THE BCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WEEKEND
AUGUST 15, 16, & 17
GENESEO, NEW YORK
DON'T MISS IT!

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DELEGATE TO THE A.K.C.
June Shew, P.O. Box 288, East Hartford, CT 06027

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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
SOMETHING NEW FOR THE '86 SPECIALTY

OPEN CLASSES TO BE DIVIDED BY COLOR

For the first time, the A.K.C. has permitted the B.C.A. to offer split Open Classes at our Specialty. THE OPEN DOG AND OPEN BITCH CLASSES WILL BE DIVIDED BY COLOR OF THE DOGS. We will offer OPEN BLACK, OPEN TAWNY and OPEN GREY classes.

If you are in doubt over which open class to enter your dog, please check your A.K.C. registration papers. The dog must enter the class color as it is listed on the registration papers (see example below). If you don’t have the AKC papers, please check with the individual who has them, or with your dog’s breeder.

This entry by color applies only to the Open Classes!

If you are unsure of how split Open Classes are run, check the Great Dane rings next time you go to a show. Great Dane Open Classes are often split this way. It allows for 2 extra class winners in each sex and allows equal attention to all colors - something that has sometimes been lacking in past Specialties.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WHEN YOU MAKE OUT YOUR SPECIALTY ENTRY, THAT YOU INCLUDE THE COLOR OF THE CLASS, IF YOU ENTER IN THE OPEN CLASSES. IF THE COLOR ISN’T INCLUDED ON THE FORM, THEN THE ENTRY IS NOT COMPLETE AND THEREFORE INVALID! Please include your phone number on all entries.

The sample entry on the facing page may help our newer Briarders in filling out the entry form.

Barbara Lynch
Specialty Chairman
7480 Big Tree Road
Livonia, NY 14487
716 - 367-2721

JUNE 1986
SPECIALTY WEEKEND
MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Following are the meals being offered on Specialty Weekend, August 15, 16, & 17. Choose the meals you wish, make your check payable to Briard Club of America, and send with the Reservation Form to:
Nancy Genari, Banquet Chairman
7630 Green Mill Road, Johnstown, OH 43031

FRIDAY, AUG. 15 - LUNCHEON BUFFET $7* per person
Deli Buffet includes assorted breads and rolls, ham, turkey, roast beef, pickles, pasta salad, beverages, sliced fresh fruits.

FRIDAY, AUG. 15 - ANNUAL BANQUET
Choices: 12 oz. Prime Rib of Beef - $19.00*
          Chicken Cordon Bleu - $12.00*
          Stuffed Filet of Sole - $11.00*

We will have a private cash bar in the Banquet Room

SUNDAY, AUG. 17 - SPECIALTY BOX LUNCHES $6.50* per lunch
Includes fresh fruit, brownies and choice of fruit juices
Choose one sandwich meat per box lunch ordered:
Roast Beef, Ham, or Turkey
and choice of bread: White or Rye
(* Prices include 7% tax and tip)

Please indicate number & type for each meal reserved
BUFFET LUNCHEON (Friday Noon)
   _____ Friday Buffet Luncheon(s) @ $7 per person
BANQUET (Friday evening)
   _____ Prime Rib of Beef dinner(s) @ $19 per person
   _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu dinner(s) @ $12 per person
   _____ Stuffed Filet of Sole dinners @ $11 per person
BOX LUNCHES (Sunday Noon)
   _____ Box Lunces @ $6.50 per person
Below, please indicate choice of one meat & and one bread for each box lunch ordered:

Name: ________________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________
Total amount enclosed: $ _______ Phone #: ________________

Marilyn Thorson (Rasmussen)
Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin

JUNE 1986
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BASED ON OUR PROUD HISTORY
WITH PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

POSIX X UNDINE
GRANDFATHER X GRANDDAUGHTER

AMERICAN CH. JOHN'S PASHTU DE STRATHCONA, TT, T.T.
AMERICAN CH. CHIEN VELL'S UNDINE ANIMEE, CD, TT

POSIX... 3 TIME BCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WINNER (1981, 84, 85)
UNDINE... BOW 1984 BCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY & SUPPORTED ENTRY

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* TEMPERAMENT TEST CERTIFICATE (AMERICAN TEMPERAMENT TEST SOCIETY)
** HERDING INSTINCT CERTIFICATE (MICHIGAN-ONTO BRION CLD)

NEWS & VIEWS

NEW CHAMPIONS

CH. CHAMPAGNE LE PEW - Pewie, owned by Sue Boldon and bred by Linda Carpenter, finished her championship at the Indianhead K.C. show under Velma Hiser. She is sired by Ch. Sirhan Medoc out of Ch. Champagne Cinnamon Breeze.

CH. VIRAGE OF BEARDSANBROW - owned by Valerie Fox & Janis Charboneau and bred by Karen Farkas, finished her championship on 9/29/85. She was sired by Ch. Beardsanbrow's Utopia out of Ch. Phydeaux Oh Susannah, CDX, TD.

CH. VIRAGE VENDREDI TREIZE - Friday, owned by Barbara Cossin Eichner & Stuart Eichner and handled by Art Tingley, with preliminary help from Fran Davis & Stuart Eichner, finished his championship at the Union County K.C. on 11/3/85 under Mrs. Bernard Freeman. He was bred by Karen Farkas, sired by Ch. Beardsanbrow's Utopia out of Ch. Phydeaux Oh Susannah, CDX, TD.

CH. VOTARIE MOOSALAMO DE TRIEL - Voltar, owned by Duncan & Nancy Stewart, finished his championship on Jan. 19th at the Pontiac K.C. show under Mr. Grivas. His sire is Ch. Aigner Take Notice and his dam is Ch. Triel d'Occasion.

CH. AGINER VIRTUE'S IT'S OWN REWARD - owned by Terry Miller, Katie McCann & Ken Fox finished her championship on Jan. 18th at the Livingston KC show under Mr. Thomas Logan. Her sire is Ch. Beardsanbrow's Utopia and her dam is Ch. Aigner Rum Toddy.

