

# TRAP FALLS KENNEL CLUB NEWSLETTER



## November-December 2014

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## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be January 6, 2015 at Apple Rehab/Shelton Lakes at 7:30 p.m. Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

## CALENDAR 2015

January 6- meeting  
February 3- meeting  
March 3- meeting  
April 5- Conformation/Obedience Rally Show  
April 7- meeting  
May 6- meeting  
June 2-meeting  
July- Annual Picnic  
August 4- meeting  
September 1- meeting  
September- RDOD-date to be announced  
October 6- meeting  
November 3- meeting  
December- Christmas Party-date to be announced

## A Hand for a Paw



On Saturday, December 7, 2014 Eve Skrabl and I visited "A Hand For A Paw" to make a \$250.00 donation on behalf of Trap Falls Kennel Club.

A Hand for a Paw is a 501(C)(30) non-profit that is passionate about preventing animals from entering

the doors of municipal animal control facilities. A Hand for a Paw assists pet families with affordable vaccines, Micro-chipping, basic grooming, a pet food pantry, humane education and access to affordable professional assistance. Established in 2008, the founders are Jimmy Gonzalez, former Chief Animal Control Officer, and Melissa Kulan, former Animal Adoption Coordinator for the City of Bridgeport's Animal Control Facility.

During our visit Eve and I saw the commitment and passion the founders and the volunteers have for their cause. They participated in our RDO day in Ansonia in 2013. Please visit their website at [www.ahfap.org](http://www.ahfap.org).

Submitted by Cindy Richardson

## BRAGS



The Thanksgiving Cluster was quite a successful weekend! Pictured with his breeder/handler Jan Koster. Thanks goes to Judge Mr. Thomas Coen for Bentley's 1st Major during the South Windsor Kennel Club Show and to Judge Dr. Carmen Battaglia during the Springfield Kennel Club for his 2nd major. Bentley is owned by Lisa Peters.



Here is Torino at 10 months old completing his CGC owned by Peggy Esposito

a-like contest. The judge (I do not have his name) and First Selectman Peter Tesei of Greenwich judged and gave the prize



Am GrCh/ Can Ch. Wilslands Salt Rocks St James Guinez RA TT CGC has been invited to Eukanuba in Orlando Dec 12, 2014. He finished up as the #1 Owner Handled Rottweiler in the country! The OH Series runs from Oct 10 - Oct 8 of each year.



Boris and Fin Bheara won the Mirror Mirror contest at Greenwich's Puttin on The Dog Festival held September 21. Yep, it was the owner and dog look



Bella our Portuguese Podengo Medio was "Best In Event" at the 2014 Iron Dog lure coursing field trial. She is Belle Chance CD BN RA SC CAX CGCA. Jan Miller



Here is a photo of Dakota enjoying the fall foliage among the Christmas trees. Dakota is owned by Cindy Richardson.

## AKC Delegate News

# Misuse of Service Dogs Hurts the Disabled and Responsible Dog Owners

Would you lie to get a handicapped parking placard? Would you fake an injury that required the use of a wheelchair to obtain special services? Would you feign a life threatening illness to qualify for a *Make-A-Wish* trip?

Most people would never do these things because they harm those who are truly disabled and need special assistance. However, it appears that many people do not feel the same way when it comes to service dogs. Sales of fake service dog vests, patches and backpacks have skyrocketed in recent years, allowing owners who outfit their pet with this gear to enter restaurants, ride with a dog in an airplane cabin, or claim other special accommodations intended for people with disabilities. This behavior is just as dishonest and damaging. (Courtesy of AKC Government Relations).

## Chairman's Report

*- Providing Education for All Breeders -*

**New York, NY** – This weekend we will have the pleasure of watching the top national and international dogs

compete in the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. This spectacular event will feature more than 4000 dogs consisting of 191 breeds and varieties, with one thing in common – a dedicated responsible breeder bred each. These few thousand breeders, whose dogs are participating this weekend, represent our much larger family of breeders involved in the sport. They are breeders who adhere to the motto of “Breed to Improve.” This larger family of breeders shares beliefs that guide their breeding program for a lifetime – no matter what the breed.

There is no doubt that these responsible breeders – in their efforts to protect, preserve, and improve their breeds with every litter – embrace the advances in health screening and tests. These breeders apply their understanding of the science of genetics by utilizing the screening and testing protocols designed to aid in the selection of a sire and dam. These breeders understand that education is the most powerful tool one can use to improve a breeding program. So they invest in lifelong learning to keep their commitment to continuous improvement. These breeders are accountable for their breeding programs. One merely has to search the OFA database to appreciate the magnitude of that commitment.

