"If you're looking for violence and excitement, how about bathing the dog?"
**President's Message**

We have finished another decade and are just starting a new one. I believe we have come a long way in the betterment of our breed.

We have had two rassemblements, giving us an insight into the good and not so good points of our dogs. Both the show ring and obedience ring have taught us much. No longer is the Breed regarded as unmanageable in the ring. Many have had Group placements and we all have a lot to be proud of.

Many people have rescued Briards and have given them homes where they can be loved and enjoyed. Problems have arisen, but they have been worked out when people put the betterment of the Breed before their own personal gain.

In the upcoming years, I think we should take a long look at our breeding programs, our showing and training, to make sure we can eliminate some of the faults which are there. Reflections on the two reports from the rassemblements should be of great help. A more careful selection of buyers may eliminate some rescuing of Briards.

Most of all, we should think of how we can improve the Breed by what we are doing, not how we can benefit ourselves.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Phil

---

**Treasurer's Report**

November 1, 1979 through December 31, 1979
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dues</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dew Claw:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$1,940.00</strong></td>
<td>Oct. &amp; Dec. half tones <strong>$186.80</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>Oct. &amp; Dec. Postage <strong>482.79</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ads</td>
<td>Misc:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.00</td>
<td>Regression (plates/engraving) <strong>201.93</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190.93</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>Overpayment ads <strong>7.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>Misc:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stud Dog</td>
<td>Dew Claw:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Oct. &amp; Dec. half tones <strong>186.80</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overpayment on ad</td>
<td>Oct. &amp; Dec. Postage <strong>482.79</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>Misc:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue Fund donation</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>Postage advance <strong>30.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.56</td>
<td>Misc:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50th Anniversary:</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rass. Report Cat.</td>
<td>Overpayment on ad <strong>5.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.00</td>
<td>Misc:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marked Catalog</td>
<td>Rescue (vet/shipping) <strong>76.72</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>50th Anniversary:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rass. Cat. postage <strong>108.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Misc:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treasurer's postage <strong>78.10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treasurer's supplies <strong>7.85</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPENING BALANCE</td>
<td>Income <strong>$4,048.95</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,550.44</td>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>Dues ARE DUE:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,429.54</td>
<td>BCA Members' dues were due on Jan. 1, 1980.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If not paid on or before March 31, 1980 the membership will automatically lapse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>APPLICANTS do not owe dues at this time and SUBSCRIPTIONS lapse on the date included in the mailing label.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SINCERE THANKS to Dr. John Farquhar for his most generous contribution to the Rescue Fund!
WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Marion Ann Alexander, 2767 Willowren Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566
Linda Beall, Box 102 Scenery Hill, PA 15360
Ken & Lynn Behrendt, 104 N. Emerson, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
Frank & Helena Didisheim, The Mansion House, Robbinston, ME 04671
Jacqueline Drozinski, 263 Lorna Verde, Colton, CA 92324
Carol & Joe Eucolono, 733 Atlantic, Waukegan, IL 60085
Pat & Bob Gross, 1911 Chelsea Court, Bloomington, IN 47401
Annie Harrison, 9990 Old Culter Road, Miami Fl 33156
Ron & Susan Hensel, 11520 Delaware St., Crown Point, IN 46375
Susan & Michael Johnson, 9 Cliffview Dr., P.O. Box 223, Lafayette, NJ 07848
Benn & Catherine Konsynski, 7802 E. Edison St., Tucson, AZ 85715
Bruce & Linda Knoll, 6655 Rives Junction Rd., Jackson, MI 49201
Faith McEachern, P.O. Box 231, Aylmer, Quebec, Canada
Lee Paradise, 123 Lysander, Rochester, MI 48063
Bruce Rothenberg, 2000 Cabrillo Highway, Pacifica, CA 94044

REINSTATED

Tom Evans, 2120 Roca Rosa Cirale, Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Don Mandeville, 1680 Stone Canyon Road, Bel-Air, CA 90024

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Cindy Gray, 733 N. Lombard, Oak Park, IL 60302 (after Mar. 1)
Dawn & Duane Laczkowski, 5856 Seville Circle, Orchard Lake, MI 48033
L. Kimberly Olson, 502 Chamounier Ave., San Diego, CA 92105
Penny Ridley, 42 Sunnyside Crescent, Milten, Ontario L9T 4K7
Janet Wiginton, Woodfield Cottage, Beaulieu Road, Brockenhurst,
Hants, England

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Nicole Bourbonniere & Noël Bilodeau, 309 Boul; Richelieu Sud.,
Mt-St-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada, J3H 3G8
Richard N. Doner, 518 Larchlea Dr., Birmingham, MI 48009
Ruth Foster, 5356 Beard Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410
Linda & Harry Willson III, RD 1, Box 242, Cape May Court House,
NJ 08210

AWARD PLAQUES have been ordered and those who have not yet received
their plaques will be sent one as soon as the order is received.

BRIARD BROCHURES are still an excellent buy in this time of inflation.
They are still priced at $1.25 for 25 brochures; 4.00 for 100. Order
from Ada Marley, 3940 W. 96th St., Indianapolis, IN 46268. Please
make checks payable to the Briard Club.

Diane McLeroth
Secretary
"Purpose, Perspective, Perseverance" was originally published in "The Dew Claw" in 1969. It was inspired by a speech given by Mr. Don Lyon at a 1959 Collie symposium and was applied to Briards by Harold Marley.

For those who were not privileged to know him, Harold was the respected breeder of the "de Marha" Briards. He came into the breed in 1963 bringing with him over thirty years of dog experience. Although his tireless work for the betterment of dogs, specifically the Briard, dominated the majority of his "free" time, he was never too busy to share his sound common-sense or his hard-earned knowledge and experience with anyone who asked. Today, his timeless words still apply.

This article is abridged due to space limitations and the original text is available from Education Chairman, Cindy Gray.

There are three kitchen chairs minus some of the padding. Benson is responsible. A folding gate between the kitchen and living room has about had it. Calamity is mostly responsible for that, with a bit of help from Benson. Three kennel doors need replacing. Maggie and Brigette, with an assist from the other two shortened their usefulness.

And the whole gang is responsible for this article, so to speak.

When you consider that Benson and Calamity were merely four-month-old Briard pups when they started on the chairs and the gate, it must seem manifestly unfair to charge them as responsible for this article - and certainly to saddle Maggie and Brigette with an article called PURPOSE, PERSPECTIVE, PERSEVERANCE must seem a bit unfair. Anyone who would so title an article, should be prepared to accept full responsibility himself - and yet, the Briards are responsible, for what else would prompt me to write such an article.

Which brings me to consider Sach and Shana, two four-month-old bundles of energy - energy to romp and play and get into everything they can think of. Sach almost accomplishes the impossible feat of going off in all directions at once. He gaits with all his body, serpentine and gangly, mouth open in laughter, big feet thumping. He just can't find enough mischief to get into. Shana, after I have just sat down in my easy chair, is more apt than not to take a flying leap and land on my lap and plant a cold, wet kiss on my nose. Their main purpose in life is to have fun.

Where we should be stern, we pamper. Where we should be strict, we give in - but most of all, we laugh, for they have that intangible quality - at times they are just plain funny. And so it is that I am aware of the simple truth -- we laugh and have fun because of our Briards. Yes, Briards, to us - are fun!

Now, with this in mind, let me advance a three part formula, which I believe can be of value to anyone interested in Briards today.
PURPOSE

The foundation of this three-part structure is PURPOSE. Without it you can build nothing - for without it, how can you know direction? or aim? or achievement? Of course this is elemental - obvious, but how many Briard breeders do you know who are confused as to purpose? Don't you know some whom you think have the wrong purpose?

PURPOSE is your reason for being in Briards, for owning or breeding Briards; even for reading this. Must we conclude that purpose will vary from person to person - that individuals will operate with different purposes in mind? I suspect this is true, but I further suspect that it ought not to be true. I think our purpose should be fundamentally the same. Aims, ideals, goals, desires may vary, but PURPOSE should be basically united.

PURPOSE, I believe, should be the same as that of our Briards - to have fun! You may call it pleasure, or enjoyment, or satisfaction -- all in the same family of meaning. Our purpose should be to have FUN - TO ENJOY.

