



Atlanta Kennel Club

DIGEST

Atlanta Kennel Club Newsletter

May 2022

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May Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Program

This is our annual membership meeting and awards program. We will vote on new officers and board members, as well as recognizing members' achievements and volunteer work during the past year.

Menu

Chicken ala Vodka (chicken breast sautéed in creamy tomato Vodka sauce over penne pasta) with house salad, garlic rolls, and cheesecake for dessert.

Soft drinks, iced tea, water, and regular coffee are included—specialty coffees and alcohol are not included.

Location

Aldo's Italian Restaurant — Sandy Springs

6690 Roswell Rd NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Phone: 770-992-9600

Time: Dinner @ 6:45 p.m., Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

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

**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 shortly before 8:00 p.m. for the program and short business meeting that follows.

You may reserve and pay via PayPal on the club website under "Events", OR, for this meeting only, contact **Lisa Hall** by email at **lisahall888@comcast.net** NO LATER than Sunday evening prior to the meeting on the following Wednesday. If you make a reservation and do not attend you will be billed for your meal.

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!

Birthdays

McCall Hoyle - May 03

Tim Dorn - May 06

Carmen Battaglia - May 13

Susan Riese - May 13

Glen Soafer - May 13

Anne Carson - May 18

Suzanne Newsom, DVM - May 21

Janie Smith - May 21

Ralph Barger - May 24

Sandy Weaver - May 27

Bill Deily - May 29

Shan Wright - May 29

Anniversaries

Walter & Sheila O'Brien - May 03

Carol Roberts Reineke - May 03

Susan Riese - May 18

Candy Wright Chiarovano -
May 22

Robert (Bud) & Rose Marie
Hidlay - May 29

Anita Tate - May 31

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

Annual Meeting in May!

Mark your calendar for the next membership meeting, Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

This is our annual meeting when we elect officers for the upcoming year, and recognize members' achievements and contributions during the past year. Please plan to come.

Braggs

From Hannah Yi: "I am a junior handler member of the Atlanta Kennel Club and I was awarded Reserve BJH! With Jimi, co owned with my mentor Lynn Tyler." This was at the Waynesboro NC shows in April. Congratulations, Hannah!!



Membership Renewals

The membership renewal forms were mailed last week. If you don't receive yours, please contact Gilda Mallik to get a copy emailed to you. Renewals are due by June 1.

Also included are trophy pledge forms for our April 2023 all-breed shows. Mark your calendars for the 2023 Peach Blossom Cluster (April 12-16).

Cards and Flowers

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

AKC Juniors News

At its May meeting, the Board of the AKC approved a pilot program to eliminate the requirement for juniors to own the dog they compete with in AKC events. The pilot program will last for one year, and is effective July 1, 2022.

Juniors will still enter events in the normal way including the information about the dog being shown. Substitutions for the dog will be handled in the normal manner.

Please forward thoughts and comments about the pilot programs to juniors@akc.org.

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.



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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!

Atlanta Kennel Club Board Meeting Minutes—March 23, 2022

Minutes are posted on the website under the Members Login tab.

2022 Conformation Points Schedule

The 2022 Conformation points schedule is available on the AKC web site (<https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/resources/points-schedule/>). The new point schedule becomes effective Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

The schedule was revised after it was first published due to some unexpected effects of COVID on the entry numbers. So if you checked it just after it was first published, you should look at it again—the numbers for your breed may have changed.

Loose Lead—Total Control *by Sandy Weaver*

You've seen them—those dog/handler combos that go around the ring with perfect elegance, in perfect accord, and with no tension on the lead. The dog stays in the optimal position as they move confidently around the ring, and you wonder how on earth you and your dog could make that picture.

It's not magic—it's training. Conformation handling looks so simple—run around the ring, stand there with your dog, maybe collect the ribbon and do it again another day. It's because it looks simple that many people don't put in the time it takes to create a fabulous team in the ring.