These breeders assume the responsibility for the safe environment and well-being of their dogs. That model of commitment led to the AKC Care and Conditions Policy, which has become the gold standard of maintaining dogs. These breeders are part of a long tradition of passionate people with a common purpose involved with the American Kennel Club, who keep proving that anything is possible.

For over 130 years the American Kennel Club, its parent clubs, and responsible breeders have been dedicated to canine health. The very existence and continuation of breeds in this country depend on a foundation of puppies bred for type and function, and sound in body, mind, and spirit. AKC is intensely committed to publicly and strongly standing up for purebred dogs, their breeders, and their owners. AKC takes very seriously its responsibility to provide proven advice, up-to-date resources, and significant funding for canine genetic research. AKC’s three-pronged commitment to helping breeders reach the highest standards includes supporting AKC Parent Clubs, creating and supporting the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and dedicating AKC staff and resources to breeder education.

For those of us who have been breeding dogs for a while, we have forgotten when we learned what we know – we just know it. But we can all remember the experience of our very first litter. I think Rod Stewart put it best – “I wish I knew what I know now, when I was younger.” That wistful thought sums up the opportunity we must seize to help assure there will be breeds for future generations to enjoy as part of their families.

AKC Staff and Board have been working on a program to be launched next year. The essence of the program is built on the principles embraced by our most experienced breeders today – health, education, accountability, responsibility, and tradition. The program will allow us to engage and educate a wide scope of breeders on best breeding practices, while also creating an identifiable resource for the general public to find puppies from responsible breeders who are demonstrating a validated commitment to health testing. Breeders in this program must agree to the following:

- They must certify that applicable health screens as recommended by the Parent Club for that breed are performed on their breeding stock and they must be prepared to supply proof of such compliance upon request.
- They must comply with the AKC Care and Conditions Policy, including inspections by the American Kennel Club.
- They must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the ownership and maintenance of dogs.
- They must complete continuing breeder education courses provided or approved by the AKC on an annual basis.

Additionally, under this program, AKC is creating the best free of charge online resource for breeder education in the world. This resource will continue to grow in depth and breadth, serving the needs of all breeders and potential breeders, from 4-H and FFA youth to the most experienced AKC Breeder of Merit. Non-breeding, dog-loving households will likewise benefit from the educational offerings as they learn more about the decisions a responsible breeder must make in order to raise happy, healthy puppies, bred for type and function.

Most importantly, as AKC embarks on new initiatives designed to reinforce our commitment to canine health, it is essential that we educate and support all breeders who are doing the right thing for dogs – regardless of the size of their programs or their involvement in the sport. Responsible breeders come in all shapes and sizes; what they share is a high level of care for their dogs and a true dedication to the health of their puppies. AKC intends to do all that it can to support those breeders who share our commitment and are willing to accept the responsibility of continuous improvement for the good of all dogs.

I believe this program presents more than an opportunity. I believe it is the responsibility of the American Kennel Club to provide this education for all breeders. Robert Benchley observed that a dog teaches us fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down. While some of us might not adhere to the latter, we all have fidelity and perseverance when it comes to caring for the breeds we love so much. Those qualities keep us working hard at breeding after we get tired doing the hard work we already did. Educating breeders to ensure the

future of purebred dogs is a big job, but I don't know anyone more capable of doing it, nor more committed to achieving it, than all of us. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome at [atk@akc.org](mailto:atk@akc.org).

Sincerely,



Alan Kalter  
Chairman

## **Purina Pro Plan Renews Sponsorship of AKC Registered Handlers Program**

**New York, NY** — The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) is pleased to announce that Purina® Pro Plan® will continue its sponsorship of the AKC Registered Handlers Program (RHP) for the next three years. The RHP strives to maintain high standards and integrity among professional handlers within the sport of purebred dogs.

“Support from partners like Purina Pro Plan allows us to conduct vital events that help grow dog shows, like our junior showmanship and adult handling clinics run by RHP members,” said Timothy Thomas, Director, Dog Show Judges. “We’re appreciative of Purina’s dedication to dogs and are excited to continue adding resources to the AKC Registered Handlers Program with their assistance.”

“We at Nestle Purina PetCare Company are very pleased to continue our partnership with AKC in support of this program and its members,” said Ann Viklund, Director/Conformation, Professional Engagement Team. Professional handlers have long played an important role in the sport of purebred dogs, exhibiting many of the top show dogs in history. Their expertise in the care, conditioning and presentation of show dogs comes from years of dedication, hard work and continuing education. The AKC Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

## **DEADLINE for the January- February 2015 newsletter is February 7, 2015**

**Editors Comments:** Please send photos (Photos must be sent as jpeg attachments) directly to me at [csweetwood@att.net](mailto:csweetwood@att.net). Articles should be in MS Word or simply written in your e-mail. Remember to include “TFKC” in the heading or it may never get opened due the high SPAM content these days.