B.C.A. DUES ARE DUE!

As a matter of fact, B.C.A. Dues were due on Jan. 1, 1986. The By-laws grant a "grace period" of 90 days after dues are due, then the membership lapses on April 1st. Then, to reinstate the membership, an additional filing fee of $10 must be paid.

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PAST-PRESIDENT
Bob Boelter, 4383 Windsor Rd., Windsor, WI 53598 (608-846-4630)

DIRECTORS - Class of '86
Jerry Katz, 1701 Strathcona, Detroit, MI 48203 (313-368-3123)
Dallas Meggitt, 400 Avocado, Camarillo, CA 93010 (805-482-0207)
Barbe Lynch, 7480 Big Tree Rd., Livonia, NY 14487 (716-367-2721)

DIRECTORS - Class of '87
Ted Krystosek, 5621 N. Kilbourn, Chicago, IL 60646 (312-286-6297)
Patricia Long, 336 W. 9th N. St, Morristown, TN 37814 (615-566-6463)
Diane McLeroth, P.O. Box 450, Baraboo, WI 53913 (608-356-8126)

DELEGATE TO THE A.K.C.
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ADVERTISING RATES for Members:
$30 per page (includes one photo)
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Additional photos $5.00 each

Special Features
Photos of New Champions and Obedience Degrees will be printed without charge as space permits.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: $9.00 per year

MARCH 1986
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few months ago when I assumed this position, I promised you that I would be a working president. This is a report on some of the activities of your Board of Directors over the past few weeks, for your review.

As you all are aware, the Briard Club of America has had sustaining growth through the years in its membership. In fact, our membership will reach an all-time high within the next few weeks. As a result, we are encountering a wide variety of new and unusual problems to solve. Some of these are easily resolved, but others require much time and effort. There are also financial considerations for every decision to be made.

It used to be the practice that the BCA Board would meet annually, normally after the annual membership meeting, for about two hours to cover its agenda. This process is no longer sufficient in order for us to meet the needs of the membership, as there is so much involved in both planning and execution, that face-to-face meetings, at least on a semi-annual basis, have become essential to the operations of BCA.

With this in mind, a Board meeting was held in New York City on February 8, 1986. The minutes of the meeting will be published in the forthcoming Briezings, but I wish to make a few comments of my own.

On February 7, 1986, the Judges Education Committee conducted a seminar on the Briard at the request of the Dog Judges Association of America. The Committee made an excellent presentation, well-received by attendees and the BCA received many compliments from the Association. Representatives of the American Kennel Club also expressed their complete satisfaction with the presentation.

The following day, we scheduled the Board meeting for seven hours, and while continuing for 7-½ hours without a break, we did not cover all of our agenda. This was one of the most active and, hopefully, productive meetings that I have ever been involved in. The Board members worked extremely hard and in a cohesive manner.

One of our decisions was to reschedule the Rassemblement for 1987, as there is not sufficient time in 1986 to complete preparations. We are planning a four day Rassemblement weekend for '87, based upon an estimate of attendees, which will require some volunteers for Thursday participation. These days will provide us all with the opportunity for a great learning experience.

At this time, the Club's treasury is in the best condition it has been in years. We have discussed ways and means of using the cash surplus to the benefit of BCA. Some professional counseling will be made available to the Club and we also plan to set up the books in a manner more consistent with clubs such as ours. Our business philosophy should be that all events are self-supporting. We shall endeavor to hold the line in this regard.

I encourage you to read the minutes and to share with us your ideas and thoughts. Our Board meeting was very productive, as we were able to benefit from direct and open exchange between members and each of you can directly participate by sharing your thoughts with us. All of us have something to contribute and none should be afraid to learn.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Judges Education Committee for the excellent presentation at the Dog Judges Association seminar. I was proud of their work and they represented BCA very well. My personal thanks to the Board members who were able to attend our meeting in New York. It was a very long and tiring day, and I am confident it will prove to be productive.

Phil

----------------------------------
MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW
FOR THE 1986 SPECIALTY WEEKEND

THE B.C.A. NATIONAL SPECIALTY IS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1986
GENESEO INN
GENESEO, NEW YORK

Make your plans today to join us for the 1986 National Briard Specialty. Although the Rassemblement has been postponed until 1987, all sorts of fun and games await you and your Briards on Specialty Weekend, Aug. 15, 16 & 17. Watch the Dew Claw and Briezings for details.

The site of all the action will be the Geneseo Inn in Geneseo, NY (between Buffalo and Rochester) just off I-390. To reserve your room call the Inn at 716-243-0500, and be sure to mention the Briard Club of America to get the low-low room rate they are offering us.

Our judges for the big weekend will be: Breed - Dr. Richard Greathouse; Sweeps - Mrs. Audrey Benbow; - Obedience: Mr. Fred Henry.

Niagra Falls is not far away. Why not visit the Falls on your way to the Specialty, or on your way home? It would make a great vacation!

Barbara Lynch, Specialty Chairman
7480 Big Tree Rd., Livonia, NY 14487

MARCH 1986
LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

The "Briart Gallery" at the Minnesota Specialty was SPECTACULAR.

For those of you who were not able to attend this past Specialty, let us try to paint an imaginary picture of what you would have seen.

The Thunderbird Motel, thanks to Ken Behrendt, gave us a huge suite, directly across from the Hospitality Suite, so we were able to set up the "Gallery" for pre-raffle viewing. As you would have entered the suite, your eyes would have been pulled to one of many object d'art, all depicting Briards. There were numerous drawings, several needlework pieces and some pottery items. The "unusual" included a Briard flag, two stained glass hangings, several Briard wind-chimes and some hand embroidered hand towels. Perhaps the most unusual piece, and most commented on, was a Briard mask. Add to that several pieces of wooden folk art depicting Briards, wooden Briard banks, an absolutely exquisite table runner, finely crocheted with black and tawny Briards, and you can begin to imagine this treasure trove of Briart. And these are just some of the objects d'art that were displayed. There was a Briard sweater, a Briard sweatshirt and several Monaco stamps in small frames featuring the Briard. It was truly a wonderful display of time and talent, brought together and donated on behalf of the B.C.A.

Now, we won't name individual artists for fear of leaving out even one name. However, you know who you are and we can't thank you enough for your part in making this fund raiser so very successful. To emphasize just how successful it was, total profits taken in by way of raffle ticket sales and/or donations to the Specialty fund totaled $1,575.00!!!!

Susan Smith and I have decided to organize a "Briart Gallery" for the upcoming '86 Specialty in New York. And we hope it will not only match the first one, but surpass it.

If you did donate an object d'art this past year - thank you - and please plan on doing so again. If you didn't, please do. If you don't have the time to make something yourself, be on the lookout at dog shows or craft fairs for artists who can make something. You can either purchase and donate the item; or ask if the artist will donate something for the fund raiser. If you don't feel comfortable doing this, or if they want an official club request, send us their name and address and we will contact them. We had very good results from commercial artists and manufacturers who donated an item with the hope of attracting additional sales after the Specialty.

Let's make this '86 Specialty Briart Gallery another spectacular event, not to mention a spectacular money-maker for the B.C.A!

Cindy Markle
22735 Cottage Grove
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(312) 758-7539

Susan Smith
2344 Ivy Crest
Bellbrook, OH 45305
(513) 848-4206

COME ON! GIVE US A CALL OR DROP US A NOTE ABOUT WHAT YOU PLAN TO DONATE!