CH. BEARDSANBROW V D'OCCASION - Waver, owned by Donna Matey, Dave Behrens & Janis Charboneau, finished his championship on Feb. 23rd at the Minneapolis KC show under Mrs. Helen Miller Fisher. His sire is Ch. Beardsanbrow's Utopia and his dam is Ch. Beardsanbrow's N'Est Pas, Am/Can UDT, Sch. 1, AD.

CH. VOSU ET NUL AUTRE DE BEJANO - owned by E.J. & Bill Bailey, and breeders Meg Weitz & Michael Greenberg, finished her championship on 3/2/86. She was sired by Ch. Beardsanbrow's Norton out of Ch. The Bailywick's Rendez-Vous.

CH. LINDEAUX VINTAGE L'OURSON - Marley, owned by Rob Ferber & Linda Wells and bred by Mary Bloom, finished her championship on March 9th at the Detroit KC show under Mr. Melbourne T.L. Downing. Her sire is Ch. Lindeaux Trademark and her dam is Ch. Chateaubriard Risque, C.D.

CH. SUN VALLEY'S ANGE DE DIEU - owned by Adela Zargar and bred by Joe & Helen Gloyd, finished her championship on 3/9/86. She was sired by Ch. John's Pashtu de Strathcona out of Ch. Richlen Shirlee Temple.

CANADIAN CHAMPION

NEW Obedience Titles

CH. BIGTREE'S TAPESTRY, CD - owned by Eloise Spiegel and bred by R. Eibl & Barbara Lynch, finished his Companion Dog degree on Feb. 22nd. He was sired by CH. Nestor d l'Eminence out of Bigtree's Phaedra.

WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB SHOW

Westminster is one of the most prestigious shows in the dog world. This year there were entries from as far away as California. Here are the results:

BOB - Ch. Cloud Caps Critical Acclaim (Linda Pitzing & Gayle Anderson)
BOS Ch. Tosca de l'Eminence (Gerard & Martha Baudet)
WD/BW - Beardsanbrow's V Thriller (L. & W. Rittmaster)
WB - Chienne Voilee de Bejaune (Calysta & Wm. Queener and Meg Weitz & Mike Greenberg)

We would like to extend our sympathy to Don & Ginny Lyddon, who lost their Ch. D'Est Bonheur Tomorrow (Tommy) shortly after the show. Their young dog, Lately, was also ill but is hopefully on the mend.

HELPFUL HINTS

Don't forget SPRING is here and it's time to get our shaggy friends into the vet for their spring check-up. This exam should include a complete physical along with a heartworm check.

If your dog is due for DHLPP and rabies shots, please do not give them at the same time. We had a very frightening experience last year with Meggie. Trying to save an extra trip to the vet, we had them give her both shots the same day. When we arrived home, Meggie seemed slightly lethargic and went downstairs to take a nap.

About an hour later, she came upstairs, crying to go outdoors. She was weaker than she wanted to come back in; she then started shaking her head like she might have an ear infection.

I tried to check her ears but she was in extreme pain. We laid her down on the floor and took her muzzle so we could hold her down, and discovered her muzzle was swollen, like she had mumps. I checked her belly and she was covered by giant hives. We immediately called the vet and told him we were on our way in with an allergic reaction to the shots. He took us immediately and gave her an injection, which soon took down the swelling and relieved the itching.

It was a frightening experience for Meggie and us, which could have turned into a disaster if we had not been home to see the reaction taking place. So, please be aware of the symptoms:

1. Shaking the head/red inflamed ears
2. Swelling around the muzzle/neck
3. Large red splotches on the belly, radiating up the sides.

Enjoy your spring and summer, and please let me know if there is anything you would like to include in Helpful Hints or our News Column.

Sue McCormick

OFA REPORT

The following Briards have been given OFA certification, according to the 3/31/86 report.

FB-267G 30F-T Ch. Unique V.D. Ridderweide
FB-268G 27M Ballywick's Uji
FB-269G 41M-T Ch. Aigner Take Notice
FB-270G 45F Ch. Triel d'Occasion
FB-271G 59F Richlen Scarlett D'Hara
FB-272G 91F Chateaubriard Odette

VOTRE MAGIC MARKER DE LINDEAU, owned and bred by Linda Bullard (left) and Linda Wells (2nd from left) was awarded Winners Bitch for a 5 point major at the '85 BCA Supported Entry Show, St. Croix Valley K.C. "Genie" was handled by Rob Ferber and the judge was Mr. John Cramer.

Editors Note: The photo, above, was the only one received from the St. Croix show. We regret that it therefore was not possible to publish a feature on the '85 Supported Entry Show.
OBEDIENCE

WHAT IF...? by Diane L. Bauman

What if every time you took your dog into the obedience ring he gave you 100% of his undivided attention? How low a score could you possibly receive?

I was asked to help a girl with a Gordon Setter who said she had a lagging problem. While it was true that the dog was five feet behind his owner, the problem I explained, was not lagging, it was ATTENTION! The dog didn't even know who his owner was, much less heel for her! If you look at the mistakes dogs make in the obedience rings, over 80% of them are due to a lack of attention on the part of the dog, or handler (let's be fair about this).

We know that it is possible to get a dog's attention and to keep it in the ring because we see the dogs trained by top trainers staring adoringly up at their owners, waiting anxiously for their next command.

So, what's the secret? How do you get dog attention? Are the stories about bathing in chopped liver really true?

People have strived to achieve dog attention in some very interesting ways. A common approach is with the use of food. Believing that "where goeth his mouth shall follow his eyes", trainers have mastered the art of spit balls. Frankly, sucking on Top Choice is not my idea of fun, but I guess in the name of obedience, people will do almost anything to get results. There is nothing wrong with using food in training, as long as you are honest with yourself and admit that it is the food the dog is focused on, not you!

