B.C.A.'s 50TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND - AUG. 3, 4, 5, & 6!
DON'T MISS IT!
SEE PAGES 19 & 20 FOR DETAILS

CONTENTS

APRIL/MAY 1978

President's Message ........................................... 4
Treasurer's Report ............................................ 6
Secretary's Report ............................................ 7
Membership List ................................................ 8
Two Bests in Show for Jennie ................................. 14
East Side Story .................................................. 15
Briard Health & Welfare, Corona Virus ...................... 16
Golden West News & Views ................................... 17
News & Views from Betwixt & Between ...................... 18
Rassemblement/Specialty ...................................... 20
Sedir, Le Berger de Brie, Chien de France ................. 23
New Briard Champions .......................................... 34
What is a Briard ............................................... 38
Looking For Puppies/Stud Dog Column ...................... 39

FOR SOME, LIFE IS A BREEZE--

FOR OTHERS IT'S JUST ONE HEADWIND AFTER ANOTHER!
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am sorry to report that word has been received from Nancy Tomlin, President of the British Briard Club, that eye specialists in England now believe the eye problem they are finding there is Central Retinal Atrophy, an inherited eye disease.

B.C.A. has asked the advice of a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (A.C.V.O.) He advises us to have as many Briards' eyes examined as possible, especially breeding stock, but he cautions us not to jump to premature conclusions. He said that only after many Briards have been examined, will we be able to determine what we are dealing with.

We would certainly be foolish to pretend that "it will not happen to us" and we must heed the warning of the British Club. If the eye problem in England is inherited, it will also be found here. It is imperative that we have all our Briards checked, especially imported stock, and every dog which has been or will be bred.

This summer, we will be holding an eye clinic during the Rassemblement/Specialty weekend. Please plan to have your dogs' eyes checked there. However, if you are planning a breeding before then, see to it that the parents, and as many of the dogs in their background are checked as is possible.

By now you are aware that the Club needs your support for our 50th Anniversary Weekend. Plans are well underway for a most enjoyable informative and rewarding time for all. Anyone wishing to offer help may do so by contacting Specialty Chairman, Steve Feller; Rassemblement Chairman, Louise Cohen; or Obedience Chairman, Jan Zingsheim. We also need your support for our catalog. If you think you have nothing to advertise, we will welcome ads wishing the Club well on its 50th Anniversary. Advertising Chairman, Ira Ackerson will anticipate hearing from you.

Jayne Dubin

NOTICE

LATE NEWS RECEIVED AT PRESS TIME

The April 1, 1978 report from C.E.R.F. (Canine Eye Registration Foundation) indicates that the eyes of:

43 Briards have been examined by Diplomats of A.C.V.O.;
40 Briards were certifiable;
3 Briards were not certifiable, 1 having retinal disease and 2 having suspicious symptoms.

The Briard diagnosed as having retinal disease has been reported to the Club but the two dogs with suspicious symptoms are still unknown to B.C.A.

THE REPORT FROM ENGLAND AND THIS C.E.R.F. REPORT INDICATE THAT RETINAL DISEASE DOES EXIST IN BRIARDS AND IT DOES EXIST IN THIS COUNTRY. However, what the problem is - or its cause are still not known.

THE HELP AND COOPERATION OF EACH AND EVERY BRIARDER IS NEEDED if we are to combat this problem. Each dog should be checked and the results of the exam reported to the Club, in order to provide researchers with the information necessary to determine what the problem is and what we can do to help overcome it.

continued--

BCA

NOTICE ON EYE DISEASE - continued

THERE IS NO SHAME IF YOUR BRIARD IS NOT CERTIFIABLE and report- ing this fact to the B.C.A. will be a great service to the Breed. Certainly it would be tempting to conceal the problem and pretend to the rest of the world that it does not exist, but giving in to that temptation would be a grave disservice to the future of our shaggy friends....and if the problem is genetic in origin, every person who conceals the problem WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SPREADING BLINDNESS IN BRIARDS.

WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE

DO NOT BREED A DOG WHICH HAS NOT BEEN CERTIFIED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR - and even this will only give you partial reassurance that you are not transmitting the problem. In England, the disease appears to strike as the dog grows older and is usually not diagnosed before the age of 3 years. These blind dogs were certifiable prior to that age.

C.E.R.F. certification is like an auto license plate - good for only one year. The number indicates that the dog was clear of symptoms of eye disease on the day the dog was examined. Dogs should be re-examined each year to renew the C.E.R.F. certificate. The number issued to a dog gives a good deal of information and is made up of the following parts:

1. A letter code indicating the breed - for Briards it is "BR".
2. The number assigned to the individual dog which also indicates how many Briards have been certified prior to this dog. The C.E.R.F. numbers begin with "101".
3. The third part of the number is the year in which the dog was certified.
4. The fourth part of the number gives the age of the dog, in months, at the time it was examined.

A typical C.E.R.F. number would be: BR-146/78-38. This means a Briard, the 46th to be certified was examined in 1978 at the age of 38 months. If the dog is checked again in a year and still found to be free of symptoms C.E.R.F. will update the number to: BR-146/79-50.

PLEASE HELP!!!

1. Have your Briard's eyes checked by an eye specialist, a Diplomat of A.C.V.O.
2. Report the findings of that exam to:
   Ewy Wegienka, Medical Committee Chairman
   1009 Cottonwood
   Woodland, CA 95695
   or report the findings to the Secretary.
3. DO NOT breed a dog until the eyes have been checked. Recent certification is important.
4. If you discover your dog has a retinal problem, notify the Club and the breeder immediately. You should also notify the owners of any offspring of the affected dog.

The eye examination is simple, painless and takes only a few minutes. Information on affected dogs will be confidential and released only to researchers trying to determine what the problem is and what might be its cause.

APRIL/MAY 1978
TREASURER'S REPORT  January 5, 1978 through February 28, 1978

Opening Balance: $5,340.44

INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dew Claw ads</td>
<td>8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50th Anniversary donations</td>
<td>850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc: Overpayment for exchange</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briard Novelty Shoppe</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of left over trophies by Yankee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. Dew Claw</td>
<td>$344.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage, Feb. D/C</td>
<td>124.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes &amp; UPS for Dec. Dew Claw</td>
<td>16.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repro. Paper</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters, envelopes &amp; postage</td>
<td>75.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you notes</td>
<td>6.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance '78 Spec.</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance '78 Rass.</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc: Shipping, Award plaques</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briard Novelty Shoppe -</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overpayment of dues</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Emblem (down-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>payment on decals</td>
<td>175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other printing</td>
<td>53.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer's expenses</td>
<td>.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary's expenses</td>
<td>13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar postage</td>
<td>28.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brochure postage</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank exchange</td>
<td>9.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses $1,655.02

Opening Balance $5,340.44
Income 1,655.02

Expenses 1,393.30
Balance $5,602.16

NOTE: At this time, several people owe money to B.C.A.
These debts range from $2.50 to $25.50 with a total of $104.78.
Those with outstanding debts to B.C.A. have been billed several times and know how much they owe. PLEASE REMIT.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia A. Long.

1978 BRIARD CALENDARS

There are still a few Briard calendars available for $2.50 each. If you have not ordered one, or would like to order some extras send your check (payable to the Briard Club) to:

Ada Marley
3940 W. 96th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46268

BRIARD BROCHURES

The Club has an excellent Brochure on the Briard available. Every Briarder should have a few of these to give to those who inquire about the Breed. Order yours from Ada Marley, address above. 25 Brochures are $1.25 - 100 Brochures are $4.00. Please make checks payable to the Briard Club.