1986 SPECIALTY CATALOG ADS

B.C.A.'s 51st National Specialty
Geneseo Inn, Geneseo, New York
August 17, 1986

Again we are offering a wide variety of ad rates for the Show Catalog. Order 4 pages before May 10th (with up to 4 pictures) and save $40. Regular ad rates and special features offer a choice to fit everyone's budget. Don't be left out. Send your ads early and show off the Briards you love!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!
Deadline: May 10, 1986
4 pages (up to 4 pictures included) $100.00
2 pages (up to 2 pictures included) $55.00
Additional pictures - $5.00 each

REGULAR ADVERTISING
Deadline: June 10, 1986
Full page (includes 1 picture) $35.00
Half page (includes 1 picture) $20.00
Quarter page (no picture) $10.00
Additional pictures - $5.00 each

SPECIAL FEATURES
Deadline: June 25, 1986
Honor Roll - Name of dog, titles, owner $5.00
Memorial Roll - Dogs of the past $5.00
Booster Roll - Good wishes $5.00
The $5.00 ads are limited to 2 lines of copy with about 50 characters and spaces per line.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING
Deadline: June 1, 1986
Inside front or inside back cover $100.00
Full page $75.00
Half page $45.00
Quarter page $25.00

Advertising income goes only to print the ad, and to the B.C.A. Specialty Fund.

SEND ADS TO:
Bob Bloom
'86 Advertising Chairman
53-07 Douglaston Parkway
Douglaston, NY 11362
(718-224-5275)

Please make checks payable to the Briard Club

WATCH THOSE DEADLINES!

MARCH 1986
The need for Briard Aid & Rescue is increasing at an alarming rate. Concerned Briarders protest that should never be the case, but the hard, cold statistics indicate that it is.

The pattern seems to be 5 males to 1 bitch, and most of the time the ages are from one to three years, the time of the "puppy crazies", "adolescence", "puberty", whatever you call it. It is the time in the life between you and your pet, that most of us would like to forget about.

Sometimes aid or rescue is needed as early as 9 months of age. That cute, fuzzy, little puppy has grown up - in some cases to be a demon. We own a breed that takes its time to mature, and a good portion of the time his maturity does not catch up to his body development for some time. That "big" dog is still a puppy in spite of his size.

When problems arise, they don't always "just go away". You can't sit back and take a passive attitude. The better you understand the problem, and have all the facts together, the more confident and effective you will be in solving problems.

There are many different problems which crop up during puppy adolescence: fear of people, places or things that never seemed to bother the pup before; aggression towards strangers, other dogs, and even family members; over-protectiveness; barking; shyness; hyperactivity; destructiveness; etc. Many problems appear to reflect inconsistencies in early socialization and training; some result from bad experiences; and some from unstable temperament.

Some owners turn to "trainers" who only complicate the problems. Some seek help from the breeder of their dog, or from the B.C.A. when breeders won't or can't help. Often, with sound help, the problems can be solved.

However, a few people take the easy way out and abandon the dog, or try to give it away, under the misguided thought that the Briard is "rare" with many people willing to accept the problems created in the animal. Some just dump them in a pound with a clear conscience.

Where does the fault lie? Is it with breeders? Are the puppy buyers screened carefully enough? Are breeders giving new owners assistance for the life of the dog - or only until the check clears? Are too many litters being bred? Is breeding stock chosen - carefully with sound breeding knowledge, - with casual, unformed interest? Why are they being bred? What makes every Briard with dewclaws breedable? Do we give enough information as to what to expect as the puppy matures?

I wish we had the answers. The fact remains that more and more dogs are showing up on rescue. Sometimes we know the background, most of the time we don't. Sometimes the dog is placed, most of the time it isn't. BCA Rescue needs your help.

Homes (permanent & foster) are needed; Briarders willing to help in their own area; funds are always needed. Please volunteer. The Breed needs you.

Mary Bloom, Secretary and Rescue Chairman (718) 224-5275
Obedience

LOVE, PATIENCE, AND KINDNESS

Bob Harris

"Love is patient; Love is kind and is not jealous; Love does not brag and is not arrogant... Love never fails."

(1st Cor. 13: 4-5, 8 ASV)

There is a special relationship between a man and his dog; a relationship which has earned for the dog his place in human society. Men more eloquent than I have immortalized this bond in spoken and written essays, song, and poetry. It is, in a single word, love. It is a two-way street that is well-traversed in the sport of Obedience.

"LOVE IS PATIENT,..."

Without patience, it is difficult to teach a dog. If a trainer loses his patience for even a second, he often loses weeks of progress. Rather than think of a dog as being "unintelligent", and of man as being "intelligent", I prefer to think of a large language barrier existing between the two. If one has ever attempted to talk with another person with whom there was no common language, he can appreciate the concept of a language barrier.

In the case of two humans, a common system of vocalizations is shared and through patience, an understand can be reached. Man and dog do not share a common system of vocalizations, so the barrier is even larger. As a trainer, one must repetitively demonstrate that a given vocalization means a desire for the dog to perform a certain task. With patience, the barrier is breached and one says, "The exercise is learned."

"... LOVE IS KIND, ...

Kindness is many things; consistency, firmness, encouragement, come quickly to mind.

The greatest manifestation of kindness is rewarding one's dog when its performance has been in the direction of the desired response. Re-read that last sentence -- it was worded with due deliberation. It does not say praise the dog when it has completed the exercise perfectly. Each exercise in the obedience routines consists of several parts. When teaching a dog a new exercise, why withhold praise until all the parts are complete? It is kindness to let the dog know he is doing correctly as the exercise progresses.

Too frequently, the countenance of the dog says, "I think this is what my trainer wants. If he doesn’t holler, it must be right; but gosh, I wish I knew for sure!"

Permissiveness is not kindness. To allow the dog to do as it pleases in all things is not good for the dog. It must be taught what is acceptable and what is not acceptable, for its own health, safety and welfare. The definitions must be consistent.

Love does not stop with training; it carries over into the obedience ring. Some trainers have a knack for teaching a dog the obedience exercises. They can start with almost any dog, and in a short time the dog masters the task. A few dogs learn the exercises very readily and perform with great precision and showmanship. When one encounters a combination of a natural trainer and a receptive dog, he witnesses the consistent high scoring dog. This is a combination that all admire. Yet no one should be jealous, because he still has something no one else has: his own dog adores his master above everyone else. He should have love and pride of their accomplishments.

"... AND IS NOT JEALOUS, ...

Someday, somewhere, It is each person's time to come out on top. Whether it is a one-time win, or a trial-after-trial reaping of high scoring dog in trail awards, it is an achievement of which to be proud. But, bragging is not good sportsmanship or show love of one's dog and its successes. Be proud, but don't brag.

"... AND IS NOT ARROGANT, ...

One feature that distinguishes the Obedience Ring from the other ring, is the attitude of the majority of the participants. The handler in First Place will often sincerely congratulate the rest of those with qualifying scores, and offer to help those who are having problems with an exercise. Why the friendly attitude? Because all appreciate the work required to earn that coveted qualifying score, and do not have to prove their superiority to anyone.

"... LOVE NEVER FAILS ...

The reward? The devotion and companionship of that four-footed pal at one's feet. The dog earned his place with man in the first place by being useful, and retained that place by offering companionship.

Today's obedience trials are supposed to demonstrate the ability of a dog to be useful. A few dogs perform the exercises because they enjoy the work and challenge. Most dogs perform and enjoy the exercises because they want to please and win approval from their handler.