I will give you an example. A few years ago, I remember approaching a grooming table at which a exhibitor was working deftly and surely, grooming his entry. I asked if he was excited, or if this was old-hat to him by this time. And I still hear his reply, "Certainly I'm excited! I get a great pleasure out of showing. If I didn't continue to feel that way, I'd get out." It's a statement I won't forget, for without pleasure - fun - enjoyment, nothing else matters. Without this element, I can't think of any other reason for being in Briards. Do I include that often-announced and hallowed aim - to improve the Breed? I must certainly do. To improve the Breed is not so much a purpose as it is an aim, a goal.

You see, the Breed doesn't care if it is improved or not. The newest champion crowned doesn't give a hoot about improving himself; he's happy just as he is. In a given litter of puppies, some need muzzle, some need better angulation, some aren't going to make it because they don't have that added sparkle -- but not one of them knows it, or cares in the least. They're all happy as pups - playing, chewing, eating and most of all, having someone to love.

So, the Breed doesn't care about improving itself. Only the breeders care, and the task is awesome, the work arduous, the progress slow. If improving the Breed is your PURPOSE as opposed to an aimed goal, then you are doomed to failure -- for, unless you get pleasure from your Briards, from your breeding, from your efforts, only striving to improve the Breed will not sustain you through the many hours, and days, and even years of disappointment. There must be pleasure in the quest, to renew inspiration and effort and desire, when the inevitable low ebbs are reached. Strive to improve the Breed we should and must - but see it as an aim or goal, rather than as the basic purpose behind your work.

What other elements can be described as purpose?

Is your purpose to win in the show ring? All of us want to win - but if that is your purpose, then get out of Briards, for you are heading down a dead-end street, on a road that has no turning.

To make money? To sell puppies? Can these be described as purposes? Again, if they comprise your purpose, you are wrong! Why? Because making money is a full-time job and no Briard fanciers are in it full time. Moreover, Briards to most all of us, are a hobby. By its very nature, a hobby is a diversion, an interest - it is something which is fun for us, and from which we derive pleasure. Rare indeed, are the instances where one can turn a hobby into financial profit -- and when this happens, the hobby ceases to be a hobby and assumes the nature of a business and becomes less of a pleasure.

And so I say, we need a foundation upon which to build and that PURPOSE should be pleasure.

PERSPECTIVE

This brings us to the second point in this three-part formula, PERSPECTIVE. I am not sure but what perspective isn't even more important than purpose. It is the art of keeping things in focus. Get out of perspective in any endeavor and you are courting trouble for the simple reason that you aren't seeing the facts - the proportion - as you should. It does not take any special ability to see that the great percentage of troubles we face today in the Briard fancy, stem from just one point - somehow, we let things get out of perspective.

After all, it is a game - a hobby - a diversion. The purpose should be pleasure. It isn't a matter of life or death - it won't shake the world's foundation.

Lose sight of perspective and what happens? You have seen it time and again. You've seen it in the breeder who has become kennel-blind, so the poor guy can't see any line other than his own - and anyone who does not agree is also wrong. You've seen it at shows in the red-faced and sweating exhibitor who stalks stiff-legged from the ring because his dog failed to go up. Exhorting with anyone who will listen, he proclaims on the idiocy of all judges and the mixed up dope who just put him down in particular - and he was just plain robbed.

Loss of perspective! We'd never have these crude and graceless ringside losers if they had true perspective. The exhibitor who bellows and threatens is not only a boor, without manners or sportsmanship, he is limited mentally and has never learned perspective.

Nor do I mean that we may not have differences of opinion. We do and we should. For part of our hobby is based on competition and competition properly used is always an advantage.

Nor do I mean that the simple application of purpose and perspective will work like some kind of anodyne, solving all our problems, soothing our nerves, dulling our angers and senses. What it will do is help us to see ourselves against the total picture. Helping us not to take things too seriously is perhaps the greatest balm of perspectve.

Perspective is that ingredient which will go into the ring with you - and help soften the crushing disappointment of not winning, even when you thought you should - perspective will go into the ring with you when you win - and help you to see that win for what it is, nothing more, nor less.
Perspective can stand with you when that prize litter you had looked forward to with such breathless anticipation, falls to live up to your expectations - and when the show puppy you bought with such shining optimism goes sour and you know he won't win——

Perspective will serve as a shield when you are attacked and you know the attack is not only unjust, but untrue! It will help you keep the picture in focus during the moment of glory when the one you bred is declared a champion of record!

It is perspective that can cut through the frustrations and the moments of despair - that can clothe our triumphs with humility - keep individual eye in focus on the reason we are in Briards - which is to enjoy, to feel pleasure, to have fun from our Briards.

PERSEVERANCE

It is perspective and purpose which can help us achieve the third important element of this formula - whether we are breeders or aspirants - and that is PERSEVERANCE.

It too is elemental - obvious - but oh how important! For it is PERSEVERANCE and sometimes that alone, which eventually leads us toward whatever our distant and individual goals may be. It is the ability to stick to it.

Think of the successful breeders, of any breed, you may know. How many achieved success on a short-term basis? On the other hand, aren't most of them - after years of effort and persistence - still striving, still trying, still achieving - and still failing?

If there is one stark truth in all this "dog game", it is this - there is no easy way. There is no open sesame that suddenly insures the breeding of champions - there is no short-cut to knowledge!

And the breeder, who - for some reason - hit it lucky - who in a relatively short time bursts across the horizon with a startling specimen and wins - all too frequently can't keep it up - and next season produces no such magic results - at which time he must either give up, or start over. He must have perseverance, not luck or he fails.

Just as no honest breeder will ever tell you in advance that the pup you buy from him is a sure winner, neither will he promise you an easy road to success. All he can ever give you is the chance to learn, to study, to try - and the admonition that success, knowledge or wisdom will not come with your first Briard or your first litter or perhaps even with your second or third - but with perseverance, perspective and purpose, you will have a fifty-fifty chance.

And that is all that any of us can expect. If we honestly examine the problem, we know there is travail before triumph in this business - and that the reward is in the striving.

Having defined purpose for what it is - having perspective and the hope we may keep it - and having freely accepted the role of perseverance for ourselves, what then should be our course if we are to be successful breeders?

First of all, you must choose the line with which you will work and the authority for that line. Believe me, once you show yourself sincere, you can find that line and that authority. I don't for a minute believe this stuff about experienced breeders shutting out the novice. The opportunist - yes; the insincere - the stubborn - yes; but the authority will help you, if you only let him try.

In Briards, we are less fortunate than those in other breeds. We lack authorities, gained from experience and knowledge that is the result of years of breeding to establish a "line". We do not have the authorities who can tell us the result of their breedings, the results of the infusion of one line with another, etc. So, we in Briards must of necessity work together, exchanging freely of our knowledge and experiences gained through our breedings.

Once you select your source, however - stick with him. He won't always be right - he'll never claim omniscience - but he'll teach you if you let him. Go to shows. Listen. Discuss. Question. But take your information back to your authority. Dissect it with him - let him sift it for you, pointing out facts from fancy - positive from negative. Remember, if you are studying with him, if you have chosen his line as your foundation - no one knows that line better than he. And what may be excellent for one line, may not be the answer for another - or for you.

The important thing to remember, once you've made your decision, stick with it. Give it time. Maybe it's wrong, but you can't know that on a short-term basis. And remember - you can only get there in this game with purpose, perspective and perseverance.

But you can get there! Every new winner, every blue ribbon, every champion of record proves it!

You've approached with caution, learning bit by bit. You've bought your first Briard, perhaps your second - maybe you've bred a litter. You've tasted the excitement of your first dog shows.

And then one day you feel differently - it's got you - you're in Briards - in to stay and it becomes a part of your life - nothing is ever quite the same again. You learn the sweet wine of winning and the bitter taste of defeat. You wonder many times what you are doing here - what got you into this.

Then you know. It's romping with your Briards - it's the friends you have made - it's the discussion, the talk, the learning -- the digging of post holes to fence a new kennel run - spending more money than you should to cut an extra door or to add needed space--

It's the steaming coffee served on a chilly night and too many cigarettes while you wait for that first pup to arrive - it's the plaintive, demending cry of a newborn pup - and toweling him gently as the age-old miracle of birth unfolds --

Something to dream on -- and strive for -- and enjoy.

Your goals lie ahead. You've defined your PURPOSE. You've gained your PERSPECTIVE and you've promised yourself the PERSEVERANCE which precedes success.