SECRETARY'S PAGE

ADDRESS CHANGES

Susan Alexander, 3681½ Lincoln Highway, Elida, OH 45807
Alice Bixler Clark, Box 652, Oak Ridges, Ontario, Canada
Laurie Kay, 6024 38th Ave. North, Minneapolis, MN 55422
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Waltz, 4582 Noccasin Place, Greenwood, IN 46142

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP - first publication

Mary Ake, 1300 Ridge Road, Littleton, CO 80120
Howard J. Blank, 58 W. 58th St., New York, NY 10019
Miriam Gordon, 130 Tekening Dr., Tenafly, NJ 07670
William & Margaret Payne, 1212 W. Water St., Elmira, NY 14905
Joseph & Shirley Robinson, 26 Brooks Rd., Longmeadow, MA 01106
Susan Robinson, 26 Brooks Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP - second publication

Barbara Jil Carruthers, Petrie Rd., Bridgeport, NY 13030
Cynthia Gray, 224 Willow, Chicago, IL 60614
Marguerite Provencher, 105 Lake St., Haverhill, MA 01830
Stephanie & Steven Marcus, 41 Windgate Dr., New York, NY 10956
Dorothy Siegal, 3, Rue Lalo, 75016 Paris, France

A.K.C. Approves Amendments

The following letter, dated March 6, 1978 has been received from Leila Sears of A.K.C.

"Dear Mrs. McLeroth:
"The several amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Briard Club of America have been received by our committee.
"We are pleased to report that all nine (9) amendments stand approved by the American Kennel Club and have been placed on file.

Sincerely,
Leila Sears
Assistant Vice President"

TROPHY DONATED FOR OBEEDIENCE TRIAL CHAMPION

Alice and Bill Kent, owners of Ch. Walton's Etienne, U.D. the first Briard to earn the Utility Dog degree (1956) are offering a trophy (value of $50) to be given by the Briard Club of America to the trainer-owner of the first Briard to earn the A.K.C. title of Obedience Trial Champion. Our sincere thanks to the Kents for this added incentive for high achievement in the Obedience field with our Briards.

MEMBERSHIP LISTING in this issue is complete through March 25, 1978. If your dues were received by the Treasurer after that date, your name will be included as an "addition to the membership list" in the next Dew Claw. PLEASE CHECK YOUR NAME IN THE LISTING AND ADVISE THE SECRETARY OF ANY CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS.

APRIL/MAY 1978
Two Bests in Show for Jennie!!

**CH. JENNIE D'EL PASTRE**

**BEST IN SHOW - NORTHERN NEW JERSEY KENNEL CLUB, 3/5/78**

**BEST IN SHOW - TIDEWATER KENNEL CLUB, 3/19/78**

JENNIE: First Briard to capture TWO A.K.C. Bests in Show!

JENNIE: First Briard to take Best in Show in the contiguous States!

JENNIE: Top Winning Briard in 1977!

JENNIE: Number 13 Working Dog in 1977!

JENNIE: Number 46 winner in all breeds in 1977!

March 5, 1978 will go down in Briard history as a date to remember. On that date, at the Northern New Jersey show in East Rutherford, NJ, Mary Lou and Art Tingley's beautiful tawny bitch, Ch. Jennie d'El Pastre defeated over 2300 dogs and walked off with the Red, White and Blue under judge, Dr. Bernard E. McGivern, Jr. Spectators and fans stood seven deep around the Best in Show ring and cheered, whistled and applauded as Jennie was gaited around the ring. Then, when Dr. McGivern made his choice and pointed to Jennie, the cheers were deafening. What a day for Briards! What a day for the Tingleys! Jennie did not stop there, because on March 19, at Tidewater Kennel Club, while echoes of the cheers of her first Best were still ringing in everyone's ears, Jennie did it again capturing the Best in Show honors for the 2nd time and setting her exciting record. Heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to Jennie, her breeder, J. Molinier of France and of course to her proud owner, Mary Lou and Art, who handled Jennie to her wonderful wins!

**EAST SIDE STORY**

**BEST IN SHOW!!!** Congratulations go to Mary Lou and Art Tingley and to their beautiful Jennie! This lovely bitch has made a marvelous showing for our Breed and her other Group placings this year include a Group 3 at Clearwater, Skyline and Walkill, and Group 2 at Cape Cod and Bronx.

**NEW CHAMPIONS**

CHAMPION NOME DE L'EMINENCE owned by Joseph Robinson and bred by June Shew, finished at Eastern Dog Club on Dec. 17. "Bree" took his fourth major under judge, John Stanek, at the tender age of 9 months and was handled to his Championship by Tom Keiter. Bree was sired by Ch. Janus de la Ville Jumaux, out of Ch. Tracy des Elfes de Malouse.

CHAMPION BELLESPRIT MIDNIGHT COWBOY, owned by Michael and Kathy Fitzpatrick and bred by Jayne Dubin, finished at Westminster on Feb. 14. "Clancy" was Winners Dog for 2 points under judge, Anthony Hodges. This lovely black is out of Ch. Bellesprit Velouse, sired by Ch. Sultan d'Esprit.

**SHOW REPORTS**

The 102nd Westminster K.C. show was held on Feb. 13-14 at Madison Square Garden, with a Briard entry of 3/6/6. Anthony Hodges chose Ch. Jennie d'El Pastre for Best of Breed and Ch. Phydeaux What's Happenin' for Best of Opposite Sex. Winners dog was Bellesprit Midnight Cowboy and Winners Bitch and Best of Winners was Chateau-Briard Nellie, owned by Cece Collins. Although our daughter, Regina did not make the finals of Westminster competition in Junior Handling, she did a beautiful job of handling "Linda" in the Junior Class. All Briarders present were very proud of her. Good luck in 1978, Regina.

First Company Governor's - Feb. 19, Judge, Larry Goldworm, Entry 1/0/2

B.O.B. Ch. Jennie d'El Pastre; B.O.S. Ch. St. Briard's Juss Dum Luck

(Henry Collins); W.D. Nestor de l'Eminence (June Shew).

Providence County - Feb. 25, j. Roy Ayres, Entry 1/0/2. BOB-Ch. St. Briard's Juss Dum Luck; BOS-Ch. Phydeaux Linda Lovelace (Regina Keiter); W.D. Nestor de l'Eminence.


Northern New Jersey - March 5, j. Eleanor Evers, BOB-Ch. Jennie d'El Pastre; B.O.S. Ch. St. Briard's Juss Dum Luck; W.D-Desamee Nicholas Bear (John Alexander); WD & BW-Extasy of Alpen (Chris Ackerson).

Rockland - March 11, j. Mary Lou Tingley, Entry 4/4/7. BOB- Ch. Bellesprit Midnight Cowboy (Fitzpatrick); BOS-Ch. Phydeaux Linda Lovelace (Keiter); WD & BW- Chateaubriard l'Oreal Un (Rittmaster,Cece Collins); WB- Bon Ami Nutmeg (Zonfrilli).

Piedmont K.C. entry 4/5/0. Ron & Shari Daniel report their Ne Jean-Paul de Longchamp, bred by Ann Vaughn, took WD,BW & BOB at his (and their) fourth point show. They are now very excited about upcoming shows, especially since they had not expected any competition at Piedmont. Congratulations, Ron and Sheri.

Some more good news -- our Ch. Phydeaux Linda Lovelace, bred by Mary Lou Tingley has been OFA certified, FB56.

**APRIL/MAY 1978**

Regina Keiter
From: William F. Stifel, President of A.K.C.

"I am enclosing a preprint of a Notice that will appear in the May 1978 issue of the Gazette.

The American Kennel Club is very concerned that dog owners, be forewarned about this problem, not panicked. This disease has apparently been around for years. However, we are now encountering a particularly "hot" or virulent strain.

The Notice gives a complete picture of the problem at this time. If developments warrant, we will be in further communication with you."

There is a contagious virus that has infected a significant number of dogs across the country. This virus causes a disease that produces gastroenteritis that can be hemorrhagic. It occurs in varying severity. Dr. L.E. Carmichael of the Cornell Laboratory for Diseases of the Dog has cultured, isolated and photographed the virus. It is potentially dangerous and has caused deaths.

Although the mode of transmission has not yet been proven, practical observations indicate that it is an airborne virus. Its incubation period, again not clinically proven, seems to be from three days to two weeks.

Prompt veterinary care is essential. Early symptomatic treatment is one of the controlling factors that determines the severity of the disease.