Ever look closely at the face of a dog that has been trained with the principles expounded here? Love and happiness radiate from that dog as he looks up at his master. There is a closeness in that relationship between an obedience trained dog and its master that is rarely seen between any other dog and its owner. That dog will go through more for his person than any human would. His love will never fail.
Mention tracking to most Briard owners and they tend to think of the mess that hairy Briard feet bring inside. However, for a few Briard owners the term tracking means one of the most enjoyable dog activities. There have been 14 Briards which have earned Tracking titles (TD), 4 which have earned Tracking Dog Excellent titles (TDX), 2 which have passed tracking events in Schutzhund trials (Sch.1), and 1 which has passed and advanced Schutzhund track (FH).

I'm sure that the owners of these Briards would agree that the exhilaration that comes from watching your dog earn a title in tracking is unique in the dog world, since in tracking the responsibility is on the dog.

Tracking comes naturally to all dogs. From the moment of whelping the newborn uses its nose. Watch the instincts that guide a puppy to its mother's nipples. Later, as the puppy grows you can see it track its mother and littermates while at play, or perhaps follow the scent of a rabbit or squirrel in the back yard. All dogs can track. Tracking tests measure the dog's ability and persistence in following an indicated scent when directed. That is what teaching tracking to a dog amounts to: channeling a dog's inborn ability to follow what you want; when you want; until you say stop.

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Tracking tests and advanced tracking tests are held throughout the United States and Canada, primarily in the spring and fall. If you want to find out about tracking, there are several steps you can follow: First, find out the rules; Second, read about tracking; Third, watch tracking; Finally, ask someone about tracking.

Tracking rules can be found in the AKC Obedience Regulations. Rules from Canadian or Schutzhund tracking are found in their respective regulations, but this article will focus on AKC events.

Basically, to earn the title of TD, a dog must follow a pre-laid track of 440 - 500 yards and locate an article that is at the end of the track. The handler does not see the track before starting and only knows where it starts and in which direction the first leg of the track goes. The track was laid between 30 minutes and 2 hours prior to the dog's start, by a stranger to the dog. The track has at least two right-angle turns (typically four). The dog is worked in a harness and on a line of 20 - 40 feet and must lead the handler along the course that the tracklayer walked, until the article is found.

To earn a TDX title, the track is 800 - 1,000 yards in length, laid between 3 and 5 hours prior to the start, has 4 articles to be located, has at least three turns (usually many more), and has been crossed by two people, in addition to the tracklayer. The TDX track also uses a variety of types of ground and obstacles (fences, streams, woods, etc.) to challenge the dog. There is only a single flag start and the dog must detect the direction in which the track runs.
TRACKING, continued

Tracking equipment is relatively simple. You'll need a tracking harness, tracking line, articles, and tracking stakes (to mark the location of tracks in training). Harnesses are available from most large dog equipment suppliers. Lines can be as simple as a length of close line or other lightweight cord, or nylon web lines are also available. You might consider wearing gloves to protect your hands. There's nothing like trying to hold a fast-moving adult Briard with your bare hands! Articles can be most anything, but usually are brown cotton work gloves, or something similar. Tracking stakes vary greatly. Every tracker has their own special style. Some people favor high-tech metal stakes about 4 or 5 feet high, with riveted spikes to make them easy to insert in any type of ground, with reflective tape or ribbons to make them easy to see. Other people take a simpler approach with a bundle of tomato stakes dipped in paint. It really doesn't matter what you use, but if you carry them long enough you'll find that lightweight is desirable.

For those who have a desire to learn more about tracking and about training dogs to track, there are a number of books available. Reading can give you some basic knowledge of what scent is and what affects it, but it is usually difficult to apply without actually seeing dogs work. If possible, go out and watch a tracking test and ask questions of the people there.

Unlike most other dog activities, tracking is a pass/fail event. Being non-competitive, most tracking enthusiasts are happy to share their knowledge. Tracking is an all-weather activity. If you get hooked, be prepared for wind, rain, snow, sleet, mud, and all other forms of outdoor pleasures. If there are people who track in your area, they'll usually be happy to have you come and watch their training. there are many different ways of training tracking. All of them work for some dogs and some handlers. Each dog is an individual and one must use common sense. Like all other types of training, you must match the techniques to the personality of the individual dog and handler. Tracking is an ideal activity for the young puppy. There is no better way to establish a bond with the new dog than through the time spent out tracking.

If you've read to this point and are still interested or need help, then there's one other source you can consult, the BCA Tracking Committee. Feel free to contact either:
Dave Behrens, 1309 S. Lloyd, Lombard, IL 60148 (312/620-5036), or
Julie Treinis, Hollis Street, Dunstable, MA 01827 (617/649-6749).

INQUIRIES INVITED
Janet Couture • (419) 822-5859 after 8:00 p.m.
HERDING AND THE "CITY DOG"

Take a city dog and an equally citified owner, mix with a herd of sheep and what do you have? I couldn't begin to imagine.

Suzette's Tanzer New Edition, T.T. is my first Briard. Not only is he a good friend and family member, through him I have met wonderful people, and have been involved in many new activities. Seven o'clock walks every morning (an insistent cold nose in your face leaves you little choice but to rise and shine); conformation showing; and our weekly battle of wills in obedience class, are the activities included in our regular routine. Then there is herding, the most unusual and most exciting for Tanzer.

My introduction to herding was through the Michigan-Ohio Briard Club. We observed a herding demonstration by Pat Morgan and Laurie Thai, at Laurie's home in Goodrich, Michigan. We were then invited to attend the weekly herding classes with our dogs, for instinct testing. I decided to try it with Tanzer.

As I said, I couldn't imagine what Tanzer's reaction would be, but two weeks later I found myself at Laurie's with about 10 other dogs, all in various stages of training and all very eager. Soon it was Tanzer's turn. The other handlers were anxious to see what a Briard would do, but not nearly as anxious as I.

The country air and barnyard smells had gotten to him. Acting very excited and "up", Tanzer dragged me across the yard. Pat asked me to let Tanzer loose in a pen with three sheep. He walked in with his nose glued to the ground, not noticing the sheep. Pat then suggested that I walk towards the sheep to get his attention. As I did, the sheep started to move away. Tanzer instantly alerted and two of the sheep were soon gathered in a corner of the pen. The third had split from the group and Tanzer turned and was after him.

That was the end of the instinct test. Instinct testing is not actual herding. Training for herding and trials, like everything else, takes months of hard work. Instinct testing is usually about a fifteen minute period where a dog, exposed to stock for the first time, is evaluated only in regard to interest and instinct. The dog is graded on a pass/fail basis and not allowed to run the sheep pointlessly.

For the next four months, every Thursday we drove 60 miles one way, for our herding class. I needed as much training as Tanzer. Each owner works their own dog and many of our mistakes were my fault. But we did progress, and by the end of summer, we were working five sheep out in the open yard, then penning the sheep at the end of our turn.

We were working towards entering a trial in mid-October. Unfortunately, due to weather and other obligations (the BCA Specialty being one) we missed several weeks of practice just prior to the trial. Pat said we could still try it, but since no one had ever seen a Briard work, she hoped he would do a good job and really impress everyone. I agreed and we went to the trial to observe and learn only.

Laurie plans on starting classes again in the spring. Tanzer and I will be there! Karen Trueman, Herding Chairman
THEN CAME CALVIN

Our breeder told us at the onset, "Briards are wonderful dogs, but they're NOT for everyone." No problem, we thought. We lived with a cantankerous Welsh Terrier and were enamored of our Old English for 12 years. We were dog people. We could cope.

