May 5, 1990

Dear Fellow Briarders,

This issue of the Dew Claw is very special, as it is the last one prepared by our current editor. We are lucky to have been given the chance to read very informative articles over the past two years, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne for the wonderful job she has accomplished. Thank you for your contribution to the Briard Club of America.

With the year’s end approaching and our annual meeting coming closer, it is that time of year when you can provide your Board with input, comments, and suggestions. If you would like to volunteer for any committee work for your Club, do get in touch with one of us.

A very exciting week is being planned for this coming August, and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in a couple of months in Maryland.

I am truly yours,

Gérard Baudet
From the response I have received from you readers, it is obvious that you read the Dew Claw. On the question of Ethoxyin, in my defense, I did not mean to scare anyone. Both sides of the issue were represented. The articles were printed for information and because other Briarders cared enough to send them to me. What other Briarders to be shared.

In this issue is a letter printed from the Lams Company sent to a member of the BCA in response to the puppy mill question raised in the last issue. The letter speaks for itself and it is my pleasure to clear up this issue.

As you are aware, this is my last issue of the Dew Claw. I have enjoyed being a part of the communication between Briarders. I am glad that so many have contributed, and only hope that you will continue to support the Dew Claw with your contributions of articles, pictures, criticism and praise. I wish the next Editor the best of luck, and will offer support and help wherever I can.

There is no obedience column this month. I was saddened to learn of Bob’s loss of his beloved Briard friend. Condolences are also sent to Ron Daniels on his loss of ‘Cookie’. These creatures are more than pets, they are loyal, true friends that never question what we do. We own them the best life we can possibly give them.

A note of congratulations should be extended to Don and Ginny Lyddon on Lately’s Group One at the Purina’s Invitational on May 21, 1990. Judge Porter Washington did the honors.

Due to personal reasons, I have decided to resign as Co-Chairperson for the 1990 Speciality. I leave the job in the capable hands of Meg Weitz and Michael Greenberg. They will do a magnificent job of managing the Speciality. Make your reservations now and plan an extra day or two to visit the land of pleasant living.

As a member of the BCA for 2 years I have to be honest in saying I have never enjoyed an issue of the Dew Claw as well as I did the “Spring 1990” issue. I found in nearly every article, that I read a small part of my Briard. Although there aren’t many Briarders around, I feel now as though I have a friend in all of you. Sharing joys and triumphs as well as common aggravations.

As all Briarders know: Briards are marvelously unique animals - with traits separating them, in part from other breeds. Discussing proven training techniques or discipline problems with owners of another breed, often leaves me feeling like a crazy person speaking lunacies. This is partially due to the fact that like training most stubborn briards, my 2 year old black male “Chien” (call name: Shane) has made me this way.

By using a host of different trials and tests my Briard has manipulated me into using such phrases as "Please" and "Chien, didn’t I ask you to stop that?" Chien is also quite sure that he is human. There is no doubt to this as he wipes his feet on a towel before he steps onto my carpet. He also sits straight up on all pieces of living room furniture utilizing the back and arm rest as they were intended. He also prefers to comfort himself on unmade beds enabling him to 'scooch' his legs under the covers and lay his head on, preferably, down pillows.

My Briard is also convinced that this is his home and we should clear our company through him. Should he "veto" a guest he will stare or bark at them until we banish him to another room or until they leave. He too, as Debra Morrow mentioned of her Peaches (Spring 1990 Dew Claw) is afraid of his own shadow or moving objects larger than a marble. In the area of travel my plight differs from Debra's. Chien is working on assuring us that as a human he takes on the form of a child - our second child to be more specific. And of course as such he feels he should be entitled to go wherever our 3 year old son goes. The list includes; Preschool, the pediatrician, Grandma’s or as we’ve done in the past, the slide in the children’s Playground.

I suppose you can see where to place the rest of the blame? Yes, my husband and I, guilty as charged for spoiling our Briard. But who could blame us for being totally mesmerized by the love, affection, beauty and grace this wonderful animal has brought into our home. Within reason (we haven't given him keys to the car yet) we allow Chien every luxury he deserves. As our friend, guardian of our home and my son’s most faithful companion we owe Chien a lifetime of happiness.

I suppose, but my point in all this is a "Thank you" to my new Briard family. In reading your letters and stories I realize we're not alone; the length a Briarder will go to for their Briard is shared by all who have fallen in love with these shaggy practical jokers. We are just a Dew Claw away.

David & Debbie Jones
Knollwoods Chien Debut
Pittsburgh, Pa.
If you have any questions or wish to volunteer serve on a committee, please contact the Chairperson. All welcome your help and suggestions.

CAN YOU FIND THE BRIARD
INSECT REPELLENTS WITH SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS

Retailers are removing Cutter's, Deep Woods Off, and dozens of other human-intended insect repellents from shelves. Veterinarians and pet supply outlets should be doing the same with animal-intended products which contain the same suspect ingredient, known as "2,3,4,5-BIS" and also known as "2-butylene". This ingredient has been known to cause serious side effects in laboratory animals, most notably ovarian cancer.

Among the veterinary care products containing the banned ingredients are those with the Mycodex and Adams labels. However, there are many other products which contain it as well. Some of the sprays and powders are insect killers as well as repellents.

Labels of products already "in home should be examined for "2,3,4,5-BIS" or "2-butylene". Kennel dusts, flea and tick sprays and powders, etc., are all suspect. Anything containing the ingredient should be disposed of in a safe manner (according to regulations in your area). Soon, repellents and bug killers will appear on the shelves with a label which reads "New Formula" or "Doesn't contain 2,3,4,5-BIS" or similar words so that consumers will know that the products have been reformulated.

USING INSECT REPELLENTS/KILLERS

Pet owners frequently disregard the warning labels on flea & tick killers. Justification is usually that the products can't be harmful because they are meant to be poured all over animals. If flea powder can cover 90% of a dog (nearly 100% if the user is conscientious) then what can it hurt on the users hands? The hands are only part of the problem. Equally significant are the lungs. We powder or spray our dogs weekly for 15 years and they die of old age. We live on to powder/spray more dogs. After 20 or 25 years what is the damage to us? Do we have "white lung" from flea powder? What have we absorbed through our skin?

It is imperative that we protect ourselves by using rubber gloves and a facemask while using the products and that we wash thoroughly when we are through (including clothing).

HERDING

It has been exciting for me to see how well our Briards are doing in herding. I remember, when we first started our program, someone commenting that there would never be more than a few Briards herding. Already this year, there have been 6 titles earned reported to me.

We are getting many requests for trainers and places to train, so if you have not yet shared that information with me, please do, so that I can pass it along.

Thanks to Roger Jones for taping the first AKC Test and making a copy available to the Club. We also have a promise of another video from Germany.

There has been considerable comment on the new AKC herding Program. I would like to share portions of a letter in the AKC Herding Program Newsletter written by Robert McKowen, Vice President of Performance Events: "Now that the program is on the ground, and more people are aware of it, we are receiving a number of suggestions for changes. We attempted to develop a sound of a program as possible so that it would start out correctly. Realistically, we knew that there would be unforeseen imperfections, but the extent of any imperfections could not be determined until the program was in operation for a suitable amount of time. With a year or so of experience, we will have the background to determine what, if any, changes will be required.

We anticipate that enough herding events will have been held by the second half of the year to enable us to schedule a meeting of Herding Breed representatives. We will then fine tune the program and make any changes that need to be made all at one time. In this way people will not be confused about what the Regulations are today versus yesterday.

We are keeping a record of the letters, comments and questions that we receive about the herding program. This material can be considered when we all sit down together to review the Regulations.

The herding program has two parts - Tests and Trials. Non-competitive Testing evaluates dogs for inherited instinct plus some control and responsiveness to command (which also provides an element of control over the dogs to eliminate any possibility of rough treatment of Stock). Herding Tested (HT) and Pre-Trail Tested (PT) titles are awarded to dogs that meet the criteria of the tests. The competitive trial program is structured much the same as the obedience program and certifications are provided on three levels. A championship can be earned by dogs that participate after having earned the highest degree.

The test program encourages newcomers to test their dogs and provides a venue for those who want to go into advanced work. Dogs may demonstrate any type of inherited ability in the test without being limited by historical use of a particular breed. The dogs can be tested on whatever they do naturally.

In trials, dogs are allowed to participate in any one of the...
In trials, dogs are allowed to participate in any one of the three courses their handlers choose. A dog is not required to participate in a certain style according to its breed. Owners of dogs have free choice about the type of herding course their dogs will participate in. For example, German Shepherds and Briards might wish to participate in the boundary style of herding for their testing procedure but they have a choice of using any of the various inherited herding styles. Emphasis has been placed on boundary because the largest breed in terms of numbers - German Shepherds - compete in boundary style herding in Germany where large flocks of sheep are moved along roads from one unfenced field to another and from farm to farm. Some other European breeds also do similar style herding, but no breed is limited to the boundary style. It is simply one recommended style.