The initial symptoms are lethargy and digestive upset; i.e., decrease in appetite, then diarrhea and vomitining (both can become severe). An unusually fetid odors seems to be a characteristic of the illness.

The disease can progress very rapidly in some individuals with death occurring as quickly as 48 hours after the initial clinical signs. Prompt veterinary assistance, warmth and the absence of any stress do facilitate a more rapid and complete recovery. A long, quiet convalescent period also seems to be essential. Relapses have been reported one or two weeks after the dogs were seemingly cured of all symptoms. Several have died after relapsing.

This type of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis is probably not a new disease. Its virulence this year is unusual. This has brought it to the attention of a large number of breeders. They have worked together to help veterinarians recognize this as a single problem. They have co-operated in getting the necessary specimens to Dr. Carmichael, who has identified the infecting agent as a CORONA virus.

Salient points should be kept in mind:

- The onset of the disease is often sudden.
- The primary symptoms mimic many intestinal diseases, but should be taken seriously due to the potentially devastating sequelae.

IMPORTANT...

---

GOLDEN WEST NEWS & VIEWS

NEW CHAMPIONS:


CH. BARON D'YQUEM DE CHEZ CIEL owned by Bill and Susan Shipman and bred by Virginia Englehart, completed his championship at the Orange Empire show on January 29.

SHOW REPORTS:

On Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Rio Hondo K.C. there was an entry of 6/6/0. Judge, Richard Renihan awarded Rejoui Turquoise de Capucine owned by Bob & Shirlee Kessler B.O.B., W.D. and B.W. for 4 points, from the Puppy Class. B.O.S., and Winners Bitch, also for 4 points was Milady Sadie de Lindeau owned by Earle and Joan Dugan.

The Kennel Club of Beverly Hills show was on Sunday, Jan. 8 with an entry of 4/7/3 under judge, William Harvey. B.O.B. went to Ch. phydeaux Windfall owned by Jan Charbonneau. B.O.S. and Winners Bitch for 5 points was Honey Girl de Beaujolis owned by Patt Thomas and Don Mandeville. B.O.W. and W.D. for 5 points was the Kesslers' Rejoui Turquoise de Capucine.

At the Orange Empire Dog Club on Jan. 29, the judge was James Bennett with an entry of 2/5/2. B.O.B. and W.D. was Baron d'Yquem de Chez Ciel for 4 points. Claude is owned by Bill and Sue Shipman and finished with this nice win.

On Feb. 19 at the Los Encinos Kennel Club the judge was Fred Young with an entry of 2/5/0. B.O.B. and W.D. and B.W. for 4 points went to Rejoui Turquoise de Capucine. B.O.S. and B.W. went to Honey Girl de Beaujolis. Turquoise finished at this show.

Please send your news and show reports to me at 31376 Broad Beach Road, Malibu, CA 90265 or call 213/457-3155. Joan Dugan

---

BRIARD HEALTH & WELFARE

THE REGULAR MEDICAL COMMITTEE COLUMN WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO ALLOW SPACE FOR THE FOLLOWING, TIMELY ARTICLE, FORWARD TO THE CLUB BY A.K.C.

IMPORTANT...

From: William F. Stifel, President of A.K.C.

"I am enclosing a preprint of a Notice that will appear in the May 1978 issue of the Gazette.

The American Kennel Club is very concerned that dog owners, be forewarned about this problem, not panicked. This disease has apparently been around for years. However, we are now encountering a particularly 'hot' or virulent strain.

The Notice gives a complete picture of the problem at this time. If developments warrant, we will be in further communication with you."

There is a contagious virus that has infected a significant number of dogs across the country. This virus causes a disease that produces gastroenteritis that can be hemorrhagic. It occurs in varying severity. Dr. L.E. Carmichael of the Cornell Laboratory for Diseases of the Dog has cultured, isolated and photographed the virus. It is potentially dangerous and has caused deaths.

Although the mode of transmission has not yet been proven, practical observations indicate that it is an airborne virus. Its incubation period, again not clinically proven, seems to be from three days to two weeks.

Prompt veterinary care is essential. Early symptomatic treatment is one of the controlling factors that determines the severity of the disease.

The initial symptoms are lethargy and digestive upset; i.e., decrease in appetite, then diarrhea and vomitining (both can become severe). An unusually fetid odors seems to be a characteristic of the illness.

The disease can progress very rapidly in some individuals with death occurring as quickly as 48 hours after the initial clinical signs. Prompt veterinary assistance, warmth and the absence of any stress do facilitate a more rapid and complete recovery. A long, quiet convalescent period also seems to be essential. Relapses have been reported one or two weeks after the dogs were seemingly cured of all symptoms. Several have died after relapsing.

This type of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis is probably not a new disease. Its virulence this year is unusual. This has brought it to the attention of a large number of breeders. They have worked together to help veterinarians recognize this as a single problem. They have co-operated in getting the necessary specimens to Dr. Carmichael, who has identified the infecting agent as a CORONA virus.

Salient points should be kept in mind:

- The onset of the disease is often sudden.
- The primary symptoms mimic many intestinal diseases, but should be taken seriously due to the potentially devastating sequelae.

Continued-----

BRIARD HEALTH & WELFARE - continued

- Early treatment is necessary.
- Warmth and absence of stress are conducive to a rapid and complete recovery.

To date there is no one cure for this disease: nor is there a preventative procedure available. That is why prompt professional care is so essential.

THIS NOTICE IS WRITTEN: NOT TO PANIC DOG OWNERS, BUT TO WARN THEM of a frightening problem. Alert breeders within the Collie Club of America and in many other breeds co-operating with dedicated veterinarians and creative veterinary researchers, have identified the problem as one disease caused by a CORONA virus. This work has succeeded in reproducing the disease in research dogs. All of this has been done in less than one month.

The problem is now only identified... It is not solved. Much more work is needed and will, I hope, be forthcoming.

Mrs. Barbara Schwartz, Assist. Sec.
Collie Club of America Spec. Projects.

GOLDEN WEST NEWS & VIEWS

NEW CHAMPIONS:


CH. BARON D'YQUEM DE CHEZ CIEL owned by Bill and Susan Shipman and bred by Virginia Englehart, completed his championship at the Orange Empire show on January 29.

SHOW REPORTS:

On Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Rio Hondo K.C. there was an entry of 6/6/0. Judge, Richard Renihan awarded Rejoui Turquoise de Capucine owned by Bob & Shirlee Kessler B.O.B., W.D. and B.W. for 4 points, from the Puppy Class. B.O.S., and Winners Bitch, also for 4 points was Milady Sadie de Lindeau owned by Earle and Joan Dugan.

The Kennel Club of Beverly Hills show was on Sunday, Jan. 8 with an entry of 4/7/3 under judge, William Harvey. B.O.B. went to Ch. phydeaux Windfall owned by Jan Charbonneau. B.O.S. and Winners Bitch for 5 points was Honey Girl de Beaujolis owned by Patt Thomas and Don Mandeville. B.O.W. and W.D. for 5 points was the Kesslers' Rejoui Turquoise de Capucine.

At the Orange Empire Dog Club on Jan. 29, the judge was James Bennett with an entry of 2/5/2. B.O.B. and W.D. was Baron d'Yquem de Chez Ciel for 4 points. Claude is owned by Bill and Sue Shipman and finished with this nice win.

On Feb. 19 at the Los Encinos Kennel Club the judge was Fred Young with an entry of 2/5/0. B.O.B. and W.D. and B.W. for 4 points went to Rejoui Turquoise de Capucine. B.O.S. and B.W. went to Honey Girl de Beaujolis. Turquoise finished at this show.

Please send your news and show reports to me at 31376 Broad Beach Road, Malibu, CA 90265 or call 213/457-3155. Joan Dugan
NEWS & VIEWS FROM BETWIXT & BETWEEN

Hopefully, spring is around the corner and the snow and ice will slowly melt away ... leaving lots of mud! I can't quite make up my mind which is worse ... snow making mats or muddy legs and bellies!!!