The path you tread is worn smooth by the feet of those who have gone ahead of you - your journey will help keep the path clearly defined for those who one day will follow in your footsteps --

I hope you feel as I do. I hope you will say as I do --"Briards! We're in Briards. And it's fun!"
ACUTE GASTRIC DILATATION

Wayne E. Wingfield, D.V.M., M.S.

Dr. Wingfield is an associate professor of small animal surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University.

Acute gastric dilatation is a difficult disease to deal with. For the dog breeder and the veterinarian, it is a most frustrating disease because there are so many unanswered questions. I personally don’t like to use the word “blot.” That really doesn’t describe the syndrome, because it is much more serious than simple gas accumulation in the stomach. “Acute gastric dilatation” is more applicable.

This is a disease with a high mortality rate. The key to this death rate is the factor of time. I hope to provide you enough information to recognize the symptoms and get the dog to your veterinarian so it can be treated early. To put this time factor in perspective, in my work at the University of Missouri and University of Georgia, I found that a dog can actually die of acute gastric dilatation within 30 minutes.

This disease is not limited to the large, deep-chested breeds, but it is seen most frequently in those dogs. Within approximately the past 10 months, we have seen 15 cases at Colorado State University, of which 12 were Irish Setters. That is an impressive statistic and obviously something that needs investigation.

Generally, acute gastric dilatation occurs in middle-aged or older dogs, taking into account the fact that the larger breeds usually have shorter life spans than smaller breeds. When we talk about this disease, we exclude dogs less than one year of age, because most cases of dilatation in young dogs result simply from overeating. The older dogs we’ve seen with acute gastric dilatation usually have no food in their stomachs.

It is important here to distinguish between simple acute gastric dilatation and gastric volvulus, in which the stomach flips over on itself. Approximately 80 percent of all dogs that experience simple dilatation will someday also have a volvulus, a more serious condition. This can occur anywhere from hours to years after the initial attack. Therefore, even in the first episode of simple dilatation, the dog should be treated as if it has a volvulus already.

Let’s now look at what is going on in these dogs and why they are so difficult to treat. We know that there is an accumulation of gas or fluid, and that something is obstructing the ability of the stomach to get rid of that gas or fluid.

The source of the gas is unknown at this time. There are a lot of possibilities, but I believe the No. 1 cause is that the dog has swallowed an abnormal amount of air. Most of the patients we see with this problem are very greedy, rapid eaters. You know that when you eat rapidly you gulp a lot of air, then belch to get rid of it. But what would happen if something obstructed your ability to lose that air? It is probable that a number of changes would take place, perhaps even causing the stomach to turn over on itself.

I have analyzed the gases taken from the stomachs of these dogs at the time of surgery. With only one exception, analysis has shown the gas to be consistent with room air. It is theoretically possible for gas to be released into the stomach by abnormal diffusion through the cells of the stomach, but we have not found any such abnormalities in any of our clinical patients.

A few years ago, it was suggested that bacteria were the cause of the gas, and this got a lot of play in all the magazines. However, the animals that served as a basis for this theory had all been dead at least an hour, and some more than 12 hours. Almost any dead animal will swell up because bacteria ferment and cause gas production. I’ve run cultures on every animal that is a candidate for stomach surgery, and have yet to consistently confirm the presence of bacteria in the stomach of the live patient.

We have seen patients with gastric dilatation complicated by volvulus that do have the bacterium called Clostridium perfringens, which is believed to cause gas formation. However, the stomach wall is dead in probably 100 percent of these cases before the bacteria are established.

When people started blaming bacteria, they also began to look at the dog’s food. Some people said, “Soybeans produce gas, so we should get soybeans out of the diet,” and began marketing dog foods that contained no soybeans. But until we learn more about the role of soybeans, I don’t believe you’re doing your dog much good by excluding them from the diet.

Another possible cause of the gas is the combination of acid from the stomach with bicarbonate from the pancreas, which drains into the intestine a little way down from the stomach. We don’t know why, but when the stomach is dilated, food flows back toward the stomach from the small intestine. We know that mixing acid with bicarbonate produces a lot of carbon dioxide gas. However, we haven’t found a lot of carbon dioxide in the stomach gas of dogs with gastric dilatation, so at the moment, we don’t think this is a critical factor.

As I said, I think the best explanation is that the animal has swallowed large quantities of air. We’ve actually seen this occur on the fluoroscope as we examined dogs that have had multiple episodes of acute gastric dilatation. The dog gets excited and we watch the stomach dilate right before our eyes, as if someone put a tube down into its stomach and turned on the gas. It’s that fast.

In man, one confirmed cause of acute gastric dilatation is swallowing large amounts of air. The air is retained because of a defect in a sphincter, or valve, at the top of the esophagus. This is something that needs more investigation in the dog.

There are two terms you need to understand: torsion and volvulus. Torsion means rotating an organ system about its long (head to tail) axis, while volvulus means rotating it about its mesenteric axis, its support structure. When the stomach dilates, it first begins to turn on its longitudinal axis (torsion). It later turns on its mesenteric axis. Gastric dilatation always precedes volvulus.

It is nearly impossible for volvulus to occur in a normal dog, because the mesenteric support of the stomach are so tight. I suggest that the reason this occurs so easily in large, deep-chested dogs is because of improper feeding and management habits: letting the dog run, hunt or get excited after eating. If you put a heavy weight in the stomach and let the animal bounce it around by running, it will tear loose the supports. Perhaps the next time the dog dilates, the stomach is able to turn over in a volvulus.

When volvulus occurs, blood vessels in the area become twisted and compressed and circulation is cut off, causing the animal to go into shock. This condition is known as hypovolemia: there simply is not enough blood circulating in the vessels to adequately nourish the body. For example, the caudal vena cava is normally a huge vessel that drains all the blood from the rear portion of the dog, including the kidneys and rear legs. In the dog with gastric dilatation complicated by volvulus, the caudal vena cava is shut off, and this huge amount of blood has to be shunted through tiny vessels within the spinal canal. Not enough blood gets back to the heart.

An even more important vessel is the portal vein, which is located next to the liver and drains the small intestine, most of the large intestine, the spleen, stomach and pancreas. When volvulus occurs, there is simply no way for blood in the portal vein to get back to the...
every day. Some veterinarians in Chicago recently told me they had identified it in a
Pekingese and three dachshunds. This is not a new disease; we are just recognizing it more
often than we used to Nowadays when a dog dies, instead of just burying it, we are taking
the time to find out why it died.

When we see an animal that has abdominal distention and is retching but cannot vomit,
these are good indications it has acute,gastric dilatation. If you’ve ever seen one of these
dogs, you’ll probably never forget it. The dog looks the way you’d look if you drank a keg of
beer all by yourself. The abdomen is as tight as a tympanic drum.

We used to believe we could distinguish between acute gastric dilatation and gastric vol-
vulus by our ability to pass a stomach tube, but we now know that we can sometimes pass a
stomach tube even in dogs with acute volvulus. To be certain, we need to take an X-ray.

The first four days after surgery are extremely critical. We did a study that showed that 95
percent of the dogs that died postoperatively did so in the first four days. Those four days
require a lot of medication, treatment and attention. It can be an expensive proposition.

There are 11 different surgical procedures we could do on a dog that has been diagnosed
with gastric volvulus, which means there is a tremendous number of combinations of

We did a follow-up study on the dogs on which we’d done a gastropexy (rotating the
stomach back into position and suturing it to the body wall to prevent rotation), pyloric surgery to make sure the stomach empties rapidly, splen-
ectomy (removing the spleen) if it is abnormal, or we could cut in tubes to decompress the
stomach.

We found that using multiple procedures gave us an 80 percent success rate: only about
20 percent had any sort of recurrence. However, if we simply turned the stomach back to its
normal position, 80 percent of the cases would recur. The more surgery we did, the better
the results were.

We did a follow-up study on the dogs on which we’d done a gastropexy (rotating the
stomach back into position and suturing it to the body wall). Unfortunately, we found that 100
percent of these gastropexies break down within three months.

The technique we’re now using is called a tube gastrostomy. A rubber tube is put into the
stomach, creating an opening to the outside. This enables us to treat the stomach directly by
injecting drugs or fluids through the tube, and we can even feed the dog through the tube.
We can also drain air out of the stomach by opening the tube.

The most impressive thing about this procedure, however, is that it can create a per-
manent adhesion of the stomach to the body wall. We leave the tube in place about seven
days, then just pull it out. The stomach is exposed to the air and its contents can leak out, but
within two days the opening seals itself. When it totally heals, it fuses the stomach to the
body wall. In follow-up studies after 18 months, we have yet to find one that has broken
down. I believe this is the best procedure to use at the present time.