Then came Calvin.

My daughter and I instantly became symbols of the battered wife, abused child syndromes. We had bruises from his wagging tail that would whip our calves, or his "gentle" 12-pound paw that begged for affection. Calvin was b-i-g. I guess I never fathomed "big-ness" until the 80-pound, eight-month-old began to welcome me home from work each day. His hearty greeting often pinned me against a wall as I was "jawed" with his loving nibbles. But I mentally kept training myself for this new housemate. He was a pup. And he was only acting like a pup (a pup in a giant's body), but not to worry. A positive hype would help me endure, even though it did not quell my naivety.

Ffreud would have diagnosed Calvin as a dog in his "oral" phase. In canine nomenclature, he was a chewer. Yet, he was never blatantly destructive and only in our absence did he consider our house his a la carte menu. He ate the wainscot from the wall, downed reams of toilet paper (before discovering that it makes marvelous room decorations), and after dredging laundry baskets, incessantly adorned the grand piano with dirty underwear.

And this was a virgin dog who discovered the joys of Nature in our back yard. During his first week he consumed flats of pachysandra and plucked azalea and rhododendron bushes bare. With the quickness of a chameleon's tongue, he could reduce a rose to his epicurean delight. Like Ferdinand, he preferred to sit in a field of clover devouring every verdant morsel, than combat the tug-of-war obedience classes. Our veterinarian wondered about this transcendental dog. His stools were ridden with pollen. Now in his culinary trek (always in our absence), he could consume in an average day, as a "supplement" to his lamb's diet, kiwis, avocados and a crop of very ripe pears. (I forgot to remove the fruit bowl). But the piece de resistance came one Monday when I was detained at the doctor's office after work. I called my daughter to start the hamburgers with the defrosted meat. Her response, "What meat?"

"The meat on the counter," I retorted, impatient with this fourteen-year-old who never finds anything unless it's her ski equipment or her $60 tennis skirt.

"There's no meat on the counter."

"Kristen, for the last time, look in the sink or on top of it near the faucet."

With her defensiveness building, she said, "I'm telling you there is no meat...wait." Abruptly she stopped. A pause. Then, uncontrollable laughter. Screaming into my ear, she exclaimed, "Oh, no, Mom. You're not going to believe this. I just found a piece of styrofoam on the floor..."

"Oh my God! He ate our dinner!"

Now, most people would probably have gotten rid of Calvin by now. So, why do we continue to endure even those days when I doubt that we shall prevail? Calvin is not just a d-o-g. He's family. And when a family member needs love and guidance, others rally around him. We're so enthralled with his "Intelligence" and his sparkling personality that we're even into believing our rationalizations. He's a puppy. He'll outgrow it.

And with positive reinforcement, obedience and conformation classes, and more obedience training (I don't think "more" will ever be enough), he has improved. You see, we learned to modify our behavior in order to improve his. Restrict him if he's destructive and remove temptation in our absence. I now store my fruit bowl on top of the refrigerator and thaw my meat in the dishwasher (it has a lock).

After all, this won't last forever. This is a bright animal. His attention span excels that of many of my students. His problem-solving abilities make me wonder if he's not a reincarnated Napoleon, or perhaps a Charlemagne. Our mission, then, is to direct that intelligence to help him conform to our life style. And this is the ultimate in behavior modification, both his and ours.

So, often I think of that initial warning. No, Briards are NOT for everyone. But be assured, Calvin is for us!

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

OWN SIX HOURS
OF BRIARD WATCHING
on one VHS video tape

Prepared by the
B.C.A. AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE
1978 RASSEMBLEMENT VIDEO ($35)
1982 RASSEMBLEMENT VIDEO ($35)

Order one or both!

Send check and order to:
Rob Ferber
6175 West M-36, Pinkney, MI 48169

["$5 pays for the tape; $30 goes to the '87 Rassemblement Fund.]

*********************************************************
Shona has earned a PRODUCER OF DISTINCTION SILVER CERTIFICATE as the Dam of 10 American Champions of Record as published in the AKC Gazette through November, 1985. HIS PUBLICATIONS has awarded her this certificate using the Original Schlintz System. This award was accomplished with two litters - Litter #1 - 11 puppies, 9 champions; Litter #2 - 1 puppy, 1 champion.

The first 9 get were sired by Am./Can. Ch. Sirhan Drover. The 10th dog was sired by Am./Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's My Le Beauchien. Thank you to all the owners that made this award possible by their hard work!

SUSAN & MARGARET McCormick
DROMORE KENNELS
25743 Culver
St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48081
(313) 772-3897 (After 6:00 p.m. weekdays)
What exactly is Junior Showmanship? It was originally intended to encourage youngsters to participate in the sport of dog showing, even though they were considered too young to actively compete in breed competition. It was a fun time had by all, with judges sometimes picked at random at the last minute - often it was a handler showing that day.

There was much camaraderie between both the kids and parents at ringside. We'd go over and enjoy watching the future handlers of America in the ring. I often then, and still do now, co-own dogs with juniors, who either can't afford to have their own show dog, or pay the rising fees for junior showmanship only. Also, some liked the idea of learning to handle different breeds, to broaden their knowledge.

As I became more involved in showing dogs myself, and in watching juniors, I sadly became aware of a change taking place, in and around the ring. No longer were families sitting around enjoying watching everyone do their best; now it's constant bickering about the faults of the children, not their good points. If little Johnny or Susie doesn't win, they are immediately jumped on, by their "loving" parents as they come out of the ring. They criticize their every move. How easily they seem to forget the good things that were done in the ring as well!

Fortunately there are still many families out there who are very supportive of their kids, win or lose. With their help, we can get back to the good old days, and once again turn Junior Showmanship into a fun class.

After all, this is the age where these future handlers are forming their habits for the future. They need positive attitudes and good sportsmanship. The only thing worse than a bad loser is a bad winner who gloats over the misfortunes of the not-so-lucky.

***

Dear Juniors,

I would like input from any junior handlers out there. Please send me any show news (wins, etc.) that you have, as well as ideas for articles, questions and tips on handling. Your ideas would make good articles for others to read.

I'm planning an article on judges and junior showmanship. Any input on this subject would be appreciated, such as quality (pro or con) of judging, what you think the judges should or shouldn't do, etc.

Thanks Kids,
Marsha

Marsha Clamp, Jr. Showmanship Chairman
9-37 Boyd Rd. RFD 7, Londonderry, NH 03053
603 - 432-8326

BEST IN SWEEPSTAKES & BEST JUNIOR was awarded to CH. FOX LAIR VAVAVA VOOM, shown with owner Valerie Fox (R.) and Sweeps Judge, Pat Long (L.).

BEST SENIOR IN SWEEPSTAKES LINDEAUX VINTAGE L'ORSON pictured (L-R) with judge Patricia Long, owner Linda Wells, breeder Mary Bloom and owner Rob Ferber.
CH. JOHN'S PASHTU DE STRATHCONA

Posh has now captured Best of Breed honors at the National B.C.A. Specialty for the third time. He is proudly owned by breeders, Jerry and Stephanie Katz, and handled by Jerry.

CH. TANZY D'OCCASION, TD

Tanzy was awarded B.O.S. honors by Specialty Judge, Mr. Clifford Ganson (left). Tanzy is handled by her breeder and owner, David Behrens.
WINNERS DOG & BEST OF WINNERS

CH. RICHLEN VIEW FROM THE TOP, owned by Bob & Kelly Walter and handled by Bob, finished his championship with this special win.

