



Atlanta Kennel Club

DIGEST

Atlanta Kennel Club Newsletter

August 2022

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August Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Program

"Pyometra in the Bitch"

Presented by Bob Stawicki, DVM, MS, Diplomate of The American College of Theriogenologists
Dr. Bob received his bachelors degree, a masters degree in Veterinary Science, and attended veterinary school all at The University of Florida. He then worked in veterinary practice in Gainesville, Florida for several years before being accepted into the Theriogenology residency program at The University of Pennsylvania. Upon becoming board certified in Theriogenology, Dr. Bob held a faculty position teaching veterinary reproduction at The University of Georgia for four years before returning to small animal practice at Hamby Road Animal Hospital in Alpharetta, Georgia, where he has been for the past 4 years. Dr. Bob enjoys all aspects of canine reproductive medicine, including all types of artificial insemination, semen freezing, and diagnostics and treatment of fertility problems in both the bitch and stud dog.

Menu

Lasagna (with beef), salad, garlic rolls, and cannoli for dessert. Soft drinks, iced tea, water, and regular coffee are included. Specialty coffees and alcohol are not included.

Location

Aldo's Italian Restaurant, 6690 Roswell Rd NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328
Phone: 770-992-9600

Directions: Aldo's is on the northwest corner of Roswell Rd. and Abernathy Rd. in Sandy Springs, just outside the perimeter and west of 400. Parking is behind the restaurant in the Sandy Springs Crossing shopping center.

Time: Gather at 6:45, Business Meeting at 7:30, Program at 8:00 p.m.

DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE **REQUIRED** IF YOU PLAN TO DINE WITH US!

You are not required to have dinner, but a **reservation is absolutely necessary** if you want to dine with us. Join us for dinner or come about 7:30 for a short business meeting, followed by the program at 8:00 p.m.

Make your reservation by emailing **Lisa Hall** at lisahall888@comcast.net NO LATER than Sunday evening, **August 14th**. If you make a reservation and do not attend you will be billed for your meal. Please bring cash or personal check to the meeting. **NEW!!** You may also pay by Zelle from your mobile banking app or your bank's website. Send to this email: TheAtlantaKennelClub@gmail.com. The app should confirm the email that you entered and say that it is enrolled in Zelle as "Atlanta Kennel Club". Please enter "August dinner meeting" in the message section before you click send. **NOTE: You must use your mobile banking app or your bank's website.** It will not accept payments from the Zelle app.

Price \$30 adults and \$15 for children under 12.

If you have special dietary needs, please mention this to Lisa when you make your reservations. If you decide to attend after the RSVP deadline, you can order food "to go" from the restaurant and join us in the meeting room. Just be sure to let us know so we can hold your seat!

Wanted!

Suggestions for future meeting programs. Please send suggestions for topics and speakers to our program coordinator, Sandy Weaver, at golfndogs@att.net or text 770-310-6932.

We're also looking for a member who wants to learn how to find good programs that our members will enjoy and learn from. If you're interested, please contact Sandy.

Member Services & Training Resources— Update Needed!!!

We need to update the information on our website for professional services offered by our members such as boarding, grooming, training, veterinarians. Click here to see what is currently listed: <http://atlantakennelclub.org/resources/member-services/>

Send additions, deletions, or corrections to Ginger Aldrich at snofire@aol.com. Be sure to include your name, the name of the business, address, phone #, website, and short description of services offered.

Member of the Month

Congratulations to the August Member of the Month:

Lynn Tyler

Training Classes

Our member, Sandy Weaver, is teaching conformation training classes at Alchemy Dog Training in Marietta, 545 Glover St., Marietta, GA 30060. Classes are Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per class, or buy 6 and get one free. You can work multiple dogs per class for no extra charge. Questions? Email Sandy at golfndogs@att.net or text to 770-310-6932.

Cards and Flowers

Best wishes to Mary Ellen Macke who is recovering from knee surgery—hopefully her last one!!

If you know of a member who's going through a tough time, please let Jerry Cerasini and Sandy Weaver know. Email them at ponyguru@aol.com and golfndogs@att.net

Webmaster

Jim Macke - jimmacke@comcast.net or **Mary Ellen Macke** - maryellenmacke@gmail.com, 404-310-5933
Call or email either Mary Ellen or Jim for website questions or help.

Do not forget to like us on FACEBOOK! Do you have something to post? Tamara Brower is the Facebook Administrator for the **Atlanta Kennel Club** and the **Peach Blossom Cluster**. Contact Tamara at tamarabrower@gmail.com.