If your dog has had this condition, frequent small feedings are probably superior to large
once-a-day meals. We think multiple small feedings will help because the dog doesn’t have
that big lump in the stomach bouncing around, tearing down the supports and eventually
allowing the stomach to turn over.

If your dog is a rapid eater or gets excited when it eats, you should try to keep it as calm as
possible. Put the dog off by itself and let it eat as quietly as possible, because as the dog gets
excited, it gulps air. As I said before, most of the gas in the stomach of a dog with acute
gastric dilatation is apparently swallowed air.

CANINE NEONATAL MYOCARDITIS

Since September 1978, we have seen multiple cases of myocarditis in
young pups. The typical history is that of healthy pups, usually
4-8 weeks old, who die suddenly with signs of acute respiratory
difficulty. A majority of the litter is often affected. Surviving
pups may have electrocardiographic changes and/or radiographic
evidence of heart disease and may go into congestive heart failure
months later. There may be a risk of fetal resorption in pregnant
bitches.

On post-mortem, the left heart usually contains patchy, pale areas;
histologically there is a diffuse subacute myocarditis.

Our experience has been with Shepherds, Goldens, Labs, Bullmastiffs,
Beagles, and Afghans. Other breeds have been reported to be affected --
usually large breeds.

We have seen the disease in animals from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and
Connecticut. Reports exist from many other areas of the United States,
Australia and Britain.

The disease appears to be caused by a virus. Intranuclear inclusion
bodies are present which contain virus particles and are positive for
canine parvovirus by the direct fluorescent antibody test. It appears
therefore that neonatal myocarditis represents another sequela to
parvovirus infection in the dog. At present, there are no approaches
to prevention or treatment that have been proven effective in this
disease.

(References: Jezyk P.F., Haskins M.E., Jones C.L. Myocarditis of
Probable Viral Origin in Pups of Weaning Age. JAVMA, 174:1204-1207,
1979; Hayes M.A., Russell R.G., Bubiuk L.A. Sudden Death in Young
Dogs with Myocarditis Caused by Parvovirus. JAVMA, 174:1197-1203,
1979.)
We have reached a landmark in our breed. There are now 101 O.F.A. certified Briards. Here is an updated list as of November, 1979:

#86  Ch. Pa'Chick's Ms-Be-Haven, C.D.
#87  Lucienne Chez Ciel
#88  Ch. Miel Melosa De Strathcona
#89-T  Ch. Phydeaux Lu vem N' Leavem, C.D.
#90  Ch. Chateauabriard Mint Julip
#91-T  Napoleon D'El Pastre
#92  Ch. Unique Noe De Vieille Ville, C.D.
#93  Milady Sadie De Linneau
#94  Beardsanbrow's Natanya
#95-T  Beardsanbrow's Notre Joshua
#97  Bellesprit Meriah
#98  Nori Noire De Linneau
#99  Desamee Nicholas Bear
#100  Ch. Bellesprit Mont Coronne Beni
#101-T  Ch. Silvermoon's La Tara

Cindy Gray sends us this news on Bellesprit Nicholas D'Un who is owned by Kathy & Glover Ferguson of Wheaton, Illinois. Gandalf, who is handled by Cindy, made his debut in the show ring by taking a Group I at a fun match on November 18th. The match was an AKC B Match held by the Yorkville Kennel Club of Sugar Grove, Illinois.

Bob Gross sends us the scores on his Ory's.(Phydeaux Ory Ki D'Ory, C.D.) C.D. His scores were 186, 195 and fourth place (at Louisville), and 194 and first place (at Fort Wayne). Ory will make his debut in open this spring.

Floyd Stevenson & Philippe (Mon Ami Jean Philippe, Am./Can. C.D.) are proud to announce their first leg in open. On November 18th at the Kalamazoo Show they qualified with a 191 under Miss Irma Dixon.

Group Placements


New Title Holders

AM./CAN. CH. BEARDSANBROW'S N'EST PAS, C.D.X.,T.D.,A.D., SCH. I Dave Bohrens writes that his Ness became the first Briard to earn a Schutzhund degree outside of Europe. She earned a Schutzhund I (Protection Dog) on September 29th at the Chicago Schutzhund Club Trial in West Chicago, IL. Her overall score was 271 out of 300 points with a Very Good rating. She scored 93 of 100 in tracking, 81 of 100 in obedience, and 98 of 100 in protection.

CH. MAGIE MON AMI DE LINDEAU

On October 7th at the Progressive show, Magie, owned by Rob Ferber and Linda Wells and handled by Linda to all her points from the Bred By Exhibitor class, finished her championship under Mr. Bracy. Her sire is Vin Marque de Grand Coeur and her dam is Ch. Iaime Widgette de Lindeau.

CHATEAUBRIARD NOTRE FLEUR, C.D.

Gloria Merder is very proud to report that their Daisy earned her 3rd leg on December 2nd at Evansville, Indiana. According to Gloria, Daisy's biggest problem has been a handler (Gloria) who turns to jelly in the ring!

CH. ONNOK DES CARRIERES NOIRES

Onnok, owned by Ruth Monast, finished his championship at the Boardwalk K.C. show on December 2nd under Mr. Booxbaum going winners dog for a 4 point major. The day before at Camden County under Mr. Gunderson he was winners dog for 5 points and best of winners.

CH. FLEUR DE ORANGER DU LE LOUP D'OR

Blossom, owned by Bob Russell & Kam Pelham and handled by Bob, finished her championship at the Ingham County K.C. show on December 9th under Mr. Robert Wills going winners bitch for 1 point and best of winners for a 5 point major. Her sire is Ch. Fiance Le D'or de Beaujolis, C.D. and her dam is Ch. Era Le D'or de Beaujolis, C.D.X.

Manny Littin & Roger Taylor are proud of their recent litters accomplishments in the breed ring at the tender age of 71/2 months. Three of the puppies already have at least one major and one has one single point. The puppies are: Chucklin's Princesse de Valet (11 points), Manny's Pal of Jack (5 points), M.C. Plaisant de Jean (4 points), and Manny's Chucklin's Peach (1 point). Congratulations on a fine start!

Puppy Corner

Jim Stewart has three black males whelped mid-September sired by Am./Can. Ch. Phydeaux Windfall, C.D. out of Beardsanbrow's Natanya.

Meg Weitz has black puppies whelped early October sired by Ch. Just Tigger de Charlemagne out of Acteon Faience of Antigo.
Robert Gostanian has tawnies who were whelped mid-October.

Dave Behrens has two tawny puppies who were whelped in early November sired by Ch. Chateaubriard Vermouth, C.D. out of Am./Can. Ch. Beardsanbrow's N'Est Pas, Am./Can. C.D.X., T.D., A.D., Sch. I.

Dave & Wendy Tooker have black puppies whelped in early December sired by Ch. Manny's O'Yellor out of Ch. Le Beauchien Marie Ange.

Janice Millis has black and tawny puppies whelped in early December. The sire is Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence and the dam is Ch. Tigresse de Patriche (all tawny puppies). The sire of the 2nd litter is Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence and the dam is Chateaubriard Papillon (black & tawny puppies).

Bob & Shirley Kessler are expecting a litter in early December. The sire of the litter is Ch. Rejoui -Turquoise de Capucine and the dam is Ch. Capucine de Beauxjolis. This will be a tawny litter.

Rob Ferber & Linda Wells have a black 8 month old male called Lindeaux Par Excellence. He is sired by Ch. Stonehill's I'm Bogie and his dam is Nori Noire de Lindeau. They are also expecting a litter in February sired by Ch. Stonehill's I'm Bogie out of Ch. Magie Mon Ami De Lindeau.

Ken & Cece Collins are expecting a tawny litter in February sired by Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence out of Ch. Chateaubriard Vichysoissoise.

Jerry & Stephanie Katz are expecting a litter of black & tawny puppies in early April. The sire of the litter is Can. Ch. & O.T. Ch. Silvermoon La Joie De Vivre, Am./Can. U.D. and the dam is Ch. Uziz Akshanit de Strathcona.

Regina & Tom Keiter are expecting a tawny litter in January out of Ch. Phydeaux Linda Lovelace sired by Stonehill's I'm Hector. This will be a tawny litter.