Then, there are the trainers who have joined the "Watch me" cult. Every other word out of their mouths is "Watch me" in almost a chanting fashion. Does it work? Obviously not, because these trainers never stop having to say, "Watch me"! A judge once complained to me that she said "Good Morning" to an exhibitor and the girl smiled sweetly and replied, "Watch me!!"

In all seriousness, there is a place for "Watch me" in training, but any command is only as effective as it is enforced. When Jack Godsil said "Watch me", his dogs did, but that was because Jack's command was followed with a lead snap. For "Watch me" to have any value it must be enforced.

For those of you just beginning to strive for dog attention, I suggest the following: First, you must show the dog that it is possible for him to walk at your side or sit in front of you while maintaining eye contact (or contact with some part of your body for small dogs). You can trick him into doing this by baiting him with food or with a favorite toy. If this doesn't work, you can be very mechanical and lift or hold his head with your hands. Praise all desired positions. Once the dog knows that it is possible for him to walk with his head up (2-3 weeks), then he must be corrected gently for not doing so. Lead snaps or gentle tugs on whiskers or cheeks often convince him to look up. A combination of your voice, the leash, and your left hand giving "love pinches" on his cheeks, used randomly, is effective. Any single approach used repeatedly is soon tuned-out by the dog.

Personally, I never say "Watch me". By the time you say "Watch me", the dog has already looked off and you've missed the chance to correct him. I will, however, after a correction, say "Guess what, you weren't watching." or "You missed it.".

The biggest mistake made in training classes today is that the first the dogs are taught to heel, and months later when a student expresses an interest in showing his dog, someone makes the astute observation that he better get his dog's attention! Heeling can not happen without attention. Therefore, I strongly recommend that you have the dog's attention before you attempt to teach him to heel.

"Teach beginners to get their dogs looking up at them?" you question. "Beginners aren't interested in showing," you say. "They only want basic control."

Every person showing their dog was once a beginner. How do you justify the importance of getting the dog's attention, to someone starting out? Most beginners are interested in Recall. Everyone wants their dog to come when they call him. I explain to the students that if the dog wouldn't give them his attention when he's right next to them, why should he pay attention to a command they give him when he's 30 feet away from them? You would be surprised how hard beginners work at getting their dogs to pay attention.

Dog attention in the obedience ring is not optional. It is necessary if you are going to earn degrees. The more attention you have, the easier it is to train the dog and the better the dog performs in the ring. You can teach attention with gimmicks, but in the end it must be enforced with correction. If you never take another step without your dog's attention, you will be on your way to becoming a good trainer.

Watch for Diane Bauman's new book BEYOND BASIC TRAINING coming soon from Howell Books

AN OBSERVATION ON TRAINING A BRIARD

Most newcomers to Briards, and for that matter, a good number of experienced Briarders miss out on the most important time for training - when the puppy is very young. Once that time has passed, it is lost forever and training becomes much more difficult.

Briard puppies should be given a kind of "baby training" which makes all teaching that follows so much easier. The puppy at the tender age of 6 to 8 weeks is learning, whether his master is teaching him or not. Gentle guidance, frequent practice at attaining the pup's attention and eye contact, conversation - with the pup, as often as you are with him, a great deal of body contact (not rough-housing, but hugs & pats - just quietly touching) help to build the rapport the master and Briard need for the perfect understanding and confidence; which lead to easy training when the pup is older. (D. McLeroth)
NUTRITIONAL UPDATE

Warnings have been issued regarding over-supplementation and overfeeding of puppies. Diets which are high in protein and rich in energy, combined with too much calcium result in too rapid a growth rate. This is shown to be directly related to the development of a variety of bone diseases in large breeds of dogs.

The skeletal diseases which commonly develop are disabling hip dysplasia, wobbler syndrome, and osteochondritis dissecans.

If we don’t wish to cripple our Briard puppies, careful attention should be concentrated on the quality and quantity of the dog food fed to puppies. The recommended protein level is about 20%, not to exceed 24%. Fat content should be around 10% and ash content about 6%.

These levels have been established by Dr. Lennart Krook of the Cornell team of researchers. It is Dr. Krook’s belief that food too high in protein and energy is actually a disease inducing product.

If a puppy is fed a well-balanced diet, there is no need or reason to supplement the puppy’s diet with bone meal or calcium. More data is beginning to come in with a direct correlation between diet/oversupplementation and the incidence of skeletal problems.

MEDICAL ADVICE ON HIP CERTIFICATION

Dr. U. Mostoskey, Chief of Radiology at Michigan State Univ., Veterinary Clinical Center, offered advice in a recent interview. Dr. Mostoskey stated that hip X-rays for OFA certification should be avoided immediately preceding, during or following a bitch’s estrus (heat cycle). The hormones present during estrus produce muscle and joint laxity which could possibly affect the OFA certification rating.

Dr. Mostoskey stated that a rating could go from "excellent" to "good", however he did not feel there would be enough laxity from hormonal influence to cause an "abnormal" versus a "border-line" or "fair" rating.

Dr. Mostoskey also emphasized the importance of not feeding growing puppies high calorie or high protein (over 24%) foods. As previously reported, these foods have been reported to force rapid growth and have been linked to skeletal disease.

BEWARE OF IMPORTED BREEDING STOCK

In the same interview, Dr. Mostoskey cautions breeders about imported breeding stock. He noted that the standards in some foreign countries may not be as strict as OFA standards. He stated that some imported stock, could actually increase, rather than decrease, the incidence of hip dysplasia. He notes that he is personally aware of many imported dogs who X-ray “clear” in foreign countries, but are determined to be dysplastic according to OFA standards.

