (NOTE: I am awaiting the exact explanation of the word "manteau" from Mme de Fontenilles. Y.C. Lacy.)

"The dogs pictured on the photographs seem to be of GOOD build. With VERY GOOD heads and proportions, the crooks in the tails have a tendency to be a little too big, the hair is too soft but long enough, and there is a tendency to coats that are too light, or not enough gradual blending, and the "Fauve charbonnes" draw on the very light tawny. It would be interesting in knowing the pigmentation of these dogs, especially the eyes. From the color on their paws, they give the impression of degeneracy?

"In the breeding the Americans should be advised to breed dogs with very good solid (pure) colors, preferably (we should) send them dark tawnies, golden tawnies and pure blacks with an EXCELLENT pigmentation."

HAIRDS IN HISTORY

"Let us examine, if you do not mind, the definition given in "Le Chien" by the authors, aforementioned, who tell us that whatever the nature of the hair, the color of the coat is itself very variable." (M. Montenot)
"For certain old breeders, the basic color is black, the tawny coats originating from crossing breeds. They feared the lack of pure-bred stock would lead eventually to the disappearance of the black coat." (Sedir)

And from Noel Wanlangs Thesis: (Much of the following is also found in Sedir's Le Chien de War, Chien de France.)

"The colors of the coat which are officially admitted have varied in rather large measure since the first standard of 1897. This is because the breeds of that epoch were very diversely colored, and even now, we hesitate to designate a fundamental color of that breed." (1946)

"The dog described by Gaston Phoebus (14th century)... as light slate gray, with great black spots, adorned with a characteristic 'V' on the head, and a black collar which also formed a 'V'." (Paul Meguin)

"Light coats are frequently accompanied by light eyes which often designate a character that is less sure, less thoughtful."

"In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the dogs with composite coats have at least some degree of wall-eye." (according to Paul Meguin, Bailly-Saint and Héron.)

"It was not until the end of the Nineteenth Century that distinct breeds were specified among shepherd dogs (in France), (until that time)... dogs were scarcely characterized by distinct physical marks, but were known rather for the particular aptitude for guarding flocks..."

"From whence then comes our breed? Quite simply, it comes from Beauce, at least if we believe Paul Meguin."

"And the Beauceron himself, when abstracted from his coat... is so strangely close to his cousin the German Shepherd... Since 1893 the catalogues of exhibitions... in Paris have distinguished between the Dogs of Beauce and Dogs of Beauce..."

Thus the two types of competitions in which our French dogs can take part, present serious defects, all at least which are held in our own country. The beauty competitions where elegance of the subject is prized too highly, see victory for those who draw away a little more each year from the initial type of working dog. These errors in conception are no strangers to one another... dogs pass their entire existence far from any sheep... their owners then look for another outlet for their products, trying to obtain subjects capable of rivalling the other breeds in beauty, and they select those whose fur is the most abundant.

"Thus we see coming true the prediction... 'In the competitions, we must encourage at all cost the handsome and good-looking dog hybrids who draw away a little more each year from the one hand and work dogs on the other'." (1911)

"Siraudin...stated (in 1927) 'It is with grief that many exhibitors... always have two different types - one for work and the other for beauty'."

WHAT IS A STANDARD?

L. A. Horwell in a DOG WORLD article (Jan. 1969) said:

"It would seem to me that the first responsibility of a breed standard should be to define the elements of type exemplified by that breed, which identifies that breed from the 114 other recognized breeds, as well as from all other variation and mixtures of canine attributes which might be found in a dog shelter or rescue mission. This summary of breed type can be and often is expressed in a single paragraph, and starts the reader considering the animal as a whole."

Herm David said in his DOG WORLD article (July 1968):

"The whole thrill in breeding is in the challenge of creating an animal nearer perfection than any which has ever lived. The purest satisfaction in judging is in recognizing and rewarding such an animal when it is encountered."

"...standards are seldom left undisturbed for any considerable length of time. Concepts in breed perfection change. Further, it seems that each new generation in a parent club wants to put its own imprint on the breed by making some alterations in the standard. There is some danger in this because it seems that for each error eliminated, another is introduced."

"Once adopted, standard revisions may not show any apparent results for a number of years. It sometimes takes years for breeders to compensate for them and for judges to adjust to them."

"Everyone must depend upon the breed standard. It guides the purchaser; for conscientious breeders it is an essential guideline; for conformation judges it is most useful when it is both clear and complete. For he must follow it just as far as it will lead him."

"Offering a standard of maximum usefulness is a parent club's greatest responsibility. It must be graphic without illustrations. It must be fully descriptive without being wordy. It should very well be that it is more difficult to describe a perfect dog than to breed one."

Mme. Jean-Fontenilles: "...one must create a commission of standard which will concern itself with safeguarding the characteristics of the dog and not make a standard to one's own personal taste, in relation to one's own products."

AND SO ON GENERATIONS!

The 1968 A.K.C. Complete Dog Book tells us: "when a recessive condition appears in a litter, each parent must carry the causative gene, and about two thirds of the normal litter mates will do the same. Clearly, further use of these parents will only multiply the undesirable gene in the kennel, while use of the normal litter mates is almost an equally bad risk. "It is important therefore, to remember that breeding from A.I.T.S. SHOWING DEFECTS KNOWN TO BE HARMFUL IS ONLY INVITING TROUBLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."
R. H. Smythe, MRCVS tells us in his Dog World article, "...faults may be incurred and spread by careless breeding." A point which my correspondent should clearly understand is that the birth of a single pup showing a recessive fault is positive proof that the determining genes are present in both its parents and this knowledge should be a guide to future mating.

"If the spread of any condition is to be arrested or avoided, a fixed resolution should be made not to breed from any dog or bitch which shows that defect or condition, or from one which is knows to have a litter mate which developed the trouble. Any dog or bitch which has sired or borne affected offspring should be banned from further breeding."