The initial Testers and Judges are coming from other herding organizations including the American Herding Breed Association, International Sheepdog Society affiliates, and the Australian Shepherd Club, the latter two organizations having long established herding programs in this country...

More Herding..........................by Roger Jones

Briards were well represented at the Louisville, Ky Herding Test of March 17 & 18th.

Entries of 9 Briards all showed some great herding ability. Special congratulations go to a job well done by Kathy Allen and her Briard Chien Velu's Camille CD on being the first Briard to pass the Pre-Trial Test and receive a PT title from AKC.

Boundary demonstration work was preformed by Bunny Ratner with Briard Radieux Ego Trip. A very nice job and interesting to watch, for which the AKC awarded a Special ribbon for demonstration.

Entered in the test were Milton & Bunny Rattner with Radieux Ego Trip, JoAnn Illingsworth with Ch. Deja Vu Academy Award, Pat Gross with St. Onge Denis, Terry Miller with Ch C'Est Bonheur Tinsel and Ch Deja Vu Deck the Halls, Lee and Steve Davidson with Ch Deja Vu Cassandra, Ann Rogers with Ch Deja Vu Apple of My Eye, Kathy Allen with Chien Velu's Camille, CD and Roger & Marsha Jones with Deja Vu Cruise Control.

AKC is still trying to understand and properly test boundary herding for all Continental breeds. At this meet the AKC was not fully ready.

All Briards entered were taped for VCR and a copy sent to Jane Beahan for the BCA file.

AND FROM THE WEST COAST

"Brie" and Lauri Brown earned the Aussie Club STDs title, taking 3rd place in a Border Collie Trial. "Brie" is the 2nd Briard reported to the club that has earned the STDs title.

Brie is sired by Ch De Beauxjolis Mon Ami out of Ch Mon Jovis Icarus La Brie and his breeder is Mary Lopez. Lauri and Mon Jovis Beau de Brie STDs plan to continue in Herding Trials as often as possible. Between trials, Brie keeps his herding skills sharp by caring for his flock of goats.
GUARD PUPPY: An Update

One and a half years ago my first Briard puppy, "Guard Puppy" or GP, landed at Atlanta Hartsfield Airport. Her early training was split between developing social (people) skills and shepherd skills. By seven months she was well adapted to life in the pasture amongst the flock. Her behavior is now quite characteristic of other flock guardian dogs. When the sheep move as a flock, she moves with them. Where they graze, she "grazes". She is very protective of the flock and tends to place herself between her sheep and all intruders.

I was particularly interested in identifying any herding instinct in her as the traditional guardian dogs (Great Pyrenees and Merimans) are not known for such skills. In recent months Guard puppy began showing a rather annoying tendency to round up the sheep and move them to the same corner of the pasture every time the donkey in the next pasture brayed. I found this initially very curious until I figured out a reason she was exhibiting such behavior. She must take the braying of the donkey as a warning sign of possible danger. Moving the sheep to one spot makes it easier for her to keep an eye on them. This however is leading to a pasture which is not being evenly grazed!

This winter an opportunity arose to take GP to a border collie trainer north of Atlanta to (informally) test for any herding ability. Into the circular enclosure the sheep were herded by the trainers dogs. Two border collies were strategically placed within the enclosure to contain the sheep. In went GP. She saw the sheep and saw the dogs and immediately started working the dogs! Her methods were intriguing. She ran between the dogs and the sheep bumping them as she passed making them move several paces back. She continued circling, advancing upon, and bumping the dogs until they were positioned at the farthest points from the sheep. With that job through, she sauntered over to the sheep and plopped her self down in the middle of them! The trainer looked at me with a puzzled expression and asked if I was sure these dogs were suppose to have any herding instinct at all? This one obviously did not.

Does she or doesn't she? Considering the divergent methods used in training dogs for guarding and for herding, it is not inconceivable that this dog has become so familiar with her charges, so comfortable around them that the herding instinct is suppressed. After all, she grew through her puppyhood wearing a plow blade dangling from her neck to discourage her from chasing the sheep and was severely reprimanded the few times she was caught using her mouth in an aggressive manner on the sheep. Both of these tendencies appear to be encouraged in herding dogs.

Can she herd and do I care? Actually, considering her value as a flock guardian dog, I have little interest in fostering the herding tendency in this animal. A second Briard puppy, recently acquired, however, was a tremendous failure as a guardian dog. He loved to chase the sheep and used his mouth extensively on the animals so much so that he cornered two goats and ripped open their legs and tore the vulva out of one of them. Both goats survived, thank goodness. I nearly shot the dog except I realized that his temperament was not suitable for guarding. I was requiring a behavior of him that he was unable to give. I have brought out these two examples as I feel that it is important to understand the temperament of the individual dog and to match it properly with its expected duties. I am curious as to other Briard owners/shepherd's thoughts on this subjects.

R. Szostak Shepherdess
Oak Hill Farm
Covington, Ga.

S.O.B.B. Story

Dear Lanne Aanders:

Since our Breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club, we Black Briards have always felt overlooked by most judges when we compete in the show ring. It is statisitcally proven that we do not receive the show win recognition of our Tawny counterparts. We suspect that we are not appreciated because we are Black. Do you have any suggestions?

Signed: S.O.B.B. Member

Dear S.O.B.B. Member:

The answer to your dilemma is basically quite simple - blindfold the judges, give them the standard in Braille and let them feel their way through their assignment. That way, the best dog should win and color will not be a deciding factor in their choice!

Signed: Lanne Aanders.
April 24, 1990

Mr. Ted Krystosek
5621 North Kilbourn
Chicago, IL 60646

Dear Mr. Krystosek:

First of all, I would like to thank you for being an Lams customer for so many years. Your patronage helped build this company and, obviously, you have benefited as well.

The Lams Company does not support, sponsor, or condone inhumane treatment of animals for any reason, and we will continue to fight for regulations that will make the lot of these little ones better.

As you will note, the article you sent to us is dated July 1989. Since then, the author of the article has printed a retraction, and somehow that part never gets picked up.

This all started last summer when there were new regulations being proposed through the USDA that would give greater control over the treatment of animals. A rather large commercial breeder held an informal meeting, inviting a representative from the USDA. We were also asked to speak about nutrition at that meeting. We did not initiate the meeting, and the Lams logo was used without our authorization. We were never against new regulations and have worked for years toward the betterment of animals in these kinds of situations.

We accept as many invitations as possible to speak on nutrition and sometimes are able to assist with the food at such functions.

By law, we cannot refuse to sell our products to anyone. Most reputable breeders know the value of feeding our products to their animals. I do not honestly believe that those who treat their animals as dollar signs would even purchase a premium product.

The mission of The Lams Company has always been and will continue to be the enhancement of the well-being of dogs and cats. We would never do anything contrary to that mission.

Hopefully, this will clear the matter up for you so that you can continue to be a loyal Lams customer.

Sincerely,

Janne B. Weaver, CCSE
Customer Relations Consultant

Dear Alfie,

Recently, I was in a large class at a show with my Dad and lots of other Briards and their people. When the judge gave out the awards, he told the one who won our class (I was third) that he had the "quicksilver" movement the Briard standard calls for. The men of both sides of us at the place markers laughed out loud at the judge (but my Dad just smiled). Once outside the ring the same men complained about "sickle hocks' and "hackney" ponies having no relation to "quicksilver". I'm confused, what's a horse got to do with anything? My dad doesn't like to talk about other Briards to me so can you tell me what all those words meant?

signed,
Third and working my way up

Dear Third

Quicksilver is, indeed, used in the Briard standard. It is another word for Mercury, which flows so smoothly that it has been adapted to suggest the proper Briard movement--one that is flowing and smoothly executed. In reality, it is a joy to watch when that outstanding Briard comes into the ring and glides 'round it.'

In your recent experience, the competing humans were probably snidely describing the class winner's movement, perhaps correctly, though they could brush up on their manners. The conditions to which they refer have sadly become too frequently seen in show Briards. Sickle hocks varies in severity. Sometimes it only affects one leg. It refers to the lack of opening up in the hock joint as the leg moves backward. It may also be referred to as "rear extension". The less flexibility there is in the joint, the more pronounced the jerkiness in movement. In extreme cases the poor dog actually stubs its toes into the ground as the inflexible joint comes forward. It may appear to onlookers that the dog is lame, however, this is not the case--it is a permanent condition.