"It takes time. It takes training. Here's what you need to know and work on."

First, you and your dog need to have a good, trusting relationship. Your dog needs to agree that you're the team leader and you need to remember that you're not the big, bad boss; you're the member of the team with the most seniority. To get this relationship takes time, patience, and a lot of fun training games. Look at what your dog already likes to do—chase, fetch, catch, etc.—and add a command and praise to it. This allows the dog to play a game it likes and puts you in control of the game. You stay calm and fun—your dog will stay engaged and ready to learn while the two of you play. If you're playing with a toy, when you're finished with that training session, put the toy away so the dog learns to associate that favorite toy with you and with fun learning sessions. You can think of tricks you could use in the ring, like catching bait, spinning in place to the left and right, or posing in a "sit pretty" position, and begin to teach those, too. Short, fun work sessions several times a day is the prescription for building a good working relationship with your dog.

A vital skill that you and your dog need to master is head position. You need to be able to control your dog's head. If you can't control the head, you can't stack the dog well, or gait the dog well. Look at the way the top people in your breed stack and gait their dogs and focus on the position of the dog's head; that's what you need to teach your dog to do, too.

Whether held very high or slightly forward or crown up, nose pointed down, you'll notice that the dogs who look the best stacked and gaiting are the ones with their heads facing straight forward. The weight of a dog's head is significant—most experts say that 60% of a dog's body weight is carried in the front assembly. Because the head and neck are mobile, the direction they're pointed affects what the front legs must do in order to maintain balance, both stacked and moving. While you and your dog are busy playing fun training games, start adding a command to put the head in the proper position. Some people use "head straight," some say, "eyes front" and there are a lot of other phrases you might hear. The words don't matter, so decide what you and your dog will use and introduce it while play-training. When you see your dog with the head in the correct position, pointing straight forward, say whatever you've decided to use and praise your dog. Be consistent with this and fairly quickly your dog will understand what you want when you say that command.

Continued on next page.

A caveat here—do not make eye contact when asking for a correct head position. No eye contact. None. Nada.

If you are in the habit of making eye contact with your dog when training, get out of it when training for the conformation ring. Because you need your dog's head to be facing forward, if you ask for eye contact, you'll end up with a dog that wants to look at you instead of stacking and moving with the head in the proper position. Remember, you're creating a picture for the judge to look at, not for you to look at. You can admire your dog's beautiful face any time you want, but when you're in the ring, that face needs to be positioned optimally for the judge to admire.

You've trained your dog to keep the head in the right place while standing still, so now it's time to start gaiting, right? Not quite yet. Before you start moving, you need to teach your dog that near you is where they want to be.

No matter what kind of collar you use in the show ring, a quality flat-link collar gives the dog maximum information with very little effort from you, and it is the one to use for this training. Get one sized properly for your dog. Measure around the widest part of the head, which is usually around the ears, add two inches and that's the size you need. Use a six-foot lead that's easy for you to hold on to and go somewhere your dog is familiar with but is a little bit distracting. Stand still, allowing the dog to have the entire lead, and as they move away from you, just be quiet and stand still. When you feel any pull on the lead, give it a soft pop and encourage your dog to come near you. As soon as they start moving towards you, praise. Continue standing still and if they get to the end of the lead again, repeat the process. When they get near you, use your "stand" command or whatever you say as you stack them, and praise them when they stop and stand. The stack doesn't have to be beautiful—right now you're just asking them to choose to work near you. Do several short sessions like this, and once the dog is choosing to stay close to you instead of wandering off to explore, it's time to start moving.

Again, remember the "no eye contact" rule. This is extremely important for correct gaiting and extremely difficult for many handlers to remember.

When first teaching your dog to gait, go slowly. Seriously, even if you have a breed where the handler generally runs, you walk. You and your dog are learning together to execute beautiful teamwork and the slower you go at first, the more confidence you'll both build, and the better you'll look when gaiting around the ring at the correct speed for your breed.