Dr. Fuller tells us:

The tan point pattern (a tan pigmentaion of some or all of the following areas: feet, muzzle, chest, eyebrows and sometimes the undersides of the body) is a recessive form of the gene series that produces the PUH, ASI, COLOAS, or THE MIN.</p>

The tawny dog, with lighter color in the pattern areas is the same genetic pattern as the black and tawny dog, both dogs are the pure recessive tan point, regardless of the color on the remaining parts of the body. The tan point pattern is not seen in the recessive parent, regardless of whether it is a tawny dog, or a black dog and the tawny color is recessive to the three other colors. It will appear only when both parents carry the recessive form of the gene. In a litter with a tan point puppy (tawny or black) some of the litter mates of other colors, will also carry the recessive form of the gene.

There is close linkage between the tan point pattern and the black, tawny and gray colors because the color is produced by the same gene series.

There is no linkage between the tan point pattern and the spotted (merle, piebald, etc.) coats of other breeds. These are caused by completely different genes.

The tan point color does not indicate an outcross to another breed. (The merle, or other spotted coats would indicate an outcross) This is a natural form of the cairland color genes. (It is a primary color of the breed, not a modifier color.) The cairland ancestor, described by Gaston Phoebus in the 18th century was probably a tan point, if the description is accurate.

The tan point color is recessive to black and tawny but dominant to the tan point. The tan point is the most recessive form of this pigmentation series. The tan point in the cairland pigmented breed with black or tawny coat is a recessive form of this pigmentation series.

The tan point color is recessive to black and tawny pigment produced by the same genes. "One color" coats would be difficult to develop.

MATING TAWNY TO BLACK DOES NOT CAUSE THE TAN POINT puppy. Cairlands of black, tawny or grey can carry and transmit this trait. (This form of the gene seems to have widespread influence in your breed)

(this following is a list of color matings with the least likely to produce the recessive listed first.

1. Black to black is the least likely to produce it.
2. Black to tawny is the next in line.
3. Tawny to tawny is next in line.
4. Black to tawny is next.
5. Tawny to grey is next.
6. Grey to grey is next.
7. Black to tawny (tawny/tl or black/tl)
8. Tawny to tawny " "
9. Grey to tawny " "
10. Tawny point to tawny is the most likely, of course.

**In order to have the recessive appear in a litter both parents must carry the recessive form of the gene.**

This "light tawny" color is caused by a separate modifying gene that effects only the tawny pigment. This modifier is not part of the cairland primary color series. This can be present in the black dog and transmitted to the young without affecting the color of the black dog. It is recessive to the gene for full depth of pigment.

TO ELIMINATE A RECESSIVE TRAIT, YOU MUST USE FOR BREEDING ANY DOG THAT HAS THAT CHARACTERISTIC, OR ANY DOG THAT HAS EVER PRODUCED THAT CHARACTERISTIC, WITH THE TAWNY COAT AND THE TAWNY COLOR EMERGING IN THE LITTER. IF ANY OF THESE DOGS ARE BRED, YOU WILL CONTINUE TO PROPAGATE THE RECESSIVE GENE AND YOU WILL HAVE GAINED NOTHING! (It will be important that you classify the tawny/tan point as a tan point because they are also the pure recessive.)

These colors, (tan point or light tawny) are in no way degenerative as the spotting genes would be. Geneticists know the gene for merle and wall-eye or the spotting, piebald etc. are degenerative and do not like to see them present in any breed.

You should also understand that the tan point gene is a natural part of the breed's pigmentation series of genes (the A series). If you try to eliminate it, it would be likely to redevelop.

This breed has interesting color genetics which are deserving of a more detailed study. (Note: Dr. Fuller will contact Dr. Jinsburg since there is some evidence the cairland has a possible "recessive black" that would be recessive to the four other colors.)

The American Standard is surprisingly accurate according to genetics. Those who wrote it must have been very conservant and the breed very typical of the A series.
The following letters provided some of the comments in this report and may be of interest. Since space is limited, only these translations have been included. If anyone would like to read the original French, I will be happy to send copies upon request. (B. McLeroth)

April 11, 1969

Dear Mrs. MacLeroth,

Thank you for your nice letter, it is a great pleasure for me to answer your questions. As you know I am very fond of Briards.

A Briard must be without spots, his coat of only one color may be black, grey or tawny. If he is black he may have some white hair but never a white spot. If he is tawny the best coat is the darkest one, with the end of the hair nearly black. A dog with a light coat is disqualified.

Today I am in a hurry but soon I shall send you a copy of the French standard for the briard.

With best regards,
Ame. Marie de Beaucour

April 22, 1969

Dear Mrs. Mac Leroth,

Thank you for your kind letter, I hope the French Club can help the American friends of our kind dog.

You will excuse me if I write the explanations of the standard in French. My English is so uncomfortable that I shall be able to do important mistakes.

(translated from the original French by Y.C. Lacy)

EXCERPTS OF THE FRENCH STANDARD

CAT: All uniform colors are acceptable except the following: (however, deeper (sustained) colors are recommended.)

Penalty: (fault) Slight white spot on chest.

Disqualification: white color, chestnut (narroon), Mahogany (acajou), bicolor. "Liste blanche en tete" (which I Y.C. Lacy, translate as a white streak going from the ears down to the nose)--(Ame. de Fontenilles has explained, since this translation, that "listes" is a white spot on the chest.)

Do not confuse bicolor with a slightly lighter color of the extremities which is nothing else than the start of depigmentation. This slightly lighter color must remain in the same range of colors (dark tawny on light tawny, straight black on lighter black, dark grey on light grey, etc.)

One must therefore note that the change of color must be gradual, never marked in two distinct colors. One must reject from the breeding the dogs tending to depigmentation (washed out colors at the extremities, these dogs although correct are liable to produce bad offspring.)

To consider the examples you gave me:

The light tawny to warm tawny (jaune chaud) with slate at the ears, tail, muzzle is correct. If a range of salted grays are correct, the black and tawny mixed dogs are disqualified. If the black mask stands in sharp contrast to the rest of the tawny, it is bad, if it is sustained 'deeper color at the muzzle, ears, and head which gradually blends with the rest of the body it is correct. No black dogs with tawny jaws!!

Now, at present, in the blacks, only the shiny and pure blacks are appreciated.

I am at your service to answer all the questions......
Ame. JF de Fontenilles
Secrteaire General

The May 2, 1969 letter from Madame de Fontenilles has already been printed in the Paw CLAW (August, 1969) and will not be reproduced here.

July 15, 1969

Dear Mrs. MacLeroth,

I am so happy to receive news from the American Club and to see the good-will that moves you all! Surely these efforts will be rewarded.