Show Reports

1-11-79 - Minneapolis K.C. - j Mr. Patterson - e 2-4-1
BOB Ch. Fille D'Abbaye, C.D. (Jane Beahan)
WD 1 pt., BW 3 pts. Berger du Nord's Nightmare (Phil Zingsheim)
WB 3 pts. Nadia du Nord (Jan & Phil Zingsheim)

11-3-79 - Monroe K.C. - BOB Ch. Stonehill's I'm Bogie (Rob Ferber)
BOS Ch. Notre Magic Genie de Lindeau (Linda Bullard & Linda Wells)
WD 1 pt., BW 3 pts. Berger du Nord's Nightmare (Phil Zingsheim)
WB 3 pts. Nadia du Nord (Jan & Phil Zingsheim)

11-25-79 - Oakland County K.C. - j Mr. Woolf - e 9-3-2
BOB Ch. Pa'Chick's Impressario, C.D.X. (Susan McCormick)

12-17-79 - Camden County - j Mr. Golds - e 7-3-4
BOB Ch. Phydeaux What's Happenin' (Mary Lou Tingley & Ira Ackerson)
BOS Ch. Chateaubriard Onederwoman (Cece & Ken Collins)
WD 5 pts., BW 4 pts. Des Carrieres Noires (Ruth & Sam)

12-18-79 - Competition - j Mr. & Mrs. Collins - e 5-3-5
BOB Ch. Phydeaux What's Happenin'
BOS Ch. Chateaubriard Onederwoman
WD 4 pts. Des Carrieres Noires
WB 2 pts., BW 4 pts. Phydeaux Oh Susannah, C.D.,T.D.

12-19-79 - Minnesota K.C. - j Mr. Boon - e 4-0-1
BOB Ch. Sugar Creek Neala Chien D'Mar (Marlin Rasmussen)
BOS Ch. Notre Magic Genie de Lindeau
WD 2 pts., BW 2 pts. Fleur De Oranger Du Le Loup D'or (Bob Russell & Kam Pelham)

12-20-79 - Minneapolis K.C. - j Mrs. Moore - e 3-0-1
BOB Ch. Unique Noe De Vieille Ville, C.D. (Cindy Gray)
WD 2 pts. Stonehill's I'm Nikolas

12-21-79 - Saint Paul K.C. - j Mr. Tyler - e 3-2-2
BOB Ch. Notre Magic Genie de Lindeau
BOS Ch. Notre Magic Genie de Lindeau
WD 4 pts., BW M.C. Plassant de Jean (Ron & Judy Schramm)
WB 3 pts. Chucklin's Princesse De Valet

1-1-79 - Minnesota K.C. - j Mr. Boon - e 4-2-0
WB 1 pt., BW 3 pts., BOB Ch. Phydeaux What's Happenin'
WB 1 pt., BW 4 pts. Phydeaux Oh Susannah, C.D., T.D.

FEBRUARY 1980
MONET PRESENTS

Monet's Phythos

Sired by Ch. Manny's O'Yellor

Our young and coming new star taking his first blue ribbon at Camden County Kennel Club

Watch for him in the spring

Ch. Onnok des Carriers Noires

Finished with 2 Majors - 1 weekend
Dec. 1 - 5 pts. - B. of W. at Camden County K.C.
Dec. 2 - 4 pts. - Boardwalk K.C.

Onnok, a beautiful red-tawny, will sire our spring litter out of Luire Rouge de Monet (a Barney daughter)

Inquiries invited – all tawnies

Ruth Monast
1280 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
201/244-9732

Ruth Monast
1280 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
201/244-9732
INSIGHT INTO TRAINING

IT'S JUST THE NATURE OF THINGS

Your puppy was born a playful creature, full of the zest of life. He has been removed from all his playmates, rather abruptly, and brought into a new environment. For the greater part of the day, he is left alone, abandoned to his own resources for exercising and amusing himself -- and for finding substitutes for those playmates.

As long as his human pals, who took him away from the kennel, are around to play with him, he really behaves in grand style and shows his intelligence by readily learning the warning, "NO!" However, when he is deserted by his pals, he must inspect each and every bush, tree, flower and object in his new domain.

Let's follow one of these pups, whose ignorant owner has given him "plenty of room to run!"

His boundless energy seeks outlets through a fantastic imagination. The hose becomes a snake-like creature, to be instinctively attacked. Its rubbery resilience in his teeth provides ecstatic exercise for growing jaw muscles. He tags, turns, twists, shakes -- then lies down exhausted, the quarry between his paws, testing out his needle teeth by tearing off, bit by bit, each tiny morsel.

When he has regained his energy, he begins his tour of inspection again. His nose leads him to the flower bush. He samples a waxy green leaf. The taste is dry and bitter, so he spits it out. He pulls off another and spits it out without bothering to taste it. He discovers when he pulls on the leaf, the branch bends out, then suddenly snaps back as the leaf gives away in his mouth! "FUNEE!"

This time he pounces on the branch to capture it before it "gets away." A young flower bud, not yet opened, comes off in his mouth. Here is a different taste -- juicy, tender. He chews it, experimentally, and decides it is worth swallowing. He sniffs the bush with a new interest now, seeking more such tasty buds. After a satisfying snack, and a tiring romp, he settles down in the sun for a snooze.

Soon he hears the footsteps of his human pats. He jumps up in eager anticipation, tail wagging furiously, all four feet dancing with excitement. But -- a rough hand grabs him by the scruff of the neck and drags him to the middle of the yard. A gruff voice assails his ears. Suddenly he feels something whacking him on his back. He is too frightened to realize that the spanking is coming from his former plaything, the chewed-up hose.

He is then dragged over to the demolished bush -- his nose is thrust into the cool green leaves scattered about on the ground -- the slaps and terrifying voice continue beating at him. When he is at last released, his only thought is to get away as fast as he can. He races away and hides, trembling, in the farthest corner. For the rest of the afternoon, each time one of his former pals walks by him, he looks eagerly, thumps his tail hopefully on the ground. But the kind voices of yesterday are silent. He is getting the "treatment".

A puppy's memory is short. Unless he is actually caught in the act, he has no way of mentally connecting the punishment with the deed. The only thing this puppy learned was that human beings are not all sweetness and light -- that they are objects to adore one moment, and be wary of the next. He hasn't the faintest idea what brought on the angry voice and treatment.

When caught DIRECTLY in the act, an intelligent puppy can connect the punishment with the forbidden deed -- providing he is NOT dealt with so drastically as to paralyze his mental processes with fear.

Even if he "gets the connection" his memory processes are still at the babyhood level. In a week, his memory of the occasion may be completely gone. A lively breeze may swirl some leaves across the yard and off he goes in hot pursuit. Soon the yard is again in shambles.

"It's Just the Nature of Things" was written by Janet Holbrook and is included in the forward of the booklet, "Training Your Collie" published by the Collie Club of America. This sensitive insight into the mental processes of the young puppy can help anyone to better understand why consistency, praise and a little advanced planning will help a puppy to develop into a happy, self-confident and well-adjusted adult. It also shows why the human weaknesses of short temper, grudge-holding and impatience DO NOT have any place in puppy training. The puppy as young as 7 to 12 weeks of age can and should learn. The human half of the man/dog relationship must either exercise consistency and self-control or leave the training of a puppy to someone who can.

Experience is an effective teacher and the puppy raised by gruff, short-tempered people, could very well develop the same personality faults of his owners.

Briard puppies are born with a desire to please. Tell your pup when you are pleased and you will fix that response for the life of the dog. The puppy is also capable of understanding a great deal and although his short attention span may make it necessary to repeat and repeat -- he will understand what you expect of him if you are consistent, gentle, willing to praise and patient. Watch the experienced breeder set up a 7 week old pup in a show pose -- listen to the gentle words which encourage this baby to hold the pose. The puppy responds and months later if he is entered in a show, that early training reflects in his behavior.

Punishing -- slapping -- striking with a newspaper -- collar jerking -- angry or gruff words -- grudge holding -- or generally rough treatment will do unnecessary and irreparable damage to the young puppy's psyche. The puppy does NOT understand why his master is doing these things -- but he will remember that they were done.

A case in point: Ever observe how delighted a little puppy is to come to his owner when cheerfully called? -- excited, uninhibited response! But how about the pup caught chewing on your favorite tree (or other human treasure) who is called by its owner -- responds with glee and then is punished for the forgotten chewing? This is cruel and serves no purpose, except to make that puppy suspicious the next time it is called.