You're going to cue your dog with your left hand, so keep that hand down where the dog can see it. A lot of handlers hold the lead way up high, with their hand at shoulder height. This might look fancy—it gives you no control of the dog and gives the dog no information about where you're going because they can't see that hand. Keep it down where they can see it with their peripheral vision. Even small dogs can see what's just above them in their periphery, and when your hand is there, they can follow it. That makes it easy for them to feel connected and confident in where you're both going.

At first, just do down and backs, going slowly and giving the dog a lot of lead. You've taught the dog to choose to be with you in the standing exercise so now you'll do that with movement. When you feel tension on the lead, a gentle pop with praise the instant they move towards you will quickly remind them that this game is the same one they already know, just with movement added. Giving them a lot of lead gives you both the opportunity to refine the dog's position relative to you as you're both moving in the same direction. The goal is a dog who is gaiting on a loose lead in the correct position for your breed. When your dog is in the correct position praise. When they get far away, be quiet, use a gentle lead pop when you feel tension, and praise immediately when they start moving back towards you. As your dog chooses the correct position without moving away from you, add speed and keep practicing and praising. Remember—no eye contact, even when praising. Let your left hand be visible and moving and let your dog focus on that hand, not your face. Once you have the down and back the way you want it, it's time to add corners.

Slow down again as you teach your dog to corner and stay with you. When you're heading for a corner, flex your left wrist and hand towards the inside of the ring to indicate the turn. As you round the corner, straighten out your left wrist again. Repeat for each corner, remembering to keep your hand down where your dog can see it. As you see your dog begin to turn when you flex your wrist, you know you can begin to add speed. Keep practicing and praising, using short, happy training sessions so you and your dog can both enjoy the learning process.

With practice, you and your dog will soon shine just like those amazing teams you see in groups and Best. They got there through training, practice, patience, mutual respect and trust, and you can do it, too.

This article was first published in The Canine Chronicle—March 2022.

Sandy Weaver is an author, consultant and professional speaker who works with veterinarians to create happier hospital cultures and more resilient teams. She also judges Junior Showmanship and some Working and Non-Sporting breeds. When she's not traveling to consult, speak or to judge, she's spoiling her Siberian Husky and Standard Poodle. Find out more about her at: <https://www.centerforworkplacehappiness.com>

Helpful Advice for Breeders from AKC

The Expert Advice section of the AKC website has many helpful articles. There is a newly published article which both new and experienced breeders will find helpful. It is titled “AKC Investigations & Inspections: Helping Breeders Achieve Success”, and can be found here: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeding/expect-akc-inspection/>

The article lays out the hows, whys and wherefores of the AKC inspection process. In doing so, it references many of the helpful tools available on the AKC website, and reminds people of the importance of having a plan in place to ensure your dogs are taken care of if you can't be there for any reason.

Juniors

Got Juniors news? Send it to Digest editor Lynette White – legrandchows@gmail.com!

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.

Training Classes

Training classes are on hold until we find a new location to have them. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Membership

Proposed New Members: (first reading 3/16/2022)

Anna Marmann

Villa Rica, GA 30180

anna.marmann@gmail.com

Siberian Husky, Dachshunds

Sponsors: Katie Samples, Sandy Weaver

Courtney and Ronnie Gorecki

Winder, GA 30680

smokehousecanecorso@gmail.com

Cane Corso, Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Sponsors: Lisa Hall, Sandy Weaver

Welcome New Member: (voted in 3/16/2022)

Eva Wei

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



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:
Lynette White
4050 Norton Pl SE
Smyrna, GA 30082-3963

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

DIGEST EDITOR: Lynette White, 4050 Norton Pl SE, Smyrna, GA 30082-3963, legrandchows@gmail.com

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 atlantake@comcast.net to your address or contacts list.

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