No, the very light tawny Briards are not disqualified they are only "little appreciated". Only the whites or those with a "listes blanches" are disqualified. (Listes: spot on the chest.)

A tawny with black spots is bicolor therefore disqualified. A tawny whose hairs go from tawny to black is not bicolor, il est charbonné. (charcoal)
Any white spot or white hairs in the tawnies is absolutely rejected, the dog is no good.

"L'arréolage" (slating) is a lighter black, gray blue or tawny gray, more or less. (most often it is the color of the "fauve charbonnes")

The best color for a tawny is a sustained reddish "fauve chaud" (perhaps combined with the glow of copper) neither beige or on the sandy side. One finds dark hair mixed side by side with lighter hair, but always in the same range of color. There should be practically no difference between the root of the hair and the tip. But, these differences occur at the time of the change of the hairs; the seasonal molting.

...........I address to you my very cordial wishes.

Mme. JP de Fontenilhes
Secretary General
Club des Ails du Briard

Translation by Y.C. Lacy

August 12, 1969

Dear Friend,

I do not know how your letter could have gone astray as it only reached me yesterday and it was dated July 20 and the answer seems urgent as your meeting is on the 16th. I therefore doubt that my letter will reach you in time.

Nevertheless, I think you have in hand enough material to do a good job. I take the liberty to repeat again what has already been said before; if the hairs are distinctly separated in color there is bicolorism and disqualification. There must not be any spots (that is to say, if you clipped the fur of the dog to leave only 2 or 3 centimeters of length, one should not find spots as in the Fox Terrier for example). Therefore in examining attentively the root of the hair it is relatively easy to see if the colors are blended or distinct.

I have transmitted your materials about dogs to Mr. Janicot, he will send them back to me with his comments, his knowledge is sure and his qualities as a breeder(judge) are unquestionable.

As soon as I get the opinions of Mr. Janicot, I will send them to you, and I am very happy to think that the Frenon club is able to help a little, its American friends, do not try to thank me in any other way than by the deep friendship than now links us and is very valuable to me.

I can not explain why exactly the standard rejects the mahoganies and chestnuts: I think it is because these colors cannot be followed in successive litters and quite rapidly turn to neutral colors and bicolorism.

If I get any good photographs I will send them to you. It would certainly help you.

Please believe, dear Diane, all my thanks if you could compose an article comprehensible to the average reader of the Bulletin, on Genetics, and please be assured of my faithful collaboration and in the affective link that unites all Briard lovers.

Marguerite de Fontenilhes

The COAT OF THE BRITARD
by H. Fontenot
1959

The standard tells us: all uniform colors are admitted, except white. The deeper (foncé) colors are to be preferred. In the disqualifications is "robe danoisée" (merlined coat).

In the book "Le Chien" by Paul Reguin, D. Vres heraut and Luquet, we learn that what one calls "coat or hair" or sometimes also calls fur, the whole hair production that covers the body surface.

The coat includes the study of the nature of the hair, the colors and the peculiarities.

It is here the standard of the Briard is not always understood, as the the colors.

Let us examine, if you do not mind, the definition given in "Le Chien" by the authors, aforementioned, who tell us that whatever the nature of the hair, the color of the coat is itself very variable.

There is some reason to believe, that in the beginning, the coat of the first dogs was tawny; then followed variations of pigmentation in the opposite directions, it could have gone from red to brown, to black and so on.

The plainest coats are the products of selection and it is not rare to see nature reverting back by diminishing of the color at the extremities in the darker coats and increasing the color in the lighter coats by centrifugal pigmentation or centripetal.

This explains why in Exhibitions, we find dogs with lighter socks or stockings or on the opposite, tawny that seem to have black mantle (manteau). If these colors seem to
be clearly separated, there are then two colors and the subject should be rejected as the standard wants it unicolor, but if the discolorations starts at the extremities and gradually diminishes, blending on the principal part of the body, there is no bicolor and the coat is admitted.

In the black colors we find:

- Straight dull black (Noir franc mat)
- Haven black with shiny reflections (noir corbeau avec reflets brillants)
- Black with reddish reflections (noir avec reflets roussâtres)
- Jet black (noir jais)
- Black slate with metallic reflections (noir ardoisé)
- The black brindle should have.

The grey comprises:

- Mouse grey, sometimes light, sometimes dark (foncé)
- A color that is very close to steel blue, reminding one of the fresh break in steel.

The tawnies comprise:

- A whole range going from light to dark (foncé)
- In the darks we find:
  - "Fain brun" = burnt or dark French breed, more or less dark chestnut (as in the horse of the same name).
- The washed out tawnies are to be rejected.

The "fauve charbonné" (charcoaled tawny) is comprised of one hair, tawny at its base and going on to black towards its tip. It is more or less "charbonné", depending if the black is more or less accentuated. Therefore, a tawny dog can be more or less charbonné on his back, but he must have tawny at the root of each hair, otherwise it is not fauve charbonné, but a tawny with a black mantle (manteau) therefore with two colors.

In regard to the color called "danoisée", mentioned by the standard, I have received numerous correspondence from our friends abroad and especially from Holland. Even in France, newcomers to the birard, seeing black, tawny, grey blue Great Danes do not understand very well.

One can be interested in one breed without having great canine knowledge, especially for our Dutch friends who have been raising birard for a good number of years and know them well. But, I think it is necessary to specify that "robe danoisée" from "Le Chien" is a coat with a gray background with either black, tawny or white spots. The expression "Harlequin" is reserved to the coat with nearly equal size spots and Regner cites in example the "Danois arlequin". For my part, I do not see why the standard specifies in its disqualification "robe danoisée" considering it tells us only uniform colors are admitted. One would do better in mentioning that the color "marron" (chestnut) is not admitted, but I would like to mention that it sometimes happens that the fleece has tufts, that means the dog.

having the fur of the "fauve charbonné" color, would have one or more lighter patches; this is due to one or more tufts but his color is nevertheless uniform. It is then up to the judge to make the decisions that are necessary and never forget the Standard of the Berger de Brie, Chien de Berger Français.

Originally published in the Bulletin no. 49 (Jan./Feb) 1959, by Club des Amis du Birard.