Linda Knoll - Medical Committee Chairman

SOME THOUGHTS ON LIVING WITH BRIARDS

by Penny Johnson

PHYLOSOPHICAL ASSUMPTIONS

(1) The “Pack” as social order for dogs with one alpha figure see: “Room to Run,” Eulalia Blake Cobb, AKC Gazette, 8/84

“Discipline is Not a Four Letter Word”, Carol Benjamin, AKC Gazette, 11/83

“Dealing Effectively with Canine Aggression”, Carol Benjamin, AKC Gazette, 4/83

also: How to be Your Dog’s Best Friend, Monks of New Skete

Mother Knows Best: The Natural Way to Train your Dog, Carol Benjamin

(2) The Nature of the Beast: The Briard is a very complex dog, bred specifically to herd, working independently, making his own decisions as to the degree of danger or threat in any given situation. see: The Briard, Diane McLeroth

“Kuvaszok, Grizzly Bear and Lamb” AKC Gazette, 6/85, and (substitute “some Briards” for “Kuvaszok”).

(3) Motivation for Behavior: Almost any dog, in most situations, will do what he believes is the correct and appropriate behavior at that time, which may or may not be what the handler believes is correct and appropriate. The way to bring these two, sometimes different interpretations of correct and appropriate behavior into line with each other is COMMUNICATION through basic obedience training. Obedience training, formal or otherwise, is the vehicle for continuing communication and reinforcement of the


see: “Training for the Other Ninety Percent”, Judy Strickland

AKC Gazette, 7/83.

If you can accept these three philosophical assumptions, it is quite logical to see how a Briard’s basic instincts can get out of hand in a typical family situation. As with any breed, the Briard comes into this world with certain instincts, for which he has been selectively bred for many generations; these are the very instincts which made him highly valued as a shepherd dog, and give him his “raison d’etre”.

Some breeds were developed to take varying degrees of human guidance in their daily activities, and others to do their work with minimal human guidance. Along with these specific instincts to herd and protect, (as Spaniels were bred to flush game, KC Retrievers to retrieve, and St. Bernards to warm humans trapped in the snow), comes the generalized canine mind-set to live in a pack situation.

Even the tiniest member of a toy breed can be highly dominant in a pack setting, and even the largest of a giant breed can be very submissive. This predetermined personality pattern can be observed in a litter of puppies while they are still in the whelping box, interacting only with each other and with their mother. I believe that just about any litter will contain a fairly complete cross-section of dominant and submissive personality types, i.e. one or two feisty little dynamos, several middle-of-the-road types, as well as one or

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two quiet wallflowers, who only shine when away from the litter. The mother of the litter is very effective in her role as Alpha, ensuring that no one has free reign as bully, and that no one gets completely trampled.

When the individual puppy is separated from his litter, he seeks to fit into a new pack, organized by the same rules he already understands. With even the most submissive puppy, the instinctual drive to "be led, or lead" is present. If he is not given guidance as to his place in the new pack, he will assume that the leadership position is available for the taking.

Now, how does all this apply to a Briard, who shares with all dogs, the need and desire to function as part of an orderly and harmonious pack, and who also has a strong instinct to protect what he considers "his"? With my Briard Solei, dominance is not the whole issue, though he is a fairly dominant dog, and I allowed him to make a lot of decisions on his own until he was about a year old. Some observers of Solei read certain traits as "dominant", while I perceive these same traits to be rooted in his belief that he is responsible to make decisions in order to take care of "his flock" to the best of his ability. Solei's independent, decision-making nature is very well described in the AKC Gazette column, "Kuvasz: The Grizzly Bear and the Lamb". In analyzing Solei's response to many situations, I have found that I have to look at both factors: dominance and independence. At times, his motivation appears to be related to either one or the other, and sometimes a combination of the two is evident.

In unfamiliar or ambiguous situations, the dog assesses the situation and takes action. If he does not receive clear feedback to the contrary, he will assume his action was correct and appropriate. Consequently, the dog will respond the same way, with increasing conviction that he is correct, in future, similarly perceived situations. It is up to the handler to provide appropriate feedback (praise or correction) to gradually shape the dog's understanding of acceptable and unacceptable behavior. For this reason, it is very useful to have already mastered basic obedience. This gives the dog and handler a clear-cut vocabulary, in which each command means the same thing to both of them at all times. The dog does not need to assess each situation and react on his own. Through one simple word or phrase, the handler lets the dog know that the situation is under control, and the dog is not responsible to protect or defend, but simply obey his handler.

When I sense that Solei is feeling protective, the commands that I find most useful are "heel" and "sit-stay". As soon as Solei is under command, he usually seems relieved (of some responsibility?) and he does obey. He still tends to worry a bit, and stays completely aware of the movement and location of the "threatening" person, dog, or object. I have not achieved complete attention with him (with the "watch me" command) when he feels danger is present, but we continue to work on this. This characteristic, I feel, is related to Solei's independent protection instinct, rather than dominance. On the other hand, in a normal situation, when Solei gets bored with a "down-stay" and decides to take a walk, I feel that dominance is a factor.

An absolutely reliable recall is essential. Solei learned the recall in non-threatening situations with tons of praise, but it was always enforced (or required when commanded). He is allowed to alarm bark around the house and yard, and (after being recalled a million times and praised, after the second or third bark), he now barks, then runs to me, and waits for me to check out the situation. If I have a hard time learning this; she would rather keep barking.

Another essential is an instant, unquestioning drop on the spot, in response to the "down" command, followed by the reliable recall, and this is where Solei and I are now working.

Learning to be the strong, firm Alpha that Solei needs, was very difficult for me, especially with my background in Special Education. I am still self-conscious about doing a shakedown and growl in public, but it works. It certainly wakes up the passerby, and they must think I am a real shrew. As Brother Christopher said, "With some dogs, that St. Francis stuff just doesn't work." In retrospect, maybe a dominant, demanding Alpha would have worked better than a kind, soft-spoken teacher with some of my aggressive, abusive learning disabled adolescents; I know I fall back on my dog training experiences with some of my present clients and staff.

I am most definitely not an expert, and Solei and I will never score a perfect 200 in an Obedience Trial. We have, however, come a long way together in retaining Solei's independent, protective way of thinking, but using it under my direction.
The Briard is a very young breed in our country. The first Briards were imported to Finland in early 1970. The first Briard registered was Sobreur from Shiel in 1971. As with Sobreur, all the first Briards came from England, mostly from Shiel and Desamee kennels. They were mainly pets and not all were registered with the Finnish Kennel Club.