Hackney ponies is reference to the front of the dog in motion. And a great deal of motion one with this condition would have. Improper shoulder angulation or fore-shortened fore arm can cause this type of movement. It appears that the dog is moving like an old pony, raising its front feet well off the ground, as in high prancing gait. Pity the poor Briard with this condition who might have to herd sheep day in and day out. He would quickly tire from the excess motion. He would be unable to stretch out those front legs to cover ground efficiently thus outstripping his stamina from having to take so many extra steps to cover the same ground as a normally constructed Briard.

Unfortunately, this movement has so much motion in it, it
sometimes appears flashy to unwise judges or ring side observers who are less educated in proper structure. But is is a serious fault and shouldn’t be rewarded when there are so many properly built Briards in the show ring. It is a perfectly acceptable and preferred gait in Miniature Pinschers, but is not welcome in Briards.

THE COW PALACE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
February 3 -- 4, 1990

making lists... bathing dogs... planning our clothes... phoning... coordinating... buying bench decorations... preparing menus... grooming the dogs... ironing cloths... adding to the lists... scrubbing crates... packing cloths... checking the lists... measuring for benching hooks and chains... getting forgotten things taken care of... fighting panic...

PACK TWO CARS... DOGS... LUGGAGE... FOOD... PAPERWORK... CAMERAS... GROOMING BOX... PADDING FOR BENCH... CORREGATED CARDBOARD... GLUE... STAPLE GUN... TOOLS... UMBRELLAS... SLICKERS... KEYS TO THE MOTOR HOME...

transfer it all to motor home when we get to its storage place...

The weatherman is saying we will have a wet weekend. The traffic will be bad before we get to the Cow Palace. We haven’t been to San Francisco since the earthquake, I wonder how bad it will look, I wonder how it will be going over the Oakland Bay Bridge?

Smooth trip, a little traffic, but not bad. Only the one section of freeway being closed was an indicator that anything had happened because of the quake. There is the Cow Palace. A new coat of paint, it has never looked so good. The usual long line of RVs waiting to get in, the "no reserved parking" sure is a drag. It’s 1:00 p.m. and the line is starting to move, slowly, as always. Hustle, find a parking spot that will not cause too long a walk into the building in case it rains. Hustle, get parked so the dogs can be walked. Hustle, carry all the bench material into the hall and get the work done by 5:00 or tomorrow morning will start even earlier.

Great, the whole gang is here, plenty of help! Hammers, glue, scissors and creative juices all flowing along with laughs and greetings as more people join in the effort. A corner bench great! The show secretary, said that our Breed Table would be close to our benching area, it is right across the way, wonderful!

The club table cloth is in place; collage of “wonderful briards at work and play” on the wall; extension cord ready for tomorrow; tape player and TV will be carried in in the morning along with all of the grooming equipment, ice chests and dogs. Our bench looks GREAT, the valentine theme turned out cute, all of the dogs will look good on the red plush bench. A romp around the cow pens, lots of new smells; a chase of the ball and a quick game of hide and seek will perk up the dogs. Now a good evening of rest and some dinner are what we all want.

The wind is up, so the awning comes down. It is threatening to rain so the dogs get a quick grooming in the motor home. They aren’t UP for hours yet and will be petted by several hundred people before show time, so it is useless to do a thorough job yet. Don’t forget the VCR, TV and breed tapes.
What a crowd! Will there be any hair left on the dogs to groom when it is show time? The dogs are handling it great. What a socializing experience this is!

We are up in an hour, better get busy with the brushes, combs, etc. People get even more excited to look and touch when the dogs are on a grooming table. How funny. So many video cameras, so many cameras; who has the film concession? Beards, eyes, tails, nails, teeth, ears, and oh yeah, the coat. Outside for a quick potty break; move the dog; check the gait. Thankfully, it isn't raining yet.

Now, remember to breath. The dogs look better with a living handler.

Fight the crowd; get to ring side on time; get your number (the right one if your brain is working); watch the judge; watch the other dogs. The dogs all look great! May the best dog win! When he does, act humble. If he doesn't (unthinkable) remember!!! we all have our day in the sun sometime.

Digby did it! Yeah for Digby? Rosie did it! Yeah for Rosie!

Back to the bench. This is the HARD part. Tired dogs. Tired owners. More questions, more pets, more people, more kids. It's getting colder and windier. Take out the umbrella and slickers, get the dogs into the building before it pours. At least the sun sometime.

Can I move? Is it morning? Do we really have to do this again?

Check the weather, the storm is really here now. Take out the umbrella and slickers, get the dogs into the building before it pours. At least we don't have to show today. Dogs are moving with resignation and not much enthusiasm. We have another day of petting left; nuzzles for some kids in strollers; a trick or two to do for people who think we look like stuffed toys; all in a day's work.

The day's over, another show is finished. So long Cow Palace, till next year.

Marlene Weyuker, BCA Supported Entry Resident Contact

Chances are if you are a newcomer to Briards, you've never seen one uncropped. By the time you pick up your new puppy from the breeder the litter has been routinely cropped—pets and show potential pups alike. Before I get too far along, I confess, I too enjoyed the alert look of a cropped Briard, but my conscience bothers me for liking it. We've long since passed the time and rationale for which Briards were all cropped—so wolves wouldn't tear the ear and the dog wouldn't become terribly weakened from blood loss. Although the young, newly cropped Briard had to survive the weakness and blood loss of the crop itself before it ever got around to worry about a face off with wolves. Keep in mind there wasn't anesthesia back in the good old days so breeders just held the pup down while some one lopped off the ears with a sharp knife—at least, I hope it was a sharp one. I have heard stories of Briards being cropped in this cruel manner as late as the 1970's in France (guillotines were highly popular up through the nineteenth century there, too.) I guess we do take our humane laws for granted in the U.S.

So why do we still crop? For aesthetics and only for that reason. Okay, in the show ring I know first hand how hard it is to win with a natural Briard (they are NATURAL, NATURAL EARED or UNCROPPED—never dropped earred. Cropped implies the ears go up or down by nature's design, not man's). But why put a trusting 5-7 week old Briard pet quality puppy through the pain and hell of an ear crop? Oh yes, I've heard the ear infection myth--BULLFEATHERS! My cropped Briards all had an ear infection at one time or another, yet, Reggie, my natural Briard never, ever had ear problems. The other naturals I've had over the years have had less or the same degree of ear ailments as the cropped dogs, who far outnumbered them. All Briards require ear cleaning and maintenance regardless of the type of ear it has. Fine, that buries MYTH # 1. MYTH #2 is if the breeder doesn't have the pup cropped the pet buyer will find some butcher to do the job. It's pretty hard to find ear croppers in the veterinary hospitals, employing 40-50 vets, interns and visiting specialists. He, himself, is the only one who crops. Ear cropping is really frowned on in the profession. It's unnecessary, potentially dangerous surgery. Briards do die under anesthesia, Briards do die under anesthesia. If everyone who has a Briard had to sit around for 4-5 days and listen to the cropped pups scream in pain everyday they chewed on each other's ears or hit the ear against a solid object, many more natural advocates would join the "IF IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR MOM...
NATURE, THEN IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME*, BRIGADE.

This year I've taken it a step further. I kept two pups out of my litter. I cropped one and left a nice bitch pup natural. Another show pup went natural as well. Remember I said I know what it's like out there, the woods are filled with judges who can't figure out the ears. When Meriah and I were showing, we had some incredible judging experiences. To keep from laughing at them in the ring was tough. Several judges tried to get those darn ears to stand up on their own. Many thought Briards ears went up just like a Skye Terriers do (some Skyes don't). Ignorance abounds. One thing was sure, darn few liked the look. They thought the cropped ear is more appealing in appearance and never seem to get passed it to examine the whole dog. When I was out with Meriah there were only a few other natural Briards around showing. She didn't finish. She lacked a major. But there were some who did. There are even naturals who placed in the Group. I found the oldest judges to be the most accepting of naturals, perhaps because they were old enough to have seen the majority of early uncropped Briards in the Ring. After all, in the early days of the BCA, members could not crop and retain membership. Now that I'll be showing the natural way with "Emmy", I'll have more company. There are several uncropped pups this spring poised to debut in the ring. I welcome the company, there's room for all of us, cropped and natural alike. The more natural pups that show up in the ring, the more the judges will become used to seeing the look and like it or not, they will become "educated" to the fact of life that it is perfectly acceptable under our standard, which has no preference.