WINNERS BITCH

VIRAGE OF BEARDSANBROW was handled to Winners Bitch by her owner/handler, Janis Charbonneau.

RESERVE WINNERS DOG

Reserve winner, PHYDEAUX VELVET COWBOY is owned by Kathy Fitzpatrick and Mary Lou Tingley and handled by Kathy.

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH

Reserve bitch, ROMAN'S ULTIMATE DREAM was owner handled to her win by Jean Heft.
VETERAN DOG

CH. PHYDEAUX 
LUVEM N LEAVEM, CD, winner of the Veteran Dog Class is owned by Judy Odom and Terry Miller, and handled by Art Tingley.

VETERAN BITCH

CH. BEARDSANBROW'S N'EST PAS, UDT, was handled by owner David Behrens to top the Veteran Bitch Class.

Puppy Bitch, 6-9 mos. Class, was won by VOUS ET NUL AUTRE DE BEJAUNE owned by M. Weitz M. Greenberg, E.J. & William Bailey.

The 12 - 18 mos. Bitch Class was won by VOTRE MAGIC MARKER DE LINDEAU owned by Linda Bullard (right) and Linda Wells (handling).
The 1985 Veterans Class winners also captured the STUD DOG & BROOD BITCH honors: Ch. Phydeaux Luvem N Leavem (above) and Ch. Beardsanbrow's N'Est Pas, UDT (below) pictured with their offspring.

CH. TANZY D'OCCASION TD, bred, owned, and trained by David Behrens was H.I.T. with a score of 195 from the Novice B Class. Tanzy who went on to B.O.S. in breed classes, is pictured above with Dave and Specialty Obedience Judge, Mr. Robert Gates.
I enjoyed reading Barbara Lynch's article about her experience with temperament testing (Fall '85 Dew Claw). She provided a good description of a temperament test.

The following is a list of Briards who passed the test and have been awarded a T.T. number by the American Temperament Test Society, Inc.:

TT-1-FB Can/Am CH. SILVERMOON LA JOIE DE VIVRE Can/Am UD
Christine and Roland Duval

TT-2-FB Am/Can. CH. PAPILLON DE TIERRA DE ORO, CD
Michael and Cheryl Foote

TT-3-FB CH. UZIZ AKSHANIT DE STRATHCONA
Jerome and Stephanie Katz

TT-4-FB BELLESPRIT MERIAH, CD
Barbara Lynch

TT-5-FB CH. AIGNER TAKE NOTICE
Donald Wilson

TT-6-FB Am/Can. CH. REMY-MARTIN DE STRATHCONA
Russell and Brigitte Merz

TT-7-FB SUZETTE'S TANZER NEW EDITION
Karen M. Trueman

TT-8-FB Am/Can. CH. JOHN'S PASHTU DE STRATHCONA
Jerome and Stephanie Katz

TT-9-FB CH. AIGNER TOUCH OF SASS
Paulette Schick

TT-10-FB Am/Can. CH. CHEIN VELU'S UNDINE ANIMEE CD
Brigitte and Russell Merz

If you have any questions about temperament testing, or would like to serve as a Temperament Testing Committee member, please feel free to contact me. I will try to answer all questions in the Dew Claw as this will provide a convenient way to provide the entire membership with additional information on temperament testing.

Cheryl Foote, Temperament Testing Chairman
9428 Oakmont Dr., Grand Blanc, MI 48449
(313) 695-1467

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The Briard

This hardbound, full-length book is the most complete work ever written about Briards.

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Diane McLeroth, P.O. Box 450, Baraboo, WI 53913

All profits go to support the eye study for Briards.

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BRIARDS INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA

We regret to report the sudden death of Brian Beveridge, in January, at his home in Australia.

Brian, an experienced dog fancier, has earned his place in Briard History as the person instrumental in introducing the Breed to Australia. He has been a BCA Member for over ten years. He traveled all the way from "down under" to attend B.C.A.'s 1978 Rassemblement, where he made many American friends. He will long be remembered for his sincere interest, his marvelous sense of humor and charm, and his devotion to quality in Briards.

Brian will be sincerely missed, and our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

Brian wrote the following feature for B.C.A.'s Briards International, to help build rapport and understanding between American and Aussie Briarders. It seems appropriate to include it in this issue of the Dew Claw.

When asked to write something on Briards in Australia, I said yes, O.K. Then later thought, what can I write that would interest anyone about our lot? Well, here goes!

Briards were first imported into Australia late in 1974, first shown in early 1975, and the first litter was born on Australia Day, January 26th, 1976.

We have only had 10 to 12 Briards imported into Australia since 1974, and from that nucleus, there are probably about 250 Briards spread around Australia. About a quarter of these would be shown, and to have 6 Briards in a show is a good entry at any time. At the larger capital city, "Royal Agricultural Shows", the entries can amount to approximately 20 Briards. Basically, the size of Australia prohibits large entries in any one area.

Briards have done well in the show ring, right from the beginning. The first time they were shown in this country, a fawn bitch, Desamee Nanie Bear (imported from U.K.) won Best Puppy in Group at a championship show, and since then, many Best in Groups and In-Show awards have been obtained. The supreme award has been won in Perth, Western Australia, by Ch. Aacarsha Navarre, winning Best Exhibit in Show, at a championship dog show. This was Australia's first, and to the best of my knowledge, the first in the southern hemisphere for a Briard.

A few have been shown in obedience. The most notable was "Sambo" owned by Terri Szafner from Sydney. Sambo gained his final points at the Spring Fair, a 3-day show in Sydney. He gained 191 points the first day, 192 the second day, and on the third day sat down at the start and let his owner do the work. This dog had fallen off a step at 6-months-of-age and broke a hind leg, and so he could not be shown at championship
shows. At the time of the Spring Fair, he had a badly cut pad on a front paw, and was trialed wearing a bandage and sock. Just shows what a Briard can do with the right sort of footwear!

There have not been any breed clubs for Briards in Australia (until recently) due to the vast size of the country and our few animals spread all around. This makes the formation of a workable club virtually impossible. Enthusiasm, never-the-less, does not wain amongst the Briard owners, with everyone trying to further the Breed in some way or the other. Even with all this, we still have incidents in the show ring where judges show lack of knowledge for the Breed, or even what breed it is!

Examples: "Never saw a black Old English before. Quite interesting!" "Put that Afghan down with the others!" "The Giant Schnauzer!" "That long legged Skye!" Oh, then there was the very knowledgable judge who refused a 1st and Challenge because the dog definately did not have double dewclaws. Of course, the Groenendal owner was most upset!

In Sydney and Melbourne, there are breed lectures sponsored by the Working Dog Clubs in the respective states, New South Wales and Victoria. These are actually run by the K.C.C. to train and assist aspiring judges (or perspiring judges) to further their knowledge on the Breed. These are open for any person to attend, if they wish. Slides and films are shown on the breed, whilst a lecturer describes the breed standard. Live specimens of dogs are also available for people to study.

In conjunction with this, we have Field Nights for the aspiring judges to put what they have heard and seen into practice. This usually consists of 6 of each breed being paraded in show fashion for the aspirants to go over personally, and place in order of merit, according to their thinking. An examiner, usually a licensed all-breed judge, then questions the aspirants on the reasons for their placements. At a later date, when tested for their Group License, or if when judging, and the breed concerned appears before you, in theory you do not go in cold, but have had knowledge of the breed and what to look for.