Plans are coming along very well for our big anniversary week in August. There will be a number of special activities held along with the rassemblement and independent specialty. Here is a small preview of a few you can look forward to: daily ringside brunches during rassemblement judging, an eye clinic to be held August 4th and 5th, the annual awards banquet and after the independent specialty/obedience trial with special prizes and special classes ... an anniversary party! So mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on all the fun. Also, please don't forget your donations and if you have a few extra minutes to spare, drop Louise Cohen and Steve Feller a line and lend a helping hand.

On a sadder note I hear that Bob Boelter has lost Ch. Quintana de Marha at age 11 and Pat Long has lost Am. & Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Unchained Melody at age 6. They will both be missed.

New Champion

CH. PA'CHICK'S MS-BE-HAVEN - On January 21st, Shona owned and handled by Susan & Margaret McCormick, finished her championship at Oakland County Kennel Club under judge Robert Wills going WB and BOS. Shona is sired by Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deaux out of Am. & Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel.

Show Results


1-22-78 - Pontiac KC - j Lesley Kodner - e 4-4-5 BOB Ch. Pa'Chick's Limited Edition (Karen & Jim Rangus) BOS Ch. Silvermoon's La Tara (Judy Ziozios) WD 3 pts. Matisse De Caprice (Cheryl & Mike Foote) WB 3 pts., BW Garbo Des Caprice (Connie Stollings)

1-21-78 - Wheaten KC - j Kenneth Peterson - e 2-2-0 WB 1 pt., BW, BOB Stonehill's I'm Irma la Douce (Rev. Thomas Monahan), WD 1 pt., BOS Unique Noe de Vieille Ville (Cindy Gray)

1-22-78 - Wisconsin KC - j Tom Stevenson - e 4-1-0 WB, BW 3 pts., BOB Stonehill's I'm Irma la Douce WD 3 pts., BOS Shadowfax Ira (Blackburn Peters)

2-12-78 - Macomb County KC - j Glen Sommers - e 3-4-1 BOB Ch. Pa'Chick's Livin' Legend WD, BW 3 pts. Silvermoon Marquis D'Lindeau (Jim & Judy Ziozios) WB 3 pts., BOS Garbo Des Caprice

Puppies

Manny Littin has four puppies available from his litter out of Ch. Ilote Du Lac De Bethmale by Ch. Chateaubriard-Vermouth, CD. The pups were born January 6th and are tawny.

Pat Long has one male and one female available that are show quality. The pups were born December 31 and are tawny. The dam is Am. & Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Indian Summer and the sire is Calumet's Jason J.

That's all the news for now. Please send any news of your Briard family along.

Sue McCormick

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY FUND WILL HELP TO MAKE THE RASSEMBLEMENT/SPECIALTY A REALITY!

Large or small, each contribution will be sincerely appreciated and each contributor will receive a delightful commemorative Briard tile. Send contributions to: Patricia Long, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, MI 49039. (Please make checks payable to B.C.A. and mention the 50th Anniversary Fund.)

THANK YOU!
Come to B.C.A.'s 50th Anniversary Weekend!

RASSEMBLEMENT '78

MONSIEUR PAUL LIGUINE, judge of the French, Societe Centrale Canine, presiding

This is the perfect opportunity to have your Briard evaluated as an individual - as compared to the Standard - alone in the ring - by a judge from the Breed's country of origin - off lead and in a relaxed manner. Each characteristic is given an evaluation and then the dog as a whole receives an 'overall' evaluation. You will be given the judge's comments in writing and the evaluations of all the dogs will be printed in the Club's final report catalog. (Overall evaluations for dogs entered as 'pet only' will not be printed in the catalog.)

B.C.A.'s 43RD SPECIALTY SHOW

Breed Judge: Mr. John Stanek
Obedience Judge: Mr. Hugh MacLean
Sweepstakes and Junior Showmanship Judge: Barbara Zimmerman

Our '78 Specialty will be held on the motel grounds, convenient to your rooms and to all activities - and it is for Briards only. This will include B.C.A.'s first Briard Obedience Trial and some interesting non-Regular classes....a very special, Specialty you won't want to miss.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 3 - M. Liguine will begin his evaluations if the entry is large. This will allow plenty of time for each dog. Plan to come early so you can see it all.

Friday, August 4 - Rassemblement evaluations during the day.
- Speaker discussing P.R.A. is planned for the evening.

Saturday, August 5 - Completion of evaluations during the day.
- Briard Eye Clinic - Plan to have your dog checked.
- Awards Banquet and B.C.A. Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 6 - B.C.A. Specialty
- Judges' Reception at ringside following the judging

PLUS: Daily breakfast and lunch available at the ringside Garden room - or enjoy a more formal repast in the dining room of the motel.
- Workshops and special events to add to your pleasure.

BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA - RASSEMBLEENT '78

REGISTRATION BLANK

REGISTRATION FEE: $5.00 for the 1st dog and $2.00 for each additional dog entered by the same owner.

NAME OF DOG:

AKC#(if any): BIRTH DATE: 1st entry

COLOR: SEX:

For Club use

This Briard is entered as Show Quality

Pet Only

SIRE: 

DAM: 

BREEDER: 

OWNER(S): 

ADDRESS: 

CITY/STATE/ZIP: 

I understand that each registrant will receive one free copy of the Evaluation Report Catalog to be printed by the Club following the Rassemblement, and agree to permit the Club to print the evaluation of this entry in that Report (The 'overall' evaluation of dogs entered as "pet only" will not be printed in the Report.) I further agree to be bound by the agreement on the reverse side of this form.

I certify and represent that the dog registered here is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. This form is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and agreement.

OWNER/AGENT's SIGNATURE: 

Please make checks payable to, THE BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA and mail to:

LOUISE COHEN, CHAIRMAN
5521 GROVELAND ROAD
HOLLY, MI 48442
AGREEMENT

I (we) agree to hold this Club, its members, officers, directors, agents, and any employees of the aforementioned parties, harmless from any claim for loss or injury which may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of this dog while near or upon the Rassemblement grounds or near any entrance thereto, and I (we) personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claim; and I (we) further agree to hold the aforementioned parties harmless for any claim for loss of this dog by disappearance, theft, death or otherwise, and from any claim for damage or injury to the dog, whether such loss, disappearance, theft, damage or injury, be caused or alleged to be caused by the negligence of the Club or any of the parties aforementioned, or by the negligence of any other person, or any other cause or causes.

"GUESSTIMATE"

In order to make the Rassemblement/Specialty weekend a pleasant one for all, it is necessary for us to make plans as far in advance as possible. Would you please take the time to help us by filling out this "guesstimate" of your plans. Do not hold up your Rassemblement entry for this information but fill in as much as you can.

NAME: 

ADDRESS: Zip 

We expect to arrive: Approx. Time (date) 

No. of Dogs No. of Adults No. of Children 

We expect to leave Approx. Time (date) 

Will you require transportation from the Airport? Detroit Metro Toledo airport 

Will you attend (circle) Rass. Only - Spec. Only - Both 

Will you require a sitter for:(circle) 1. Speaker, Fri. evening 

No. of Children 2. Banquet, Sat. evening 

3. Other (specify) 

Other Requirements 

I understand that each registrant will receive one free copy of the Evaluation Report Catalog to be printed by the Club following the Rassemblement, and agree to permit the Club to print the evaluation of this entry in that Report (The 'overall' evaluation of dogs entered as "pet only" will not be printed in the Report.) I further agree to be bound by the agreement on the reverse side of this form.

I certify and represent that the dog registered here is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. This form is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and agreement.

OWNER/AGENT's SIGNATURE: 

Thanks for your help!

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION BLANKS AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY
50TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND HEADQUARTERS

HOLIDAY INN
REYNOLDS ROAD (Exit 4, OH Turnpike)
TOLEDO, OH 43614
419/381-8765

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD ON THE MOTEL SITE - The rooms set aside for B.C.A. overlook the private court which will be both Rassemblement and Specialty site. The comfortable hospitality suite is in the same wing which is adjacent to the Garden room, Patio and pool.