Great Britain, much of Scandinavia & some other European states have eliminated ear cropping totally. Cropped dogs from other countries are allowed to come in but exhibition is prohibited. The animal rights activist are really strong now in Europe and here. You may not realize it but even if they fail to get legislative approval of eliminating cropping (and docking), they are pushing various canine registration bodies into eliminating the practice world-wide--this includes AKC. There have been small efforts in the U.S. in the past to stop cropping, but the new animal rights awareness makes it more likely that this time, the push for national legislation to ban a barbaric practice will succeed. I know I'll support it with a letter to my Senators and Congressman when a crop ban bill comes before Congress. Perhaps it would be wise for cropped breed breeders to start looking around at ears and considering ear size and ear sets as one more thing to think about in breeding plans. If cropping is suddenly done away with, at first, there's going to be a lot of terrible ear sets out there, since no thought has gone into it--why should there have been--cropping covers up that particular fault pretty well. Of course, cropping invents a whole new fault naturals don't have to contend with, namely--poor ear cartilage or total lack of ear cartilage so the cropped ears can't stand. Yeah, yeah that gets covered up too--with corrective surgery for implants or heavy induced ear scarring (more painful cutting). Let's see $750 for the original crop, and $200 + for unethical, corrective surgery. The naturals already are $250 ahead of you. Plus they probably don't shy their heads away everytime someone reaches to pet them! With all that painful messing with their ears can you blame the cropped dogs for ducking?

I wouldn't be so naive to expect or even ask all Briarders to switch to the natural look at this point. All I ask is that those who don't care for it to stop dumping on those owners and breeders who do just because their consciences are dictating a very humane treatment of their pups, including the choice to leave nature alone. After all, up or down the dogs are still Briards and they still have the unique qualities and personalities that drew us to the breed in the first place. Of course, if the cropped look is what drew you to the breed, please don't tell me that. I'd like to believe Briarders are less shallow and more selective than that in choosing a dog—not just seeking out a designer look in a dog. Please don't shatter my faith in us.


AVMA Addresses Issue of Cropping

The November meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Committee addressed several issues of growing public concern. Besides formulating working definitions for animal welfare and animal rights the committee deliberated on the issues of animal fighting (specifically dog and cock fighting) and ear trimming (cropping) of pure-bred dogs. These suggestions will be deliberated by the AVMA's executive board before being considered as official recommendations of the AVMA.

Currently, the AVMA's position on cropping recommends that the AKC and breed associations delete mention of cropped ears from breed standards and prohibit showing dogs with cropped ears after some "future date" (currently unspecified). The committee is now recommending that the AVMA executive board adopt the position that cropping is an unnecessary procedure that is stressful and painful, and that it be discouraged and ultimately discontinued. In addition, the committee would like the board to adopt the recommendation that dogs with trimmed ears not be admitted to the show ring after January 1, 1991. (Journal of the AVMA, Vol. 196, No. 1, January 1990)
THE BRIARD—A GAY, GUARDIAN DOG

THE SHOW CAREER of Ch. Nick du Fief Royal A.K.C. 864047, an outstanding Briard, imported, owned and exhibited by Mrs. George W. Jacobs, Jr., Sydney Farm, Norristown, Pa., has been a procession of capturing twelve best-of-breed wins, including the three Morris and Essex shows of 1934, 1936, 1937. In 1935 he was defeated at this great show by one of his progeny, Ch. Nanne of Sydney Farm, as also was the late Ch. Falco. Ch. Nanne, one of three champions to date sired by Ch. Nick, followed through by winning best of breed at Westminster in 1936.

An excellent crop of 1937 youngsters by Ch. Nick du Fief Royal promise to add to his siring record. A pair sent to Santiago, Chile, South America, are reported as the first of the breed to arrive there. The natural candid snapshot shows Ch. Nick in his working clothes. His ears are erect, for it was the fashion in Paris to trim them. The Briard, tracing to a very old race of French farm dogs, and bred in France to standard size and form for forty years, is little known in America. Strong, muscular, built for field work and wearing a weatherproof covering that sheds water and snow like a goat’s coat, active, quick-turning, speedy when herding, enjoying his work, the Briard deserves wide recognition. A well-trained Briard is a perfect guard dog with an extremely retentive memory. He is not inclined to wander, seldom barks without reason, and is essentially well mannered and companionable.

*CH. NICK DU FIEF ROYAL,
A.K.C. 864047

1990 SPECIALTY FUN FAIR

Back by popular demand is the Fun Fair.

BRIARD COSTUME PARTY

This competition will have three (3) classes, four (4) places in each class and a grand prize winner.

We invite you to dress to match your Briard’s costume.

The three (3) classes will be as follow:
- Story Book Characters
- Historic Characters
- Contemporary Life Styles

STUPID PET TRICKS

What more can you say about this contest?
WENT TO A GARDEN PARTY!!!
THE NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The Specialty is almost here and there are a few things that you might need to know. The Date is August 9th thru August 12th 1990. The Place is Frederick, Maryland. A tentative schedule follows.

| Thursday | AM  | Agility                      |
|          |     | Canine Good Citizen Test    |
|          | PM  | Handling Seminar            |
|          | 7PM | Obedience Seminar           |
|          |     | Dinner with Dr. Corley      |
|          |     | (OFA Speaker)               |
|          |     | Parade of Champions         |
| Friday   | AM  | Agility                      |
|          |     | Canine Good Citizen Test    |
|          | PM  | Pet Therapy Seminar         |
|          |     | Puppy Sweeps                |
|          |     | Fun Fair                    |
| Saturday | AM  | Obedience Trial             |
|          |     | Dog & Bitches Classes       |
|          | PM  | Fun Fair                    |
|          | 7PM | AWARDS BANQUET             |
| Sunday   | AM  | Best of Breed & Additional Classes |
|          | PM  | Off site Eye Clinic         |

The schedule is subject to change. Herding events are still pending.

This year's eye clinic is off site and sponsored by the Catoctin Kennel Club. Each year they have Dr. Rubin scheduled for this weekend in Frederick. They are willing to work with us and provide afternoon appointment for Briarders. Please call Eilnor Abrell at (301)-831-8753 to arrange the appointment. We will work to find transportation for those in need. It is important to have the yearly check-up.

More on the Specialty

This year's location is fantastic for the history buff, the antique shopper, the museum buff and the dyed-in-the-wool tourist (like me). Frederick's location is a hop, step and a jump away from several major cities on the eastern seaboard; Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond and Norfolk. Instead of just coming for the specialty itself, plan to spend more time. There is plenty to do in this part of the country.

Frederick area - Frederick is steeped in history. It is the home of Barbara Freitchie ("Shoot if you must this old gray head, but spare our country's flag, she said") made famous by Whitier's poem. There are many fine restaurants, old homes, and antique areas in Frederick and nearby New Market (the entire town is an antique store). Nearby are the Antietam battlefield in Sharpsburg and the Catoctin Zoo in Thurmont.

Baltimore - East on I-70 is Baltimore. In the last ten years the city has been changed by major redevelopment but it remains a city of neighborhoods. Along the Inner Harbor are Harborplace, containing shops and restaurants; the National Aquarium; Maryland Science Center; and Little Italy. The Orioles play at Memorial Stadium and although they are not in town during the specialty itself, they will be playing August 3-5. Other places to see are: the Baltimore Museum of Art, Walters Art Gallery and the Baltimore Zoo.

Annnapolis is Maryland's state capital and home to the United States Naval Academy. With hundreds of miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay, there is a major emphasis on boating and associated activities. The city dock and harbor are particularly busy on the weekends with boaters. Annapolis lends itself to walking and the capital, governor house and Naval Academy are all within walking distance of City Dock. Main Street, leading up from City Dock, is lined with shops and restaurants.

Around the Bay - Other points of interest around the Chesapeake Bay are Chestertown and St. Michaels (maritime museum) on the eastern shore and Solomons Island (maritime museum) on the western shore. Within 150 miles to the east is the Atlantic Ocean and the resort areas of Rehoboth Beach and Bethany Beach in Delaware, and Ocean City in Maryland. Just below Ocean City is Assateaque Island, an undeveloped national seashore park, and Chincoteague, Virginia. South down Route 17 is the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (17.6 miles long) which leads to Norfolk.

Washington, D. C. - As our Nation's Capital, this city has everything (except a major league baseball team!). It abounds in museums, parks, monuments, historical sites, the National Zoological Park, Mount Vernon and many Federal buildings (Capitol, Supreme Court, White House, FBI, Engraving and Printing). As an international city, you can find almost any kind of restaurant. To get to Washington, it is an easy ride down I-270 to the Metro subway station at Shady Grove. There are subway stops at the Zoo and on the Mall for the many Smithsonian museums. Also by subway, the Old Town area in Alexandria, Virginia can be reached for shopping and dining. Across the river from the Rosslyn, Virginia station is the Georgetown area of the District which also has shopping and dining.
Richmond - Virginia's state capital is 110 miles south of Washington on I-95. It is of interest to history buffs as the former capital of the Confederacy and has also been undergoing a transformation. Of interest are the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Valentine Museum, the Museum and White House of the Confederacy, Shockoe Slip and Main Street Station, formerly run-down warehouse districts, and some fine old homes. Old Dominion Theme Park is located just north of the city on I-95.

