



## Bellwether Magazine

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# Animal Crackers

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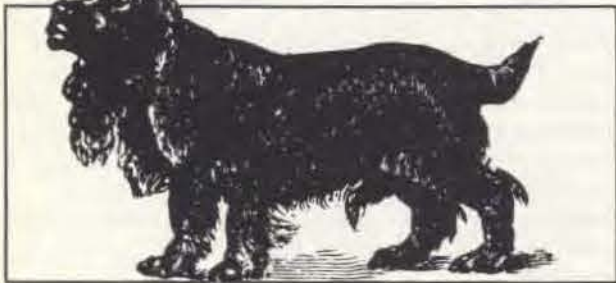


# Animal Crackers



## Popular Breeds of Dogs

The American Kennel Club registered 1,089,149 dogs in 1985. The most popular breed for the third straight year was the Cocker Spaniel (96,396), followed by Poodles (87,250), Labrador Retrievers (74,271), German Shepherd Dogs (57,598), Golden Retrievers (56,131), Doberman Pinschers (41,352), Beagles (40,803), Chow Chows (39,167), Miniature Schnauzers (38,134), and Shetland Sheepdogs (34,350).



The popularity of some breeds seems to be the result of publicity, particularly on television, as well as the demand for large, aggressive guard dogs. A darling puppy may grow into a "monster" that many average owners cannot cope with, particularly if they have had no experience in owning and training a dog. Anti-dog legislation is becoming a serious problem, caused to a great extent by irresponsible owners.

Anyone considering a breed should take the time to look at adults as well as puppies and investigate the temperament as well as special grooming care needed. What is seen in the show ring may be unrecognizable after several weeks "in the wild."

## Artificial Insemination Using Frozen Semen

Artificial breeding—using mechanical means to introduce seminal fluid into the female—has become

a highly technical process. It involves collection, evaluation, dilution, storage, and transport of semen. Frozen semen is used extensively in cattle with excellent results. In dogs, its use is increasing, although the results are somewhat unpredictable and quite variable. The American Kennel Club has registered about 70 litters resulting from the use of frozen semen, a very small percentage of the approximately 35,000 litters registered each month. One of the problems is that, in many cases, collections are made from older dogs with poor semen quality. The future should bring improvements in methods of dilution and storage, as well as programs to evaluate the donor dog, both for inherited defects and semen quality.

The AKC allows registration of litters whelped as the result of insemination using fresh, extended, and frozen semen. If fresh semen is used, the dog and bitch must be present during the extraction and insemination. This no longer must be performed by a licensed veterinarian. Recent revisions of the rules allow the use of fresh extended semen which has been extracted within the U.S.A. to be shipped to points within the country. When frozen semen is used, record-keeping is extremely important. AKC must be notified of collection and freezing, including identification of donor dog, number of breeding units collected, date stored, and address of storage facility. AKC must be notified immediately when frozen semen is shipped. At the present time, there are no provisions for registering litters that result from imported frozen semen.

When artificial insemination is used, be sure to obtain the special forms required for registration. Complete information can be obtained from the American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010.

Although old dogs can and do sire litters, generally their fertility decreases with age. AKC rules state that if the sire is over twelve years of age at time of mating, there must be evidence that this dog sired the litter. Was this a "planned" breeding, were there witnesses, was the bitch confined during the entire heat period, was there any possibility that the bitch

was exposed to another male, was a recent sperm count done? While these questions may not apply when frozen semen is used, they show that there is possibility for error. Many safeguards are necessary to be sure the pedigree of any progeny is accurate.

It will be many years before the use of frozen semen in dogs can be evaluated. For some dogs, it simply does not work. In others, the dog is too old to produce semen which can be used successfully. The most important question is, "Are we selecting stock free from inherited defects and with qualities that will improve the breed?"

## Parvovirus

Parvovirus Disease was first recognized in 1979. Young dogs under six months of age are most susceptible. Older dogs may be infected, but the effects are less severe. Signs of disease include vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, depression and possible fever. The disease is extremely contagious and has a mortality rate of 10 to 20 percent.

Many cases are seen in dogs which have been inadequately vaccinated. New findings indicate that vaccination against the disease should begin when the puppy is six to seven weeks old and be repeated at three-week intervals until the dog is 20 weeks old. Yearly booster shots are recommended.

The disease is spread mostly through feces of infected animals. Until the vaccination schedule is complete, owners should keep puppies away from public places and other dogs.