Neither should the pup be spoiled -- firmness is important. The puppy must understand that you will not stand for nonsense. If you find a puppy doing something wrong, GO TO THE PUP, lead him away from his indiscretion saying "NO" in a firm and positive manner. Give the pup a toy -- tell him, "This is yours", then PRAISE when he takes your offering. Close the mouth of the pup who nips (20 pound nips may be
natural but can grow into 80 pound bites), say "NO" firmly - or "NO, don't bite!". Striking is not needed - nor will it ever be needed if you are CONSISTENT, making it clear EVERY time your exuberant puppy uses his mouth, that you do not want nor like this form of "expression". Change the subject is an excellent rule. Scold if you must, but the instant the puppy responds, praise, praise, praise!

If the 80 pound adult will not be allowed on your couch - then the 20 pound puppy should not be allowed there either. The patterns are set in the formative weeks from birth to 4-months-of-age or so. Take the time to decide what will and what will not be allowed in the adult - and stick to it.

A 20 or 30 pound puppy who rips at clothing, chases children (instead of running WITH them) or jumps up and paws in greeting, will continue to do these things when that 80 pound mark is reached. Then, corrections are difficult - a pattern has been formed - the habits fixed. If a bad habit is not learned in the first place, there will be no need to correct it.

Striking the pup is inexcusable and only exposes the inadequacy of the trainer. It also can "fix" a resentment for unfair treatment, instability of temperament, even causing the dog to turn on someone at a later time.

The secret to success - the young puppy must develop confidence in his people and he must have confidence in himself. The best way to develop this is to be FAIR - CONSISTENT - and WILLING TO PRAISE. Confusion and insecurity are all you gain from harsh treatment of your pup.

The advanced planning you have done can help to eliminate the need to punish. Prepare a place where the pup can stay when you can not supervise him (Would you leave a two-year-old child to his whims while you are away?) His place should be one where he can not damage something (or harm himself on the many hazards which lurk in the average house).

Although the pup must be socialized by going with you as often as is reasonably possible, he must also learn that if you leave him for a time, you will return -- and when you do, you will be as happy to see him as he is to see you. You will not always be able to take your Briard with you, so it is important for him to learn this lesson when he is young. You can provide a place for him to relieve himself, so if you are gone longer than his immature system can wait, he will have an acceptable place to go for his normal bodily functions -- and you will not scold, the minute you return, for something that is natural to him.

If on the other hand, you give the puppy the run of the house or a large room while you are gone, you can be sure there may be damage when you return, or the pup could have harmed himself. Is the blame then to be laid at the door of a 10 or 12-week-old puppy - or even one that is 6-months-old? Of course not! The damage is the result of the owner's lack of insight and there is NO EXCUSE for being angry with the infant dog.

Briards housetrain easily. They are naturally clean and want to keep their quarters clean as well. The pup, however, is immature and must be taken out frequently. He can not wait until you have finished that long phone call, or your morning coffee, or come back from an extended trip to the store. When nature calls, he will answer and that response is not evil or misbehavior on his part. Therefore, if the puppy is taken out at regular and frequent intervals - praised lavishly when he does what you expect of him, there will not be a need to scold - because accidents are not likely to occur. If they do, look to yourself because the puppy will not soil its quarters if given an alternative. A puppy's system is not mature enough to wait for you to take him out until that pup is at least four months of age and maybe longer.

One breed differs from another in some aspects of training. A Briard differs considerably from the Collie since to have a watch dog from a Collie, the puppy must be kept away from strangers during its formative months. The reverse is true for a Briard and extensive socialization helps the dog develop into a more stable adult. This will not destroy the Briards instinctive ability to guard his home and loved ones. However, the Briard raised in isolation is likely to become overly protective and overly suspicious of strangers.

Although the Briard is somewhat independent - a trait highly valued by the French shepherd, Briards are NOT contrary or disobedient by nature. The sheepherder's dog must think for himself and will deliberately disregard a command if the safety of the sheep in his care is at stake. A Briard will not try to "get the best of you" UNLESS you have taught him to be resentful. If a Briard misbehaves in any facet of his life, chances are it is because YOU HAVE NOT MADE IT CLEAR to the dog, what you expect. If you make sure your dog clearly understands what you want through repetition, praise and patience, that Briard, even the very young one, will gladly do it for you.

Trainers suggest using short, clear commands for dogs. These are easier for the dog to understand and you will want to teach these to your Briard. However, there is also a value in conversation -- yes, conversation with your Briard. Mr. Charles Child, a Briarder with over fifty years' experience with the breed, advises us that a 400 word vocabulary is not too much to expect from an adult Briard. Others with experience in the breed agree, but only if they have taken the time to converse with their Briards. The dog can only learn the "art of conversation" if their people talk with them. It is not unusual for a Briard to understand and respond to phrases such as, "That is almost right, but sit a little straighter." or "Where did we put your ball?" or "Don't sit so close, it's too warm." and whose Briard does not understand, "Would you like to go in the car?"! The French shepherd spent many hours with only his dogs for company. It is natural that he chose to breed the dogs which were better company and understood his conversation. Those who help their dogs develop this unique talent are the beneficiaries - n'est pas? - and those who are skeptical, just ask your Briard.
THE OTHER RING

OBEDIENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This is the first of what can become a regular column, if the readers of The Dew Claw so desire. Send me your questions about problems in obedience training, and I'll try to offer suggestions. All readers are invited to send in any solutions that they have found to problems which appear in any issue of this column. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

QUESTION: We have a male Briard who breaks on the long sit and long down at shows and matches only, and comes right to me. He never does this during training at home or in class, so I can't correct him for it at those times. He is not fond of other dogs and we are working on this by exposing him to new and different situations. In class he is comfortable next to other dogs new to the club.

ANSWER: In general I advise people with novice dogs not to enter shows until they are quite certain that their dog is solid in all the exercises. To do otherwise is to spend a lot of money to teach your dog bad habits, habits all the more difficult to undo. Look for "Fun" or "Correction Matches" or Sanctioned Matches where the judge will allow reasonable corrections. Try to make the situation show-like. Pick the exercises you're going to work on and don't make any other corrections except for gross errors in the other exercises. You might even explain your plan to the judge. Hopefully, the dog will break on the long sit and/or down and you can immediately make a good, firm correction, followed by praise. Obviously, this approach could be used to work on any single problem that seems to take place only at shows.

But, let's back up. The trainer writes that the dog doesn't go down on the sit or sit up on the down, but instead comes right to them. The trainer suggests that the problem is that the dog is not fond of other dogs. Perhaps what we should consider instead is that the dog feels uncomfortable in strange places rather than with strange dogs, and is somewhat lacking in confidence. The exposure that the trainer plans, to new and different situations, should help.

What about those who are not so fortunate as to have an abundance of Fun Matches in their area. One possibility is to get together with people from your training class and go to different places, even each other's yards and train your dogs. Have your own mini-match. You'd be surprised how much you can learn about training your dog by putting someone else through the exercises, as well as how much you can learn by having someone watch you, individually. Group exercises could be done together.

There are also some things that you might try in class. Don't just leave your dog on the sit or down, cross the road and then return with the rest of the class. Mix it up. Leave, return to your dog, praise him, and then leave him again. Sometimes return and praise and then leave, sometimes give him a light to moderate stay correction, followed by praise, and then leave. Don't program him to a routine, but teach him to stay. Do not start doing sits and downs out of sight until your dog is very solid on these exercises with you in sight.

THE OTHER RING - continued

Other things that you can do in class are sits and downs of varying durations during other phases of the class work or during some other class, if possible. Don't do it as a formal exercise, but do make him stay. You can do similar things at home during the course of the day.

I hope that you will find these suggestions helpful, with positive results. I also hope that other readers will send in their questions, suggestions, and helpful hints. Write to:

Jerry Katz
1701 Strathcona Drive
Detroit, MI 48203

SPEAK OUT........

ACCIDENTAL BREEDINGS

BY SUE MCCORMICK

So you've had an accidental breeding. Over the past two years these breedings have been happening at an alarming rate. Anyone who has a dog(s) and bitch(es) has a responsibility to the breed to carefully watch their bitches when they are in season. Even with careful watching, accidents do happen.