Colonial Williamsburg - The first Colonial capital of Virginia is located not far from Richmond and Norfolk off I-64. A one mile by five block section of the town is set aside as a working museum and buildings have been restored and are on display. A great place to spend at least a day. Nearby is Jamestown Festival, Yorktown Colonial National Historical Park, and Busch Gardens theme park.

Other Attractions around the Area - For Civil War history buffs, the areas around Richmond and Washington, D.C. abound with places of interest: Manassas, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Appomattox Courthouse, and the Shenandoah Valley. Not too far north of Frederick in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, site of the Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and a major battlefield. Besides history, there is the Shenandoah National Park and Blue Ridge Parkway which travel the Appalachians from Front Royal, Virginia all the way to Asheville, North Carolina. The area around Lancaster, Pennsylvania is beautiful farmland maintained by Amish farmers who do not use electricity for maintaining their fields and homes. To see this area best, get off of the main roads and take side and back roads. The Hunt Country in Virginia around Middleburg and Leesburg has rolling hills, horses and some huge estates.

For information, maps and tourist guides, call:
Delaware - 800/441-8846
Maryland - 800/543-1036
Pennsylvania - 800/VISIT-PA
Virginia - 804/786-4484

---

**ROOM RESERVATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF GROUP</th>
<th>Briard Specialty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR ORGANIZATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF ROOMS</th>
<th>A $50.00 deposit is required for all rooms containing Briards. The deposit will be refunded or put toward the final bill as long as there are no damages to the room.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE (One Person)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUBLE (Two Persons)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANDICAP (One Double Bed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARIVAL DATE</th>
<th>DEPARTURE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>NUMBER IN GROUP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TELEPHONE (HOME)</th>
<th>(WORK)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>ZIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

ROOMS NOT RESERVED (3) WEEKS PRIOR TO CONVENTION DATE WILL BE RELEASED FOR SALE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION. ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PREPAID FOR ONE NIGHT OR GUARANTEED BY CREDIT CARD. CHECK IN IS 3:00 PM AND CHECK OUT IS 12:00 PM.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Act now. Don't be disappointed by a "full inn" -- but minus a room for you.
DINNER RESERVATIONS

Thursday, August 9, 1990:
Number of buffet dinners: _____ x $18.50 = _______
(Attendance at the buffet dinner is not a requirement for Dr. Corley's Lecture. People attending the lecture but not the dinner will be charged $3.50)

Saturday, August 11, 1990
Number of Awards Banquets dinners:
Baron de Beouf
Stuffed Chicken Breast
with cornbread stuffing
_____ x $21.00 = _______

Stuffed Flounder
with crabmeat stuffing
_____ x $14.75 = _______

Stuffed Flounder
with crabmeat stuffing
_____ x $22.50 = _______

The Buffet includes Baked chicken, seafood newburg, carved top round of beef, au gratin potatoes, Chef's rice, corn and Broccoli, cauliflower & carrot mix, potatoe salad, pasta salad, fresh fruit salad and cucumber & onion salad, and a choice of assorted desserts on a dessert bar. Tea, coffee, iced tea, rolls, and butter are included.

The Banquet Dinners include an appetizer, potatoe, salad, vegetable, rolls & butter, dessert, and coffee, tea, iced tea, or milk.

Send your reservations with this form and a check payable to BCA, Inc., to (or for more information contact):
EJ Bailey
601 Merion Avenue
Havertown, Pa. 19083
(215) 449-1649

DEADLINE FOR THE BUFFET IS AUGUST 6, 1990
DEADLINE FOR THE AWARD BANQUET IS AUGUST 8, 1990.

The reservations must be made in advance of coming to the Specialty. Please do not expect additional dinners to be available if your reservation has not been received prior to the deadlines.

Direction and Transportation Arrangements

The Briard Club of America has a large block of rooms reserved at the Holiday Inn (formerly Sheraton Inn-Frederick). For reservations use the enclosed form, or call the Hotel directly at (301) 694-7500.

Directions to the Holiday Inn (Formerly Sheraton Inn-Frederick) I-270 at Route 85 Frederick, Maryland 21701. From I-70 take exit 54 (Route 85 South). Follow 85 South to the Francis Scott Key Mall Entrance. Turn into Mall Entrance, follow hotel signs.

From I-270 Exit at Route 85. Follow hotel signs.

Air Transportation - Either Washington Dulles or Baltimore Washington International are within 45 minutes of the Hotel. Both have excellent service from all over the country. Under no circumstances plan to use Washington National Airport with dogs - it is undergoing reconstruction. For ground transportation please contact Jenny Pakulski (800) 336-8479 (except Va & Canada) (703) 698-1901, home number is (703) 560-0559. She can help with airline reservations also. Use the following form to arrange for ground transportation.

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

Arrival Date _______ Arrival Time _______ Airline _______

Airport _______ # In Party _______ # of Dogs _______

Departure Date & Time _______

Name _______

Address _______

Telephone _______

Mail to: Jenny Pakulski
3223 Parkwood Terrace
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

*******************************************************************************
SPECIALTY FUND

Contribute to a successful event. Your generosity will help furnish the hospitality room and run a memorable specialty. Donations to the Specialty Fund should be sent to the treasurer:

Jerry Katz
1701 Strathcona Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48203
(313) 368-3123

SPECIALTY CATALOG ADVERTISING

Catalog advertising will be available at the following rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full page (with one picture)</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Page (with one picture)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Pages (with one picture each)</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Page (no picture)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Send your ad and check payable to BCA, Inc. to (or for more information contact):

Fran Taylor
674 Chelsea Drive
Sanford, North Carolina 27330
(919) 499-2888

or

Ben Friedland
9 Knollwood Trail West
Mendham, New Jersey 07945-1703
(201) 543-7933

DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 1990 !!!

THE CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST

by Barbe Lynch

The BCA will sponsor an AKC Good Citizen Test during the '90 specialty week for Briards only. For those who aren't familiar with this test, this article will make clear what is required and expected from Briard and handler before and during the test. An entry form is also in this issue of the DewClaw. Pre-entries can take advantage of the price break over the day-of-event entry fee. More exciting news is the possibility of Briarders being able to use a passing grade on this test as part of the criteria for the BCA Versatility Title. The BCA Board is currently voting to adopt the C G C Test as an alternative to an ATTS/CTTS passing grade in qualifying for the VT.

FIRST. ALL Briards entered in the C G C Test MUST have a current Rabies Certificate AND a valid dog license in the State/locality in which it resides. For pre-entries, photocopies of these two documents MUST be sent in WITH the entry (multiple or "Kennel" licenses are allowed). NO entries will be accepted without the documentation. These two items are to show that the owner cares about his dog and is meeting the legal requirements of dog ownership.

Collars worn during the test can be buckle type or slip collars made of fabric, metal or leather. The lead should be made of leather or fabric. NO special training type collars are allowed to be used, including pinch collars.

ALL TESTS WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE DOG ON LEASH.

Next, comes the test itself. The dog will encounter the first of three evaluators. Evaluator # 1, will examine the dog--look in it's mouth and ears then use a brush and/or comb on the dog. The dog must accept the exam and grooming by a stranger. (as it should from its veterinarian or groomer.)

Evaluator # 2 will then take the dog and handler through tests 2-9. Test # 2 is acceptance of a stranger, similar to a TT "passive stranger" test.
In test # 3, the dog must demonstrate it can walk on a loose lead at the handler's left side as it would in a stroll with its owner. It need not maintain rigid "heel" position, but it should keep its attention on its handler through changes in direction as ordered by the evaluator. This is a less rigid heeling exercise than would be encountered in an obedience trial.
Test # 4: Walking through a crowd under control.
Test # 5: Sit for exam--which allows the approach and handling by a stranger [Evaluator # 2]. Dog is held on leash. Test # 6: Sit and Down on command. Extra commands are allowed. Forcefulness to gain the proper position of the dog is NOT allowed.
Test # 7: A Stay in position--either sit or down.
Test # 8: Reaction to another dog.
Test # 9: Reaction to distractions. The evaluator will select two of six possible distractions. (1) sudden opening or closing a door, (2) dropping a large book (no closer than 10 feet to the dog), (3) a jogger, (4) persons good naturedly pushing each other and animatedly talking within 10 feet of dog, (5) pushing a shopping cart within 6 feet of dog, (6) person on a bicycle within 6 feet of dog.)