We have been quoted rates at $25 for a single and $32 for a double, children under 18 are free on the family plan. There are 40 first floor rooms in our wing with outside enterances SO SEND IN YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

If you would prefer a less-expensive motel you may contact the Toledo Turnpike Motel (AAA) on Reynolds Road. This motel is right next door to the Holiday Inn and is the most convenient to all events. There is also a Budgetel on Heatherdowns, a short distance from Anniversary Headquarters.

TIME IS FLYING - CUT YOUR MOTEL RESERVATION FORM FROM THIS PAGE AND SEND IT IN TODAY!

RASSEMBLEMENT ENTRY FORMS have been included in the centerfold of this issue for your convenience. Just pull the sheet, fill it out and forward to Louise Cohen. The information you can provide on the reverse side of the form will help the committee make your weekend more enjoyable.

AWARD BANQUET RESERVATION FORMS will be printed in the June issue of the Dew Claw, plus other details to help you complete your plans for August.

SEE YOU IN TOLEDO!

Mail to: HOLIDAY INN WEST, 2429 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH 43614
(Reservations will be held until 6 P.M. unless guaranteed.)

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY/STATE/ZIP
DATE OF ARRIVAL
DATE OF DEPARTURE
PHONE

No. of Persons: No of Rooms ( )Cot ( )Crib

(All rooms have two double beds)

Remarks:

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION BLANKS AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY
4 POINT MAJOR and BEST OF WINNERS at WESTMINSTER, 2/14/78
was awarded to 12-month-old, CHATEAUBRIARD NELLIE by judge, Anthony Hodges (left). Nellie is owned, bred and handled by Cece Collins (right).

TURN BACK ONE PAGE! THIS IS YOUR MOTEL
RESERVATION FORM - CUT ON THE DOTTED LINE
AND MAIL TODAY!

DON'T FORGET TO MENTION
THE BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA!

SEDIR'S
LE BERGER DE BRIE
CHIEN DE FRANCE

In the early 1920s, Monsieur Sédir of France wrote his noted book on the Briard. Acclaimed for many years as "The Bible of the Briard", the work has been translated into English and is treasured in both languages by anyone fortunate enough to own a copy.

Sédir's Le Berger de Brie, Chien de France is now a collectors' item and copies have not been available for many years. It seems appropriate during our 50th Anniversary year to include excerpts of a translation of this book in The Dew Claw for all to enjoy and permitting many fanciers to share Monsieur Sédir's deep love of the Briard.

CHAPTER II
THE BRIE DOG

Generalities

We have seen (in Chapter I) that the term, "chien de berger de Brie" to designate the French sheep dog with long hair, appeared for the first time at the beginning of the 19th century in "Cours d' Agriculture" of Abbé Rozier (1809). It was a dog of the plain; its ears were upright and short, tail trumpet-shaped, horizontal or pendant, often cut; long hair on the entire body, a little more abundant, but resembling goat hair and usually black.

In 1863, the date of the first dog show, there were Brie dogs. Messrs. Leblanc and Pierre Pichot, who were judges at this show, spoke of them in their report, published by the National Society of Acclimatation, organizer of the exposition. These dogs were somewhat similar to the barbet, with beard and mustache, but with small upright ears.

However, it was not until around 1890 that the Brie dog was really appreciated by the connoisseurs and that he figured in the shows otherwise than on the program.

M. Verlinde, well known founder of the kennels of the Hulpe and the Marne told me that he found a mention of the Brie dog in the manuscripts of the 12th century. His former collaborator, M. Lamarque, President of the Club des Amis du Briard (Club of the Friends of the Briard) informs us that, in the arms of Montdidier, carved on the portal of the cathedral of that city, is found the head of the Briard. That beautiful church was unfortunately destroyed by the Germans during the war (World War I). If besides one notes that in Picardy the Briard is called "Dog of Aubry" and that in the legend of Aubry of Montdidier, his dog plays the chief role, one may well ask if the term "Brie dog" is not a deformation of "Aubry dog".

Also, it is not in Brie that one finds most often the Briards. They are found in all of France, but especially in the North.

APRIL/MAY 1978
SEDIR, Chapter II continued

The Brie dog has somewhat forbidding aspects because of his long mustache and heavy eyebrows covering his eyes; but his look is most intelligent and affectionate. Fiercely loyal and highly tractable, filled with the desire to be useful, it rapidly wins the favor of the fancier. His rival is the Beauce dog; perhaps they found that the heavy mane of the Briard requires long and careful brushing, that it does not dry easily when wet, which is not healthy and which makes him soil his master's clothes. It is said also that the hindquarters of the Briard are too open, they are situated low on their haunches with out-turned toes, and walk in an inelegant fashion. But these faults are the faults of the Brie dogs, as in almost all dogs; it is up to the breeders to regenerate the breed weakened by the negligence of shepherds and by the greediness of the peasants of former times. A good Brie dog has dry hair to which mud does not cling and, despite the dew-claws, correct alignment of legs. The public does not realize that the Briard has been a farm dog and, as such, never cared for, badly nourished, forming here and there the less desirable alliances from whence came the bad frame and soft hair.

The official description of each breed of domestic animals, proposed by the particular societies which deal with breeding and approved by the directing organization, the Société Central Canine for the betterment of the breeds of dogs in France, is called the Standard. I do not know why an English word was adopted: for the same reason undoubtedly that one must "Play" in tennis and not "Jouez". M. Paul Megnin also preferred "Description caracéristique de la race" to Standard, and he suggested adding a scale of points as is done across the Channel.

On the other hand, whatever care breeders take in maintaining purity of blood, it must be recognized that over a period of ten or fifteen years a breed evolves. I may happen that a description given in 1900 will no longer be applicable on certain points in 1930. In the United States, all the standards are officially revised every five years. M. Paul Méggin proposes that revision commissions be composed of judges qualified to judge the breed and of experienced breeders. It would be useful to include a zoologist and a veterinarian.

Professor Pierre Méggin (Les Races de Chiens, 1889, T. I., p. 84) sees in the Brie dog a crossing of the barbet and the old Beauce dog. He attributes again to them the small, upright ears, a long, woolly coat, generally slate or dull black in color. It must be noted that the scholar could speak only of the type of dog which he had before him. In forty years, breeders have succeeded in obtaining remarkable improvements.

**STANDARD**

Here is the Standard of the Chien de Brie established in 1897, after the Competition of Angerville, under the auspices of the French Club of the Sheep Dog, by a commission composed of Messrs. Bénard, Bizouerne, Emm. Boulet, Brandin, de Chezelles, Menault, Milne-Edwards, Prieur, Sèvratte, Teysandier, Thieulent, Triboulet:

**Head:** Covered with hair forming mustaches and eyebrows, leaving the eye uncovered or very slightly veiled.

**Faults to avoid:**

- Head with too much hair, concealing the eyes entirely.
- Ears flat and falling down against the cheeks.
- Hair curly.
- Single dew-claw on the rear paws.
- Tail straight with feathering (similar to that of the spaniel).
- Size under 0 m. 55 (21 5/8 in.).
- Too long and weak back.

Here is a more recent standard, but whose date I was unable to find.

**Body Hair:** Long, woolly.

**Ears:** Upright if they are cut, straight and tips bent over if left in the natural state.

**Double dew-claws on the hind paws.**

**Tail:** Complete, forming a hook (crochet) at the tip.

**Size:** 0 m. 55 to 0 m. 65 (21 5/8 in. to 25 5/8 in.)

**Substantial dog, well constructed.**

**Colors:** Slate grey or black scattered with some white hairs, fawn, iron grey, fawn grey.

**Faults to avoid:**

- Head with too much hair, concealing the eyes entirely.
- Ears flat and falling down against the cheeks.
- Hair curly.
- Single dew-claw on the rear paws.
- Tail straight with feathering (similar to that of the spaniel).
- Size under 0 m. 55 (21 5/8 in.).
- Too long and weak back.

The "Eleveur" of April 20, 1924 gave the new plan which, according to the Central Canine Society would establish the description-types of each breed:

a. In a few words, the standard must present the general aspect of the breed to which it refers;

b. Then follows the account of a methodical description of the fundamental characteristics of the breed, undertaken section by section.