Since 1975, dogs have been imported from England, Sweden, Norway, Holland and Denmark. We have only bred Briards in Finland for a few years, with the first litters born in 1978-1979. Since that time, the number of dogs has increased steadily so, by the end of 1985 we had 343 Briards (25 imports and 99 litters).

When considering the beginning of Briard breeding in Finland, we must mention our good relationship with the Swedish and Norwegian breeders. We can easily co-operate because there is no quarantine between our countries. Some Swedish and Norwegian dogs have had a big influence on the Finnish stock. (Sadi Mariell de la Jaquourelle is a French import to Sweden, and he is one of the most winning Briards in Scandinavia.)

In 1980, Suomen Briard (the Finnish Briard Association) was founded, and was recognized as official two years later. The Association has been very active from the start in organizing meetings, giving out information and publishing a club magazine (4 issues per year). That's quite a lot from an association that has only 160 members. The Club's main objectives are similar to that of all Briard Clubs, and that is of course, the protection of the Briard. Last year, there was a meeting with the clubs of Sweden and Norway. It was decided to meet once a year, the beginning of more interaction between clubs.

Here, training of Briards is becoming more and more important. People are starting to realize that the Briard is, in fact, a working dog, and so the Finnish Briard Association applied for rights to compete in the working dog classes. We have also found new uses for our dogs. The Briard has proven to be very useful as a sledge dog and we have one Briard who has been trained as a rescue dog.

Nevertheless, the traditional dog shows are also very popular. In Finland there are 42 CC shows for all breeds each year. Eight of them are international shows. Briards can also get a CC in some shows held only for the working group. We also need obedience in order to have a championship. Most of our judges are Scandinavian, of course, but some come from England, Europe, USA and Australia.

You may also be interested in the C.P.R.A. and hip dysplasia situation in Finland. First, not a single case of C.P.R.A. has been found as yet. Partly, this may be due to the fact our dogs are relatively young (the oldest Briard is Desamee Humphrey Bear, now 12, whom Mia Heino is proud to own) and also the fact that only a small number of dogs have been examined.

Sadly, hip dysplasia is mostly the same as in other European...
BRIARDS INTERNATIONAL - FINLAND
countries. We hope things will improve because hip examinations
are obligatory for dogs in the working dog group.

There is great interest to arrange our own shows but due to
the small number of dogs, and lack of sufficient financing we
have not been able to hold our own Rassemblement. However, we
certainly dream of holding our own Rassemblement some time in
the future.

SF Ch. Star Lace's Môme Piaf ('Edith')
Owned and bred by T. Helin

In closing, we would like to wish you all good luck with
your Briards and to the Briard Club of America in its work.

GROOMING

LE BRIARD AU NATURAL
by Linda Wells

Let's get on the band wagon! We're all for a more natural
diet. The big word used to sell anything today is natural, so
why not go for a natural looking Briard, even in the show
ring! "Le Briard au naturell is a grooming technique aimed at
presenting the Briard in his beautiful, natural coat, yet still
capable of competing with the artificial, "salon" and "manicured"
set.

A good deal of care and work is still necessary: "natural"
doesn't mean easy-care, matted or uncombed. Natural grooming
actually requires more consistent work. It can't be faked the
day or week before a show with oils and elixirs, bathing, blow
drying, and powder to restore texture - but the results are so
much nicer - and so much more appropriate for our Breed. The
idea is to present the Briard in his naturally beautiful coat,
not looking scissored, powdered, puffed, or artificially
straightened. This is, after all, a sheep dog - a rustic dog;
not the "Afghan of the Herding Group!!

How do you start? Generally, feet must be trimmed on most
Briards, but the secret is to use thinning shears, not scissors,
to do it. With many Briards one needs only to thin the outside
each rear foot (where the hair touches the ground) and
neaten up the front feet, being careful to comb the top layer
up. Make the hair nearest the ground the shortest. Do not trim
all the way up the leg. Shorter hair on the puppy's legs may
be cute, but it isn't correct for the grown dog. At maturity you
want the hair to fall from the point of the hock, or the level of
the elbow, to the ground. You may want to use the thinning
shears, at ground level only, across the back of the foot to
preserve the nearly vertical look of the bones below the hock.

Next we must discuss the hair over the eyes. It's too thick,
you say? Try brushing it back and to each side of the natural
part. In recent tradition, one eye seems to be more apparent
than the other and moving the part slightly to the side can
help you achieve that effect. With the trend to breed Briards
with more and more coat, we can't deny that some people finally
resort to thinning the fall of hair over the eyes. This is
actually cheating, but if you must do it, don't thin so much
that the dog looks scissored! Remember, au natural. Do not cut
the hair between the eyes (some even cut more!), it creates an
artificial, trimmed look to the head.

Hopefully you have been brushing with a natural boar bristle
brush; porcupines are excellent for keeping the coat smooth and
glossy; brushing stimulates the growth of a healthy coat. Brush
until it looks smooth, but still has a slight wave (see the
picture of Java, the first International Champion Briard, on
page 26 of the Spring '85 Dew Claw.) A puppy's coat will often
wave more, because the length is not yet there to weigh it down
and the adult texture is not developed.

Be sure not to blow the coat dry, or you will lose the
natural wave (called for by the Standard) and create a perfectly

IF YOU HAVE A BRI-ART DONATION
please contact

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

Susan Smith
2344 Ivy Crest
Bellbrook, OH 45305
513/848-4206
LE BRIARD AU NATURAL, continued

straight and artificial looking coat. It also breaks and splits the hair, and destroys the natural oils, which then need to be replaced artificially and constantly to undo the damage caused by the blow dryer.