All breeds of dogs are susceptible but Rottweilers and Doberman pinschers seem to be more severely affected than other breeds. One author suggests that black Labrador retrievers are more severely affected than yellow.

A veterinarian should be consulted about a vaccination program. Current information indicates that the final "puppy shot" should be given at 20 weeks of age—somewhat later than formerly recommended.

## New Chairman

Mrs. William Whitney Clark of Maurertown, VA, and Boynton Beach, FL, has been appointed chairman of the Ladies Committee of the Veterinary School of the University of Pennsylvania by Dean Marshak. Mrs. Clark, a long-time breeder of Gordon Setters and an AKC licensed judge, has served on the Ladies Committee for many years. She has also provided the Elizabeth and William Whitney Clark Professorship in Nutrition here at the School.

The Ladies Committee serves as a liaison between the School and the cat- and dog-owning public. Committee members act as hostesses at School social affairs, and they sponsor the annual symposia for dog and cat owners.

Other members of the Committee are Mrs. Charles A. T. O'Neill; Dr. M. Josephine Deubler; Mrs. Keke Blumberg; Mrs. Gayle Bontecou; Mrs. James Edward Clark; Mrs. L. Stewart Cochran; Mrs. Robert Forsyth; Mrs. John A. Lafore, Jr.; Mrs. Alan R. Robson; Mrs. E. M. Sokopp; Mrs. W. Potter Wear.

## New Overseers

The University Trustees approved the appointment of three new members to the School's Board of Overseers.

Walter F. Goodman, Miami, FL, has bred, owned, and shown many top winning Skye terriers. In 1969, he handled his Ch. Glamour Good News to best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club. The dog was co-owned by Mrs. Adele Goodman. An AKC-licensed judge of all terrier breeds, Mr. Goodman serves as president of the Montgomery County Kennel Club and as the AKC delegate of the Skye Terrier Club of America.

James M. Moran, Jr., a Thoroughbred horseman from Paoli, PA, has had a lifelong interest in horses. He manages his family's Brushwood Stables, owners of Creme Fraiche, the winner of the 1985 Belmont Stakes. Mr. Moran serves as a trustee of the 1957 Charity Trust, Philadelphia.

Dr. Stewart R. Rockwell, president of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, was appointed an ex-officio member of the Board of Overseers.

## Scholarships

Hill's Pet Products, Inc., provided four scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The recipients were John C. Seddon (V'86), Pamela Mills, now a senior, Jeanne C. Ludlow, a third-year student, and Thomas Niedermeyer, a second-year student.

Rachel Blakey, a senior student, is the recipient of the Amlan Foundation scholarship.

The Pocono Mountain Kennel Club provided a scholarship for 1986; the recipient was Susan Colbassani, a senior student from Lackawanna County.

The Lancaster County Kennel Club provided two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The recipients were Mary Kirk, now a second-year student, and Michelle Carricato, now a senior student.

The David I. and Victoria R. Greenberg Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Barbara Gregory and Valorie Vaughn, both members of the senior class.

Donations to the scholarship fund were received from The Reidler Foundation and from the Westminster Kennel Foundation.



## Coonhounds

The American Kennel Club has agreed to maintain the Stud Book and regular field events and shows for the American Coon Hunters Association.

The new registry will operate apart from the current AKC registry, now comprised of 129 breeds. Registrations in the two Stud Books will not be interchangeable, nor will eligibility to compete in events.

The ACHA registry recognizes nine varieties of Coonhounds: Redbone, Black & Tan, English, Blue Tick, Treeing Walker, Plott, Treeing Tennessee Brindle, Saddle-back, and American Coonhound. At the present time, AKC recognizes only the Black and Tan.

In taking over the ACHA registry, AKC is getting involved in a sport that attracts over 150,000 entries a year—more than all the dogs participating in AKC field trials. ACHA field events, which are called "hunts," involve tracking and treeing the raccoon, which remains in the tree unharmed.



Involvement in the Coonhound sport is considered in keeping with AKC's overall commitment to protect and maintain pure-bred dogs in America, including selectively bred hunting dogs. Coonhounds are a significant factor among hunting dogs.



## Books

*Foaling/Broad Mare and Foal Management* by Ron and Vale Males (Howell Book House, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169) \$10.95

Excellent photography, most in color, illustrate a normal foaling and point out what to expect in normal situations, and how to recognize danger signals. Foaling is described in detail and there is a post-natal checklist for mare and foal. The text gives rather basic information but answers many questions.