Find us on:
facebook®

Birthdays

Kimberly Fuller - Aug 01
Donald Mallik - Aug 01
Eva Wei - Aug 03
Susan Wise - Aug 04
Doris-Jean Molin - Aug 06
Susan Bess - Aug 07
Ed Eassey - Aug 07
Carmelita Prince - Aug 08
Michelle Anderson - Aug 08
Lisa Hall - Aug 09
Jerrilin Naylor - Aug 10
Tom O'Hern - Aug 10
Jean Adair - Aug 15
Lynette White - Aug 16
Bill Jaynes - Aug 17
Jean Warren - Aug 20
Emery Pete - Aug 21
Linda Jackson - Aug 22
Elizabeth Milano - Aug 22
Mary Ellen Macke - Aug 23
Scarlett Johnson - Aug 24
Pam Schloemer - Aug 25
Ronnie Gorecki - Aug 27
Valerie Dombrowski - Aug 28
Terry Berrios - Aug 31
Haley Hayes - Aug 31
Patti Henderson - Aug 31

Anniversaries

Joy Wells - Aug 04
Rebecca Kestle, DVM - Aug 07
Barbara Zahn - Aug 18
James & Deborah Lovett - Aug 19
Alicia Estrems-Schaefer - Aug 22

Editor's Note: A lot of our members didn't include birthday and/or anniversary info when they joined. If you'd like your special day(s) recognized here, please send the info to me - legrandchows@gmail.com

So, You're Thinking About Judging...

If you're thinking about becoming a conformation judge, you'll need to do some stewarding assignments as part of the application process. Luckily you belong to a club that is delighted to help you get those assignments. Atlanta Kennel Club has a long history of members steward at our shows. If you'd like an assignment, please contact Mary Ellen Macke, maryellenmacke@gmail.com, to let us know of your interest!

Membership

Proposed New Members:

James Conroy
Marietta, GA 30062
bluedane123@gmail.com
Great Dane

Welcome New Members: Kelly Zimmerman

Do you have a friend who loves dogs? Invite them to attend a meeting with you. It's a great way to introduce friends to the sport that includes their furry best friend! You can also refer them to Gilda Mallik – gilndon@comcast.net

Judges' Selection Committee

Please contact committee members from the appropriate groups to suggest judges for consideration by the selection committee which meets several times during the year. Please remember not everyone "suggested" can be placed on a panel due to a variety of reasons, however, club members input is given priority. We do work with our "sister" cluster clubs and also have a policy not to hire the same judge for the same show two years in a row. Since we do share judges with the other cluster clubs, we tend to try to hire judges approved for several groups, if possible, to control expenses through judge sharing. Members provisional for any breeds are also given a priority as well as suggestions from specialty clubs for their supported entries.

Show Chair Emeritus - Kathleen Steen - 770-751-0311 - kathleensteen@bellsouth.net

Show Chair & Sporting - Mary Ellen Macke - 404-310-5933 - maryellenmacke@gmail.com

Working - Carl Vitner -404-291-0123 - samoyed@bellsouth.net

Hounds - Jerry Cerasini - 770-475-3152 - ponyguru@aol.com

Non Sporting - Lynette White - 770-801-0780 glwchows@bellsouth.net

Toys - Candy Wright - 678-851-4633 - chiggerbug@gmail.com

Herding - Dr. Carmen Battaglia - 770-998-3679 - carmenbattaglia@gmail.com

Terrier - Gilda Malik - 770-394-4098 - gilndon@comcast.net

If anyone in our club is newly provisional in new breeds or thinking you may be soon, you must let Kathleen Steen know in order to be included in a future panel. The new judges lists are not necessarily being monitored, just an FYI reminder. If you know of someone who may be provisional in their first group, non member, etc, to recommend, also let Kathleen or the group leader know as they are always seeking provisional judges for AKC requirements.