Test # 10 introduces the third evaluator. The dog is left alone, fastened to a 15 foot line, out of sight of its handler for 5 minutes. The dog can move but can't whine, bark, howl or pace unnecessarily.

The tests are all pass/fail and the dog must pass all 10 sub-tests to qualify for the AKC certificate. (The BCA will mail certificates to all owners of Briards passing this test). Any dog who eliminates during its test will fail. Dogs who snap, growl, attack, or attempt to attack any person or another dog will fail and be dismissed from the test.

Any handler who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or who is seen to kick, strike or otherwise roughly manhandle a dog at any time during a test shall be dismissed from the test.

The test’s purpose is to identify and recognize officially, those dogs that possess the attributes that enable them to serve effectively as personal companions and as members in good standing with the community. Also, it seeks to demonstrate that the dog, as man’s companion, can be a respected member of the community and can be trained and conditioned to always behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect credit on the dog. IT IS NOT A COMPETITIVE PROGRAM.

As you probably have noticed, any well socialized Briard who successfully completes a basic obedience course shouldn’t have much trouble with this test. It is permissible, YES! even encouraged, to practice all the tests ahead of time, at home, in your park, etc! So “bone up” your briard and join us in this practical test at the specialty site.

A KC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST
sponsored by the BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA
AUGUST 9,10, 1990
Sheraton Inn, Frederick, MD

Mail pre-entries to: BARBARA LYNCH 7480 BIG TREE RD.; LIVONIA, NY 14487 [Questions ??? Call 1-716-767-2721]
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA
ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOCOPIES OF ENTRANT’S CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE AND VALID DOG LICENSE. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS. PHOTOCOPIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

Minimum entrant age is 6 months old (as of test date). Female Briards in season may participate, but will be tested after all other Briards entered.
Pre-entries will be acknowledged as soon after closing date as possible. NO REFUNDS.

Test Day Entry: $10/dog
Pre Entry: $6/dog

NAME OF DOG (Print) CALL NAME
AKC Reg. Number Or Reg No.
Or [Male] [Female]
Breed Briard
Date of Birth
City
Name of Breeder
Name of Actual Owner (Print)
Owner’s Address Street
City State Zip Code
Name of Handler (Print)
Name of Handier (Print)

Pre-Entries Closing Date: WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1990

CERTIFY that I am the actual owner of this dog, or their legal authorized agent of the actual owner whose name I have entered above, in accordance with the statements of this entry. I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club governing the CGC test and any decisions made in respect to them, and if as an agent, I agree to be bound in and with the same manner as if I were the actual owner of the dog or the person for whom the entry was made. The owner and agent(s) have no liability or responsibility for any claims arising out of the entry of the dog or in its presence at the event.

SIGNATURE of Owner or Its Agent
Duly Authorized to Make This Entry

Address of Agent (if Agent Signs Above Line for Owner)

City State Zip Code

PHONE NO
Dear Mom,

Here I am again at summer camp. Everything is wonderful, except my counselor - she's crazy!

When I stopped eating, she stopped feeding me - well, not really. She left my food for about 1/2 hour and then took it away from me. So I fooled her - I only eat when the rest of the campers eat and I'm just not going to eat at night. So every day around noon, I eat my two cups of food with the junk in it and my cookies every morning and every night, and I'm not going to eat any more.

The counselor gave me a real cute nick-name. She calls me "Breegodamit." That's when I refuse to go out that doggy door. After 10 minutes of coaxing, she calls me "Breegodamitgetyour-assouthere!" I personally think it's a rather long nickname, but it seems to make her feel better. As soon as I hear her calling me that I mosey out.

Twice a day we have "Arts and Crafts." We go out in these big paddocks and make something called "poop." I'm not sure what it is, but after I do it, I hear "good boy", so I must be doing it right. Shall I send you some so you can see what a good boy I am?

There's a real cute sheepdog in the bunk next to me. I flirt alot with her, but she's only interested in eating every crumb in sight. But I keep trying.

Next to her is something that look like a mouse, but makes more noise. I think he's the camp security system.

We also have a camper named Jay-Jay who sleeps in the house at night. Today, on his way out to go visiting the nursing home, he stopped by my food and helped himself to a couple of mouthfuls. Boy, was the counselor hot! I'm surprised she didn't leave him there!

The other two campers are real duds. They mostly sleep alot but this old bitch tries to tear apart my girlfriend every chance she gets. I'm surprised those two aren't in the nursing home.

All in all, it's a pretty good camp. I get to go into the house too, and the other day I got brushed out. One day I had some "dirty" on the back of my coat and counselor dusted me with baby powder and brushed it out. I smelled like a dumb baby for hours!

When counselor or her husband come out into our room, everybody stands up and sings the camp song - "Bark, Bark, Bark" I've learned it too and I sing with everybody else.

I miss you but know you're having a good time with Susan, Larry, Kara, and Derek

Love,

Bree

P.S. Bring me a present!
Attention, patrons of the arts ... and Briards. The Briart Gallery needs YOU!

Ways you can support the Briart Gallery:
1. CREATE something artistic depicting a Briard and donate it to the Gallery.
2. PAY someone to create something artistic depicting a Briard and donate it to the Gallery.
3. BUY something artistic depicting a Briard and donate it to the Gallery.
4. SEND a cash donation to the Briart Gallery so we can purchase and commission quality art for the Gallery. (Make checks payable to the BCA).

Thank you!

CINDY MARKLE
22735 Cottage Grove
Chicago Hts., IL 60411
(312) 758-7539

SUSAN SMITH
2344 Ivycrest
Bellbrook, OH 45305
(531) 848-4206

AN OFFICIAL FUND-RAISER OF THE BRIARD CLUB OF AMERICA
(AKC MEMBER CLUB)

Editor's note: I wish to extend to Janice Charbonneau my special thanks for sending me the following article from Modern Dog Encyclopedia 1949 by Henry P. Davis.

BRIARD

In attempting to trace the Briard to its origin the researcher is faced with considerable difficulty. While the various authorities agree in basic detail, there remains much that must be left to surmise.

How far back the Briard went in France is unknown. Records dating back to the twelfth century mention Briards bred by Charlemagne. These records mention the dog as the Sheep Dog of Brie, or Berger de Brie. From this it might be assumed that the dog originated in the old Province of Brie and spread to adjoining provinces and, finally, all over France. There is considerable reason to doubt that assumption. Long-haired sheep and cattle dogs have been known for centuries in all of the nations of Europe.

Not in detail, but in basic conformation, size, and coat, the Briard must have come from the same foundation stock as the Bearded Collie, the Hungarian Komondor, Kuvas, and Pull, the Russian Owstcharka, and the Old English Sheepdog. In detail these dogs vary somewhat in size and in their coloring and quality of coat, but it seems impossible to believe that they did not have common ancestors. Even today the Hungarian Pull appears to be a miniature Briard to such an extent that at one show an experienced judge was quite insistent that an adult Puli standing near the ring be brought into the Briard puppy class.

One surprising point in all this is that the Kerry Blue Terrier-rather than belonging to a totally different group-looks like a miniature Briard when not clipped. Some historians claim that within memory of living men there are tales of "big, black dogs being imported from France" to be bred to native, blue-coated Irish dogs. It is said that even today Kerry Blues are used for herding in Ireland.

It would follow that any attempt to trace the Briard to its origin would become involved with most of the long- or medium-coated working dogs.

Turning to more recent history the Briard was "discovered" by American troops serving in France during World War I. The dogs were the most satisfactory of the breeds used by the French Army. It appears that they had several points of advantage for battle service. Their strength made it possible to wrap machine gun ammunition belts around them and send them up to gun emplacements. The thick coat protected them from the extremes of weather-acting as an insulator in summer and as a protection in winter-their large feet made it possible for them to work over the inevitable muddy ground, and their amazingly acute sense of hearing gave them top billing as guardians against a surprise attack. A further virtue, much extolled by Allied troops, was the uncanny ability of the dog to distinguish between a wounded
The Briard is a long one, and decidedly open to some suspicion. However, there is little doubt the Wallace MacMonnies, son of the famous sculptor, and Miss Francis Hoppin were well up towards the head of the list. Actually none of them can lay claim to the first Briards in the United States, for there are records that the Marquis Lafayette, then living on his estate in America, wrote to one of the DuPonts asking the latter, during a proposed trip to France, to send over several more French sheepdogs to guard the distinguished soldier's flocks. The use of the work "more" would indicate that Lafayette had brought some of the dogs over with him in 1824 when he came here to occupy the estate granted him by the grateful American Congress.