The head is to be described first, calling attention of course to the morphological peculiarities of each of its parts: forehead, eye, cheek, etc.; rustic, robust, carrying double dew-claws on hind paws.

**Appearance:** Dog of good size, 0 m. 55 to 0 m. 65 at the shoulder, rustic, robust, carrying double dew-claws on hind paws.

**Faults:** Short hair on the head, tail cut, nose light, spotted eyes, curly hair, absence of double dew-claws.

The different sections of the trunk will be taken up in the following order:
GENERAL CONFORMATION OF THE TRUNK;

Chest, sternum;
Back and loins;
Croup and tail;
Thighs and buttocks;
Stomach and flank.

Next follows the description of the conformation of the legs and examination of the alignment of the normal subject.

c. Then it is necessary to proceed to the determination of the format of the animal, confining the description to size and weight, taking care to indicate, for each sex at the adult age, the minimum and maximum of acceptable size and weight of the subjects.

d. Description of the skin and coat follow, indicating for the latter, color at the roots, state of the tips, peculiarities of the coat, coloration of the mucous membranes.

e. Besides, one must add a very short resume of the aptitudes of the breed with concrete figures.

This description will be completed:

1. By the characteristics which differentiate the male and female in each type, which have not been covered in the preceding paragraphs.

2. Should such be the case, by the characteristics defining the aspect of the animal which has not yet reached adult age.

The members of the subcommission recommend that this description be ended with a careful expose of the characteristics capable of bringing about the exclusion from genealogical registration of those subjects which possess them (disqualifications).

They also recommend that there be mentioned the characteristics looked for particularly by the breeders of each breed. But in any case, it will not be necessary to make this last provision obligatory.

Here is the new standard of the Chien de Brie, worked out through the persistant initiative of M. Jules Dunet, with a commission chosen from the members of the specialty club "Les Amis du Briard", composed of Messrs. Belorgey, Cailllette, Dretzen, Dunet, Lamarche, Legendre, under the presidency of Professor Dechambre, in 1925.

**Standard of 1925**

**General Appearance:** Rustic dog, supple, muscular, well proportioned, lively and alert in bearing.

**Size:**
- 0 m. 58 to 0 m. 68 for males (22 7/8 in. to 26 3/4 in.)
- 0 m. 55 to 0 m. 65 for females (21 5/8 in. to 25 5/8 in.)

It is not necessary to be concerned with the minimum size in the young classes.

**Head:** Strong, rather long, stop of the muzzle distinct and placed at equal distance from the top of the head to the tip of the nose. Covered with hair forming beard, mustache and eyebrows, the latter tightly veiling the eyes.

Muzzle: neither narrow nor pointed.

Nose: more square than round.

Nose: always black.

Forehead: very slightly rounded.

Muzzle: rectilinear.

Teeth: Strong, white, adapting perfectly.

**Conformation:** Well-developed neck, distinct from the shoulders.

Chest: wide, deep, descending well.

Back: straight.

Legs: Well-developed with strong bones and correct alignment.

Hock: not too near the ground and angled with the leg below the hock approaching the vertical.

Tail: Complete, well covered with hair, forming a hook at the end, carried low and not twisted, reaching to the point of the hock.

Feet: Strong, rounded in form, intermediate between those of a cat and those of the hare; black nails, tough pads, toes close together.

**Hair:** Long, flexible, dry, like the hair of a goat.

**Coat:** All uniform colors are admitted, except white; the darker colors are recommended.

**Dew-claws:** Double on the rear feet. Even the best type of dog possessing only single dew-claws can not be (given a) first. They only rate a simple mention.

**Penalties:**
- Pointed muzzle; Eyes, small, almond shaped or light in color. Croup flat or very sloping. White spot on the chest. White blaze on the chest (heavy penalty). Tail very short or carried over the back. White nails.

**Disqualifications:**
- Size below the minimum limit. Absence of dew-claws. Head or feet covered with short hair. Tail non-existent or cut. Light nose. Spotted eyes. Curly hair. White hair on the tips of the feet. Merled coat. (Danoisée)

Dr. Bommier (Pour le bon et beau chien) (For a good and handsome dog) carried on an active campaign in favor of measurements. This method, scientific though it may be, does not seem very convenient to apply. First, many sheep dogs object to being touched by strangers. It is said that their owners should accustom them to it. That may be so but then does not the dog lose that suspiciousness which makes it valuable in its duties as a guardian, a sentry and chaser of poachers? And any judge who has tried to verify the dentition or the dew-claws of Briards knows how much the dog fights against it, even though held by its master and an assistant.

Then, measuring is a delicate operation. The statues of Greek athletes have been measured. The differences in structure which are clearly evident are expressed by figures in millimeters, these are statues of natural size and of non-elastic matter; how fractional must be a measure taken on an animal smaller than ourselves, and which never stands still!

It is difficult to hold the measuring stick strictly perpendicular to the ground; the least slant makes for inexactness in height, since the fixed shaft, because of the thickness of the body, is...
always removed from the point of the mobile shaft which touches the
top of the shoulder. There is the thickness of the coat. There is
also the attitude of the animal. A creature supple as the Briard,
all of whose muscles are in play, if it is fearful, pitches its legs
forward; if it is unafraid, it sometimes gains more than two
centimetres in the withers. Finally, today, one smiles at judging
by a "glance". Yet, I have never seen experienced judges make a
mistake in the measurements of a dog. One encounters many cattle
dealers who can guess the weight of an animal within a few pounds.
Why should judges of dogs be deprived of a similar glance test?

There has also been some talk of applying to animals the
formula of Piguet which is used in examination of athletes. Here it
is: Mark of Robustness - Size less the total of the weight of the
body and of the thoracic perimeter.

Dr. Bommier, less demanding, believes that in order to be
certain that a dog is not in a state of degeneration, its thoracic
perimeter must exceed its height by 12 to 13 centimeters. In other
words, a dog measuring 0 m. 62 at the shoulder must, in order to be
robust, measure 0 m. 68 at least, around the chest.

This double measurement, according to Dr. Bommier, is all that
one needs to take in judging dogs. To weigh them takes too much time.

In fact, I believe that in this, as in all things, in medio stat
virture. Measurements are useful, but to the breeder and in the
kennels; the glance alone is practical in the ring. Then, exact
science is not inapplicable. The famous index of Piguet itself gives
only the great probabilities as to the athletic value of a man; it
does not give absolute certainty.

CHAPTER III

METHODICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIE TYPE

Detailed Description of the Brie Dog

I have just given the text of the new standard (1925). Here
are a few comments. I hope that the account of these very personal
opinions will not again bring forth sharp responses: I do not claim
to make laws; I give my opinion, because in all the circles of
Briard fanciers there is a necessity of uniting observations, efforts
and exchange of opinion. I hope only that my ideas do not contain
too large a percentage of errors or Utopias.

GENERAL ASPECT

The Chien de Brie, in repose, should appear calm but authorita-
tive; it is a guardian and should be alert and watchful. Breeders
should suppress -- or better, educate -- timorous subjects who become
bewildered in the streets or in the shows, whose tail disappears
between its legs, who pant and foam with apprehension, even when
their masters are holding them. To avoid this, the dog should not
be confined in a yard, and still less, on a chain. This habit, so
often found in the peasant, is barbarous and embitters the character
of the dog. It is true that the peasant does not see that the dog
is worth something to him; so the animal may die slowly on its chain
and in its filth, given dirty water to drink and sour soups to eat,
even if the farmer's wife is even willing to prepare a soup.

I have seen revolting incidents of this kind in Normandy, in the
Berry and in the Auvergne.

The fancier must permit the dog to live with him, to go out
with him, to become accustomed to noise and movement.