Just because some breeds are scissored, straight across underneath doesn't mean the Briard should be! When the coat is scissored that way the dog appears to have less depth of chest and spoils the dog's outline. However, the natural line, rising slightly from chest to moderate tuck emphasizes the athletic and powerful look we want in both sexes.

Use a soft slicker gently on the neck and behind the ears to make the hair cascade smoothly down the neck. Some of the excess undercoat, which seems to develop here, will be brushed out. Frequent combing the thicker areas will also help with this. Scissors remove coat, but they remove the long guard hair, instead of just the soft undercoat which is the problem.

A natural part from head to withers helps to give more elegance to the neck. However, if your brushing down the sides has created a distinct felt down the middle of the back, take your finishing brush (pin or porcupine) and, starting at the withers, brush straight down the back to remove the part. If your dog has not been blessed with a table-top back, this brushing will help de-emphasize a slight roach or dip, while a part accentuates these faults. If your dog is a little thin, or has a narrow body, the part will draw more attention to it.

Regular brushing can also help to correct problems such as excess coat over the croup, it helps to control the wooly coat (try brushing it dry, instead of blow drying), and it helps to train the fall of the coat to accent the desirable contours.

As you probably noticed, "natural groomers" are just as tricky as others, hiding faults with their grooming. It is true that a good judge will feel a dip or roach in the topline, yet even the best judges sometimes can forget which dog had the problem when they stand back to make their final decision. Hopefully, their eyes will be drawn to the magnificent picture of "le Briard au natural" and be impressed enough to "forgive" a slight problem.

Certainly we can educate judges, professional handlers and Briarders to prefer the correct, natural looking coat that is so perfectly suited to our shaggy, French sheep dog.

When M. Montenot, the noted French Briard Specialist judge, was here for our Rasssemblment in 1982, he remarked that our dogs' coats, in general, seemed to lack evidence of regular brushing with a good stiff brush. In all likelihood what he saw was not a lack of grooming, but the damage done by improper grooming. So let's heed his advice and put away all those coat preparations ("guaranteed" to create correct coat texture) and put away those blow dryers and scissors. Get our natural bristle brushes and go to work. Brushing produces the beautiful, healthy coat a Briard should have - and we'll again have "le Briard au natural".

AN INTRODUCTION TO HERDING

by Karen Trueman

At the 1985 Specialty in Minnesota I was approached by Mary Bloom, who asked if I would be interested in becoming the BCA Herding Chairman. Who? Me!? Where did they get my name from? Well, I said I would consider it, but that I really didn't have much experience. So, here I am frantically researching and reading any information I can find. (Try walking into B. Dalton's Bookstore at the local shopping mall and ask for books on herding!)

The following is some basic information that I gathered from research or herding experiences. Please feel free to write with comments, questions, suggestions, or maybe a report of your own herding experiences. Also, anyone interested in joining the Herding Committee, please contact me (15036 Lappin, Detroit, MI 48025 - Telephone: 313-526-9648).

Herd stock is a combination of instinct and training. The herding instinct originated in the wild dog's instinct to hunt, to chase down and kill their own food. Whild dogs hunt in packs and in every pack there is a leader; the strongest dog most able to enforce his authority. The members of the pack are submissive to this leader, following his orders.

As dogs became domesticated by man, the instinct to hunt in packs has been refined and adapted to man's advantage. Man has replace the canine pack leader. Using the dog's desire to obey the leader, man has trained the dog to herd by controlling the hunting instinct.

The following are commands the dog must learn in training to herd:

- DOWN to lie down - a very important command - the dog should go down immediately, on the spot, a quick response to the down command can prevent the dog from making mistakes.
- COME to leave the stock and come to the handler an "obedience" response is not necessary, by use the command "here!".
- WALK ON to encourage the dog to approach the stock, tone of voice and expression is used to slow down or hurry the dog's approach.
- COME BYE to move in a clockwise direction around and behind the herd. [Some trainers use "go bye".]
- WAY T'ME to move in a counter clockwise direction around and behind the herd.
- STAY to stay put, may be used in the down position, or with sit or stand.

These are common international terms, but of course a new dog can be trained to respond to any words consistently used by the handler. For example the same commands in French are: couché (down), viens ici (come), en avant (walk on), en place (stay), a gauche (come bye), a droite (way t'me).

JUNE 1986
INTRODUCTION TO HERDING, continued

GLOSSARY OF HERDING TERMS

APPROACH - The dog's approach to the stock; should be sure and steady without scattering or splitting the flock.

CLOSE RUNNING - A dog that works close to the stock, opposed to "wide running", a dog who works naturally at a good distance from the flock.

EYE - A manner of approach used by some dogs; an unblinking gaze, often used with a creeping movement. Dogs are described as "strong-eyed", "medium-eyed", or "loose-eyed", depending on the extend eye is used in their approach. [Generally, Briards do not use "eye" when herding.]

FORCE BARK - A bark used by the dog when facing stubborn stock or stock challenging the dog.

HEADING - Nipping [or pushing] at the head or neck of an animal to turn them.

HEELING - Nipping at the heels of the stock to move them forward.

POWER - Used to describe a strong, self-confident dog whose presence can move even stubborn animals; also called "HARD".

WEAK - Used to describe a dog not able to stand up to the challenge of stubborn stock. Such a dog will back down or run away from the challenge; also called "SOFT".

WOOL-PULLING - Biting at the body of the stock, marking the flesh or pulling out mouthfuls of wool; also called "GRIPPING". This is a fault which may cause the dog to be excused from trials.

TRACKING: HOW DO I START?

by Julie Treinis

Preface: The following article gives a good overview of the beginning work in training a dog to track. It is important to note that while it is easier to work with others and several times a week, when starting you can work by yourself and on a widely varying schedule depending upon your time. For myself, I'd like to add that I view tracking training as a series of skills that must be mastered before the dog is ready to go to the next step. First, the dog must realize that there is "something" out there and finding it is fun. Second, he must make the connection that there is a scent that leads to that "something". Once those two skills are learned you can then start the serious training. I like to see the dog develop steadiness on about a 150 yard straight track before beginning to age (the time you wait after the track is laid before starting the dog) the track and then drop back to shorter lengths and teach the dog the third basic skill: the scent path can change directions, the turn. The rest of the training involves perfecting these basic skills with work on longer, older, more complicated tracks in different types of terrain and weather conditions.