Our show system is basically the same as in England, with Challenge Certificates being awarded to dog and bitch. Points gained on each Challenge are 5 plus 1 for each dog beaten, and when you reach a total of 100, your dog becomes a Champion.

We also follow the British Standard. Therefore Briards must retain natural ear carriage. Cropped eared dogs are disqualified from the show ring. However, if you had a cropped dog imported, you could breed it, but not show it.

Our quarantine laws are very strict, as this is a rabies-free country. Therefore, any dog arriving into Australia must come from the United Kingdom direct, and is quarantined for three months upon arrival. Any dog from the U.S.A. must go to England first, and must spend 12 months in England, prior to being shipped to Australia.

This will give you an idea as to why we do not have many imports.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NEW CHAMPIONS**

**CH. BIGTREE'S TEQUILLA SUNRISE** - owned by Barbara Lynch, finished his championship on 8/10/85. He is sired by Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence out of Bigtree's Phaedra, bred by Roger Eibl and Barbe Lynch.

**CH. VICTOR DE LA PORTE DE CHOISY** - Victor, owned by Meg Weltz and Mike Greenberg and handled by Meg, finished his championship on 8/18/85 with a group 3 under John Stanek. Victor was bred by Jean-Claude Bernautes (France) out of Rebecca de la Petite Suisse du Nord and sired by Musso du Mont Sainte Marguerite.

**CH. RICHLLEN VIEW FROM THE TOP** - owned and handled by Bob & Kelly Walter, finished his championship at the B.C.A. Specialty 8/24/85. He was sired by Ch. Beardsanbrow's Utopia out of Ch. Chateaubriard Nouvelle Nova, CD and was bred by Ellen Walton & Richard McDearmon.

**CH. AIGNER VANDERMINT** - Pepper, owned by Mary Lou Tingley and Regina Keiter, finished his championship at the Westchester show on September 8, 1985 under judge, Mr. Forsyth. His sire is Ch. Beardsanbrow's Utopia and his dam is Ch. Aigner Rum Toddy. He was handled by Art Tingley.

**CH. DROMORE'S UNFLAPPABLE CASEY** - Casey, owned by Dr. Richard Sills & Gerry Sills, and handled by his breeder, Sue McCormick, finished his championship on 9/28/85 at the Monroe K.C. show under Mr. Brunotte. His sire is Ch. Pa'Chick's Limited Edition and his dam is Am/Can. Ch. Dromore's Promises-Promises, Am/Can. CD.

**CH. MONET'S TARA** - owned and bred by Ruth Monast, completed her championship on 12/1/85. Her sire is Ch. Monet's Rip Van Winkle and her dam is Ch. Sady du Roux et du Noir.

**CH. BIGTREE'S TRAVIS** - Travis, owned by Paula Keller and Barbara Lynch finished his championship on 10/26/85. He was bred by Roger Eibl and Barbe Lynch out of Bigtree's Phaedra and sired by Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence.

**CH. RUDIEUX URSINIA, CDX** - finished on 11/17/85. She is owned by David Calvert and Karen Farkas, and was bred by Gordon & Fran Davis. She was sired by Ch. Virage Spinnaker Claude out of Ch. Phydexau Peppermint Patty.

**CH. AMBER LA AMOUR DE KNOLLWOOD** - Amber, owned by Linda Knoll, finished her championship at the age of 9 months by going B.O.W. at the Oakland County show on 11/23/85, under judge, Patrick Doniere, Jr. She finished in nine shows in a period of six weeks with 5 straight majors from puppy class. She is out of Ch. Tigresse de Knollwood and sired by Ch. Lindeaux Trademark.

**CH. LINDEAUX UNDOUBTEDLY A SAINT** - owned and handled by Linda Wells & Rob Ferber finished on 9/29/85. He was bred by Karen Downey out of Beardsanbrow's Octoma sired by Ch. Lindeaux Trademark.
CH. SNOAIR’S ALTER EGO - owned by Marsha Clamp and Stephanie Kodis. Finished her championship on 11/23/85. She was bred by Marsha Clamp out of Ch. Suzon du Coteau d’Avranche and sired by Ch. Ecar Second Chapter, CD.

CH. VONY V D RIDDERWEIDE - owned by Meg Weitz and Michael Greenberg. Finished her championship on 11/03/85. She is a Dutch import bred by K. Cornelis-Lodenstein out of Rebecca VD Riddrweide and sired by Quill des Carrieres Noires.

CH. RICHLEN SCARLET O’HARA - owned by Faye Sloan, finished her championship on 12/07/85. She was bred by Richard McDearmon & Ellen Walton out of Ch. Chateaubriard Nouvelle Nova, CD and sired by Ch. Rejou Turquoise de Capucine.

CH. BIGHTREE’S TWICE TOLD TALES - owned by Jill Carruthers & Barbara Lynch, finished his championship on 12/07/85. He was bred by Roger Eibl & Barbara Lynch out of Ch. Chateaubriard Nouvelle Nova, CD and sired by Ch. Nestor de L’Eminence.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR THESE OBEDIENCE TITLES

VETO DE L’EMINENCE, C.D. - Veto completed his Companion Dog title on 11/02/85. He is owned by Margaret Shappard and June Shew, and was bred by June out of Ch. Society de L’Eminence, sired by Ch. Nestor de L’Eminence.

RADIEUX URSINIA, CDX - completed her Companion Dog Excellent title on 10/13/85. She is owned by David Calvert and Karen Forkas and bred by Fran & Gordon Davis out of Ch. Phyeaux Peppermint Patty, sired by Ch. Virage Spinnaker Claude.

CH. OLIVIA LA VOYAGEUR DULHUT, CD, TD - owned and trained by Sarah and Mimi Long earned her Tracking Dog Excellent title on 9/22/85. Livi was bred by Dick and Mimi Long out of Ch. Jolie de la Rivette, CDX, sired by Ch. Montargis de Linneau.

Can. CH. CHAPARRAL’S SKEETER, Am. CD, Can. CDX - Skeeter, owned and trained by Avis Pool, finished her Canadian C.D.X. last fall with scores of 193, 188 and 189. Bred by Pat Morale, her sire is Ch. Le Beaucien’s Rye Chaparral, CDX and her dam is Ch. Dromore’s Petite Chaparral, U.D.

O.F.A. CERTIFICATION

FB-252G 25F Chien Velu Undine Animee, Ch. (R. & B. Merz)
FB-253G 34F Tiffany de L’Eminence (J. Shew)
FB-254G 25M-T Rogue Unique du Oakleaf (L. Rubens)
FB-255G 52F Blyrin’s Sheyenne (L. B. Lowell)
FB-256G 80F Troupeaux Orielle Licol (M. & S. Gresco)
FB-257G 31M C’est Bonheur Tomorrow (D. & V. Lydon)
FB-258G 41F Tiffany de Knollwood (J. Carroll)
FB-259E 28M U Know Jeton Deux de Bonheur, Ch. (J. Beahan)
FB-260E 49F-T Chaparral’s Spun Gold (A. Lee & P. Morale)
FB-261G 29M Chien de Sel U B Good (S. Erickson)
FB-262G 41M Tarass d’Occasion (G. & D. Raflo)
FB-263F 33F C’est Bonheur Woodbine Tinsel, Ch. (T. Miller, K. McCann, J. Odom)
FB-264G 25F Aligner Touch of Sass, Ch. (K. & P. Schick)
FB-266G 41F Talia d’Occasion (Karen & Robert Wells)

LETTERS

We were given a Briard bitch and are tracing her origins. Someone adopted her from the humane society as a puppy and she led a lonely, dreary life until we got her. When given to us she was hardly a year old, and had a German Shepherd mix puppy. He was the sole survivor of a litter of twelve, which shows what poor pre-natal care she had. We had her spayed and neutered her mixed pup. They are a joy, and we love them dearly. The bitch has turned us on to Briards. She is the sweetest, most gentle bundle of fur in town.