AKC's Confident Puppy Course

In 2018, the AKC Detection Dog Task Force launched the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program to coach and support breeders and trainers who dedicate a year to prepare a puppy as a candidate for advanced detection training. The foundational training program used in the Patriotic Puppy Program is now available to everyone free of charge via the AKC's Canine College. It is called the Confident Puppy Program, and is a collection of educational resources for individual breeders, trainers, and puppy raisers seeking information on raising resilient, well-socialized, and confident dogs. To learn more about this course or to enroll in the course, click on this link:

https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/visitor_catalog_class/show/839391

To learn more about the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program which is an opportunity for breeders and owners to work closely with experts on raising candidates for explosives detection work, click on this link:

<https://www.akc.org/akc-detection-dog-task-force/akc-pilot-detection-puppy-rearing-program/>

How To Get A Great Win Photo

By Vicki DeGruy, DeGruy Photography

Show photographers are fixtures at most conformation events involving animals of all kinds. It's a specialized occupation; you don't usually see horse photographers at dog shows, or dog photographers at cattle exhibitions. There are photographers for cat shows, guinea pigs, fish, birds -- you name it, if it's alive and can be exhibited, there'll be a photographer on hand to record the win.

The goals of the show photographer and exhibitor/customer are essentially the same: to produce a record of the win that also flatters all of the subjects involved. The degree of difficulty to accomplish this seemingly simple feat rises exponentially with the number of subjects in the photo, their attitudes toward being photographed, their ability to cooperate or take instruction, the training level and willingness of the animal, the patience and handling skill of the exhibitor, the patience of the judge, and the expectations of the exhibitor toward the appearance of the final result. The deed must also be done within a very short period of time as other exhibitors are waiting for their turns and the judges usually have to pee, prepare to judge another breed, or catch a plane.

As a show photographer myself, I've found that it's way more challenging to work with the people on the podium than it is the dog. Most show dogs will readily stand on the platform and allow themselves to be nicely stacked if their handlers would simply relax and give them the opportunity. But there seems to be an almost universally high level of tension that exhibitors bring with them when they come for their pictures, much like the tension they display in ring. Dogs find this tension uncomfortable and want to move away from it. They resist, they fidget, they move their feet, they say "sorry, not doing this today", drop their tails, pin their ears, or simply jump off the platform and head for the hills. Sound familiar? I'm sure it does!

So my first and most important piece of advice on getting a great win photo is to RELAX. You're at the podium for a picture because your dog won something, it means the hard work is done, the stress of competition is over. It's time to relax, catch your breath, and let all that adrenaline melt away. Be happy, smile at the judge, smile at the photographer, and smile at the dog who brought you to this point. Scratch behind his ears and tell him he's wonderful. Some photographers enjoy this as well but you probably should ask first.

You'll want to decide whether the dog looks best in profile (fully perpendicular to the camera) or at a 3/4 angle (dog's front angled slightly toward the camera). This is best determined at home during practice, ideally in front of a mirror, or with the help of a friend. Chows are most often photographed at 3/4's which helps them to look more compact in body and shows off their heads and fronts. If you're fortunate to have a very square, short-coupled Chow, a profile shot will display that great structure.

Stacking the Chow on the podium for a picture is the same process as stacking on the ramp in the ring. At this point, the photographer may offer suggestion as to leg placement. This is where your ability to process and accept direction is important. The photographer knows how the camera is going to see your dog and will guide you accordingly. If a friend is also offering suggestions, be sure that they're standing behind the camera where they're seeing what the camera will see and not off to the side observing your dog at an angle. At that location, what looks good to them is unlikely to look good to the camera. Listen to the photographer! That said, there are rare occasions when a photographer might not be as experienced with our breed as we'd like and directs you to position the dog incorrectly. Politely speak up and tell them how you want it. It's your picture.

Once the dog is set, slip the fingers of your left hand under the dog's collar and lift up just slightly. You don't have to pull his head up, you're just using some upward pressure on the collar to keep him in place and let him know you want him to stay still. Turn your body so your left side is angled toward the camera (a flattering position for most of us), and stand up straight with your shoulders back. Almost there!

To look at the dog or to look at the camera, that is the question ... it's up to you. There are differences of opinion on this subject and all of them could be considered correct. Looking at the dog helps to draw the viewer's eye to the dog; the dog is, after all, the winner of the award and the focus of the picture. Looking at the dog also helps to prevent you or the other humans in the picture from accidentally presenting an unflattering expression to the camera. This is a real thing, many people fail to purchase an otherwise fine picture of their dog because they don't like how they look in it themselves. Take a few minutes at home in front of a mirror to practice how you want to look in your win picture so you're ready when the big day comes.

Okay, dog is stacked, humans are in position, the photographer is going to ask "Ready?" and then throw or squeak something to get the dog's attention and bring its ears up. We hope. If you're showing a young Chow or a puppy without a lot of experience, this might be enough to get that amazing expression that won it the ribbon in the first place. But if it's a mature dog, one that's been there and done that a few times, getting that expression can be an exercise in futility. The dog finds the whole thing boring and sees no reason to accommodate you.