Some excerpts:

... Oestrus in the mare usually lasts for several days at intervals of about three weeks. The signs may pass unnoticed if no other horses are around, but are unmistakable if the mare is near a stallion.

... People often mistakenly "Feed the mare for two" during pregnancy.

... Almost without exception, any pregnancy which terminates before 300 days is unsuccessful.

... The expected foaling date is worked out by checking (don't guess) the last date of service—add one year and seven days—subtract one calendar month.

... About four to six weeks before her due date, the average mare begins to "spring" or develop an udder.

... Mares have an uncanny knack of foaling when least expected.

... The normal baby foal should be on its feet within an hour or so of delivery and should suckle often (at least half-hourly), and sleep as regularly... Mares produce a lot of milk but don't have a big storage capacity (like cows do), so the foal drinks more often than most new foal owners ever imagine is normal.

... Within an hour or two of suckling the mare for the first time, the foal should pass its first bowel movement (meconium). Retention of meconium is an extremely common cause of death in the newly born foal.

... By the time a normal foal is four weeks old, it should have the strength, vigor and resistance to cope with most of the minor ailments.

... Breeders and owners who hope to rear healthy foals have a very real responsibility to carefully observe them as often as possible.

For the pictures alone, this book is a worthwhile addition to the library of anyone interested in horses.

*The Complete Book of Canaries* by G. T. Dodwell (Howell Book House, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169) \$19.95

This book, a one-volume encyclopedia, gives information about history, genetics, breeding, showing, standards, health and disease, etc. It contains an answer to almost any question about canaries. There are excellent color photographs of familiar and rare canary breeds, with illustrations of anatomical features, show cages, and identification rings.

Some excerpts—

... There are a number of canary colors—green, blue, bronze, etc.

... In color-fed breeds, special food is given during the moult to turn the basic ground color into a rich orange.

... There are crested breeds of canaries.

... The hen usually lays four to five eggs which hatch in about two weeks.

... The Scotch Fancy is a long, slim bird which has a pronounced curve to its body so that, with head thrust forward and tail carried under the perch, the

general outline is in the form of a crescent moon.

... Toenails continue to grow throughout a bird's life and trimming is necessary, usually only once or twice a year.

The book is a useful addition to the bird-lover's library.

*The New Poodle* by Mackey J. Irick, Jr. (Howell Book House, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169) \$19.95

This is a book for those who love the breed and want to learn all about it. The book covers buying a puppy, home training, grooming, bathing, clipping, as well as showing. There is detailed information on the three varieties—toy, miniature and standard—with photographs, pedigrees and important kennels. Also, there are chapters on the standard, obedience, poodles as retrievers and corded poodles.

Some excerpts:

... In 1861, Meyrick wrote that in France, the poodle was the commonest dog, "except for the cur."

... Russia, France, and Germany are the three main sources of the poodle as we now know him.

... Brushing is extremely important throughout a poodle's life. It must be remembered that poodles do not shed their hair as other breeds do, and that dead hair remains in the coat and must be taken out. If it is not removed, mats will form.



... Black is the basic, dominant color in poodles. When a dominant black is mated with any of the other colors, all the puppies will be black. As a rule, this pure dominant also carries the greatest perfection of type.

... Retrieving, an ancient and honorable sport, fits the poodle's temperament perfectly. You will find numerous early paintings, engravings, and book illustrations showing poodles active in the field and retrieving ducks from the water, enjoying this outdoor sport.

There are many breed books, but this is one that can be considered a classic.

## Teaching Awards

Each year the Veterinary Student Government presents Awards for Excellence in Teaching to four teachers which are nominated by each class.

The recipient of the first-year class award was Dr. Leon P. Weiss, Grace Lansing Lambert Professor of Cell Biology; Chairman, Department of Animal Biology. Dr. Raymond W. Sweeney, lecturer in large animal medicine, received the award from the second-year class. The recipient of the third-year class award was Dr. David E. Freeman, assistant professor of surgery. Dr. Thomas J. Divers, associate professor of medicine, received the award from the fourth-year class. The Nursing Technical Teaching Award was presented to Tina Stalton.

The awards are cosponsored by the American Animal Hospital Association; Bertholon-Rowland Insurance Agency; Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association; Veterinary Medical Alumni Society; and Veterinary Student Government.



Dr. David E. Freeman, Dr. Raymond W. Sweeney, Ms. Tina Stalton, and Dr. Leon P. Weiss. Not shown is Dr. Thomas J. Divers.