Thank you for your help and information.

(From the S.W.)

After some time without Briards we now have two “boys”. The house is normal once again—mud paw prints on the kitchen floor, wet doggie smell all over the house (had 17 days of rain), hair on the beds, big black noses at the table, etc. It’s just like old times and we love it!

N.

We’re so glad to see the Dew Claw! We get another slicker, more expensive breed magazine (not Briard), and it can’t compare for content.

Bubba’s our only Briard now. He’s always been a bit of a tyrant, and old age has barely mellowed him. His hind legs fail him now and then, but otherwise he’s absolutely hale and hearty.

We still enjoy seeing Briards at dog shows, and love reading about them in the Dew Claw.

M.

I wanted to thank you for all the help you have given me over the last few years. Every time I have written with questions you have always been extremely helpful. My experiences in the Shepherd club and Beardie club have been different.

D.

OPINION FROM OUTSIDE THE BREED

We in Rescue have become garbage collectors. We (have to) pick up the “litter” of breeders who don’t believe in spay/neuter contracts, but who scream bloody murder when their kennel names are mentioned in the pedigree of a rescued dog or bitch.

How much pride can a breeder really have in his kennel name, how much concern for his reputation, when pet quality pups are bred indiscriminately, when they shouldn’t have been allowed to breed at all? Are breeders somehow so removed from reality, that it allows them to plead innocent and ignorant of what is happening to pure-bred dogs outside their show circles?

It is my personal opinion that the person who breeds just one litter a year without enforcing spay/neuter contracts, contributes to the success enjoyed by puppy mills and backyard breeders. And it is my personal opinion that the person who breeds many litters a year in the same fashion, runs a puppy mill in disguise, no matter how efficient and spotless; no matter how well-known the Champions.

Monique Consolasia

This letter originally appeared in the “Mailbag” of the AKC Gazette

MARCH 1986
Ownership: Jean-Claude Bernatets (France)

Whelped: January 16, 1984

Championship: August 18, 1985

New Companion Dog

M ZANDER EN NOIR DE BEJAUNE, C.D. (dog)

Owners: E.J. Bailey and William Bailey
Breeders: Meg Weitz and Michael Greenberg

Companion Dog Degree: July 27, 1985
Whelped: February 20, 1983

Sire: Bejaune Prix Academy d'Antigo
(Ch. Je Sambo Noir de Charlemagne
Ch. Joie de Vivre de Charlemagne
Ch. Just Tigger de Charlemagne

Dam: Ch. Rubis de Bejaune
(Acteon Majolica of Antigo
Trained & handled by William Bailey

New Champion

CHAMPION VICTOR DE LA PORTE DE CHOISY (dog)

Owners: Meg Weitz and Michael Greenberg
Breeder: Jean-Claude Bernatets (France)

Companion Dog Degree: July 27, 1985
Whelped: February 20, 1983

Sire: Musso du Mont Sainte Maugerite
(Ch. Je Sambo Noir de Charlemagne
Ch. Joie de Vivre de Charlemagne
Ch. Just Tigger de Charlemagne

Dam: Rebecca de la Petite Suisse du Nord
(Igor du Mont Sainte Marguerite
(Ina du Mont Sainte Marguerite
(jolli Jumper de Casa Poni

Trained & handled by William Bailey

Judge: Mrs. Edeltraud Laurin
Handler: Meg Weitz

MARCH 1986
CHAMPION RICHLLEN VIEW FROM THE TOP (dog)

 Owners: Bob & Kelly Walter
 Breeders: Ellen Walton and Richard McDearmon

 Championship: August 23, 1985
 Whelped: August 28, 1984

 Sire: Ch. Beardsanbrow's Utopia
 (Ch. Phydeaux Windfall C.D.
 (Ch. Piquante d'Occasion

 Dam: Ch. Chateaubriard Nouvelle Nova, CD
 (Ch. Chateaubriard Joyride

 Judge: Mr. Clifford Ganson
 Handled by owners

CHAMPION DROMORE'S UNFLAPPABLE CASEY (dog)

 Owners: Dr. Richard and Gerry Sills
 Breeder: Susan McCormick

 Championship: September 28, 1985
 Whelped: February 28, 1985

 Sire: Ch. Pa'Chick's Limited Edition
 (Ch. Ralph des Elfes de Malouse CD
 (Am/Can Ch. Pa'Chick's Unchained Melody
 (Am/Can Ch. Sirhan Drover

 Dam: Am/Can. Ch. Dromore's Promises-Promises Am/Can. CD
 (Ch. Pa'Chick's Ms-Be-Haven, Am/Can CD

 Handled by Sue McCormick

MARCH 1986
NEW CHAMPION

CHAMPION VONY V.D. RIDDERWEIDE (bitch)

Owners: Meg Weitz and Michael Greenberg
Breeder: K. Cornelis-Lodinstein (Holland)

Championship: November 3, 1985
Whelped: October 21, 1984

Sire: Quill des Carrier Noire
Dam: Rebecca V D Ridderweide

Judge: Mrs. Maynard K. Drury
Handler: Michael Greenberg

NEW CHAMPION

CHAMPION AMBER LA AMOUR DE KNOLLWOOD (bitch)

Owner: Linda Knoll
Breeder: Judith Nettles

Championship: November 23, 1985
Whelped: January 28, 1985

Sire: Ch. Lindeaux Trademark
Dam: Ch. Tigresse de Knollwood

Judge: Mr. Lou Harris
Handler: Norma Gibson-Kelly

MARCH 1986
Cancer. The world itself has an ominous ring because of everything we associate with it. Pets, like humans, are prone to this disorder. And, just as in humans, the earlier the problem is diagnosed, the better chance there is of resolving the situation. The only question is, how can a pet owner tell if his or her pet might have cancer?

There are a series of possible warning signs, according to Dr. Greg Ogilvie, a veterinarian at the Univ. of Ill. Vet. Medicine Teaching Hospital, who specializes in small animal oncology (study of cancers).

The most noticeable warning sign is probably abnormal lumps or bumps that persist, or continue to grow.

"Pet owners should also watch for sores which don't heal, chronic weight loss, loss of appetite, bleeding or discharge from any body opening, offensive odor, difficulty eating or swallowing, hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina, persistent lameness or stiffness, and difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating," Dr. Ogilvie points out.

Cancer is quite common in pet animals. It is the cause of half of the deaths of pets over 10-years-of-age. Although it does tend to occur more often in older animals, young animals can get cancer, too. Some common cancers include bone cancer in large-breed dogs, mammary (breast) cancer in intact females, and prostate cancer in intact males.

Dr. Ogilvie stresses that ... although most of the tumors in dogs tend to be benign, he recommends that any bump on a dog should be examined by a veterinarian. Prompt diagnosis can prevent a more severe problem later.