David Behrens

Once you have decided to give tracking a try, the logical first question is, "How do I start?". My recommendation would be to begin by gaining some background knowledge. Read one or two of the tracking books listed in the previous article, "Tracking for the Novice" by David Behrens [March '86 Dew Claw] talk to an experienced tracker, and/or attend a tracking trial, class, or practice. Though not essential, such exposure will give you an overall view of what is involved in the sport.

Next assemble the "tools of the trade". You will need a non-restrictive harness, a 20 ft. leash, two starting flags, one article (either a wallet or a glove), and some treats. Most importantly, don't forget your Briard. Also, if possible, find a friend to go along. The aid of another person does simplify many aspect of training.

The first training session should be held under the most ideal conditions possible. Wait for a cool, calm day when the scent will cling to the track. The grass should be green and at least a couple of inches high. Also, try to find a quiet field, free of other tracks and distractions. The better the conditions to start, the faster your Briard will learn and the easier it will be for you both.

Now you're ready to start the first track. Put on the harness and leave the dog with your assistant. Walk about 10 paces straight away from him. Plant the first flag in the ground and walk in tight circles around it, trampling down the grass and depositing your scent.
Next, face the dog, holding up the article he is to find. Shake it and call the dog's name, attracting his attention to the article. Turn and walk 30 paces in a straight line and plant the second flag. Continue walking for another 5 paces. Turn toward your Briard and again call him and shake the article. Drop it at your feet and place several pieces of treat directly on top of it.

Retrace your steps, staying right on the track. Return to your Briard, snap the leash to the harness, and proceed to the first starting flag. Point to the ground around the flag, and give the command to track. Naturally, you hope that he will start forward, tracking his way to the article/food. Some will do this. Others, remembering that you left something out there, will dash directly to the article, giving no indication that they are tracking at all. This is no problem. Soo the article will be placed when he's not watching, and the only way he'll be able to locate the treat, which he knows is out there, will be by using his nose.

The third possibility is that your Briard will do nothing. If this is the case, keep the leash short and move your hand in front of him and along the track. Repeat your Tracking command, and encourage him to move forward. Keep your voice happy and proceed toward the article. When he begins to catch scent of the treat, he will run to it, where lots of praise and that special snack will convince your Briard that he has just done a wonderful thing.

Next, retrieve your flags and return the dog to your assistant. The three of you should move about 20 paces from the first track and repeat the procedure. Do it again for a third track, and then call the session completed.

Taking your cues from your dog's performance, gradually increase the distance from the flag at which the article is dropped. Also, start having your assistant single-lay (not retrace his steps after dropping the article) and age (increase the time between the laying of the track and the starting of the dog) the track.

Blind tracks must also be introduced - the plotting of which tracks is watched by neither dog, nor handler. Remember, these advancements must be made slowly and with an eye to the dog's progress. Obviously, it makes no sense to increase the distance to 75 paces if he's not perfect at 50. Don't try a 30 minute track if your dog struggles at 10. never be reluctant to back-up in your training if you encounter a problem. Many dogs start off like gang-busters, only to level off, or regress. Often a few shorter, fresher tracks will be all that's needed to restore his confidence.

The frequency with which one trains is a function of lifestyle, progress, and the dog's attitude. The following are not absolutes, but rather experience-based recommendations. In the early stages of training, when the dog is first learning what is expected and the tracks are short and fresh, it is certainly advantageous to get out frequently. Twice a day is not too often; once a day is good; two or three times a week is adequate (and for many tracker, most feasible). Even once a week can, and has worked, but be aware that progress will be slower. As your dog becomes more proficient at tracking, you can let him indicate how often he needs to get out. It is necessary to strike a balance that will be frequent enough to keep him at a high level of achievement and infrequent enough to keep him enthusiastic. For some dogs, a full track once a week is sufficient; for others, twice a week is better. As in obedience training, some dogs take to intense drilling, but most do not.

Earth I have loved so well. Perhaps, after all, this is best.

One last request I earnestly make. I have heard my Mistress say, "When Belmie dies we must never have another dog. I love him so much I could never love another." Now, I would ask her, for the love of me, to have another. It would be poor tribute to my memory never to have a dog again. What I would like to feel is that, having once had me in the family, now she cannot live without a dog! I have never had a jealous spirit. I have always held that most dogs are good (and one cat, the black one I have permitted to share the living room rug during the evenings, whose affection I have tolerated in a kindly spirit, and in rare sentimental moods, even reciprocated, a trifle). Some dogs, of course, are better than others. Dalmatians, naturally, as everyone knows, are the best. So, I suggest a Dalmatian as my successor. He can hardly be as well-bred or as well-mannered or as distinguished and handsome as I was in my prime - My Master and Mistress must not ask the impossible. But, he will do his best I am sure, and even his inevitable defects I will help by comparison, to keep my memory green. To him I bequeath my collar and leash and my overcoat and raincoat, made to order in 1929 at Hermes in Paris. He never can wear them with the distinction I did, walking around the Place Vendome, or later along Park Avenue, eyes fixed on me in admiration; but again, I am sure he will do his utmost not to appear a mere gauche provincial dog. Here on the ranch, he may prove himself quite worthy of comparison, in some respects. He will, I presume, come closer to jack rabbits than I have been able to in recent years. And, for all his faults, I hereby wish him the happiness I know will be his in my old home.