A LETTER OF COLOR EXPLANATION FROM M. CONTEND

Translation by L.C. Lacy

At birth, the puppy, even the one who will be black has under the tail, a spot ranging from very dark tawny to a reddish color.

The pup who has the marks of the Beauceron should be rejected.

The dog on page 5 of your Bulletin (December 1968, DEW Claw) has the best angulation.

One calls bicolor a subject which has two distinctly separated colors. But, one knows that the depigmentation of the coat always starts at the extremities, therefore a dog of "fauve charbonné" who has the extremities of its members (limbs, legs) of a color that is lighter is not a bicolor if the DARMAIN and the LIGON BLEU are blended one in the other. That is, if there is not a distinct demarcation from one color to the other and with the condition that the lighter color must be a lighter shade of the other. This is also true of the grey or the black.

A dog of light tawny (fauve clair) who would have the extremities of its members (limbs, legs) darker would be bicolor and therefore rejected.

A black subject which has on its chest a little white line is admissible.

"Noir ardoisâ" is a black dog which carries fleece, sprinkle (perséché) with grey hair, more or less dark, but never in tufts (clusters, bunched).

Whatever the color of the coat, one must always favor a rich (prononcé) pigmentation.

Don't admit light colored eyes.
FOR SALE OR CO-OWNERSHIP

BEAUTIFUL BLACK MALE BRIARD
THREE YEARS OLD.
SHOW QUALITY.
EXCELLENT DISPOSITION,
CHARMING PERSONALITY.
NEEDS NEW HOME.

NORGAA DR BREEDING:
MONCHIEN DE LA GAILLARDE
SIRE: BIJOU DE LA GAILLARDE
DAM: HARICOT DE LA GAILLARDE

WRITE
MRS. NORMAN R. BYRD 33132 BLUE FIN DR.
DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA 92629

BRIARD GROUP WINS...........

CH. PHOEBE CHEZ PHYDEAU, only Briard to win Working Group at A.K.C. point show. Won group at Stone City, Ill with 1700 entries, 500 in Working Group, Judge Mrs. Velma Hiser. Owners, Barbara and Thomas McQuillan.


JANUS DES ELFES DE MALOUSE, 2nd in Group at Holyoke, Mass. under Forest Hall. Owner, Patricia Maki. Also 2nd in Group at Westchester under Mrs. Francis V. Crane.

CH. PYTHIAS CHEZ PHYDEAU (Hugo), owned by Ken and Cece Collins was 3rd in Group at Canfield, Ohio Aug. 3rd under Maxwell Hiddle. 4th in Group at Newcastle, Pa. Sept. 13th under Gerhardt Plaga. Won Working Group at AKC Sanctioned Match at Jamestown, N.Y. Aug. 10th.

SCENES FROM THE KENNEL CLUB OF BEVERLY HILLS
BRIARD JUDGING
JUNE 21-22, 1969

PHOTOS BY TOM SMITH

JUDGING OPEN DOG
36
RESERVE WINNERS DOG
LORD DUDLEY
D'AGINCOURT
OWNED BY:
RON AMBER

WINNERS DOG
WALLI D'AGINCOURT
OWNED BY:
MR. & MRS. MARKS & SONS

PHYDEAUX QUINAUD
OWNED BY:
PATRICIA ANUFROM

ALFIE DES BERGERS
OWNED BY:
DR. A.S. CATALANO
JUDGING OPEN BITCHES

WINNERS BITCH & BEST OF BREED
O'TRESOR DE VASOUY
OWNED BY:
RAY GIROUARD

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH
ROSETTE DE LA PATRE
OWNED BY: 
MR. & MRS. D. MEGGITT
JUDGE: MRS. RIGGS

ANGELIQ D'AGINCOURT
OWNED BY:
W.H. MC MULLEN

PHAEDRA DE MARHA
OWNED BY:
ROBERTA SABLESKI
ANASTASIA D'AGINCOURT
OWNED BY:
CAROLYN ERICKSON

JAMBOLAAY D'AGINCOURT
OWNED BY:
ELYNOR SEABORN

BERRY BROW'S NINA
OWNED BY:
PAUL ROSNER

ANGELICA DE LA GAILLARDE, COGNAC CHEZ JENE
OWNED BY:
JENNIE LOU KRAFT - DAUGHTER
By now everyone who reads his mail is aware that we are having a specialty in Philadelphia on Dec. 6.

We urge you to enter your Briard - or Briards. If there was ever a time when NO ONE could predict the outcome, this is it! No one knows from previous experiences what this judge prefers. No one has 'heard' that he 'likes' little ones, big ones, light ones, dark ones, young ones, old ones -- in short, if your Briard is registered and has no disqualifying features, HE MAY BE IT!

I have never heard anyone say he didn't have a great time at a Specialty. If you've been to one, you know they're fun. You'll be at this one if you possibly can. If you've never entered a Specialty

TRY THIS ONE

And gee whiz, fellas, it's not too late to donate to the trophy fund. You have until Oct. 20.

Jane Cook
RR #1, Box 171A
Medford, N.J. 08055

Regular Meeting of the Delegates
of
The American Kennel Club
September 9, 1969

(excerpt from minutes)
Referring to the second subject, Junior Showmanship, Mr. Cross said:

As has been the case with every other facet of the sport of pure-bred dogs, the interest in Junior Showmanship has increased greatly over the last few years. This is readily understandable in the light of today's relentless emphasis on training and education in virtually every field of human endeavor. If a father or mother is in dogs and the child is interested, they want their youngster in Junior Showmanship to stimulate that interest and to have him or her learn what he or she can from it. Your Board has given much thought to this competition and its importance to the sport and has decided that it should be elevated from its present catch-as-catch-can status to a position of equality with the other events which go to make up a dog show.

As you all know, this event has been in existence for many years. When it began in the early 1930's it was known as "Children's Handling". Nowadays, of course, the only people that you can call "children" are those who are too young to
1950 the event was rechristened "Junior Showmanship", a name more acceptable to the participants. It is now, and has been for some time, an integral part of most dog shows and yet, not much attention has really been paid to it.

Premium Lists have carried the terms under which the competition is held and so have catalogues but the terms and conditions have varied from show to show and there has been no uniformity. Actually, the only official mention of Junior Showmanship that the AKC makes is a pair of italicized lines in the Rules book that - only licensed handlers may judge the competition.