There are two alternatives to take if your bitch is caught. If you see the breeding take place, take her to the vet within twenty-four hours and have your vet give her a shot. If you didn't see the breeding and you notice a suspicious thickening of the bitch's waistline, wait until the pups are born and put them down immediately. When litters are not planned, people often do not have the time to properly care for a batch of puppies, resulting in unsocialized pups and no homes in sight. Most people do not have the facilities to keep half a litter or more, which eventually causes sales to people who are not true Briard owners and the vicious circle begins.

Soon after, you may find them with a dog/bitch and a litter of puppies listed with the Club---twenty-one litters! I am appalled at the number of puppies this represents with an economy in the decline.

Please take notice of this and see the handwriting on the wall. Our purpose is to improve the breed, not to add unwanted numbers to the flock, especially when the dogs involved have not been X-rayed or shown. Quality, not quantity should be our goal.

This is my personal opinion and may or may not reflect the Club's views. Thank you for listening.
LEARNING THE UPS AND DOWNS

When Sage was three and a half months old, I decided it was about time she learned how to go up and down our stairs. After much coaxing, praising and no luck, I would finally pick her up and carry her upstairs. The whole time this was going on, Blossom would sit by and watch me make a fool of myself.

After enough of this foolishness, Blossom decided to take the matter into her own paws. She nudged Sage over to the stairs and very slowly went up - and then very slowly came down. She made sure Sage was watching her - then went up the stairs one more time, turned and waited on the landing until Sage came up. When Sage reached the landing, Blossom slowly came back down, turned and watched to make sure Sage did the same thing.

It was really interesting to watch our 71/2 month old teach the puppy how to tackle an obstacle like stairs. Now, who says Brairds aren't smart?!!

Kam Pelham

TRAINING TIP

Ory is doing super on his open training. He's wildly enthusiastic about retrieving on the flat and fine over the high jump. He's up to 34 inches. In about two or three days, I'll go to 36" and then in about two weeks to 38" for insurance. I started him on the broad jump today. It doesn't excite him, but he is willing as ever.

I play a game with him with the dumbell: from a running heel, I make him reach for it and take it from my left hand, and I then run like a madman in the opposite direction. He loves to outrun me, come around, face me, and give it to me - so we can do it again. He loves to play the same game with the neighborhood kids: it's the first thing he's ever been enthusiastic about doing with someone other than me -- except kissing the kids. We'll be going for the C.D.X. in the Spring.

Bob Gross

ADDENDUM from the December Calendar Dog - or, "SNOWSHOES ANYONE?"

I am not lying down in the snow in the December calendar photo, although it may look that way. I was walking in my own driveway. Going for the morning paper with my best friend is my job and I take it very seriously. I never lie down on the job.

Last winter, even a Briard needed snowshoes in Illinois, but after he took my picture, he did dig me out - a real friend!

Jabot

Having watched the sad decline of my first breed, the Afghan hound, over the past fifteen years, would any of you experienced Briard breeders take a word of advice from one who would hate to see the Briard suffer the same fate as the Afghan. That fate? Coat, coat, and more coat.

Sitting around the rings and on benches on Briard days, I am constantly hearing comments and heated discussions on the merits of one dog over the next, and the most dominant word is nearly always coat length, color or both. It appears to me that Briard breeders and judges are rapidly running down the same road as have the Affi people before them; reaching the stage when they neither know nor care what is under the coat.

It is a fact that many Afghan breeders have spent years breeding for both color and profusion of coat to the total detriment of the hound itself. The early Afghans exported into and bred in this country were merely feathered, and indeed the present day dog in Afghanistan is still thus. It is true that the appearance of the breed is improved and made more glamorous by more coat, but as with most other aspects of dog breeding, size as an example, it has been taken too far.

The original Afghan with saddle and bare pasterns bears little resemblance to the fully coated "stuffed dummy" we see in the ring today, and such is the concern of the owners of many show dogs with regard to the coat that their dogs are not permitted to run on grass or rough terrain, even forbidden to race on a sand track, for fear the coat should become broken and dirty.

The hound of the seventies looks incapable of a good run round the lawn, never mind hunting the snow leopard and deer over mountain and desert for days on end (the first encounter with a bush would render the chase null and void). Breed and all-rounder judges have become so used to seeing balls of coat standing in the ring, that when confronted by hounds showing off their true structure and movement, they tend to ignore them completely. Although the standard states, "all colors are acceptable" a large proportion of judges are color prejudiced and many all-rounder will not consider a dog unless it is a black-masked gold.

Now, Briarders beware. Coat is only a point of the standard, not the be all and end all of the dog. Which should be the most worthy exhibit - that with excellent construction, balance and overall soundness, conforming to the standard in carrying the correct undercoat and top coat of "at least three inches long", or the over or undersized, overweight, hock-knocking, light-eyed, badmouthed specimen, dripping in coat and looking short on the leg due to excess furnishings. Coat quality and color (the latter I will not go into, having read too many other epistles) are not the Briard, although it appears to be heading that way. "A woman's hair is her crowning glory", but it won't hide the ugly mug, lumpy body and tree-trunk legs, neither should it hide the Briard.

(from "The Double Dew Claw" bulletin of the British Briard Club)
ELABORATION OF THE FRENCH STANDARD

In 1969, BCA began the much needed, but tedious task of clarifying the AKC Standard for the Briard. In an effort to conform closely to the intent of the French Standard, a translation of that standard was obtained, along with an elaboration, both of which were approved by the French club, Club des Amis du Briard. This was then distributed to the BCA membership and the work began.

During the next four and one-half years, the BCA Standard Committee evaluated every point of the standard, consulted with French authorities and then with the American Kennel Club to determine what would be acceptable in an AKC standard. The resulting Standard for the Briard, drawn primarily from the elaboration, was given AKC approval in 1974 and went into effect on May 1, 1975.

Almost 86% of our BCA members have joined the Club since the complete elaboration was distributed and many have requested copies of it. It will therefore be included in "The Dew Claw" with Part I in this issue. The following does not include the French Standard, but only the discussion of it.

The BCA Constitution, as required by AKC, states that BCA will "urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard... by which Briards shall be judged." However, the study of other standards, especially from the Breed's country of origin, can only deepen our understanding of our Breed.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The shepherd dog of Brie has become in the last half century, an elegant dog, strong, well-proportioned and lively of carriage. His abundant, goat-like coat gives him his characteristic appearance, but he remains, in spite of it all, a stable and hardy shepherd.

Intelligent and affectionate, he has great tractability and fidelity. His character is "sage-hardi", the wise-fearless nature of the perfect shepherd dog.

Vigorous and alert, he is powerful without coarseness, strong in bone and muscle, for he is a shepherd and requires the characteristics essential in that work. Dogs lacking these qualities or that appear effeminate, however concealed by the coat, should be rejected. Above all, we must avoid production of weak or poorly developed animals.

The Briard should always be judged in his natural attitudes. Exhibiting the dog in unnatural postures and gaits is undesirable and can be used to mask serious faults, warping the judgements, resulting in detriment to the Breed.

SIZE

It was decided in 1911 that for the maximum sizes, one could tolerate a slight excess in height for exceptional Briards, because this additional size could be helpful in breeding. However, with the minimum size, no exceptions will be allowed.

Do not encourage the breeding of dogs that produce the minimum sizes. The dog that is too large should not be encouraged because he is not suitable for herding.

HEAD

The head of the Briard should always give the impression of strength(1), having sufficient width without being cumbersome. Always look for straight lines, parallels and right angles, for nothing is cone-shaped.

The length of a good head, multiplied by 2.5 gives about the height at the withers. There is no objection to a slightly longer head, especially if the animal tends to a longer body line. However, the head must never have an effeminate look and above all, no narrow pointed muzzle or narrow skull.

The muzzle with mustache and beard is rectangular, somewhat wide and terminated with a right angle. The topline of the muzzle is parallel to a line extending the topline of the skull.

Viewed from above, in profile, or from the front, the silhouette is composed of two rectangles (equal in length but differing in height and width). The larger one is the skull and the other forms the muzzle. The stop that separates them is well-marked, but not so much as to form a right angle. It is midway between the occiput and the tip of the nose, on a level with the eyes.

The occipital ridge is prominent. The head joins the neck in a right angle and the head is held proudly alert.

The head should be sculptured in clean lines, without jowls or excess flesh on the sides, or under the eyes or temples. The lips are of medium thickness, firm of line and fitted neatly, without folds or flews at the corners. The rim of the lips must be black, without any depigmentation. The nose is square, rather large with nostrils well-opened. It must be black without any depigmentation or traces of spotting.