In walking, and especially in trotting and galloping, the
appearance of the Briard should be light and supple, almost like
that of a large feline. The trot is short, in order to be able to
turn abruptly in any direction; the full gallop is in long strides,
the backbone curving in the middle of each bound. The wise dog is
one whose tail remains pendant in all gaits and only lifts it in the
moment of great danger, as in warlike anger. Ambling is the normal
gait in any sheep dog, especially in a lead dog. It spares the dog
unnecessary fatigue and permits him to make rapid turns more easily.
All sheep dogs, and especially the Briard, possess muscular backs
and hindquarters; the Briard despite his thick coat should be able to
do the sharpest twisting and turning without effort. In order to
train the dog, it should be put to work, first in the fields, then
on the road, either toward embarking on railroad cars or toward the
slaughter-house. The cattle-drovers' dogs of the Villette, often
mongrels, are however, excellent school-masters. They should be
seen in action, on the avenue Jean-Jaures, guiding frightened sheep
through all that. It is a fine sight and instructive to follow one
of these dogs and to note the various expressions on his bushy face.

Here, I set down two wishes: The first, that all owners of the
Briard should teach his dog calmness and exact obedience (sit down,
lie down, heel, go forward). The second, that our large shows
advantage to have (still) another English word) large enough so
that the dog need not be held on a leash -- for often it believes it
is being punished and taken on a pitiful air -- and so that it will
be able to trot.

The Brie dog, seen from the profile, should not appear either
too long or too high on its legs, although I much prefer a dog a bit
lower than one too high. Men with short legs and a long torso resist
fatigue and late hours better than men with long legs and a relatively
short torso. Thus between the two faults, the low set dog will give
better offspring than a dog too tall. But, obtaining the normal type
is of course to be pursued in all breeding.

THE HEAD

The head seen in profile, with the beard and mustache, should
give a rectangular silhouette. The occiput (hunting bump) should be
well defined. Seen from the front and from above, the head also
looks rectangular. The nose must be square, always black. The
nostrils well-opened, signs of courage and good lungs.

Personally, I like the large eyes in the Briard; the golden
color is often found with light coats; brown more or less dark with
dark coats; but it is desirable that the eyes be dark whatever the
color of the coat; also as little oblique as possible; the oblique
eye may indicate wolf blood. (Note: As to the eye called "varion",
we must agree on the meaning of this term. The purists say that
varion eyes signify eyes of different colors; the hosey set say that
varion eyes mean a grey-blue color. The sheep dogs of Aubergne with
one grey and one dark eye. It would be wise for local fanciers to study this sub-breed.) The look is frank, direct, questioning, and confident. One might say that emotion makes me wander from the question, but the most beautiful eyes, those searched for by great artists and poets, are to be found in the Brie dogs and which I myself have found in those who have worked hard and suffered. Few human eyes attain their moving depths.

Sauret said that dogs with light eyes are the field dogs and road dogs; dogs with dark eyes are those which remain at heel. This is an opinion to verify.

Fanciers know that the uncut ear is not a fault; but there is a but. The Briard, especially those with very light coats and of too close breeding, often have long ears hanging low. When cut, these two faults disappear. But if they are not cut, the judge enters a bad mark for those hunting dog ears, and the owner is astonished since whole ears are permitted.

Cropping the ears is a grave problem. Here must be brought into play the skill of the fancier; some do the operation on the puppy when barely a few days old; others wait three to six weeks. On this subject see the study of M. Bourdonneau (L'Acclimation, 15. IX. 1923) which arrives at the conclusions I am going to cite.

First, should one cut them in a point as in the Beaucerone (dog of Beauce) and the Bouvier? I think not. One should cut them round, shell-form. But how much should be cut? First, sufficiently so that the cartilage remains upright, but not too much so, for the dog will no longer appear well coiffed. The ear should face forward, well-opened, separated distinctly from the head and well covered with falling hair. A dog with a short face should have ears cut from the base, cut narrow, to lengthen the head. An inversely. Finally, there are recipes and secrets which each breeder keeps to himself.

Toussenel claims that the more the breed is tamed, the more the ear falls flat; The more wild it is, the more upright. This affirmation contains restrictive points. M. Leseble (L'Acclimation 25. VIII. 1918) adopts the thesis of Toussenel.

There are in the upper basin of the Garonne, some fawn (tawny) Briards of small size (50 cm. at the withers - 19 5/8 in.) who are born with ears naturally upright. On the other hand, before 1870, one finds signs of Briards with upright ears.

M. Sauvage, a well-known judge, told me of having at one time encountered in Brie, many small Briards, lively and fiery, with ears naturally upright and tawny hair. Perhaps these were the Labrits come from the South-West.

Professor Pierre Mégnin (tome 1, p. 84) speaking of the dog "Sans-Gêne" (1865), says that another Briard, presented by M; Gersent at this same show, /was less pure, because he had dropped ears/; Thus, the upright ears seemed preferable to this zoologist scholar for the Chien de Brie; One will see further a photograph of Sans-Gêne which M. Paul Mégnin was good enough to permit me to reproduce.

Should breeding be oriented in this direction? I would say yes, in order to spare puppies an operation. In any case, let sensitive souls be reassured. The puppy barely feels the wound and the mother quickly helps it to heal by licking the small ears. Moreover, one finds much less ear trouble in dogs whose ears have been cropped than in others. When the ears are upright, seen from the front, the interior edges should be vertical and not oblique in any direction. The uncut ears must not be plastered flat to the sides of the head.

The hair on the head must lie flat, making a natural part on the forehead; the mustache and beard somewhat flat also; the eyebrows on the contrary, must not fall flat, but fall in an arch over the eyes, should not be too long or too thick; the dog would not be able to see clearly. Entreat the inexperienced ladies not to cut the dog's eyebrows on the pretext that the "poor dog can't see a thing". The poor dog sees well, have no fear. Flat eyebrows give him a soft, sad air.

When one sees the head of the Briard in profile, at rest, the line of the muzzle in a lower parallel to the extension of the line of the forehead; although the muzzle is often a bit curved.

The lips are of medium thickness, the lower one slightly drooping, well closed, without folds at the corners. (without flews)

The beauty of the teeth (white and regular) indicates a good frame and physiological purity of blood. The more or less red coloration of the tongue and gums is also indicative of general health.

The neck should be rather long and the muscles of the neck may stand out. The head in the shoulders, although indicating force, should not be sought after, except to remedy by mating, the weakness.
of another offspring.

The break of the nose is what people "in the know" call the stop. It should be a little less marked than the pointer but more than the greyhound.

The color of the palate, contrary to public opinion, does not prove purity of breed; it merely corresponds to the color of the skin. Nevertheless, the Briard must have black mucous membranes. Discoloration of the mucous membranes and nails almost always indicates degeneration.

To terminate, let us beg all fanciers to know and understand the heads of their dogs. The head expresses the character. That is a general truth and like all general truths, in order to be well understood and utilized, it requires a good deal of experience and rectifications of observations.

All animals who lap have under the tongue a little muscle which permits them to curve the tongue like a spoon in order to drink. Often this necessary organ has been taken for a worm. Hippocrates of Cos, the father of medicine said that it should be removed to prevent dogs from getting rabies since it was the cause. Pliny and other Latin authors repeated the same thing. The anatomists of the Middle Ages have shown that it was not at all a worm. Demetrius of Constantinople thought of it as a nerve, Casserius a muscle. In the 18th century, Morgani described it minutely, then Gurlth, Bruhl, Baur, Prins, Virchow, Ercolani and other scholars studied it and showed that it was neither tendon nor cartilage, but a special body, half-muscular, half fatty-fibre. It is a support for the dog's tongue: its principle object seems to be to fold the tongue. Extirpation of this organ brings about a slowing of prehension of food and drink, but this slowing up lasts only a few days; then the dog is able to use his tongue as though there had been no operation. (P. Megnin: L'Acclimatation, 1884, suppl.).

THE TRUNK

Certain fanciers prefer the dog to be cobby (short-backed) in construction, having the proportions of the Bouvier. I am not of this opinion. The Briard, shepherd dog or bestial, is not a dog for driving. I know well that the drovers employ them indiscriminately for one or the other task; but they only demonstrate again their sinful thoughtlessness for the fatigue of the animal. The Brie dog is not lazy; when he understands the work that one asks of him, he will go to the end of his strength, and many dogs which have worked to three or four years have a heart in a bad state. The shepherd dog is rather longer lined; if one wants to take a Briard in the other direction, he makes the short-lined choice with the minimum of coat. One encounters this often in connection with cobby construction.