In view of the Board's decision then, a number of steps will have to be taken. First of all, of course, it must be understood that it is for each show-giving club to decide whether or not they wish to offer Junior Showmanship competition. As is the case with Obedience, there is no compulsion to do so.

As is also the case with Obedience, an enabling rule must go in the Rule book and then a set of regulations which govern the competition must be put into effect.

Junior Showmanship, when offered, will be a regular official part of the show. The awards will be part of the official records of the show and published with the other results. The names and addresses of the juniors and the names, breeds and owners of the dogs shown will be part of our Show Records Department. The conditions governing the classes will be printed in the Premium Lists as will the names of the judge. The judging schedule will give the ring number, the hour of judging and the name of the judge.

Until the present, this has been impossible most of the time because the handlers, who have been the judges, could not know ahead of time if they would be free to judge or if they would be showing at the time they were supposed to be judging. Junior Showmanship has been, in many cases, a step-child, ignored by the clubs, stuffed in any available ring, judged by the third or fourth or fifth handler asked by the Superintendent - an event to be got out of the way so that the youngsters would stop badgering the Superintendents and club officials with "where's it going to be judged?", "where's it going to be judged?" and "who's going to judge it?".

Your Board therefore has decided that regular licensed judges must be appoveable to judge this competition. In addition, handlers will be appoveable, but if they accept an invitation to judge, they may not handle any dog or dogs at the show in question. The Junior Showmanship judge at any show may not have exactly the same status as any other judge on the panel, even if he is judging nothing else and, Section 13 of Chapter 16 specifically states that no judge may exhibit or handle at a show where he or she judges.

Frankly, we believe that a great many of our judges are going to find this a judging assignment of great interest.

Those of you who are judges may have thought of this already. Judges are always automatically aware of the skill or lack of skill of those who are showing dogs under them, it becomes second nature to them, but their primary concentration, naturally, is on the dogs themselves. Now their primary concentration will be on the handling, the merits of the dogs not being pertinent to this competition. In our opinion this will be an interesting shift in emphasis and a challenge to the judge.

Naturally, we believe that it will be in the mind of every judge of Junior Showmanship, that the youngsters before them in the ring may well be the backbone of the sport in the years to come.

Some of them may fall by the wayside as time goes by but it is certain that many of them are just starting on long careers in pure-bred dogs and they are learning their lessons in sportsmanship and how to accept the disappointment of defeat. Besides, the mere fact that the judges are working with and trying to help these boys and girls will be a great source of satisfaction.

Another change which will result from taking this step is that entries in Junior Showmanship will have to be made as are other entries before the deadline. This is because the entries in this competition will have to be included when adding up the number of dogs in a judge's assignment. Each Junior will, of course, count the same as a dog in breed competition when making certain that a judge's assignment does not exceed the new limit of 175 which goes into effect on January 1, 1970.

Finally there is another benefit that will come from this change. It has for some time been a matter of concern to us that, on occasion, a misguided parent has, in his or her understandable zeal, exceeded the bounds of proper behavior when talking to a Junior Showmanship judge, when offspring have not fared well in the judging of this competition.

Because of the cloudy status of Junior Showmanship, the factor of discipline has not heretofore been clearly defined. With its new standing, the judges in Junior Showmanship will have exactly the same recourse to the Bench Show Committee that judges in any other competition now have.

Now I will mention some further regulations for Junior Showmanship classes that your Board has been considering. They have been in the process of preparing for the following in Junior Showmanship:

- For Juniors at least 10 years of age and under 17 who have won no more than 3 Novice Classes. OPEN - For Juniors of the same age brackets who have won at least 1 Novice Class. Both these classes may be divided by sex and further divided by age into Junior - aged 10 to 13 and Senior - aged 13 to 17.

In addition, non-regular classes may be offered by clubs if they wish, as long as they conform with these regulations in other respects, but the AKC will keep no records of these classes and will not require entry forms and so forth.
Juniors may enter only one class at any show but a winner of a Novice Class may compete in an Open Class for which he or she is otherwise qualified. In other words, if he or she were to win a Junior Novice Boys/Girls class, he or she could then enter the Junior Open Boys/Girls class at the same show, having qualified at the show in question.

All dogs shown in Junior Showmanship must be entered in one of the show or obedience classes and must be owned or co-owned by the Junior or by a member of his or her immediate family.

All ribbons awarded shall be of the non-regular colors as prescribed in Chapter 8 of the Rules—namely, Rose, Brown, Light green and Gray. All trophies are to be offered for outright award in the regular procedure of judging and none may be offered that are conditional upon the breed of dog being handled by the Junior. For instance, no trophy such as the following may be offered: "For the Junior placing highest who handles an Affenpinscher or an American Water Spaniel".

These then are the lines along which your Board has been thinking. If you and the members of your clubs have thoughts and comments to make on these matters, please let us hear from you.

The foregoing proposal by the AKC deserves the most careful consideration by every dog exhibitor. Before all parents of Junior Showmen stand and cheer, I would like to present to you some of the comments (not mine) on this new issue.

First of all, the average handler seems to feel that he cannot afford to give up a day's handling fees for what a club would (or could afford to) pay him to judge a class for which the club would receive NO entry fees. A good professional handler makes more in one day than the most expensive judge. The handler also wants to 'finish' any dogs entrusted to his care and handling as quickly as possible and cannot afford to skip a show—especially when the judges at a given show may turn out to be just the ones he wishes to exhibit certain dogs under. These are actual comments of several handlers.

From the viewpoint of the show-giving club, paying a judge for services when no entry fees (or certainly not enough fee to cover the cost of judge, ring-space, etc.) is just plain poor business. Many shows are already limited in entries for lack of enough space. There is some possibility of further limitations on Dog entries. The cost of putting on a show is rising rapidly. A judge is rightly limited as to the number of dogs he may judge in a day. Jr. Showmanship entries would be included IN this number.

Several judges polled thought Jr. Showmanship classes are the greatest thing for the youngsters and were most enthusiastic--'but don't ask me to judge them'. These classes are most difficult to judge and a great deal of credit should be given to the handlers who have been doing it.