One last word of farewell, Dear Master and Mistress. Whenever you visit my grave, say to yourselves with regret, but also with happiness in the remembrance of my long, happy life with you: "Here lies one who loved us and whom we loved." No matter how deep my sleep I shall hear you, and not all the power of death can keep my spirit from wagging a grateful tail.
I, Silverdene Emblem O'Neill (familiarly known to my family, friends and acquaintances as Blemie), because the burden of my years and infirmities is heavy upon me, and I realize the end of my life is near, do hereby bury my Last Will and Testament in the mind of my Master. He will not know it is there until I am dead. Then, remembering me in his loneliness, he will suddenly know of this testament, and I ask him then to inscribe it as a memorial to me.

I have little in the way of material things to leave. Dogs are wiser than men. They do not set great store upon things. They do not waste their days hoarding property. They do not ruin their sleep worrying about how to keep the objects they have, and to obtain the objects they have not. There is nothing of value I have to bequeath except my love and faith. These I leave to all those who loved me, to my Master and Mistress, whom I know will mourn me most, to Freeman who has been so good to me, to Cyn and Roy and Willie and Naomi and -- but if I should list all those who loved me it would force my Master to write a book. Perhaps it is vain of me to boast when I am so near death, which returns all beasts and vanities to dust, but I have always been an extremely lovable dog.

I ask my Master and Mistress to remember me always, but not to grieve for me too long. In my life I have tried to be a comfort to them in time of sorrow, and a reason for added joy in their happiness. It is painful for me to think that even in death, I should ever cause them pain. Let them remember that while no dog has ever had a happier life (and this I owe to their love and care for me), now that I have grown blind and deaf and lame, and even my sense of smell fails me so that a rabbit could be right under my nose and I might not know, my pride has sunk to a sick, bewildered humiliation. I feel life is taunting me with having over-lingerred my welcome. It is time I said goodbye, before I become too sick a burden on myself and on those who love me. It will be sorrow to leave them, but not a sorrow to die. Dogs do not fear death as men do. We accept it as a part of life, not as something alien and terrible which destroys life.

What may come after death, who knows? I would like to believe with those of my fellow Dalmatians who are devout Mohammedans, that there is a Paradise where one is always young and full-bladdered; where all the day one dillies and dailies with an enormous multitude of Houris, beautifully spotted; where jack rabbits that run fast, but not too fast (like the Houris) are as the sands and the desert; where each blissful hour is mealtime; where in long evenings there are a million fireplaces with logs forever burning, and one curls oneself up and blinks into the flames and nods and dreams, remembering the old brave days on earth, and the love of one's Master and Mistress.

I am afraid this is too much for even such a dog as I am to expect. But peace, at least, is certain. Peace and long rest for weary old heart and head and limbs, and eternal sleep in the
CHAMPION SNAIRE'S ALTER EGO (bitch)

Owners: Marsha Clamp and Stephanie Kodis
Breeder: Marsha Clamp

Championship: November 23, 1985
Whelped: January 19, 1985

Sire: Ch. Ecar Second Chapter, CD
Ch. Desamee Belle Bear
Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence

Dam: Ch. Suzon du Coteau d'Avranches
Ch. Mousse du Coteau d'Antigo

Judge: Mr. L.E. Stanbridge
Handler: Marsha Clamp

BCA

NEW CHAMPION

CHAMPION TIFFANY DE L'EMINENCE, (bitch)

Owners: June Shew and Gerard Baudet
Breeder: June Shew

Championship: February 18, 1986
Whelped: August 30, 1982

Sire: Ch. Janus de la Ville Jumeaux
Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence
Ch. Tracy des Elfes de Malouse
Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence

Dam: Ch. Perrier de L'Eminence
Ch. Chateaubriard Mint Julip

Judge: Mrs. Haywood Hartley
Handled by Gerard Baudet

JUNE 1986
CHAMPION BEARDSANBROW V D'OCCASION (dog)

Owners: Donna Matey Fink & David Behrens
        Janis Charbonneau

Breeder: David Behrens

Championship: February 23, 1986

Whelped: June 21, 1984

Sire: Am/Can Ch. Phydeaux Windfall
Ch. Piquantte d'Ocassion

Dam: Am/Can Ch. Beardsanbrow's N'Est Pas, Am/Can UDT,
Sch. 1, AD, HIC
Am/Can. Ch. Uther Bijou de Strathcona

Judge: Helen Miller Fisher
Handled by Donna Matey Fink

NEW CHAMPION

CHAMPION VOUS ET NUL AUTRE DE BEJAUNE (bitch)

Owners: E.J. & W.A. Bailey
Meg Weitz & M. Greenberg

Breeders: Meg Weitz and Michael Greenberg

Championship: March 2, 1986

Whelped: December 2, 1984

Sire: Ch. Beardsanbrow's Norton
Am/Can Ch. Uther Bijou de Strathcona
Ch. Just Tigger de Charlemagne

Dam: Ch. The Bailywick's Rendez-vous
La Fraise Briard d'Orleans

Judge, Patrick Doniere, Jr.
Handler: E.J. Bailey

NEW CHAMPION
SCHEDULED TEMPERAMENT TESTS

- SEPT. 14, 1986
  MICHIGAN BOUVIER DES FLANDRES ASSN.
  LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
  Cherrie Stump
  28541 Greenview
  Romulus, MI 48174
  313/941-5914

- OCT. 4, 1986
  ITHACA DOG TRAINING CLUB
  ITHACA, N.Y.
  Mary Eldridge
  259 Troy Road
  Ithaca, NY 14850
  607/272-6499

- OCT. 12, 1986
  ATTS - LOS ANGELES CHAPTER
  LEGG LAKE, CALIF.
  13680 Van Nuys Blvd.
  Pacoima, CA 91331
  818/896-1027

- OCT. 25, 1986
  GREATER PHILA. DOG FANCIER'S ASSN.
  PHILADELPHIA
  Lynne Wolkiewicz
  3455 Friendship Street
  Philadelphia, PA 19149
  215/335-3544

- DEC. 14, 1986
  ATTS - LOS ANGELES CHAPTER
  LEGG LAKE, CALIF.
  13680 Van Nuys Blvd.
  Pacoima, CA 91331
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