Here's where you, the exhibitor, can help the situation, especially at an all breed show where everyone's pressed for time. First and most important, RELAX. If you're anxious and frustrated, the dog will shut down and ignore everything or worse, bail from the podium. Stay calm, talk happy. Have the photographer call his name. Are there certain words the dog reacts to, "cookie", "car ride", "squirrel", etc.? Because of their limited vision, Chows rarely react to thrown bait or

How To Get A Great Win Photo (continued)

By Vicki DeGruy, DeGruy Photography

small toys. I've found that sound works well if it's something a little unusual and it's not overdone. Enlist the help of friends and even other exhibitors who're waiting for their turns (and do return that favor when the opportunity arises). If there are tricks you know that work for your Chow, tell the photographer when you come to the podium. They will appreciate you!

If you should be so unfortunate that your dog throws a tantrum on the podium, is unusually frightened, or absolutely refuses to cooperate, don't push the issue. It's just going to make the situation worse for everyone. Take the dog away for a little walk or let it rest in the crate for a while, then come back and try again later.

Please do not ask or allow a friend to take a cell phone picture while you're on the podium with the judge. Win pictures with judges are strictly the domain of the official show photographer. If you want something immediate to post on social media, take your dog and ribbon off somewhere else for a quick snap.

Should you speak to the judge while you're having pictures taken? Most of them are happy to be thanked for the award but they usually don't want to get into a conversation. Today's shows are tightly scheduled, there isn't a lot of time for pictures. Other exhibitors are waiting to do theirs, the judge might be needing to go to lunch, to another ring, to the restroom, or to the airport. Unless your dog is the absolutely most exciting thing they've seen all year, they don't usually want to hear about all its wins or that they put up the dog's dam eight years ago. A sincere thank you is usually enough.

As I mentioned earlier, one of the many challenges show photographers face in their work, and perhaps the most difficult, are the expectations of the exhibitor toward the appearance of the final result. Cameras are not kennel blind. The vision that you, the exhibitor, have in your mind of what the picture will look like can be quite different from what the camera actually captures. This is not always the fault of the photographer. We can ask you and the judge to smile but we can't make you do it, we weren't the dog's groomer that day, we didn't dress you that morning, and we can't be held responsible for structural faults the dog may have that can't be minimized with skillful positioning.

That latter bit brings up a popular question: "You can fix that in Photoshop, right?" The manipulative abilities of the computer today are truly amazing. Yes, many things can be fixed, corrected, altered, or enhanced, but should they be and will we do it for you? Most show photographers consider it unethical to retouch or alter something structural like a topline or a tail set. Minor things like a clump of hair out of place or an ear that flipped backward when the shutter clicked can usually be corrected in good conscience. The awarding judge can be added, too, if they weren't available to stand for the picture. You should expect to pay the photographer to make those adjustments. They're not included in the base price of the photograph.

A good win photo is a cooperative effort. The show photographer wants to give you a great picture but they can't do it alone, they need your help. You know your dog, you know how to stack him so he looks his best, you know what helps to get his best expression. To get that winning image, practice at home for show photos just as you practice for the ring. See you on the podium!

Vicki DeGruy is a longtime breeder/exhibitor of Chow Chows, a DWAA award winning writer, and a professional photographer. Being both an exhibitor and a show photographer, she has a unique insight into what's required to get you that great win picture with your dog.

This article was originally published in Chow Life, Summer 2022 Issue. Used with permission from the author.



Atlanta Kennel Club

Our Mission

To promote, advance and protect the interests of purebred dogs and to encourage good sportsmanship at all purebred events as recognized by the American Kennel Club. To educate the fancy, government and the public regarding responsible dog ownership.

From:
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

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In case you did not know... Digests are now available for viewing without using a login and password. If you have a computer, go to the website: www.atlantakennelclub.org and click on the tab at the top for DIGEST – It's all there! **EXCEPT** for the minutes which remain private for members. To view those, you will still need to access the member only sections with your login. **BUT** you can read the rest of the Digests anytime you want! The past Digests are also archived there.

Anyone wanting to “review” how to access your member only info on the website, please do call us. If you have an email address in our database you should be receiving via email the meeting notices and announcements that the Digest is available online. If you are not getting the notices for any reason, please let us know if your email has changed or add atlantakc@comcast.net to your address or contacts list.

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