



Bellwether Magazine

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Scholarships

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 Cochrane; 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.