From the dog fanciers in general—The AKC has always been an organization set up to keep records for (and foster the improvement of) Pure Bred dogs. Their records have been of DOGS. Now they will be keeping records of 'people'. Is this the purpose of the organization? How much will it cost to keep these records and what will be the source of the money? Will it finally entail a full entry fee for Jr. handlers, or will the funds be raised from increased fees charged for other services?

Consider these facts. Perhaps Jr. Showmanship should be kept on in the somewhat informal status that it now enjoys—or these classes may disappear from many shows.

Charles Cook

M E M B E R S H I P

ADDRESS CHANGES

ILLINOIS
Mrs. Caryl Cooper, 3200 Orangebrace, Riverwoods, Dearfield 60015

OHIO
David J. & Lola L. Wagner, 2611 Montibello, Toledo 43607

NEW YORK
Jean Carrion (previously listed as Carsian)

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

CALIFORNIA
Margaret Conroy, 2820 Scott St. #11 San Francisco 94112
Paul G. Marks, 604 N. Crescent Dr., Beverly Hills 90210

CONNECTICUT
Martin Paris, 115 Weston Rd., Westport 06880

GEORGIA
Robert Rottet, 1881 Ridgewood Dr., Atlanta

ILLINOIS
May M. Low, 8 Regent Court W., Buffalo Grove 60090
Albert K. Strauss, 843 S. Miller St., Chicago 60607

MASSACHUSETTS
Mrs. Robert Asher, Oak Rd., Concord 01742

MICHIGAN
David Caplan, 7381 Mohanic, Birmingham
Charles C. Long, 5690 Shear Rd., Marine City 48039
Barbara McQuillan, 26692 Chippendale, Roseville 48066
Hugh Patikey, 26100 Hawthorne Dr., Franklin Village
Barbara Rachko, 4445 Houston Whittier, Detroit 48205
Henry Sandweiss, 6832 Woodside Trail, Birmingham 48010
Joseph Sterling, 5728 Parkside SMT, Monroe

MINNESOTA
John Zeiss, Waldron Place, Wayzata
HIP DYSPLASIA ..............  

August 7, 1969

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc.
Dr. Wayne H. Riser, Director
Route 1, Constantine, Mich.

Dear Dr. Riser:

Please accept the enclosed check in the amount of five hundred dollars from the Briard Club of America in memory of Mrs. Grace W. Norgaard, past President of this organization.

Mrs. Norgaard had been a Briard breeder for over thirty years, and during her last years was deeply interested in the problem of hip dysplasia. Therefore we donate this sum to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc. in the hope that it may contribute to the solution of this problem for all who are concerned as she was.

Very truly yours,

(Mary Lou Tingley)

August 12, 1969

Mrs. M.L. Tingley, Secretary
Briard Club of America
Yardley Rd.
Mendham, N. J. 07945

Dear Mrs. Tingley:

Your letter of August 7th and the $500.00 donation in memory of your past President Mrs. Grace W. Norgaard has been received at this address. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate this. Mrs. Norgaard must have been a very fine person to merit such a memorial from her fellow Briard Club membership, and we are pleased you have honored us with this donation. It is being forwarded to our Treasurer, Dr. George H. Gardner, today - and our records will show this as a memorial from your Club to Mrs. Norgaard.

We would also at this time like to extend an invitation to your Club to join us in the combined breed club "fight" against dysplasia. Enclosed is a pamphlet briefly describing our organization, dysplasia in the layman terms, and the purposes and aims of our breed club representatives. If you have further questions please feel free to advise. We are also adding your name to our mailing list for regular O.F.A. releases, and I am pleased to enclose the last two which you apparently have not received.

Again - thank you! We hope you will join with the other breed clubs to help us fight this problem, and we welcome you.

Sincerely,
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc.

(Mrs. Robert A. Bower)
Chairman Breed Club Representatives and Owners.

PRO and CON.................

Regarding the current disagreement between members of the Briard Club of America because of color, we wish to bring out one point in particular.

This problem has been brought about because of one color pattern only, and we feel that Club members should consider all aspects of the Briard Standard regarding color and not just a single color pattern. It would seem very unfair to penalize one color only, when there are other colors and color patterns that evidently are incorrect.

Therefore, if it is found necessary to revise our Briard Standard in regard to the color pattern in question, reference should be made to the fact that the roots of the hair should be very dark and a black mask should not stand out in sharp contrast to the coloring of the coat.

Janice and Phil McNelia

With regard to your notice of a committee to rewrite the Briard breed standards as discussed in the April-June Dew Claw and with the subsequent receipt of the McNelia letter, please accept my vote for maintaining the breed as close to its origin, as can be remembered with particular avoidance of the lack of rich colors, spotlessness, depigmentation, and small size. All these detract from the rugged, stoical nature of the dog which is really its "case in point".

Nelson C. Steenland
As a relatively new Briard owner, and one who is completely enamored with the breed, I am writing this as a plea to all breeders and interested owners.

I believe that our main interest should be the improvement of the breed and that the worry should be, not what we might gain by drastic changes in our standard, but what we might lose.

A strong love, respect, and interest in the Briard must take precedence over personal feelings and financial rewards that might be forthcoming. It behooves us all to listen to expert opinions, read voraciously, attend dog shows, and generally expose oneself to every means available to come to a more complete and correct understanding of our breed.

This can not be done by a few excerpts from one book, or from one letter, or from one conversation. All of this, by necessity of the inexperience of our American breeders, means that we Briard owners in the United States must follow the leadership of the French breeders. Perhaps, "Ours is not to wonder why, ours is to do or die!"

I feel we should all realize that while genetics is the scientific study of heredity, it is very unusual to find two geneticists in complete agreement with each other.

Perhaps a better idea would be to bring over an expert from France to inspect our Briards and decide if this color and marking is or isn't allowed. Then, when everyone has a clearer conception of what the French says is right and wrong, we can rewrite the color part of the standard more clearly. If we must then state that we do not want a black dog with tan points, then this would have to be done.

However, I can not see that our standard is the cause of our present disagreement. I can not help but believe that the main cause of the problem is not our standard but the judges themselves. My personal feeling is that a great majority of judges do not sufficiently acquaint themselves with the Briard to give a fair and complete judgement on our beautiful French sheepdog.