With no desire to again start the argument as to the first importation in modern times, it should be noted that the first registration by the American Kennel Club of a Briard was granted to a dog called Timothy Jacobs, out of Oolala by Marquis, and recorded as having been bred by a B. Danielson in Massachusetts. This dog was registered in the name of Mrs. G. W. Jacobs, Jr., who still maintains some interest in the breed. The date of the registration was 1922. Mr. MacMonnies seems to have imported Citronelle de Montjoye in 1923; Miss Hoppin brought over Dauphin de Montjoye in 1925, and the following year Mrs. Harold Ober imported Myrko de Montjoye. It must be pointed out that these records were taken from registrations and there is no proof that previous dogs had not come into this country and had not been registered.

In 1922 a few enthusiasts gathered in New York and formed the Briard Club of America, drawing up the standard almost word for word as a translation of the standard of the French Club, Les Amis du Briard, which had been organized sometime previously. This standard was the official one. Some time later another standard for the breed was printed in American: in a quarter of a century that has elapsed since the standard was drawn up, breeders have adhered so closely to it that there has never been any concerted effort to make any changes.

Those who formed the early club were convinced that the breed should never become popular but should be kept as restricted as possible. Little or nothing was done to stimulate breeding or extensive showing. In spite of this rather reactionary program the breed did grow in popularity; its evident virtues selling the breed in spite of the hesitancy of those behind it to put the dog into the lime light.

During the following 24 years the growth in popularity resulted in some growing pains for the organization and, in 1946, the majority of the enthusiasts who had been in the breed for more than a year or two organized The Briard Fellowship under what were considered rather radical regulations. Among these unorthodox rules was one which specified that all Briards must be registered at birth. Another prohibited the sale of a dog without the delivery of an AKC registration certificate. Still another ruled against the use of professional handlers. Possibly the most widely discussed of all the Fellowship rules was the one that legislated against the breeding of any Briard bitch unless a Certificate of Approval had been issued by the board of governors after consideration of the quality of the dog. Similar certificates are issued to males but the breeding prohibition does not apply should the male be bred to an unapproved bitch belonging to a non-member.

It was freely predicted that such rigorous control of breeding, sales, and showing would result in the curtailment of breed activity. Exactly the reverse took place. Previous to the activity of The Briard Fellowship there had been three of four breeders had worked along haphazard lines, often limiting all breeding to dogs already owned in the particular kennel. The Fellowship rules proved to be what the breed needed. Breeders were drawn together, stud services exchanged, and an intense but entirely friendly rivalry built up in an effort to produce litters that would merit Certificates of Approval. As these certificates had to be issued by a board composed of rival breeders, it meant that quality in dogs, as well as adherence to the other regulations, was a necessity.

As one example of the stimulating efforts of the regulations, the Fellowship had 56 entries at the first specialty match for the breed ever held in America. This doubled the largest entry ever previously known in the breed. Yet, in the opinion of experienced onlookers, every dog in this record entry was the equal, if not superior, to the best that had been shown during the previous decade.

One of the reasons for the increasing demand for Briards is the adaptability of the dog to varied climatic and family conditions found in America. In few other nations will there be found such wide variation in climate, from the perpetual summer of our extreme southern states or the eight-month winter of some of the districts along the Canadian border. Yet Briards are kept and bred in both extremes without difficulty. The answer lies in the typical Briard coat.

In fact the Briard really has two coats; the medium-long outer coat which, under normal conditions, does not shed. It is felt-like under coat known as the pelage appears. In the black dogs this is usually a dark gray; in the tawneys, a brownish color. Coupled with the outer coat the pelage acts as a protection against the extreme cold. The outer coat sheds rain and snow, the pelage protects from the bitter winds. In summer the outer coat acts as an insulator against the heat, much on the same priciple as the loose garments of desert dwellers.
but the dogs refuse to use them. Some of them sleep, by preference, in snow drifts during the bitterest of nights. Yet dogs raised under such Spartan conditions are shipped to Florida and California and experience no difficulty in becoming acclimated to temperatures that seldom go below 50 degrees.

One of the virtues which help to popularize Briards is the fact that the outer coat does not normally shed. The inner coat does loosen in the spring but it does not come out on carpets, clothing, and furniture. The short, dense pelage is caught by the outer hairs and can be combed out. Some Briard owners follow the practice of combing for a minute or every day while others try to give the dog a grooming once a week. If some attention is not given the coat, especially in the spring, the mats resulting from the loosened pelage will prove stubborn.

Another feature of the Briard is that it should never be bathed. Most of the top-flight Briards in America have never had a soap and water bath from the day of their birth. Thus the dog requires the minimum of attention. There is no clipping, no bathing, and only a minimum of necessary combing.

Temperamentally the Briard is quiet as befits his size. He seldom dashes aimlessly from point to point. Those who like the typical Terrier disposition, the constant activity, may readily consider the Briard as too stolid. He is the opposite extreme to the "flea-on-a-hot-griddle" type. His attitude towards guests is usually one of dignified acceptance. Seldom will he break down to lavish affection or become kittenish except when alone with his intimate family. As a guardian he combines the virtues of acute hearing with a deep and rather frightening bark. Briards can be taught to attack, but they are more inclined to be companions and guardians rather than dogs that spring automatically to the attack.

With his family, and with children, he is apt to forget his dignity in the joy of playfulness, but he hates to be laughed at or to be forced to be a clown. All in all he takes himself quite seriously when strangers are about.

While the standard draws no color lines beyond specifying that there should be no white patches, it does say that dark colors are preferred. In spite of this, a great proportion of the leading show winners are tawneys or a combination of tawny or gray and black, or tawny with some black trim around the muzzle. There are still many all blacks, but their proportionate number is falling off in view of the more spectacular appearance of the light-colored, or bi-colored dogs.

At the present writing Briards are bred in all sections of the country although the leading kennels seem to be concentrated in the East. Ledgecliffe Briards are bred in Lenox, Mass., by Mr. Charles R. Whipple. In Norwalk, Conn., Mr. and Mrs. Horace H. Wilson have produced excellent puppies.

In New Jersey the most active kennel is Westlawn, located in Montville. In Phillipsburg, Miss Susan A. M. Konn breeds her Westlawn Gossamer. The outstanding Pennsylvania kennel is that of G. Earle Walker of Harrisburg.
Herding Dogs Are Coming To Town

Imagine the kind of response you would have if you got the following letter from Jane Beahan, Herding Chairman of the Briard Club of America.

Dear Bunny,

I was talking with Carol Van Duzer recently and she told me about you. I CANNOT let you get away!

Carol said you live on the 21st floor of an apartment in Manhattan & have a Briard nearly ready to trial in herding. Could we PLEASE have a story for the Dew Claw? It does not need to be long (unless you want it long) — just something as a testimonial to readers that "City dogs CAN herd."

Many Briarders living in the city toy with an interest, but then write it off, thinking you need a ranch to herd. I think you might be able to dispell that myth.

Hope to hear from you. Good luck.

Sincerely,

Jane Beahan, BCA Herding Chair

I responded with multiple sensory excitement that fueled my fantasy mechanism, allowing my dreams of glory to sip out and take shape. Imagine me — unique — an expert on Herding in the Big Apple. Headlines whizzed by in front of my pleasurably half closed eyes:

Condo Owner Reveals Hidden Sheep on Apartment Roof Top

Early Morning Treat: See Briard & Owner Herding Wild Pigeons in Central Park

Briard, Padieux Ego Trip, “Diva” Fined for Setting Boundaries Around Mayor’s Mansion

Lone Briard Insists All Joggers Stay On The Path and Off The Grass in Central Park Sheep Meadow

Trump Soap Replaced by Diva’s Dynasty “Can a Herding Dog of Humble Beginnings in Cement City Make It Big In The Country Sheep Trials? A Weekly Sage of Schizoid Pleasure

Fantasy Aside - How to begin? How can I make it come together for you others?
BRIARDS FIRST

Two years ago on a ski vacation in Courchevel, France we saw our first Briard. It was floating, no - running, while suspended, over the snow-covered slopes. The sight was incredible but it seemed to melt away and no amount of high school French could help us find out what animal we had seen. We saw a second Briard, a sweet soulful puppy of 8 or 9 months patrolling a book & stationery store full of people shopping after skiing. It moved easily through the crowds -aloof but friendly. This time we could get the information we needed to start our instant love affair. We saw other Briards in and around town, all large, well behaved, dignified animals with natural, joyful, good manners and a movement that at once was balletic, powerful, and humorous, all at the same time, or at different times, giving the sensation that they really knew what life was all about, and it was possible that they would share, if you were really nice.