The head should be well covered with hair which must lie flat, forming a natural part in the center. The beard and mustache must be equally flat giving the impression of straight lines and a right angle at the front extremity. By contrast, the eyebrows must not lie flat but instead they arch up and out in a curve that lightly veils the eyes. The hair must never be so abundant that it masks the form of the head or completely conceals the eyes.

TEETH

The teeth must be perfectly adapting. The lower incisors must be in back of and exactly against the upper incisors, a true scissors bite(2). The incisors are intended to cut, not grind. If the edges meet evenly, they knock and grind each other, resulting in premature wear.

(continued)

(1) The word "strength", as an adjective for the head, was rejected by A.K.C. on the basis that the head carries very little muscle and therefore could not be described as "strong". The word "length" was substituted with the hope that the remainder of the description would preserve the correct head structure.

(2) The change from level (even) bite, designated in the former AKC Standard, to a scissors bite in the clarified standard, was the only actual change from one standard to the other. This was in fact a correction, since it appears that the French phrase "meeting exactly" was originally mis-translated. The French interpreter the phrase as a scissors bite, not a level bite.
TEETH

Strong, white teeth are a sign of good health and very necessary qualities.

Prognathism, either overshot or undershot, is rejected.

EYES

The eyes should be set well apart, with the four corners on about the same level. Large, well-opened and calm, they must never be narrow or slanted or wild in their expression. His gaze should be rather frank, questioning and confident, with a depth that is moving to the beholder.

Always favor the good black-brown eye and also a black or very dark pigmentation of the rim of the eyelid, whatever the color of the coat. No trace of spots or depigmentation is allowed. Eliminate the brown-yellow eye and the milky eye from breeding. A reddish glare is also penalized.

EARS

The ears must be attached high, have a thick leather and be firm at the base. The low set ear gives a common expression because the head appears too arched, which is faulty.

The ears are generally cropped giving the most typical expression. They should be carried vertically upright and well-parallel (neither converging or diverging) emphasizing the parallel lines of the head. When alert, they should face forward, free of the skull, well-open with long hair falling over the opening.

The ears must be cropped into a rounded or shell shape, never into points like the short haired breeds. If after cropping, the ear does not stand vertically, and parallel to the other, or if it bends when the dog is at attention, the carriage is a fault.

The natural ear must not lie flat against the head. Aside from the aesthetic value of the cropped ears, the natural, flap ear is prone to many ailments. The cropped ear, however, is open and ventilated, the best method of preventing trouble. The natural ear is frequently too long, which is a fault.

NECK

Strong and well constructed, the neck should be in the shape of a truncated cone, clearing the shoulders well. It should be strongly muscled and have a good length. It must never be thin or weak and a short neck that gives the impression "the head in the shoulders" should also be rejected. It should have a just measure of strength and elegance.

CHEST

The chest must be broad and deep with moderately curved ribs. The thorax is of an ovoid form, the ribs not too rounded, nor as flat as is characteristic of the greyhound. The sternum, which is moderately advanced in front, must descend smoothly to the level of the elbows and is shaped to give good height to the chest, concurrent with the good dimensions of the thoracic cage. The shepherd dog requires ample room for heart and lungs.

The abdomen is moderately drawn up but still presents a good volume.

(to be continued in the next issue)

SHOW NEWS

CH. JUST TIGGER DE CHARLEMAGNE took a WORKING GROUP 4 under judge, Sally Keyes at Grand River Kennel Club in July. He is owned by Meg Weitz and Scott Vetrone and handled by Mike Greenberg.

CH. NOTRE MAGIC GENIE DE LINDEAU captured Best of Opposite Sex at Gloucester Co. K.C., companion show to the BCA Specialty, on August 11, 1979. The judge is Miss Anna Mae Forsberg. Genie is owned by Linda Bullard & Linda Wells and handled by Linda Bullard's husband, Bob Parkansky.
CH. STONEHILL'S I'M BOGIE was Best of Breed under Mrs. Eleanore Evers at Pontiac Kennel Club on August 19, 1979. Bogie is owned and handled by Rob Ferber.

FLEUR DE ORANGER DU LOUP D'OR took a 4 POINT MAJOR at Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club on November 4, 1979 under J. Mrs. Maynard K. Drury. "Blossom" is owned by Bob Russell & Kam Pelham and is handled by Bob.

MAGIE MON AMI DE LINDEAU is pictured after taking Winners Bitch for a 3 POINT MAJOR at Pontiac K.C. in August. She also was given a 3 point major by Mr. Ernest Loeb at Monroe on June 23. Magie is owned and handled by Rob Ferber and Linda Wells.

PAPILLON DE TIERRA D'ORO owned by Cheryl & Mike Foote was awarded Winners Dog & Best of Opposite for a 4 POINT MAJOR by Lt. Col. W.H. Pede at Saginaw Valley on September 8. He was handled to the win from Puppy Class by Mike.
PA'CHICK'S MAN O'WAR was given a 5 POINT MAJOR at Sugarbush on July 22, 1979 by judge, Mrs. Stuart Slayter. "Manny" is owned by Bob and Marie Herd and handled by Bob.

NOTE:
A number of people have asked for the address of the artist, who did the handsome pastel which was raffled off at the Specialty in August. He is: John Elstone 511 Broad Street Florence, NJ 08518 609/499-2957

CHAMPION BELLESPRIT NOIRAUD (dog)
Owners: Bill & Maggi Payne Breeder: Jayne P. Dubin
Championship: November 18, 1979
Whelped: November 20, 1977
Sire: Ch. Eagle of Alpen
{ Ch. Sultan d'Esprit
{ Impie du Lac de Bethmale
{ Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux
Dam: Ch. Bellesprit Velours
{ Ch. Phydeaux Tallulah, CD
judge: Dr. Bernard Esporite handled by owner
CHAMPION MAGIE MON AMI DE LINDEAU (bitch)

Owners: Rob Ferber & Linda Wells  Breeders: Linda Wells & Dr. & Mrs. FVC Wells

Championship: October 7, 1979
Whelped: March 14, 1976

Sire: Vin-Marque de Grand Coeur
Dam: Iaire Widget's Mac r'acic Woman

Judge: Mr. E. Bracy

NEW COMPANION DOG

CHATEAUBRIARD NOTRE FLEUR, C.D. (bitch)

Owners: Richard & Gloria Merder  Breeders: Cece Collins & Jane Mathews

C.D. TITLE: December 2, 1979
Whelped: February 5, 1977

Sire: Ch. Umbi Chabiv de Strathcona, CD
Dam: Ch. Chateaubriard Joyride

Trained & handled by Gloria
Plans for the 1980 BCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY are underway in California! The Specialty* is being scheduled for the Santa Barbara K.C. show on Sunday, July 27th*, with Lompoc K.C. the companion show on Saturday, July 26th*. The BCA Specialty Committee reports that Viserlc Viser is expected to be superintendent for Santa Barbara and Bradshaw will handle Lompoc K.C.

THE HOLIDAY INN AT GOLETA will serve as BCA Specialty Headquarters and plans are being made for camping sites on the beach for those with motor homes and campers.

Puppy Sweepstakes* and other special classes* are being planned; there will be a BCA Banquet, BCA meeting and an after-show, tailgate picnic among the weekend highlights.

Further information will be announced in upcoming issues of "The Dew Claw".

The 1980 Specialty Co-Chairmen are:
Virginia Englehart, 5868 Deerhead Rd., Malibu, CA 90265
213/457-9697
Joan Duzan, 31376 Broad Beach Rd., Malibu, CA 90265
213/457-3155

SPECIALTY CHARTER FLIGHT?
If you would be interested in taking a charter flight to the West Coast for the Specialty Weekend, contact Manny Littin, 10625 Monclova Road, Monclova, OH 43542 (419/877-5750). If enough people are interested a charter will be arranged.

SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED
In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!

*SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED

In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!

*SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED

In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!

*SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED

In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!

*SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED

In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!

*SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED

In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!

*SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED

In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!

*SPECIALTY DONATIONS NEEDED

In order to make our national specialty what it should be, BCA needs your contributions to the Specialty Fund. Large or small, each donation helps to make the Specialty an event worthy of our Breed. BCA makes only one appeal each year, so show your support for the Club and send your donations to:
Patricia A. Long, Treasurer, 5890 Shea Road, Marine City, Michigan 48039.

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club and note on the check that it is for the "Specialty Fund".

THANK YOU!