The time has come for everyone to forget personalities and remember the Briard and also to forget and forgive the dissension, and return the Briard Club of America to a friendly advancement of our favorite breed.

I have heard that the late Mrs. Grace Norgaard wrote and mentioned more than once that many people did not deserve to own a Briard.

Perhaps we should all stop and ask ourselves if we personally deserve our wonderful, loving, shaggy friends?

Dorothy Vetrone

Some time ago I received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. McNelis accompanied by a translation of a letter from Mme. de Fontenilles. Although I am not yet a breeder, I am, as I'm sure you know, an enthusiastic owner, admirer and promoter of Briards. As such I want to briefly express my opinion about these letters.

Before I agree that we would be totally unjustified in adopting a standard that differs from the French, I think some basic questions about the breed in France must be answered:

1. Are there prominent breeders of Briards in France? (By prominent, I mean persons who have for several years devoted their efforts in the dog world to the improvement and promotion of Briards exclusively.)

2. Is conformity to the standard the honest goal of these breeders?

3. Has the result of this effort been the emergence of a breed of dog that is known in the dog world for its general excellence?

Unless we have good reason to believe that the French standard in every way describes a dog worthy of emulation surely it would be pointless to adopt it without considering revisions. Personally I would like our club to spend less time pondering the merit of a light Tawny versus a Black with gray feet, and have it find out a little more about the dog under the coat.

Does anyone agree with me that these dogs have an intelligence and temperament outside the ordinary? Don't we require special handling -- love, patience, firmness and understanding? Don't we seem to get quite a few animals that get "mean" -- possibly because they don't get this kind of handling? Is the general public interested in or equipped to give this kind of attention? Are we, as a breed club, bound to the idea that the more Briards we sell (regardless of the consequences) the more successful we are?

Please forgive my perhaps overzealous response. I'll be most interested in the progress of the standard committee and wish them good luck and good judgement.

Marilee Clark

In reply to the letter signed Janice and Phil McNelis on page 20 of the August Dew Claw, I would like to express my views on the proposed change of the Briard Standard.

In my opinion it would be a disastrous mistake for the Briard Club of America and the A.K.C. to alter the French Standard for the Briard.

What I have to say is admirable expressed in the letter of Madame de Fontenilles on page 21 of the August Dew Claw. I quote to underline her statement "...... one must create a commission of standard which will concern itself with
serious mentioned If in existence such a commission one's own personal taste in relation to one's own product.

If in existence such a commission would control the faults mentioned by Madame de Fontenilles as she notices them here and mentioned in the same letter, "the tawny are too light, the blacks seem to have grey paws, which is to be rejected, and the standard of size not well respected as to their height.

Serious breeders in France have achieved the appropriate characteristics and distinction of our breed by years of disciplined judgement. It is to be hoped that breeders here can learn to use discrimination necessary to continue the high standard of the club in France.

Jacqueline B. Morrison
(Mrs. William D.F.)

Dear Mr. Marley:

I hope my following comments will be helpful to Briarders and possibly worthy of publication in the "Dew Claw."

Firstly, I was disturbed by Mme. de Fontenilles' comments as printed in the recent edition of the "Dew Claw", specifically regarding cropped versus uncropped ears. Jacques' (Quentin de Marha's) ears are "long" and I'd have it no other way. Mme. de Fontenilles wrote that cropped ears should perhaps be made part of the standard of the breed.

But, as I see it, uncropped ears show off more clearly the beautiful shape of the Briard's head. Cropped ears, to me, are aesthetically unattractive.

I speak as a real novice Briarder, but perhaps because of that, my opinion might be as helpful as the "pros" since, as BCA members, we want to popularize the breed, though without making the breed less perfect than it should be.

If cropping is necessary to avoid canker sores, that's one thing, but that ear illness can be eliminated with the proper medication. Surely it's not much more trouble than the daily brushing and combing our shaggy beasts need.

The other point I wanted to bring up is this, which again may be of help to novice Briarders: When Jacques was four months old I took him to the veterinarian for an eye inflammation. The vet, who has quite a good reputation here in Rhode Island, said it was necessary to cauterize the upper inside of both eyelids. This was done and the physical problem eliminated.

I wasn't present when the medical procedure was performed. But before it was done, Jacques was an outgoing bumptious pup, shy and sensitive, but friendly to one and all. Afterwards, he was suspicious of everyone and anyone he didn't know. Now he's quite hostile or suspicious of any person he doesn't know as a friend (and all affection, literally throwing himself bodily on the people he loves).

I can only think that the experience at the vet's, for a pup whose personality was in the formative stage, was negatively traumatic. The change from before and after was so dramatic.

The above conclusion was confirmed by my experience with another highly recommended Rhode Island veterinarian. I'd boarded Jacques with him on several occasions. Included in the boarding was the necessary administration of medicine for his ears (by now the canker sore is almost gone). But that vet's conclusion is that Jacques is extremely temperamental, particularly when it comes to having his ears treated. Apparently, he put up such a fuss that he literally had to be sat on to receive the medication. (With me, he thinks it's all a great game, all happy about the procedure and knowing there are a few dog yummies at the end of the procedure.)

But I've been clued in. For the past month it's been necessary to board him at a training kennel, since after a foot operation I was unable to walk or run him. Apparently, the staff at the kennel (Nether-Lair Kennels in Wrentham, Mass.) made friends with him, gaining Jacques' trust, before medicating his ears. They tell me now he just lies on his side, letting them pour the medication in his ears without any doggy talk-back.

What I'm driving at is this: many vets (certainly not all) may be highly qualified to treat medical problems in a dog, but lack understanding of that pup's psyche. Perhaps it's necessary for Briarders, with young pups who are still forming opinions of us two-legged creatures, to be most careful how medical treatment is administered. Perhaps it would be good for the owner to be present when any medical procedure is done, short of routine vaccinations, etc., although I doubt vets would like this.

As it is, Jacques is a devil-may-care character, lovable with people he knows, but most suspicious or even hostile with strangers, in large part due, I believe, to his experience with veterinarians. As I see it, the above outlined experiences have left an indelible mark, and he's loving and trusting despite, not because of his experience with vets.

Hope this will be of help to novice Briarders like me.

Sincerely yours,

Sonya F. Gray
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.