The cross section of the thorax should not give a perfect circle, but rather an oval; the line of the back, the topline, is horizontal; the abundance of hair on the croup can, with certain subjects, give the impression of a sagging back. It is necessary to verify this detail with the hand. A croup which descends too much or which descends to an obliquity of more than 6 or 7 degrees from the horizontal of the back, can indicate weakness of the loin.

THE TAIL

A dog deprived of its tail, either by birth or by an operation is called anourous. A dog with a short tail is called brachyura.

The tail of the Briard should not be:

like a scimitar: a saber tail as in the spaniels;
like a pig's tail: short, fat at the base and ravelling out suddenly;
like a candle, vertically erected;
like a cow lick: garnished only with simple fringe toward the tip;
like that of a cow: hanging straight down without a hook;
rolled: as in the eskimo dogs or the loulous;
gay: carried above the horizontal;
deviated or swerving; deviation to the left would indicate a trace of wolf blood.

The tail must descend to the point of the hock and there it turns up in a hook; it should not be longer.

Good cynologists think that if the head indicates the character of the dog, the tail reveals purity of lineage, which I believe. There is for each animal, as for each man, a professional signature. A blacksmith does not look like a mason; a sheep dog does not look like a spaniel.

There has been discussion of the useful role of the tail in the movement of the animal. Without attributing to it the essential role of a rudder, Messrs. Paul Megnin and Bourdonneau reflect that it serves as "the regulatory balancer of the equilibrium". M. Bourdonneau made the following remarks (L'Eleveur, Sept. 1925):

"If you make a dog gallop uphill, the tail is immobile, as long as the dog follows a straight line, or it makes a barely noticeable up and down movement. If the dog runs rapidly downhill at a gallop, you will see the tip turn violently, at the same time that the hocks stiffen in order to hold the weight. I go even further, but without being able to affirm it because I had difficulty in obtaining proof, I believe that a dog running from right to left downhill will turn its tail in one or the other direction comparable in this to a well-trained horse which gallops with the required lead foot. I do not make this observation with certainty, but it requires study.

"On the other hand, those who observe sheep dogs in their goings and comings will notice that at each half-turn, the tail presses against the flank according to the side toward which the dog turns. This is why I believe and will continue to believe until someone offers proof to the contrary, that the tail is useful to a sheep dog."

--to be continued in the next issue--
NEW BRIARD CHAMPION

CHAMPION PA'CHICK'S MS-BE-HAVEN (bitch)

Owners: Margaret & Susan McCormick
Breeder: Susan McCormick & Charles Long

Championship: January 21, 1978
Whelped: September 16, 1976

Sire: Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux
(Dam: Am/Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel
(Ch. Proud Rebel de Marha X Pa'Chick's Esmarelda)

Dam: Am/Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel
(Ch. Ralph des Elfes de Malouse, C.D. X Am/Can. Ch. Reine des Elfes de Malouse)

Judge: Robert Wills
Handled by owner

NEW BRIARD CHAMPION

CHAMPION BARON D'YOUEM DE CHEZ CIEL, C.D. (dog)

Owner: William Shipman
Breeder: Virginia Englehart

Championship: January 29, 1978
Whelped: March 6, 1973

Sire: Ch. Prince Valiant de Marha
(Dam: Ch. Queen Elizabeth de Chien Velu
(Ch. Nestor de Vasouy X Marha Magie de la Brie)

Ch. Arlette des Grand Pieds)

Judge: James T. Bennett
Handled by Susan Shipman

APRIL/MAY 1978
NEW BRIARD CHAMPION

CHAMPION BELLESPRIT MIDNIGHT COWBOY (dog)

Owners: Michael & Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Breeder: Jayne P. Dubin Fitzpatrick

Championship: February 14, 1978
Whelped: August 9, 1976

Sire: Ch. Sultan d'Esprit (Ch. Phydeaux Quoin de Cuivre X Ch. Phydeaux Tallulah, C.D.)
Dam: Ch. Bellesprit Velours (Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux X Ch. Cicely of Northumberland)

Judge: H. Anthony Hodges
Handled by owner

NEW BRIARD CHAMPION

CHAMPION REJOUI TURQUOISE DE CAPUCINE (dog)

Owners: Robert & Shirlee Kessler
Breeders: Owners

Championship: February 19, 1978
Whelped: February 27, 1977

Sire: Ch. Stonehill's I'm Henri (Ch. Uffin Berger du Nord X Ch. Flogan Variety Sho Stonehill)
Dam: Ch. Capucine de Beauxjolais (Ch. Phydeaux Quoin de Cuivre X Ch. Phydeaux Tallulah, C.D.)

Judge: Fred Young
Handled by owner
WHAT IS A BRIARD?

BY BARBARA ZAWORSKI

Somewhere between the human race and that part of the animal world known as dogs, there is a creature called a Briard. Briards come in different sizes, weights and colors (all of which hopefully combine to meet A.K.C. standards.)

Briards are found everywhere - on farms and in cities, on estates and in kennels, playing in parks, chasing in a field, herding sheep around a pasture, walking on Park Avenue, primping for the show ring and even packed into a Chevette.

Owners love them, little children stand in awe of them, other adults usually ask what they are and Heaven has bestowed on them all the human qualities possible. A Briard is beauty, with burrs on her tail, wisdom tracking mud on your carpet, fidelity wagging her tail at everyone she meets and love with a ball in her mouth.

When you are cleaning, a Briard is made entirely of hair that is shedding. When you want to show her off is when she comes running in after taking a mud bath. When you speak of her intelligence, she fails to respond to a single command.

A Briard is a composite. She has the courage of a lion, the softness of a butterfly, the energy of a whirling dervish, the wisdom of a sage, the playfullness of a kitten and the loyalty of (of all things) a dog.

A Briard is a magical creature. Hell on wheels one minute and a bundle of sleeping docility the next. You sigh in exasperation, but you reach one more time for the ball that is nudged at you. You may swear under your breath, but you comb through the heavy coat again. And you stammer and apologize again when your Briard gives a guest one of her famous cold nose nudges in an unexpected place (usually, the north end of someone going south).

Might as well give up - she is your owner, your captor, your jailer, your boss and your master. Who is the one who has to be home because the Briard is lonely, who gets the most balanced meals to keep her in the best condition, who runs to open doors when an indication is given that ingress or egress is desired, which end of the leash gets all the attention when walked in public and who has their own grooming table with special brushes, combs and scissors?

But, when you come into her domain, all things equal out when the special bark and tail wag is just for you. You can shut her out of a room, but you can’t shut her out of your heart and mind. She is a Briard.

---

STUD DOG COLUMN


CH. JABOT LE BONHEUR D’HTE COUTURE, black, 5/10/74. Sire: Ch. Soleil d’Or de Marha. Dam: Vicki Chien de Grand Coeur. Owner: Frances Taylor, 2612 Starkweather Road, Rockford, IL 61107. Telephone: 815/398-8938. (12/78)


Stud Dog Column listings are $10 per year or $2 per issue for up to four lines of information. Send listing to the Secretary and make checks payable to the Briard Club of America.

LOOKING FOR PUPPIES?

ARIZONA
Ed & Cindy Konrath, 8075 Mi Casita, Tucson, AZ 85715 (tawnies) 602/298-1570

MICHIGAN
Ginny Schaefer, 214 Ernest, Linwood, MI 48634 (tawnies) 517/697-5125
Jim & Judy Ziozios, 3799 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603 517/793-0699

OHIO
Manny Littin, P.O. Box 6275, Toledo, OH 43614 (tawnies) 419/536-2653 or 419/255-1870 page unit 192

NEW JERSEY
Marie & Monroe Kokin, 318 C, Windsor Rd., Robinsville, NJ 08691 609/448-0472

APRIL/MAY 1978

BCA