We returned home to do some research on the breed. I'm sorry to say what I read here wasn't what I had seen or heard in France. Luckily my husband Milton and I had long since learned that neither the New York Times nor any other printed matter necessarily tells the truth. However, there were moments when we wavered in our decision to own a Briard. Where were those special dogs that looked and acted like the ones we saw in France?

THE CALL

"Yes, puppies. Eight weeks."

"What a coincidence - but - a show puppy . . . socialize?"

"I read they . . ."

"Individuals . . . Let's say opinionated."

"They don't shed! Let's go see."

Did we fall in love with Fran & Gordon? Minty? Banner? Echo? or . . . Radieux Ego Trip - "Diva", a soft spoken, gentle, tender, eater-of-socks puppy, a "do it myself puppy," a girl puppy, a special puppy. Is Diva special because I think she's special or because she stops pedestrian traffic on Madison Avenue? Is it because people call out from cars "Great looking dog! What breed is that?" or because we can't walk anywhere without admiring looks and murmurs. Is it because she's a show puppy, a fluffy, a pretty, with bows and fresh brushed coat and a prance that says, "Look at me!" or is she special simply because she's a well-loved Briard?

THE SPECIALTY

"OK, love to go. Rooms? Grooming? You will? Great!"

Safe under the Davis's wings. Fran should get an award for new owner nurturing.

Fun in the sun, meeting people, talking Briards. Diva tumbling in the room with her siblings. It's hard to tell which one is my special puppy. The puppy class, the parade of champions, the costumes, climbing in and out of crates and holes, are all great fun. She's bewildered but fascinated and so am I.

"Let's go see the herding."

"Oh, Mon Deux! Sheep - Sheep - SHEEP."

My puppy has grown 3" taller, and suddenly acquired a voice that rings out from an animated, intense, serious dog.

"WOW! SHEEP! I LOVE SHEEP! I Can Do Sheep! Listen, I'm telling you this is my thing! My family has been in sheep for years. It's a tradition."

"SIT! Humans need time to think."

I watched. Diva watched. Finally, reluctantly, I said,
“Do you want to try this instinct - this Herding instinct test?”

“Yup, Do it! I want to do it. What do you mean try?”

“Sorry, no more room, but why don’t you come up another time?”

THE PLACE

Sometime in October a puppy, raised 21 stories above the cement streets of New York City returned to Connecticut.

“Ah, Sheep. Lovely Sheep. Woolley creatures that listen to Moi. Now, watch me. I know just how it’s done. Don’t say a word. Listen! Watch!”

No, No! If five sheep are moving out of the boundary area on the right side and two on the left, you put the five in first and . . .

Please, Human, I love you, but pay attention. I think it’s you lack of dewclaws.”

NUTMEG FARMS, tucked just out of reach of a major highway and a college town, is a proper destination for herding sheep. It is a step back in time to the friendliness and calmness of country, “Down Home, America.” It has the physical necessities to learn the sport, fenced areas, boundaries, bridges, pens, buckets of corn, and long lines. It has the trained sheep that are agreeable and tolerant of learning dogs and fumbling humans and most important, it has Lynette Mellville.

Lynette has that special quality of all natural master teachers - you don’t know that they are teaching. Her touch is light and informative. The support is there when you need it and feathered away to allow you the necessary space to grow in competence. There is always great concern not only for the challenge, but for the health and safety of the dog and the sheep.

The herding lessons are not only a physical education but an intellectual one as well. Our conversations are colored by the specifics of the herding elements we are trying to accomplish that day, but they also touch on a rainbow of related subjects.

The many varieties of sheep and their relative strong points.

The AKC’s All-Herding Breed Herding Tests.

Diet and Nutrition in working dogs.

The history of the various herding styles and the dogs that go with these styles.

My instruction also comes complete with an introduction to a long list of people who come for lessons, hot soup, information, and just good conversation about dogs and herding. You begin to feel part of a growing group of people who appreciate how important the herding experience has been and is to the development of each specific breed. It adds a whole other dimension to owning a herding dog - a continental herding dog - a Briard.

HERDING

Now, about once a week I watch and work with a young Briard who knows what life, her life, is all about. She knows how to herd, Continental, Border Style, but doesn’t know the game or the rules. I am learning to “WUP WUP” and toss corn in the right places. She adjusts her gait and her energy to the work; I am often exhausted. We are learning together. I read a lot. She plays. She doesn’t care for some of the rules but she tries, and settles into the work.

It’s nothing I ask her to do. It’s something she wants to do. Her whole being wants to do it. And that’s the fatal attraction. We have a sport that we can play together as equals. I have my work, she has hers. I am awed by her natural abilities. I act as a translator giving names to her actions so we can talk about the rules and the tame in a common language. It is a humbling experience to deal with unleared wisdom.
Briards who lived and herded years past are the genetic foundation of Diva's knowledge, but it is the opportunities of today and tomorrow that allow her to integrate this information into physical and mental skills. They call it instinct and everyone knows they can define it, but it is astounding to see it build upon itself.

**SUMMARY, AT LAST**

I have mud boots and Ugh boots, wet suits and dry suits, country clothes and city clothes. Diva has special conditioners for her coat, a groomer for her extra baths, walks for her stamina, lessons for breed shows, classes in obedience and work-shops in herding.

We are up at 6 a.m. daily, in bed not before 11:00 p.m., to take advantage of the unwritten rule that dogs may run free in the city parks until 8 a.m. and after 10 p.m. She runs. We jog and walk, meet friends and train. I gossip; she dog talks. Six days a week, she is a city pet. One day week, she is a working, Continental style, herding dog and some weekends she is a show puppy.

In every area of her life and mine that one day has made all the difference.

**Somewhere during the lessons, or the conversations or the visit to the Agway Store, I understood we were going to take the AKC tests and get ready for the herding trials. I wasn’t asked. I didn’t decide. Maybe it’s instinct, but we are off to Kentucky for the first AKC sanctioned Herding tests.**

***“Diva” earned her Herding Tested (HT) Title in the Continental Style, way down South in Louisville, Kentucky, and brought two large gorgeous, rosette ribbons back north.***

"YES, VIRGINIA, CITY DOGS CAN HERD."
Champion Mes Ami Cheesecake

Owner/Breeder/Handler: Jeanne K. Zahniser

Sire: Ch. Foxlair Vaudou en Noir
Dam: Ch. Radieux Until Then
Whelped: February 6, 1987
Finished: May 20, 1990

Champion Lourson Brilliant Babette

Owners: Robert & Barbara Weihrauch
Breeder: Mary Ann & Robert Bloom & June W. Shew
Handler: Elliot More

Sire: Ch. Lourson Sumtin Special
Dam: Lourson Sans Gene
Whelped: April 14, 1986
Finished: January 13, 1990
Radieux Ego Trip Ht

Owner: Milton & Bunny Rattner
Breeder: Fran Davis

Sire: Ch. Faux Paw's Cavalier's Rughby Road CD
Dam: Ch. Radieux U. S. Mint
Whelped: February 9, 1989

Breeder who have or are expecting puppies as of June, 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire/Dam</th>
<th>Actual or Expected Birthdate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARBARA RUBY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH Chien Velu's Dark Vader</td>
<td>1/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7381 Ryan Ranch Rd. CH Deja Vu Woodbine Celebration Shingle Springs, Ca. 95682 Black &amp; Tawnies 916-933-6628</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARBARA LYNCH</td>
<td>5/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH Foxlair Vaudou en Noir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7480 Big Tree Rd A/C CH Bigtree's Brass Ring Livonia, N.Y. 14487 Black &amp; Tawnies 716-367-2721</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHIGAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINDA KNOll</td>
<td>3/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH Bazil du Moulin D'Eau</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6655 Rive Jet. Rd. CH Amber L'Amour de Knollwood Jackson, Mi. 49201 Black &amp; Tawnies 517-784-6777</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENNSYLVANIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOM &amp; REGINA KEITER CH Deja Vu Double or Nothing Oakwood Acres CH Aigner Vested Interest Tannersville, Pa. 18372 Tawnies 717-629-3315</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHODE ISLAND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERARD BAUDET</td>
<td>4/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH Tiason du Coteau d Avranches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105 E. Manning St. CH Chanel de Lutece et l'Eminence, CD Providence, RI 02906 Tawnies 401-861-7617-home 401-792-2394-work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Listing of a Briard Litter is available to any BCA member who has been a member for at least one year. The listing fee is $25 for a three month term. If any pups remain unsold, listing may be renewed for an additional $25. Another litter born within the three month term of listing constitutes a second listing, an additional $25 fee required. Contact the BCA Secretary for a listing, stating sire, dam, color of puppies and whelping date.