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.
iod 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 disbursed.

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 reinstatement. 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.

DEWCWALS - 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
NEWCASTLE, PA. SEPT. 13, 1969

BRIARDS
Judge — Mr. Gerhardt Plaga

BRIARDS. Open, Dogs

WINNERS DOG 361 Reserve 361 Points 1 Dogs 2

BRIARDS. Puppy, Bitches

BRIARDS. Best of Breed Competition

Best Bitch 363 Reserve — Points — Bitches 1

SUGARBUSH KENNEL CLUB SHOW
JULY 20, 1969

BRIARDS
Judge — Mr. Nelson R. Grce

BRIARDS. Puppy, Dogs

BRIARDS. Open, Dogs

WINNERS DOG 329 Reserve 329 Points 2 Dogs 3

BRIARDS. Open, Bitches

WINNERS BITCH 330 Reserve — Points — Bitches 1

BRIARDS. Best of Breed Competition

Best Bred 330 Best of Winners...Best of Opposite Sex 327

61

WAUKESHA KENNEL CLUB SHOW
WAUKESHA, WISC. JULY 27, 1969

BRIARDS
Judge — Mrs. Velma H. Hiser

BRIARDS. Open, Dogs

WINNERS DOG 768 Reserve 768 Points 1 Dogs 2

BRIARDS. Open, Bitches

WINNERS BITCH 758 Reserve 760 Points 1 Bitches 2

BRIARDS. Best of Breed Competition

Best Bitch 759 Best of Winners...Best of Opposite Sex 525

WARREN, OHIO Sept. 21, 1969

BRIARDS
Judge — Mr. Noah Blzomer, Jr.

BRIARDS. Puppy, Dogs

BRIARDS. Open, Dogs

WINNERS DOG 551 Reserve 551 Points 4 Dogs 6

BRIARDS. Puppy, Bitches

BRIARDS. Open, Bitches

WINNERS BITCH 553 Reserve 553 Points 2 Bitches 3

Best Bred 553 Best of Winners...Best of Opposite Sex 553

62
GENESEE COUNTY KENNEL CLUB SHOW
FLINT, MICH. AUGUST 16, 1969

BRIARDS
Judge — Mr. Hollis Wilson

BEST OF BREED — Silhouette Trophy by Genesee County Kennel Club.

WINNERS DOG — Silhouette Trophy by Genesee County Kennel Club.

WINNERS BITCH — Silhouette Trophy by Genesee County Kennel Club.

RESERVE WINNERS DOG — Silhouette Trophy by Genesee County Kennel Club.

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH — Silhouette Trophy by Genesee County Kennel Club.

PUPPY by CLASS — 1st. Silhouette Trophy by Genesee County Kennel Club.

PUPPY BITCH CLASS — 1st. Silhouette Trophy by Genesee County Kennel Club.

BRIARDS, Puppy, Dogs


BRIARDS, American-bred, Dogs


BRIARDS, Open, Dogs


WINNERS DOG 713 Reserve 714 Points

BRIARDS, Puppy, Bitches


BRIARDS, Open, Bitches


WINNERS BITCH 725 Reserve 726 Points

BRIARDS, Best of Breed Competition


Best Briad 727 Best of Winners Best of Opposite Sex 735

BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA SPECIALTY PONTIAC, MICH. AUGUST 17, 1969

Judge: Dr. Richard Greathouse

BRIARDS, Puppy, Dogs, 6 mos. and under 9 mos.


BRIARDS, American-bred, Dogs


BRIARDS, Open, Dogs


WINNERS DOG 713 Reserve 714 Points

BRIARDS, Puppy, Bitches


BRIARDS, Open, Bitches


WINNERS BITCH 725 Reserve 726 Points
BRIARDS. Puppy, Bitches, 9 mos. and under 12 mos.


BRIARDS. Bred by Exhibitor, Bitches


BRIARDS. Open, Bitches


WINNERS BITCH 722 Reserve 721

Points ........ Bitches ........

BRIARDS. Best of Breed Competition


Sweepstakes

Entry fees to be divided as follows:

1st 50% 2nd 25% 3rd 15% 4th 10%

BEST PUPPY IN SWEEPSTAKES TO GET $10.00 CASH AWARD

Offered by the Michigan Brierars

BRIARDS. SWEEPSTAKES, Dogs and Bitches. 6 mos. and under 9 mos.

1 703 Philip J. and Janice T. McNelis. Pa’Chick’s Rebel Deau.

704 Nancie R. Wells and Barbara L. Ruby. Le Roux Chez Chien Velu.

705 George and Evaline Sikes. Pa’Chicks Renoir.

706 Frank and Louise Trapp. Pa’Chick Rembrandt.


716 Charles and Pat Long. Pa’Chick’s Rebecca.

BRIARDS. SWEEPSTAKES. Dog and Bitches. 9 mos. and under 12 mos.

715 Dorothy and Charles Vetrone. Recherche de Charlemagne.

SEWICKLEY, PA. SEPT. 20, 1969

BRIARDS

Judge — MAXWELL RIDDLE

BRIARDS. Open, Dogs


551 Nancie R. Wells and Barbara L. Ruby. Le Roux Chez Chien Velu. WB262582.

BRIARDS. Open, Bitches


WINNERS BITCH 549 Reserve 551

Points ........ Bitches ........

BRIARDS. Open, Dogs


551 Nancie R. Wells and Barbara L. Ruby. Le Roux Chez Chien Velu. WB262582.

BRIARDS. Open, Bitches


WINNERS BITCH 549 Reserve 551

Points ........ Bitches ........

Best Biard 549

Best of Winners 549

Best of Opposite Sex 552
BRIARDS
Judge: Mr. Charles F. Hamilton.

BRIARDS. Puppy, dogs.


BRIARDS. Open, dogs.


WINNERS DOG Reserve Points Dogs
BRIARDS. Open, bitches.


WINNERS BITCH Reserve Points Bitches
BRIARDS. Best of Breed Competition.


Best Briard Best of Winners Best of Opposite Sex

HAVE YOU MOVED......

ARE YOU GOING TO MOVE ...

Please keep the Club informed of your current address.

It costs extra to have your Dew Claw returned and then mailed out to you again when we have an incorrect address.