"There are many different techniques that veterinarians can use to treat cancer," he points out. "Not all cancers can be cured, but we're pleased if we can make it stop growing, or at least slow it down, and sometimes to shrink. Yet, the bottom line is always the animal's comfort. If our treatment methods don't improve the affected animal's quality of life, then the treatment isn't worthwhile. An animal that feels worse from the side effects of cancer treatment, than from the cancer itself, would be better off without treatment...."

According to Dr. Ogilvie, surgery is one of the most common methods of treatment of cancer. Other methods of treatment include anti-tumor medications, radiation therapy, hyperthermia, and sometimes even biological response modifiers which encourage the animal's own body to fight off the cancer.

If you notice any lumps or signs of cancer in your pet, get a veterinary opinion. The sooner, the better!

O.F.A. REPORT

The O.F.A. (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) is using a new format to report dogs certified clear of hip dysplasia.

Formerly the O.F.A. numbers designate the breed (FB for Briards) and the number assigned each dog of that breed, if the dog was tattooed, a "T" is added as a suffix. The listing then gave the dog's name, registration number, sex and age in months at the time of X-ray. (FB-28 Carew CA-000980 M 37).

The new format includes phenotype, age, and sex as part of the O.F.A. number. For example; the breed designation (FB for Briards) and numerical sequence, the same as always. But, this is followed by the phenotype (E=excellent, G=good, and F=fair), then the age in months, and sex (M or F). The T suffix for tattooed dogs remains the same.

O.F.A. has asked us to point out that phenotypic information on dogs with O.F.A. number assigned prior to July 1985 will not be released. Also, O.F.A will not release information on dogs receiving a borderline or dysplastic evaluation.

Dr. Corley also cautions everyone on the use of the phenotypic data stating, "While the data is of value in pedigree studies and breeding decisions, the phenotype (E, G, F) of an individual dog without information on its parents and sibs has limited value. For example, a dog with an excellent (E) hip phenotype but out of a dysplastic parent or with less than 75% of its sibs being normal is a less desirable breeding prospect than one with a fair (F) hip phenotype that is out of normal parents and has over 75% of its sibs evaluated as normal." The October 15, 1985 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association carried an excellent article on "Trends in Hip Dysplasia Control" by Drs. E.A. Corley and P.M. Hogan. In one table, breeds with 100 or more evaluations from 1974 to 1984 were listed. This table indicates that the X-rays of 252 Briards had been evaluated during that time period. Based upon registrations for Briards, this is 10.5% of the eligible Briard population. Of the 252, 21.0% were dysplastic; 78.2% were normal; and 0.8% were borderline.

O.F.A. DOCUMENTED FREQUENCY OF DYSPLASIA

IN BRIARD POPULATION

Drs. Corley and Hogan caution:
"The reported frequency of dysplasia for each breed should not be interpreted to reflect the frequency in the general population, as O.F.A. evaluations are biased toward normality. Radiographs with obvious signs of dysplasia generally are screened by the attending veterinarian and are not submitted to O.F.A. However, breeders can safely use these frequencies as benchmarks to determine their kennel's position relative to frequency of hip dysplasia and to measure their progress in control of dysplasia."

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The new format includes phenotype, age, and sex as part of the O.F.A. number. For example; the breed designation (FB for Briards) and numerical sequence, the same as always. But, this is followed by the phenotype (E=excellent, G=good, and F=fair), then the age in months, and sex (M or F). The T suffix for tattooed dogs remains the same.

O.F.A. has asked us to point out that phenotypic information on dogs with O.F.A. number assigned prior to July 1985 will not be released. Also, O.F.A will not release information on dogs receiving a borderline or dysplastic evaluation.

Dr. Corley also cautions everyone on the use of the phenotypic data stating, "While the data is of value in pedigree studies and breeding decisions, the phenotype (E, G, F) of an individual dog without information on its parents and sibs has limited value. For example, a dog with an excellent (E) hip phenotype but out of a dysplastic parent or with less than 75% of its sibs being normal is a less desirable breeding prospect than one with a fair (F) hip phenotype that is out of normal parents and has over 75% of its sibs evaluated as normal." The October 15, 1985 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association carried an excellent article on "Trends in Hip Dysplasia Control" by Drs. E.A. Corley and P.M. Hogan. In one table, breeds with 100 or more evaluations from 1974 to 1984 were listed. This table indicates that the X-rays of 252 Briards had been evaluated during that time period. Based upon registrations for Briards, this is 10.5% of the eligible Briard population. Of the 252, 21.0% were dysplastic; 78.2% were normal; and 0.8% were borderline.

O.F.A. DOCUMENTED FREQUENCY OF DYSPLASIA

IN BRIARD POPULATION

Drs. Corley and Hogan caution:
"The reported frequency of dysplasia for each breed should not be interpreted to reflect the frequency in the general population, as O.F.A. evaluations are biased toward normality. Radiographs with obvious signs of dysplasia generally are screened by the attending veterinarian and are not submitted to O.F.A. However, breeders can safely use these frequencies as benchmarks to determine their kennel's position relative to frequency of hip dysplasia and to measure their progress in control of dysplasia."

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OFA REPORT, continued

CRITERIA USED TO CONTROL DYSPLASIA
APPLIES TO ALL POLYGENETIC TRAITS
DESIRABLE OR UNDESIRABLE

Criteria suggested to help in the control of hip dysplasia are:
1) Breed only normal dogs to normal dogs.
2) The normal dogs should come from normal parents and normal grandparents.
3) The normal dogs should have over 75% of their siblings being normal.
4) Choose a sire that has a record for producing normal progeny that exceeds that of the breed average.
5) Choose replacement bitches that have better hip joint conformation than that of their parents and that of the breed average.

These criteria are basically the same as those used by many breeders in selection for body conformation, temperament, and improvement of other polygenic traits. In other words, selective breeding practices used to control hip dysplasia should not be considered different from those used to enhance the desirable traits. The breeder can, and many breeders do, control hip dysplasia without loss of other traits, such as conformation and temperament.

Those breeders who are successful in controlling hip dysplasia, while maintaining the desirable traits of the breeding line, do not focus on a single trait to the exclusion of others.

For a copy of the complete JAVMA article, please contact:
Susan McCormick, BCA Representative to OFA
25743 Culver, St. Clair Shores, MI 48041
(313 - 772-3897)

ROCK & ROLL & RUB YOUNG PUPPIES

A study on emotional disturbance in puppies, conducted at Michigan State University (1962), indicates young puppies which are handled are more stable emotionally.

For the Michigan State study, a number of three week-old puppies from four breeds were divided into three groups. One group was rubbed and rocked for three minutes, three times a day. The second group was instead submitted to flashing light for the same time and frequency. The third group was the control group and was not subjected to any special stimulation.

The puppies who were rocked and rubbed tested very low in emotionality, while the visually stimulated group and the control group rated very high in emotionality.

BASIC BOOK LIST

For the Love and Understanding of Dogs

Prepared by Bob Gross
for his Training Classes in Bloomington, Indiana


Joachim Volard and Gail Tamashe Fisher. TRAINING YOUR DOG: The Step-by-Step Manual. New York: Howell Book House, 1983. Sane, practical, effective training methods. Very detailed and comprehensive, but could offer more material on inevitable training problems. Very fine opening chapter on how dogs learn and excellent later chapter on general behavior problems like chewing and biting. For techniques of basic obedience training, this is probably the best available book. The one serious eccentricity in the book is the suggested use of either a nylon training collar or a German pinch collar (neither recommended for Briards), instead of the traditional chain collar.


